

ODE board seat open to students

Applications for The Oregon Daily Emerald Corporation's community at large seat are now being accepted. This position is open to students, faculty, University staff and community members.

We urge all interested parties to apply before the Nov. 15 deadline. We would especially like to ask concerned students who have an interest in journalism to apply.

The board meets once a month to deal with financial and personnel matters. They also hire the next year's editor at the end of every school year.

Minority participation is sorely needed on the board. The current board is made up of two women and eight men — all are white. It is time for minority viewpoints to be expressed on the board, and the best way to accomplish this is for a minority person to gain a board seat.

We would also like to see a student from the journalism school apply for the position. Sitting on the board of directors of the Emerald would be a great way for a future journalist to learn about the newspaper business.

The world of journalism is more than just writing, editing and taking photos. These days especially, there's a strong emphasis on business management and advertising that may be appealing to students in the University's business school.

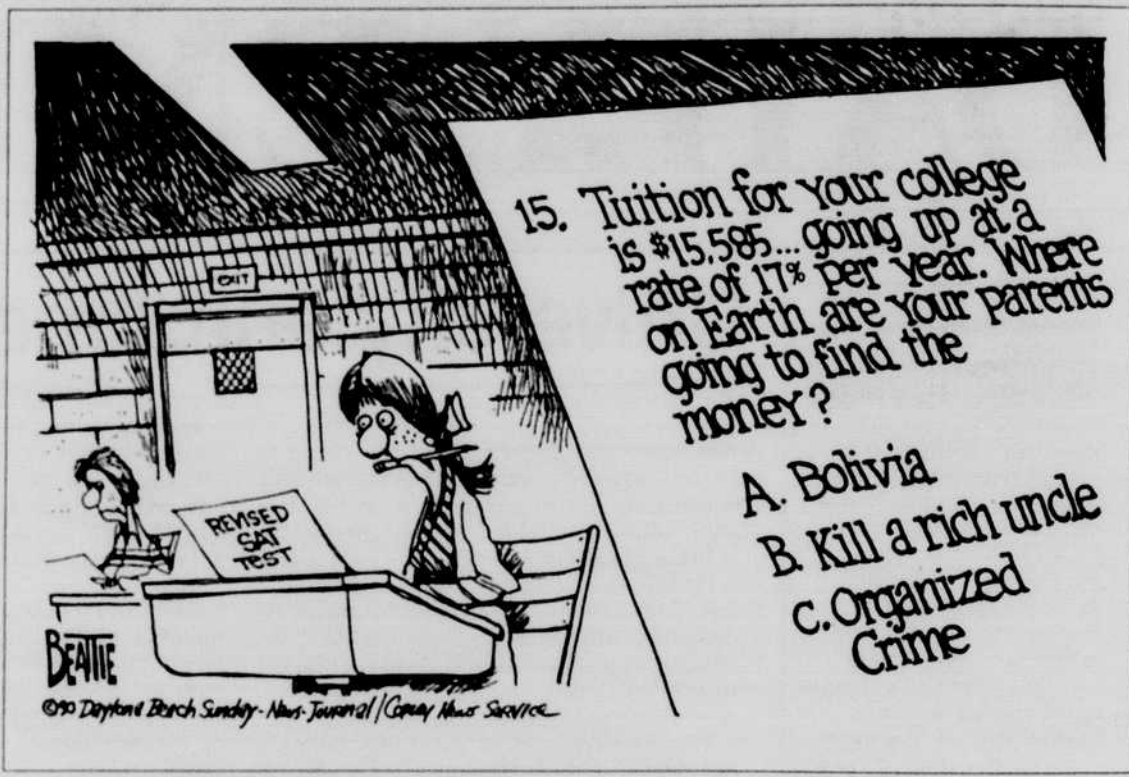
In any case, those applying for board seats should be outspoken, open to new ideas and strong-willed. The current board is dominated by two or three non-student voices whom student representatives follow silently, with little dissent.

We would also like to see applicants who are strong advocates of a free student press and who want to see students make all the decisions pertaining to editorial content of the paper.

Having a board dominated by number-crunching accountants has benefits; as long as space for ads continues to outweigh space for news, the board doesn't concern itself much with anything that goes on in the news side of the operation.

However, there may come a day when the accountants think the paper will be safer from potential lawsuits if an adviser is on hand. And let there be no mistake: an adviser means content control.

So, take a chance and get involved. You may have a good time and learn something, too.



Commission should benefit Eugene

The Eugene City Council took a giant step Monday when it voted to create a human rights commission.

Its predecessor, the Human Rights Task Force, was formed in 1989 to re-examine Eugene's Human Rights Program.

The Human Rights Commission will be composed of 15 members. Fourteen will come from the community and one from the city council — possibly the mayor.

The new group will incorporate five different sub-groups into an all-encompassing commission. Instead of separate committees for women, the elderly, gays and lesbians, disabled citizens and children, all will come under one umbrella group.

Standing committees that address each of the five groups will remain. In addition, the Human Rights Commission will be divided into ten-member sub-committees on discrimination, harassment, accessibility, and community outreach and education.

Specific details and implementation of the commission will be discussed at a later date. Since the city council hopes to select the members of the commission in early January, it is very important that guidelines and specific details be discussed before then.

It would be easy for this committee to get bogged down in bureaucratic red tape. As long as it remains focused and openly encourages community participation, the commission should be able to tackle some of the problems facing the city, such as the rising number of hate crimes and the increasing discrimination against minorities.

Recruitment for the commission will begin immediately so that nominations can be received by mid-December. About 35 positions are available, either on the commission itself or on sub-committees.

If you are disgusted with the people problems of Eugene, can spare some time and really care about the issues, now is your chance to make a difference in Eugene.

LETTERS

Professionalism ... but fear itself

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the person who stole my mountain bike Oct. 17, in front of Gerlinger. I appreciate your leaving the broken kryptonite lock for me so that I can get the insurance money.

I wish you had stolen the bike I had last year. That thief didn't leave the lock and I lost a lot of money. It's nice to know that in this crazy world of ours, there are considerate criminals like yourself who care enough about their victims to leave the broken lock behind — and just when I thought people didn't care.

I would also like to commend your pride in your profession. To be good enough to steal a mountain bike between 8:30 and 9:30 in a busy area of campus takes a true professional. I have a hard time believing that no one saw you, but maybe those who did were so impressed with your performance that they chose not to interrupt.

Anyway, if anyone out there needs a bike seat, I've got one I can sell real cheap.

Jennifer Hanson
Math

I am a heterosexual with little understanding as to how anyone could prefer homosexuality. But I was saddened by the tactics of Ron Williams (ODE, Oct. 24). Williams defended gay-bashing with his "fears that these people might approach me and try something on me," and his viewpoint that anyone not adhering to a social "norm" automatically deserved criticism. This is a good example of fear itself being far more dangerous than the imagined thing feared. It is not conformity that made this country special, but diversity and tolerance for variant lifestyles and beliefs.

Lynn Dahlstrom
Graduate student

Deadication

It seems highly irrational to me that an event that draws \$200,000 for the ailing athletic department and much for the Eugene community is banned because a dozen or so people don't understand what it is all about. The Grateful Dead is about music whether there

were a few drug users screwing it up for everyone else or not. All three occasions on which the Dead have played Autzen Stadium have been trouble-free. If everyone in the world was as polite, considerate and courteous as people I experienced at Dead shows, the world would be a much better place.

Garrett Keeton
Accounting

Let's survive

In response to Phil Nebergall's recognition that the University Survival Center is "not the end-all and be-all (of environmental activism) at the University." (ODE, Oct. 24): I'll say! Last spring I tried to instigate a petition protest against the planned parking garage, with hopes of getting a measure on the May ballot. Though I approached them for help, the Survival Center did nothing to support this extremely critical cause.

I applaud their involvement in national (and international) issues; thinking globally is necessary for our planetary survival. But I urge the Survival Center, and everyone else, not to

forget to "act locally." Thinking about building a parking garage on this campus is part of the same stupidity that led to acid rain, massive deforestation, the Los Angeles syndrome and potential war with Iraq. If we don't make every effort to take care of the messes (and threatened messes) in our own back yard, we have little right to gloat over our involvement elsewhere.

Let's all put on our thinking caps and rally to the cause: NO PARKING GARAGE!

Jeff Harrison
GTF, English

Logical violation

Dr. Jack Vanderlip suggests animal rights activists achieve their goals by means "other than violence and vandalism." Kathy Yonker says this suggestion "implies only the ap-

proach animal rights activists have taken to stop research is violence and vandalism." (ODE, Oct. 26).

I am not against animal rights but I don't understand how Yonker derives her interpretation. The basic premise of a debate is that both sides follow a set of rules called logic. If one side makes a wild guess about what the other side "implies" and starts to criticize, then there cannot be a decent debate.

If one wants to stop violence against animals, one should first stop violence against others' points of view. If one respects animal rights, one should first respect a person's right to have a decent debate. The gross violation of formal logic does not help those monkeys.

Xiaoyan Yan
Education

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.