

UNIVERSITY



Photo by Mark Ylen

ASUO Executive candidates Jennifer Bills (left) and JoSonja Watson said improving access to higher education for Oregon's students is their top priority.

Bills/Watson hope to limit barriers

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Reporter

Jennifer Bills and JoSonja Watson, one of three tickets in the ASUO president and vice president race, said they want to improve access to education.

"There are a lot of issues out on campus," said Bills, a fourth-year English major and acting chairwoman of the Incidental Fee Committee, "but ultimately, (students are) out for an education."

Bills and Watson said there are many barriers to education at the University, including campus safety, increasing tuition costs, lack of affordable child care and lack of services for the handicapped.

"We want to limit or allevi-

ate as many barriers to higher education as possible," Bills said.

The effects of Ballot Measure 5 have created new barriers that the ticket agrees are of primary concern.

"Oregon Student Lobby has projected that one-third of the money that's being cut will come back to the University," Bills said. "We'd like to see that go toward lowering tuition."

"If you can't go to school because the tuition is too high, and that \$200 that you're now going to have to pay to the University used to pay your rent, or buy your food, or buy your books, then that's a barrier to your education," she said.

"Tuition hikes affect all of

us, program cuts affect all of us, because it affects the overall quality of the University," she said.

"We need to find a way to get the students just hyped," said Watson, a sophomore undeclared major and IFC member. "We're only two people; we can only do so much ourselves."

Bills said an added problem is that throughout the budget cutting process, higher education officials refused to listen to the few students who did try to become involved.

"It's really frustrating because the state doesn't take students seriously," she said.

The only way to overcome this disparity, Bills said, is to

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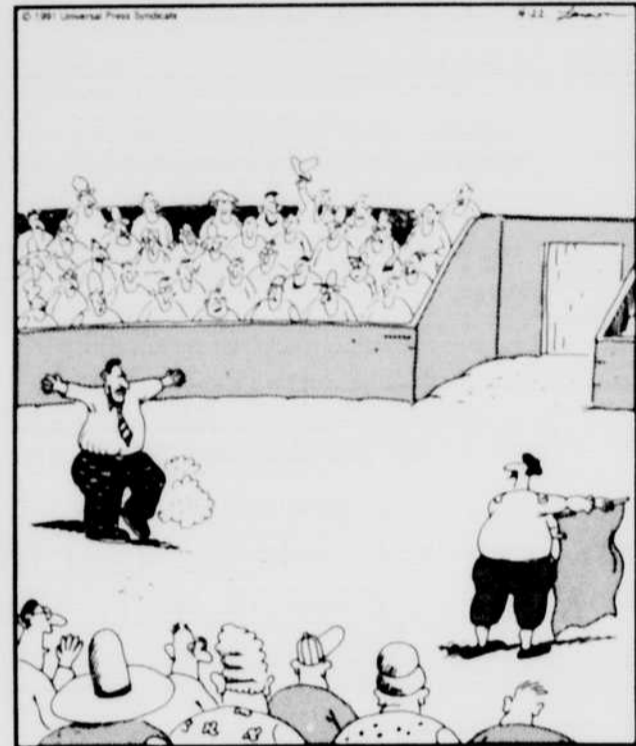
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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A MODEL WORLD AND OTHER STORIES BY MICHAEL CHABON



Critics called Michael Chabon's first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, "astonishing" (The New York Times Book Review), "remarkable" (Los Angeles Times), "bright, funny" (Times), "daring, vivid, exciting" (Cosmopolitan), "something close to genius" (Playboy), and "a lovely daring apparition" (The New Yorker). The novel spent seven weeks on the New York Times best-seller list. In the two years since, nine of Chabon's stories have appeared in The New Yorker.

A Model World is Michael Chabon's first book since *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*. While they are wonderfully diverse and unexpected, these stories share a wry sense of whimsy, an intellectual depth, and the glittering language that has become Chabon's hallmark ("Chabon writes beautiful sentences—scrupulously crafted, yet retaining an easy, colloquial vitality." The New Yorker). They show us people who attempt to create and inhabit their own model worlds, only to watch them collapse in the face of the real world.

In "S ANGEL," a group of wedding guests is hijacked by a fast-talking real-estate agent, but not before the bride herself disappears. "Millionaires" gives us a trio of lovers mystified by buried treasure. "Smoke" take us to a baseball catcher's funeral, where one of the mourners, a has-been pitcher, confronts the ruins of his career. In the hilarious title story, a graduate student plagiarizes a dissertation on the movement of clouds, only to find himself and his faculty adviser in a parlor where each player must confess the worst thing he or she has ever done.

The second part of the book, "The Lost World," is a series of stories about a young boy, Nathan Shapiro, who must face the wrenching emotions caused by his parents' bitter divorce.

A Model World and Other Stories shows us the further unfolding of Michael Chabon's art, which Alice McDermott characterized in The New York Times Book Review as "the voice of a young writer with tremendous skill, as he discovers, joyously, just what his words can do.

Michael Chabon was born in Washington, D.C. He received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and his M.F.A. from the University of California at Irvine. His first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, was a national best seller. His stories frequently appear in The New Yorker. He currently lives in Seattle, Washington.