

## Grad student turns screenwriter

First effort to be action-packed film

By Tim Neff  
Emerald Reporter

The landlubber fought to keep his balance against the violent pitch and yaw of the Coast Guard cutter as it knifed through the choppy water on the dark, moonless night.

The sound of the crashing waves gradually yielded to the deafening roar of rotor blades. A helicopter descended upon the ship like a mythical beast. After hovering for a moment, the helicopter gracefully swung back over the angry sea with its cargo clutched tightly in its grasp.

None of the research he had done as a University graduate student in International Studies could have prepared the ungainly passenger for this.

But then again, Sean Roberts never expected to be doing research for his own movie screenplay.

The firsthand glimpse of the helicopter exercise was intended to help Roberts prepare for a possible movie script based on the Coast Guard. Currently, he is getting his feet wet on another screenplay.

Roberts, 27, has been contracted by Seala Ventures, a film company based in the Northwest, to write the screenplay for a movie entitled *Cool Rage*.

"It's the perfect opportunity," Roberts said. "I've always dreamed about making enough money through my writing to support myself. That's why I'm really excited about the screenplay."

Seala Ventures offered Roberts \$2,000 to write the script for *Cool*



Photo by Jeff Paslay

University graduate student Sean Roberts has signed a contract with a northwest film company to write a screenplay for an action-adventure movie. He hopes to continue working as a screenwriter.

*Rage*. Pending the outcome of that movie, the film company will sign Roberts to another contract for three additional movies.

Seala asked Roberts to write a "high-action, shoot-em-up movie about Chinese gangs coming from Hong Kong to Seattle." But Roberts admits that writing scripts for car chases and shoot-outs is somewhat artistically stifling.

"One of the problems I originally had with *Cool Rage* was that my rough draft was too artsy," he said. "I definitely have my own character of writing. And that's kind of squandered, especially when they come to you and tell you to write a high-action film,

which I don't like too much. I don't want to see people get killed. And I don't like to see blood and gore."

However, Roberts rose to the challenge of writing an action film with artistic sensibilities.

"I've tried to put as much intellect as I can into a movie called *Cool Rage*."

The film is based on a true story about drug gangs based in Hong Kong called "Triads." Recently, the gangs have established themselves in British Columbia and Seattle.

"It's like rats abandoning a

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## Con Court rules: No fees to USSA

Exclusionary hiring cited

By Kirsten Lucas  
Emerald Reporter

Student fees will no longer pay for ASUO membership or participation in a national student lobbying group, according to an ASUO Constitution Court ruling Tuesday.

The court found that the United States Students Association discriminates against white heterosexual men in its hiring policy for the position of Affirmative Action Officer. USSA policy requires the officer to be "a traditionally underrepresented person."

The ASUO Constitution prohibits student fees from funding activities that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, or sexual orientation, among other considerations.

Therefore, the court found that ASUO affiliation with USSA, which was allocated approximately \$11,000 in student fees this year, violates the ASUO Constitution.

Tuesday's decision came in response to a complaint by graduate student Henry Oberson, who believes that USSA is guilty of reverse discrimination not only in its hiring policies, but in its functions.

"This organization seems to be completely biased against white males," he said. "They say one thing but they're being as racist as the society they're going up against. ... Two wrongs don't make a right."

USSA President Tajel Shah said she stands behind her organization's hiring practices and claims USSA has never excluded anyone.

Oberson said he was confident in his complaint. "I don't think their argument held up," he said. "It was a pretty cut and dry situation. I sincerely believe that this is a clear case of reverse discrimination."

Shah and ASUO President Jennifer Bills disagree with Oberson's rationale and the court's decision.

Bills said the court misinterpreted the issue, which she believes is based on "preferred treatment" rather than discrimination.

"The fact is that history proves that these people (like Oberson) have no basis for their argument of discrimination," Bills said.

"Why don't the people who are doing these things target the NCAA to let men on the women's volleyball team? Or how about letting men into sororities?" she

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## AIDS wreaking havoc in most facets of American society

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Reporter

**Editors Note:** This is the last part of a six-part series on AIDS.

Janet Sonduck, a medical social worker at Sacred Heart General Hospital, said she sees about 15 to 30 people a year who are HIV positive, averaging out to about two patients a month. Her job is to assess the situation of her patients and determine their financial, emotional and practical needs, she said.

Many people who are HIV positive are afraid to reveal their status to family and friends, Sonduck said.

"I had one young man who was admitted to the hospital whose mom found out in the last 30 minutes of his life that he was both gay and had AIDS," she said.

Though Sonduck said she hasn't worked with a large number of HIV-positive patients who are minorities, she said the disease can add to the problems faced by people of color. Also, the disease can prove a financial strain, she said.

"When you're poor and a person of color it's bad enough. Now you're poor, a person of color and HIV positive,"

### Hardest hit least likely to have resources

Sonduck said. "Some people have excellent insurance, but the majority of people I see are reliant on social security and welfare checks," she said.

The social dimensions of AIDS are endless. AIDS has wreaked havoc in almost every sector of American society. Changes have occurred in the nature of intimacy within relationships, the necessity for sex education, and methods of protecting the public, from providing free condoms to handing out clean needles to drug users.

AIDS touches on many social issues that people have trouble discussing, including sex and sexuality, drug use, homosexuality, prostitution and death and dying.

"Put these issues together in one package and a lot of people will say 'It's their problem,'" said Doug DeWitt, education and outreach coordinator for Shanti in Oregon, an AIDS educational organization.

For people who are HIV positive, telling others of their status may mean receiving a hostile reaction, DeWitt said. AIDS contrasts with most diseases in which disclosure means receiving sup-

port from family and friends, he said.

"If you tell people you have heart disease, you don't have to worry about losing your job or apartment," DeWitt said.

For some people who are HIV positive, telling family and friends of their status means revealing private details of their lives, DeWitt said.

"One of the hardest things for a lot of guys after becoming HIV positive is to make some decisions about disclosure," DeWitt said. "Who do you tell? For a lot of guys telling their parents that they're HIV positive means admitting they're gay or that they use drugs."

Often the people hardest hit by AIDS are those who are least likely to have the resources to deal with it, said Clarence Spigner, University assistant professor of school and community health.

Intravenous drug users, who in 1988 made up 21 percent of new AIDS cases, flourish in areas that are burdened by unemployment, homelessness, welfare dependency, prostitution, crime, higher school dropout rates and teen-age pregnancy, said Harvey V. Fineberg in the October 1988 *Scientific American* article entitled "The Social Dimensions of

AIDS."

Minorities are represented disproportionately in the number of AIDS cases, Spigner said. According to Fineberg's article, blacks and hispanics constitute about 20 percent of the U.S. population, yet they make up 40 percent of AIDS cases.

"The reason is social conditions," Spigner said. "It's strictly social, economic, residential and educational, not biological."

"We've done a sorry job helping minorities. AIDS is another straw brought on their backs," Spigner said.

The disease is rapidly becoming a disease of the poor, Spigner said. People who live in low income areas in urban environments are the most at risk, he said.

Whether a person remains monogamous or not, the disease raises the question of trust within a relationship, said Jim Shoemaker, White Bird Clinic coordinator. With AIDS, trust may be fatal, he said.

"We don't have control over what other people do," Shoemaker said. "If you trust 100 percent that this person will not bring back something that will kill you, go ahead."