

Student government resumes entertaining antics



KEVIN TRIPP

It's about time. During the past few months, student government has begun to take on a disturbing new trend.

Members of the various governing bodies have apparently turned their focus toward real student concerns and interests. Elected officials from the Incidental Fee Committee to the EMU Board of Directors and the ASUO have apparently halted their age-old battle cry of "student empow-

erment" in favor of addressing student concerns and better managing budgets.

With the budget season currently approaching its second month, my apprehensions had begun to grow. Where was the drama? Where were the petty arguments and pointless squabbles? Where was the self-absorbed politicking that I had come to expect from an evening in the EMU Board Room?

I was at a loss. After spending the first half of my college career enjoying the zany antics of, among others, the comedy team of Steve Masat and Jason Moore, I wasn't prepared for the seemingly efficient nature by which the IFC and EMU board intended to run this year's budget season. I went to my first IFC meeting of the new year and found it totally devoid of even the small-

est squabble. Afterwards, even a batch of TacoTime Mexi Fries couldn't lift my spirits. Only Pabst could.

I felt as if I had just witnessed a boxing match ringside only to see the contenders sit down and discuss their problems rationally. Maybe, I thought, this largely new group of student government officials have no sense of their own heritage. Maybe they forgot about the men and women who have held the very seats they now sit in. And, maybe, just maybe, they forgot about the ear-piercing screaming matches they would engage each other and anyone with three miles in, occasionally needing to call in the University Office of Public Safety to settle the matter. Maybe they never even knew.

Then again, maybe they did. On Tuesday, OPS and the

Eugene police were called in to break up an argument between newly appointed IFC member Caitlin Twain and ASUO Multicultural Advocate Eden Ajrian-Omari that had apparently broken out in the ASUO office sometime after a very heated meeting involving Ajrian-Omari, Twain and several other ASUO members. And although no charges were pressed, and it isn't even clear who said what, the spat does at least give the upcoming budget season a bit of spice.

After reading this news in the *Emerald* last week, I was immediately thrown back to my bygone days of youth, to waking up to headlines describing physical altercations between ASUO presidents and IFC chairmen, to watching the same IFC chairman being dragged out of a meeting by OPS after his colleagues gave

him the boot. And, of course, the screaming — I could never forget that. Former EMU board member Jason Moore at EMU Director Dusty Miller for no apparent reason; former IFC Chairman Steve Masat at anyone for any reason; and everyone at everyone else for reasons most had forgotten.

And I thought it was all in the past.

So there is a ray of hope among the murky storm clouds of student government, and it even seems possible that the new faces that have graced its waters may not have forgotten their long and distinguished lineage. Remember, free entertainment is only a meeting away. Just check the *Emerald* Et Als.

Kevin Tripp is a columnist for the *Emerald*.

LETTERS

Dump God

I don't think the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the anti-abortion organizations, and all the plethora of anti-civil rights neo-fascist religious right groups would have so much power in this country if they didn't have unlimited money to use to promote ignorance, tyranny and torture.

From your campus all the way to the Supreme Court, religion is supported and promoted. Sniping at the OCA and anti-choice terrorists will not get to the root of the problem, which is religion. Until people dump God with the rest of their garbage, there will be no advancement in the human condition.

It's really shocking to know that there is not one politician, not one University professor, not one with influence who dares to speak out against the injustice of requiring all of us to support such silliness as a belief in a "supreme being."

Hope you have some use for my enclosed material. My sincere best wishes for your suc-

cess in fighting the viciously cruel OCA.

Helen Posey
Eugene

Uneducated

This letter is in response to several comments made by columnist Robbie Reeves in his opinion article regarding armed forces recruiting (*ODE*, Jan. 20). While I agree with his statements on the general tendency of recruiters to be overbearing, I'm outraged and incensed by several generalities he made in reference to the armed forces as a whole.

His statement that participation in various acts of murder and mayhem is the purpose of the military, shows Mr. Reeves to be either extremely narrow-minded or completely ignorant. Members of the armed forces provided aid in disaster relief in south Florida after a hurricane devastated the area, and they provided assistance in flood relief in the Midwest. The United States Marine Corps helped my mother leave Spokane, Wash., where she was a bank

teller, to receive her bachelor's degree and ascend to the rank of colonel and my father to gain his associate's degree and the rank of captain after being a high school dropout.

Yes, the military is not for everyone and obviously not for Reeves. But, for my parents and many others like them, it provided opportunities they would not have had otherwise. So I would appreciate it greatly if the next time Reeves writes an opinion, it is an educated one.

Keith Quebodeaux
Political Science

Record straight

Let me get this straight: The *Emerald* accepts letters of 250 words or less, but if there are words larger than are commonly used by a journalism student (two syllables), it will edit for length — except when they're written by John-Wayne Johnson and mailed in from Mars. There's nothing quite like consistency.

People tend to put a lot of time into their letters, often editing very precisely to get them under 250 words. Hacking out entire

paragraphs is kind of cheesy. Still, it's not quite as cheesy as misspelling a letter writer's name. Here are some ways that my last name is *not* spelled: Cole, Clot, Clam, Colostomy, Mabon.

If I have to show my I.D. to submit a letter, it only seems logical that the *Emerald* would get the name right. Incidentally, please resist the temptation to place a witty title on this letter, such as "Not close enough" or "But no cigar." My doctor has warned me that laughing uproariously — excuse me, laughing *hard* — may damage my health.

Oh yeah, stay tuned for an upcoming column on the theory of journalism written by biology majors. Since journalism students seem to think of themselves as experts in environmental theory, somebody has to pick up the slack.

Finally, a public service

announcement: Motorcycle police have been hiding on 12th Avenue, right past Patterson Street, ticketing bicyclists like gangbusters. You have been warned.

Steve Close
English

EDITOR'S NOTE: The *Emerald* apologizes for the spelling error.

Human potential

Open letter to Dave Thorn:

I see you are receiving quite a bit of criticism for your opinion column of Jan. 12. Well, you have *my* support for your views. Liberal apologetics is a waste of human potential.

Kathleen Cousins
Business

LETTERS

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

FINAL LIQUIDATION

SALE

SAVE UP TO **80%** OFF!

EVERYTHING!

DON'T WAIT! DOORS CLOSE JAN. 31!

720 East 13th Ave.
in the University Center Building
Across from Sacred Heart Hospital

OFFICIAL U of O DUCK STUFF

- CAPS
- T-SHIRTS
- SWEATSHIRTS
- SHORTS
- JACKETS
- BAGS
- GLASSWARE
- MUGS
- DECALS
- SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- COMPUTER SUPPLIES
- BATTERIES
- & MORE!

ALL SALES ARE FINAL AND LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND.

OREGON
Sportswear

OPEN 12:00-5:30 Monday-Saturday, closed Sundays