

Stop resignations: Get out and vote

In the midst of election '94 three things are certain: winners, losers, and winners that will resign.

The past year has been littered with resignations complemented by colorful quotes, press conferences and excuses upon excuses. While searching and shoveling through this year's candidates, look for ones that have a record of dependability and the willingness to fulfill their obligations.

The ASUO can only attain success through cohesiveness. That will only happen with goals that are not only achieved throughout the year, but with accomplishments passed on after successful terms by the candidates elected. The candidates should have the determination to maintain the offices for the duration.

Hopefully this last year is not foreshadowing the next. Resignations in student government for the 1993-94 academic year have required two hands to count — seven in all. Many of them shared the same concerns, and all of those concerns should be of no surprise to candidates who are running now.

Heading the list of reasons to resign over the last year is the notion that things in student government are slow to change. Change is slow, especially changes dealing with student government, interest groups and various student unions.

Frustrations associated with the feelings of racial intolerance have been another point at the top of the list of reasons to resign. It is a topic that any of the candidates should be willing to work with in an effort to extinguish the problems. Simply quitting isn't the answer.

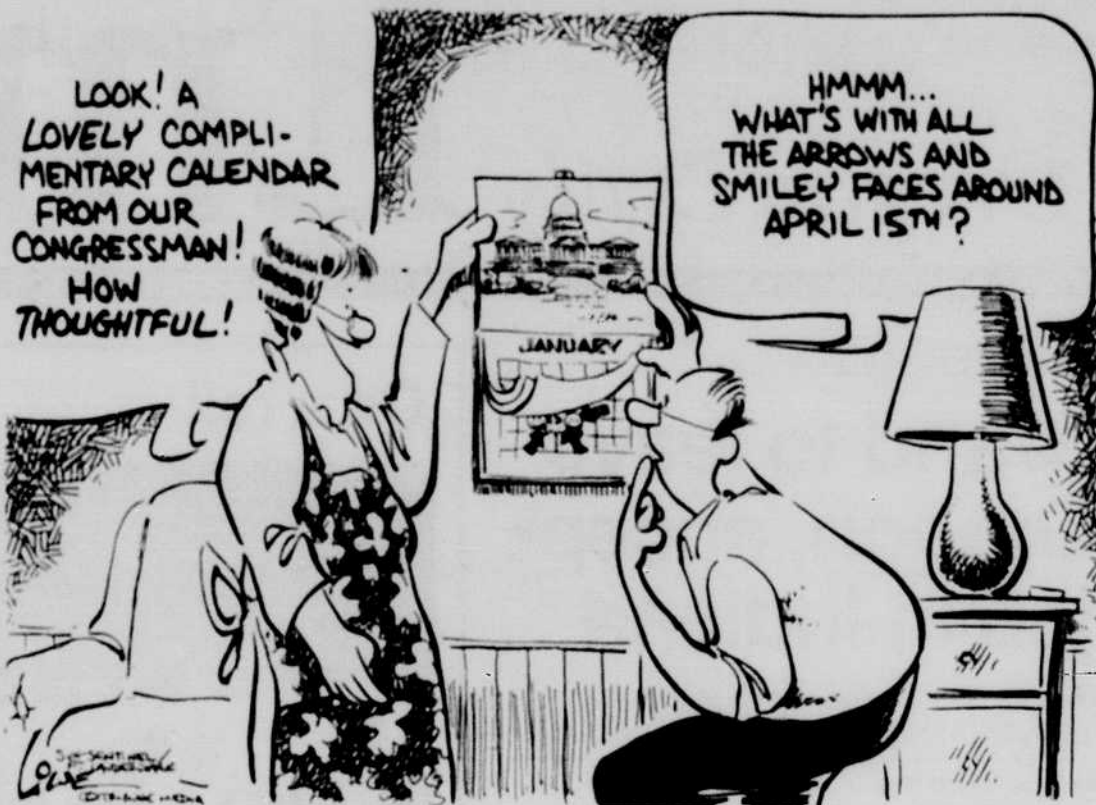
Student leaders need to take offices with the full intention to finish what they start. Granted, things will arise that will generate the desire to quit. However, success for those taking the offices in the future will only be hindered by the inadequacies of those who previously held the office.

Heading into the primary elections next week, there are many candidates fully capable of serving University students well. This brings another point — voting. Historically it hasn't been a big issue for University students, but it should be.

Many, if not all of the issues student government deals with directly affect students. Taking the responsibility to vote can enable students to attain things of interest to them by electing a student government that complements voter's needs and concerns.

Student leaders could potentially accomplish great things on this campus, but that can only happen while two things are happening at the same time — no resignations and student support.

Student support is a fundamental key to success. The support of students has been surprisingly limited in the past. Historically 12 percent of students turn out to vote. It could not be any easier to vote. Booths are put on nearly every corner; they're the big green things that look like they were built by boy scouts, and the only thing students need is their student identification. Change is essential and can only happen with cohesiveness and student support.



LETTERS

Candlelight vigil

We shall not forget the massacre of Muslim worshippers that took place Feb. 25.

Let us remember their suffering in a candlelight vigil on the 40th day since the Hebron massacre. Everyone is welcome to participate at 8 p.m. Monday in the EMU Courtyard.

Ali Keyhanfar
Eugene

Emotion

In a fit of indescribable ... emotion I was about to sit down and write an elegy of praise on the recent passing of the new Multicultural Propaganda Bill — but I got distracted. So instead I'll write an advertisement for a book that is long overdue and ought to be read by as many as can digest it. It will be tough, I know, but the author tries to use as much of the current terms and jargon to make it palatable — those few obscurisms, that is, which haven't become "unusable for serious conversation," to quote the book.

Freud readers (are there any left really reading him?) and, say, those with a Derridaian vein, may find the book a little too overwhelming, too real (no, it's not the Bible; that needs no advertisement. Everyone knows it cover to cover). The book is the posthumous volume *Love and Friendship* by (dare I say the name?) one of the three 20th century philosophers in their right mind (God rest their souls), the pupil of Plato, Swift and Rousseau: Allan Bloom.

It would do us all some good to choke down at least the introduction (I wouldn't expect anyone to endure all 500 pages!). Frankly, I was surprised to not find on the copyright page the Nihil Obstat ... or at least the Imprimatur. We all owe that much simple homage to the passing of this infamous man, who loved us all to laugh at us ... to cast the first stone ...

Matt Fox
Classics

Kurt's courage

Kurt Cobain is dead. My living experience has led me to value the person who asks the right questions over the person who

presumes to have the right answers.

Cobain was contradictory and controversial, kind of like the truths we think we know. Even his manner of death has contradictory meaning: a validation of this generation's authenticity while at the same time a selfish action by a deadly role model.

The KWVA station manager who had "no sympathy" for Cobain's final act sounds suspiciously to me like someone who claims to know the "right" answers. I, for one, feel angry, sympathetic and generally confused about his death and for lack of any answers will go and search out Nirvana bootlegs to hear more of the questions that Cobain, unlike most of us, had the courage to ask.

Graham Short
Music

Them squirrels

I would like to respond to the letter written by "Captain" Zane Adams and his entourage (*ODE*, April 7).

I take great offense at his statement regarding (*Emerald* Editor) Jake Berg, saying Berg should "spend a little more time editing the *Emerald* and watching TV, and a little less walking around looking for bike wrecks and squirrels."

The squirrels on this campus bring many of us students much joy. The practice of watching these lovable rodents is much more fulfilling than watching a stupid show like *Star Trek* that geeks like Zane revere. I propose *Squirrel Talk*: a show dedicated to the adventures of those crazy, cute creatures, rather than *Star Trek*. Why waste precious Sunday air time on mindless geek babble?

I like them squirrels; they're funny.

Rebekah Mortemore
Biology

Mistake

I would like to clear up a mistake in Martin Fisher's opinion column (*ODE*, April 11) about Saferide.

Fisher quoted several excerpts from Oregon employment anti-discrimination laws to validate his argument against Saferide. Contrary to Fisher's assertion,

Saferide is an equal opportunity employer. We will hire male dispatchers (a paid position) and Saferide currently has several male volunteers. In the two years I've been dispatching for Saferide only two men have applied for dispatch positions. I encourage any male or female interested in working for Saferide to come in and apply.

Maureen Reynolds
Saferide Dispatcher

Apathy

It seems to me that the ASUO makes good subject matter for student newspapers. The ASUO is often the focus of opinion columns in such papers as the *Emerald*. For example, in a column by Robbie Reeves in last week's *Emerald* (April 5), Reeves discusses the ASUO elections and the lack of voter turnout at the polls. Voter apathy in general is a huge problem on this campus. Apathy is most apparent in elections because voter turnout is outrageously low. Four percent of the student body showed up at the polls. Could the popularity of the ASUO as subject matter for disparaging articles in student newspapers be correlated to apathy on campus?

I do not believe that student newspapers accurately represent the opinion of students in general. What usually gets printed in the paper is only representative of a few people, with the exception of letters to the editor. Robbie Reeves called voters to the polls in his article, "Don't you want to have a say?" because he feels elections are controlled by students associated with the ASUO. Obviously, he understands the need to have a diversified student voting body. Perhaps the popularity of "beating up the ASUO" is only interesting to a small handful of columnists in student newspapers who like to control the opinions of readers.

I believe there are number of people who would like to get involved but don't know how. I would encourage those students who are interested to attend the Political Action Workshop presented by the Oregon Student Lobby on April 19 in the EMU Ben Linder Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Sarah Johnson
Psychology

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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