

# EDITORIAL

## The end is nigh... and it's about time

"This is the end. My only friend, the end."  
— The Doors

Well, this is it. With the exception of a few hours' cramming and some furious scribbling in bluebooks or on Scantron sheets, another year at the University has officially come to an end.

For the rest of the week, the University will rapidly take on the appearance of a ghost town, as students begin their mass exodus, heading for the hills, the homestead or the help-wanted pages — all of them marching toward different destinations but in the same direction: away from here.

Perhaps "marching" isn't quite the right word. Maybe "plodding," or "strutting," or even "fleeing." Crawling, meandering, parading, drifting. Even Roget's Thesaurus fails to provide enough words to describe all the different ways a student can walk away from a year's education.

To wax Shakespearean for just a moment: Parting really is such sweet sorrow. Each student will have a different reaction — or set of reactions — to the year's end. Mixed emotions will accompany the mixed drinks at post-finals parties.

But the general sense will be one of relief. There is a certain satisfied elation that comes with the completion of a year of schooling, naturally. What else could you expect after three terms of lectures, three terms of tuition, three sets of finals, and all those hours of filling in little bubbles with a No. 2 pencil?

Most of the students escaping campus in the next few days will be returning eventually, either in a few weeks for summer session or in a few months for fall. For them, the emotions are muted. They don't enjoy the extra feeling of completion that comes with a degree — only the abstract sensation that they are a few steps closer to that goal. And anything they may feel sorry about leaving behind — friends, independence, that legendary Eugene nightlife — will be waiting for them when they come back.

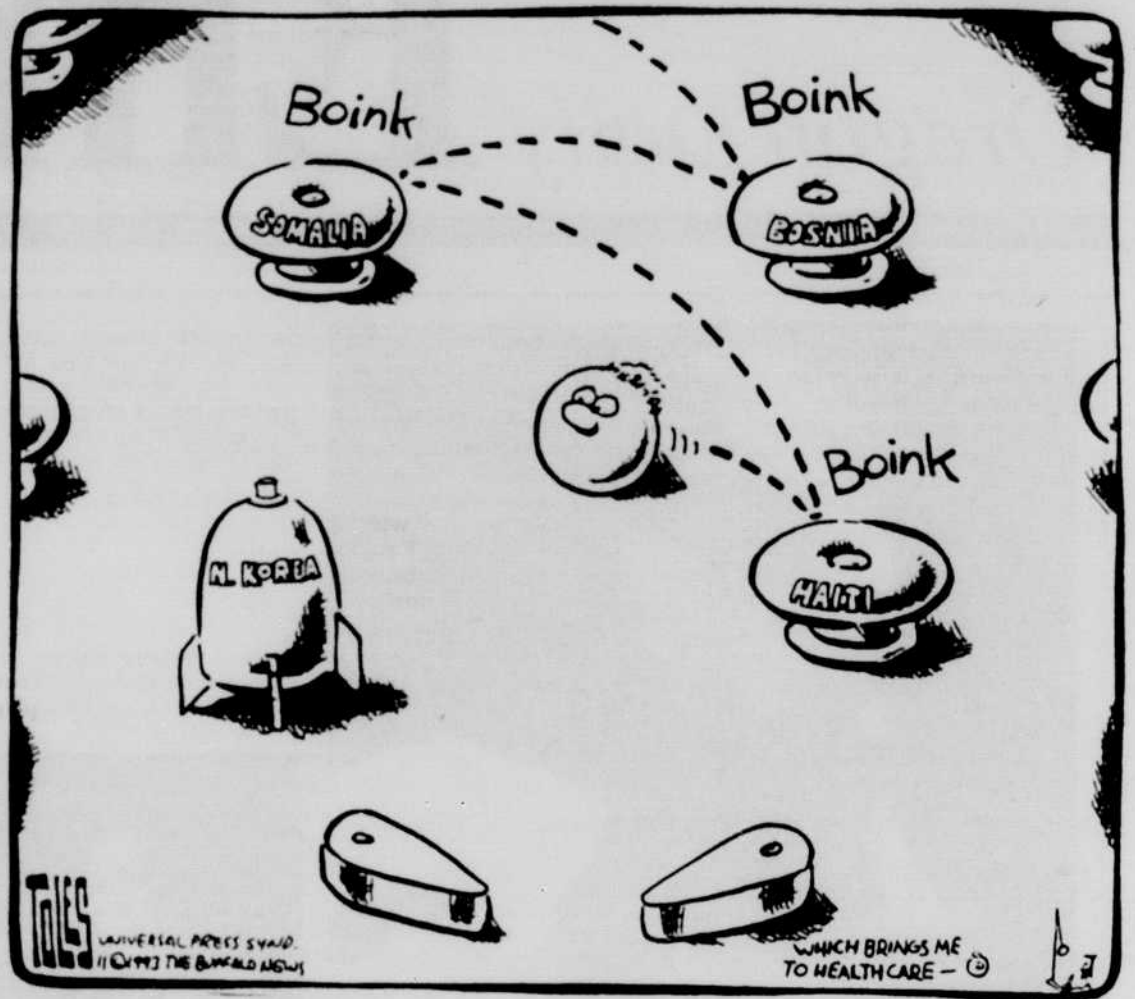
But for the seniors, leaving is really leaving. They've seen many a June go by, but always with the specter of September looming on the horizon. Until now.

They've grown used to that "summer-school-summer-school" rhythm. But in the "real" world, that rhythm just doesn't exist. There's nothing quite like looking back on a year of school and saying, "I'm done."

Graduation represents a fundamental change in a student's life. More than a change, it's an end. After graduation, even the word "student" no longer applies. Graduates will have to find some other title to describe them, now. What that title will be, of course, depends on what they want to do for the rest of their lives.

The important thing is, the "rest of their lives" begins now. They're finally done. Finished. Through. That's what they've been working for. Good for them.

And for rest of the student body — those who won't be getting their sheepskins just yet: See ya in September.



## LETTERS

### Really

I've been attending this school sporadically since 1986, and in this time I've never really written to the *Emerald*. I've felt the urge many times, however, like last spring when an enlightening article was published on "coercion rape" (defined as when a woman says no to sex and the man talks her into it), and the various articles and letters this term which claimed you're homophobic if homosexual acts disgust you, or a racist if you think that people of Asian descent might actually be from Asia, etc., etc. Well, I'm finally graduating this term, and there are a few things I'd like to get off my chest before I go.

I'm sick and tired of recycling. I'm sick and tired of multiculturalism. I'm sick and tired of burritos. I'm sick and tired of whine rock bands like Nirvana who write one crappy song and make four albums of it. I'm sick and tired of victims and vegetarians. I'm sick and tired of Saferide. I'm sick and tired of those jerks on 13th Avenue who dress better than me and wear their own weight in jewelry and ask me for spare change. I'm sick and tired of coffee, Friday finals, and the whole concept of education. I'm sick and tired of "Love See No Color." I'm sick and tired of the OCA, OPS, American media, American women, bicyclists, people who drive the speed limit, Rodney King, Rich Brooks, Garth Brooks, and morons who wear shorts in 30-degree weather.

I'm sick and tired of minorities and feminists who think they've cornered the market on suffering. I'm sick and tired of liberals who tell me which feelings and opinions I can and can't have. I'm sick and tired of women who wear tights and a long shirt that covers their ass. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. I'm sick and tired of procrastination, TV (except *The Simpsons* and *Seinfeld*), exerting effort, Earth First, double standards, rap music, the Blazers, people who don't agree with

everything I say, fashion, macaroni and cheese, Oregon Hall, the abortion issue, the *Emerald*, and hypersensitive people who expect the world to accommodate them.

I'm sick and tired of feeling guilty for being white, feeling responsible for other people's problems, and being considerate, open-minded and sensitive. I'm sick and tired of people who take this country for granted, people who determine morality by how inconvenienced they are, and Christianity being an offense punishable by death. And, finally, I'm really sick and tired about people who complain about every little thing without recognizing all the good things in life.

To make a long story longer, let me just sum up this letter in nine simple words: Eugene really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really sucks. Don't bother writing a response to this 'cause I'll never read it. Later, losers!

James Slagle  
Music Composition

### Objectivity

I am writing with regard to the article in the *Emerald* of May 27, "Bowen's term productive but highly criticized by staff member." In that article, I was quoted as being excessively critical of Eric Bowen's performance as the ASUO president. I want to make it known that that article was "skewed." It was one example of the press' overriding desire to sensationalize diverse opinions into controversial issues.

Those were constructive opinions that I stand by, except for a couple of words that were added to my quotes. However, there were also very positive comments I made that were somehow omitted for very obvious reasons.

I want to reflect my actual opinion of Eric Bowen. In all my past working experience, and coming from a different background, I have never held another person in higher esteem and

respect that I have Eric Bowen. Eric has represented student interests well with a commitment and conviction that is exemplary of a leader. Of course inherent with such a huge student agenda, no one can be perfect, but Eric has chosen his agenda and focused his energy well to achieve value to the growth of student leadership from hence onwards. He has set an unprecedented tangent in the historical credibility of student government on this campus that no words or "skewness" of opinions can discredit. Those of us who know his work can attest to that.

Despite my opinions about what I felt he could improve on (a question that was posed to me during the press interview), I supported him fully in many ways that I am sure he knew because I recognized him as a true leader for the students.

Francis Neo  
Former ASUO Finance  
Coordinator

### Misquoted

I would like to offer here some corrections to the *Emerald* article about Gloria Steinem published on June 3. In the article I was quoted out of context and misquoted. As a result, the spirit as well as the content of my remarks were misrepresented. While offering a personal critical perspective, my comments were not sweeping nor dismissive. In particular, I want to stress that I did not say that Ms. Steinem "did not sufficiently challenge gender inequalities" but rather that her recent work — in my eyes — did not pay sufficient attention to "structural inequalities."

Recognizing the contributions that Ms. Steinem has made to the second wave of the feminist movement, I encouraged the University and Eugene communities to go and hear her speak. I am sorry for the overall negative tone of the article and the misrepresentation of my views.

Catherine Raissiguiel  
Acting Director  
Women's Studies

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