

Editor anticipates escape from University, Eugene

It's only a few days now, before I take that walk. For those of you who still have a few years to go, I sympathize. It seemed like forever before graduation would come for me, and I was one of the fortunate ones who managed to get out in just four.

I've put in my time here, and I'm about to be paroled. And if I succeed on the outside, and make myself a productive, pay-check-earning, tax-paying citizen, I'll get to stay out there. If not, well, I guess I'll be coming back for graduate school.

Forgive the prison analogy if you will, but the past few weeks, that's what it's felt like. Tied to the job, tied to class and tied to little Eugene, the city of my birth. I'm just like a soon-to-be-released convict dreaming of freedom but wondering if I can make it outside: I can't wait for the real world, but I wonder if I can get a decent job after graduation.

I'll be all right. I'm not as pessimistic as many of my classmates are about the state of the job market, or about the state of the world in general, for that matter. Things have a way of working themselves out, and that's a lesson I hope every student learns.

I don't know what it is about college, but it sure seems to stress everybody out. Everybody likes to get all worked up about something, then come crying to me. Working at the Emerald, I've been a target for activists of every stripe, each



trying to get me on their side. And you know what? I didn't much care then, and I sure as hell don't care now.

I'm sick of all these damn vigils, all these picket signs, all these games we play to trick students into crawling out of their self-interested cocoons.

Most of all, I'm sick of being told this is a "tolerant" campus, when it isn't. I'm sick of people throwing around words like "racist" and "bigot" without a thought for the consequences, assigning them at random to people whose only crime was to be born white, or male, or God help you, a Christian.

I'm not preaching apathy, mind you. If you have a cause, believe in it. But don't think that these big "issues" we grapple with every day are all there is. Not everyone who disagrees with you is a villain, whether it be on the subject of environmentalism, civil rights or poverty. We're not on the brink of disaster, so stop thinking we are.

Relax, don't worry, have a homebrew. Whatever. As for me, I'm outta here. And I'll be waiting for you on the outside.

David Thorn is editor-in-chief for the Emerald.

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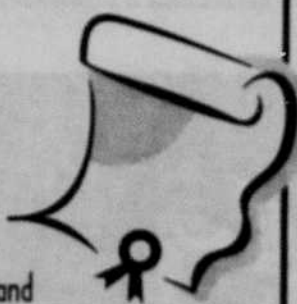
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