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University provides grad with valuable education

At the end of my senior year in high school, I was faced with a tough decision about where to go to college. I had letters of acceptance from Emerson College in Boston, Mass., Texas Christian University, University of Montana and the University of Oregon.

At that point, I knew that I didn't want to go to the University of Oregon. It was too close to home and everyone from my high school was going there. Besides, how could a public education compare to a private one at Emerson or TCU?

After much thought, I decided to go to Boston — 3,000 miles from anyone I knew. But I only lasted three semesters. There was something about the fir trees and the high mountains that called me back to Oregon.

I reluctantly reapplied to the University because it was the only school in Oregon with a reputable journalism department.

I came to Eugene in spring 1994. I was thrown into a school year that was almost over, but I found the University easy to learn and the people easy to meet. I immediately headed to the *Emerald* to apply for a job. Soon afterward, I was hired as community editor for the next year.

I spent the next two years

96 GRAD



Marcelene
Edwards

working on stories about breast cancer and affirmative action and making new friends.

Looking back on my eight terms here, I can't imagine having

gone anywhere else.

I admit the University isn't perfect. The administration doesn't pay close attention to the students, and freedom of speech isn't well-respected — especially when it is conservative speech. The cost of tuition has increased, making it more difficult to afford an education.

But despite all its faults, the University has provided me with a well-rounded education and has prepared me for a career in the newspaper field.

People complain about the quality of education, but the journalism school is tough — perhaps one of the hardest schools at the University.

My advisor helped me with interviews and resumes and guided me into graduation.

I appreciate that even though these people don't get a lot of glory or money, most are willing to help students succeed.

Marcelene Edwards is managing editor for the *Emerald*.

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