

Should Ebonics be taught in the Oakland school system? Let us know.

# OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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## For collegiate success, follow *The Rules*

Down with academia! Frisbees and fun times are the true keys to a complete college career

It's the focus of a pop-culture phenomenon. It's the origin of a mass movement of women determined to "get the ring." It's sold hundreds of thousands of copies and recently shot to No. 1 on *The New York Times* How To bestseller list. It's *The Rules: Time-tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right*, a thin, 174-page paperback that has changed the face of dating for years to come.



OPINION

Ashley Bach

The self-help book, by native New Yorkers Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider, lists 35 "rules" for snagging the man of your dreams. With commandments like "Don't Call Him and Rarely Return His Calls"

and "Don't See Him More than Once or Twice a Week," one can see why the handbook has been the object of satire and humor by columnists nationwide.

While the applicability of such a book on the University campus is intriguing (I really can't see it going over too well), I'm more interested in the concept of rules. After being in college for a year and a half, I, like many other students before me, have become aware of many unspoken but unwavering laws for collegiate life. Fein and Schneider's idea of throwing a group of rules together into one volume is a good one and has inspired me to do the same.

Unfortunately, because of space limitations, only a brief sampling of *The Rules: Time-tested Secrets for Graduating from College Unscathed, Accepted and Exactly Like Everybody Else* can be printed here. Look for the full-length version in local bookstores soon.

### 1. Coffee and Cafes: The Perfect Combination

It really doesn't matter how much caffeine you drank before college or how many cool hang-outs you frequented; by the end of your first term, you better be drinking coffee *nightly* — especially for those late-night study sessions (See Rule

#4). And the local watering-holes better be seeing your business on a regular basis. Feel free to wear dark turtlenecks for extra effect; you'll be more successful.

This rule is even reinforced by college promotional booklets we all received daily in our college search (remember?). An example: "You'll take a much-needed break from the books with friends as you nurse a hot, double-tall latte at the nearby coffee shop discussing the nuances of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*." Ah, the bliss.

### 2. Be a "Cool" College Student.

College life is unlike any other time, don't we know it? After playing countless games of frisbee and hackysack on the Quad, we go home to our messy rooms full of dirty laundry. Use a washer and dryer?

We don't have time. We're too busy being college students. If we're not going to cutting-edge shows at WOW Hall, we're listening to hip new tunes on 88.1 KWVA or 95.3 KNRQ, cranking the volume to the hilt.

Once and a while, we grab a group of friends and head out on a road trip, the ultimate in twenty-something adventure. Who cares where we're going, as long as we have enough beer to get us there. And sleep really isn't an issue. We have too much to do.

Note: If you're, for some *strange* reason, not doing one of these things, you're doing something wrong. Get help immediately.

### 3. Party!

Our predecessors at the University, Bluto and the Delta House, will never be over-

come. It is simply impossible to party *too* hard. But of course, this is obvious to any well-meaning collegian. Weekends (and Wednesday nights as well) have one and only one purpose: To have as much fun as possible. And we'll use any means necessary to do so, including any substance, chemical or personal interaction available.

Okay, okay, some people say we need to study for our classes. I mean, we are students. But what they don't realize is college is a place to have *fun*, not learn. More on this in the next rule.

### 4. The Final Hour is the Best Hour.

Yes, we do need to study — a few times. If we didn't, we'd get kicked out and then we wouldn't be able to be college students anymore — not a good situation. Therefore, our focus must be on *passing* our classes. Forget academic excellence. In order to achieve this goal, only a few small mandates need to be followed:

a. Wait until the last possible second you can while still being able to complete your assignment. Quality is not an issue.

b. *Never* attend your professor's office hours. We're not looking for personal interaction here. You may actually start caring about the class.

A bonus will be awarded for all those who find themselves on academic probation. There's nothing like being right on the edge.

### 5. Become an Activist.

Like the old adage, if you don't stand for something here in Duckville, you'll fall for anything. By the time you graduate, you'd *better* have spent countless hours fighting for one or more gallant causes. Because if you don't, your years here will have amounted to nothing. Didn't the legacy of our 1960s and 1970s University counterparts teach us anything? There's nothing like a good protest.

Five rules to guaranteed happiness. Remember and follow them with tireless devotion, and you'll graduate with the satisfaction of knowing you did all you were *supposed* to do in college. Everybody expects us to be a certain way. Why disappoint them?



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

Ashley Bach is an editorial editor for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

## LETTERS

### Improve campus safety

As a second year female at the University, I am very upset at the lack of adequate safety on campus at night. Hopefully this letter will increase awareness and instigate a direct response to the problem of insufficient security.

I first began to question the effectiveness of security at the University two weeks into my freshman year. It was reported that there was an attempted rape. It wasn't in the bushes or in an alley. It occurred outside the Henderson dorm complex by the bike racks at 2:30 a.m. In the aftermath of the incident, we were issued packets about services offered and lectured about precautions. Nothing was mentioned about the University's efforts to change current safety standards. At this point, my women friends and I refused to walk around campus after dark.

The threats of attacks and assaults is a factor that is crippling the mobility of women's freedom on campus after dark. Although the University has taken minor steps to respond to the issue of safety, there are still flaws in the security system. The University Office of Public Safety installed emergency boxes, but none have reportedly been used for an emergency. OPS tells women that screaming is the best defense

for calling help, but how can OPS hear a woman's scream for help if they are inside their vans? Therefore, the University needs to have officers on foot as well as in their vans.

Another important issue is whether or not there is adequate lighting on campus. To anyone who has ever been on campus after dark, it is obvious there is a severe problem. The walkways around the theater, science, architecture and the library are just a few of the many areas on campus that are poorly lit. Light provides the opportunity to see oncoming danger and decreases the chance of a surprise attack. The question is why doesn't the University fix the problem? If the problem is where the money will come from, I wonder why there is a lack of money where the life of a student is concerned.

It is statistically proven that women are in more danger at night than men. Why should female students receive a different campus experience than men just because the University fails to respond to the problem of campus safety? If the University is committed to an affirmative, equal opportunity institution, then it is necessary to install better lighting and security.

Kari Aront  
Undeclared

### Keep pressure on

Twenty-two years ago, as a freshman at the University, I followed an Oregon men's basketball team that seemed unstoppable. Ranked and playing well going into Pac-10 play, the Ducks stumbled in Corvallis and later ended the season short of their goals, but with a third-place finish in the NIT. The Ducks lost six games by a total of 13 points.

Beyond the team you have now, the most awesome weapon Oregon has is its fans and in particular, one of the largest group of students attending any game in the Pac-10 conference. A smart, noisy crowd in MacArthur Court could be worth up to 15 points to the team, and a crowd too focused on the other team could distract Oregon from its mission.

I make this request of you, students. Put the pressure where it belongs, on the visiting team's offense. Make noise in MacArthur Court until you hear nothing at all. And when they need it, give that team a kick in the butt. It should be a great season for you all and an experience you'll never forget.

Jim Aiken  
Alumni '81

## 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. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

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