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OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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Enjoy Springtime while it lasts

Warm spring days were meant to be spent outside in the sun, not in a stuffy lecture hall

Call it spring fever. Call it cabin fever. Call it senioritis, or junioritis, or sophomoreitis or freshmanitis. Whatever it is, it makes me and a great deal of the student body very eager to get out of the classroom and into the sunshine.

OPINION



Laura Daniel

Finally, after months of gray skies and rain, that orange orb floating in space has revealed itself to us. Around campus, flowers are blooming and their sweet scents drift past our noses as we walk to the academic jailhouses known as Willamette, Gilbert, PLC....

Why do we do this to ourselves? Why torture ourselves this way?

We are slaves to the lecturer, taking notes as fast as we can. We busy ourselves by participating in group discussions and attending three-hour labs and studios.

And for what? A good grade, maybe an A or a B, or sometimes just to get by with a (gulp) C?

Okay, so maybe grades and the like are important, but just as the knowledge we receive in the classroom is fundamental to our future endeavors (supposedly), so are the truths we learn from living life itself. And truly living means more than just going through the motions. It involves valuing everything we do and everything around us.

For some reason, many of us have it in our heads that taking time out for ourselves is not

important, that stopping to smell the roses is something that can always wait for another day. But it can't, because taking the time to enjoy life is something that needs to be done every day.

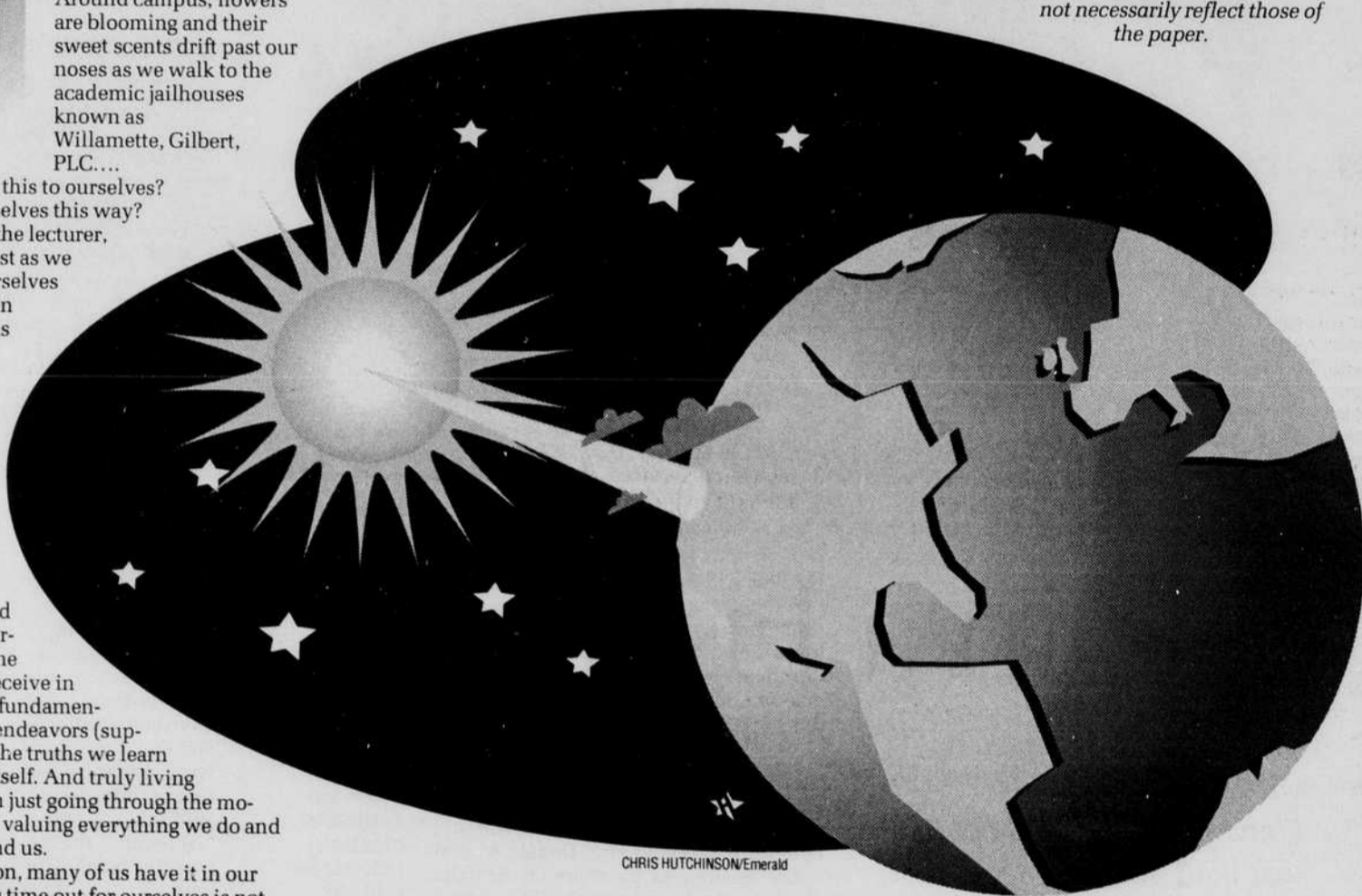
There is nothing like lying down on soft grass — not the mushy, water-soaked grass of the Oregon rainy season, but soft, dry, freshly cut grass — while letting the sun soak through the layers of clothing and skin which envelop our bodies and listening to the quiet music of birds, or the wind, or water passing by or melodious notes coming from a nearby guitar.

The bliss from just *being* is a relaxation far too often overlooked when the days are hectic and short, as they always seem to be. So it is up to us to

find time to enjoy the spring weather while we can, before the dreaded allergies kick in and we have to run with muffled screams (because our pollen-induced asthma prevents us from having enough lung power for a proper scream) back into the formerly mentioned air-conditioned sweat shops of academia.

Come rain or shine, the beauty of the Willamette Valley is right outside your door. But if the sun is shining and you find yourself jotting down note after useless note, remember the roses outside are just waiting to be smelled. We work to get by, but we play in order to live.

Laura Daniel, a junior majoring in biology, is a columnist for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the paper.



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

LETTERS

ASUO matters

An editorial in the April 16 *Emerald* argued that students have no real reason to participate in the election process because activities of the ASUO do not significantly affect students' lives. This is a very negative and unconstructive view, and moreover, wrong in many ways.

The ASUO affects any student in any programs funded by incidental fees, as well as any student who takes advantage of the privileges those fees provide. Take the current LTD bill. How many students ride the bus to and from campus, or as their only way to travel around Eugene? It does not make sense for students to ignore the ASUO when popular vote determines the future of many students' programs and privileges.

Unfortunately, the ASUO isn't as visible as it could be, but it shouldn't require overly drastic changes to remedy this. Some candidates for ASUO Exec. mentioned publishing a newsletter in the *Emerald* periodically. Why shouldn't Miner/Unger adopt the idea?

Also, another recent editorial in the

Emerald highlighted many mishaps of the election process this year. A few minor changes like adding more voting booths in different areas of campus could dramatically improve voter turnout.

Voting for measures and candidates determines where our six million dollars go. The ASUO does need to make itself more visible and accessible, but it's more important that we students realize that voting affects each of us.

Michael Medlock
Political Science

It's up to us

This letter is in response to the April 16 editorial regarding the ASUO and the student body. First off, let me reiterate your opinion: "Campus apathy relates solely to student government, not general activism."

I'm sorry to say that your opinion is a tragic delusion of what apathy is. Your opinion expresses exactly the kind of apathy that has captured this campus as well as this country.

Our student government upholds the democratic concept of representation of the student body by other stu-

dents who have been elected to those positions. It has been said that a democratic government is only as good as the people it governs. With this being true, then your assessment of the ASUO can only be a diagnosis of your own apathy.

Your answer to the "problem" of apathy within the ASUO is "genuine reform." Reform seems to be a convenient scapegoat for our own problems of apathy. The "genuine reform" you speak of must genuinely occur in all of us — not the system.

The system is only what we make of it. If you are unsatisfied with the way things are going, then you have the ability to express yourself through the system. The responsibility of the system to represent me and you ultimately lies in our hands.

Remember the politicians that represent us didn't get there without going through elections. They were chosen by me and you. The leadership and justice we all desire out of our student government, or the federal government for that matter, is up to us to decide.

John Skalberg
Undeclared

Enough is enough

Over the last couple of months, I've heard again and again about how Footnotes is complaining about losing their current space. Well, enough is enough. It seems Footnotes is capable of only two things: whining and underhanded tricks.

Not only have they whined to the EMU Board, but to all the students in the newspaper and around campus. Then there were their actions, which speak much louder than their words.

The most recent action was the misuse of the computing resources here at the University. Footnotes decided that they had the power to subscribe thousands of students to an e-mail list urging the support of the ballot measure for Footnotes.

This was all done without permission or knowledge of the students. I urge everyone to vote against the Footnotes ballot measure and send a message to Footnotes that we are tired of their whining and tricks. I also call for a public apology from Footnotes concerning their recent actions.

Dan Pierson
History

All thumbs



Brad Smith and Karl Shelton

The people have spoken. Our favorite comedians took in a resounding 174 votes in last week's ASUO Executive primary race. What this says about our student body, we're not sure, but what it says about the tickets of Ostitis/Terry, Smith/John and Madrid/Sal 2000 is perfectly clear.

Campus history

The five-part creative manifesto in the *Emerald* this week by our very own Dennis Bolt has us all thinking about the past. University tradition is so important to all of us...aw, forget it.



Peruvian government

The government raid on rebels who had 71 hostages captive in the Japanese ambassador's mansion ended the four-month-old crisis Tuesday. But it also resulted in the deaths of 17 rebels, hostages and soldiers — the first casualties since the rebels took control on Dec. 17. The bloodshed was unnecessary.

Keiko

The killer whale and Newport resident may be released to the wild next year...awwww, that's great. Guess what? We don't care.