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OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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Footnotes proves it can't handle adversity

OUR OPINION:
Footnotes has handled minor setbacks with juvenile whining and finger-pointing

BACKGROUND

- **FEB. 12:** The EMU Board holds a meeting to discuss the possible relocation of Footnotes.
- **MARCH 10:** Kristin King deletes EMU Board Member Jenna Wasson's Footnotes subscription.
- **APRIL 10:** ASUO Executive staff revokes Footnotes' ASUO program status.
- **APRIL 23:** Footnotes sends approximately 5000 e-mails to students urging them to support their ballot measure.
- **APRIL 23:** The EMU Board votes to guarantee Footnotes a spot in the EMU, but with an increased rent.
- **APRIL 30:** Footnotes' ballot measure is voted down.
- **MAY 6:** Footnotes announces it will not stay in the EMU.

There are many ways people choose to deal with life when things don't go their way. Some quit, some try again and others change their strategy. Still others choose to throw a temper tantrum and blame everyone but themselves. Footnotes' actions over the past few months clearly shows it chooses the latter approach.

To be sure, things haven't been going Footnotes' way lately. The EMU Board wouldn't allow the group to remain in its spacious office; its rent increased; it was reprimanded by the ASUO Executive; and to top it all off, its ballot measure failed, and it may now be throwing in the towel because of it. Things consistently haven't gone Footnotes' way, and Footnotes has consistently reacted with poor judgment.

Footnotes' first mistake was picking a fight with the EMU Board. With its lease in jeopardy, Footnotes coordinator Kristin King deleted board member Jenna Wasson's subscription to teach her a lesson on the value of Footnotes.

Of course, the result was a wave of bad publicity for Footnotes and an aggravated EMU Board, now even more intent on making life hard for the group. In the face of this bad press, Footnotes resorted to more whining about the unfair representation it was getting from the campus media.

As an almost punitive measure, the EMU Board decided Footnotes could stay in the EMU but that it would have to pay more rent. In reaction, Footnotes sought increased revenue from the students through a ballot measure, which as an independent non-student group, it had little right to do.

When its ballot measure failed, Footnotes resorted to more gloom and doom talk. In reaction to the ballot measure's defeat, Footnotes Board member Devon London was quoted in the *Emerald* as saying, "We've received no support from this University. We're considering folding up the tent."

Then, on Tuesday, Footnotes announced it would not return to the EMU and may not return at all, citing higher rent and lack of student support as the main reasons.

Despite Footnotes' annoying behavior, the fact remains that most students do support Footnotes. The *Emerald* supports Footnotes as well, even though it did not choose to endorse its ballot measure. Even members of the EMU Board, who have

continued to battle Footnotes on every front, find it a valuable service.

What most people do not support is Footnotes' "us against the world" mentality. While the people behind Footnotes may feel the campus is out to get them because of their string of political losses, in many cases they have no one to blame but themselves.

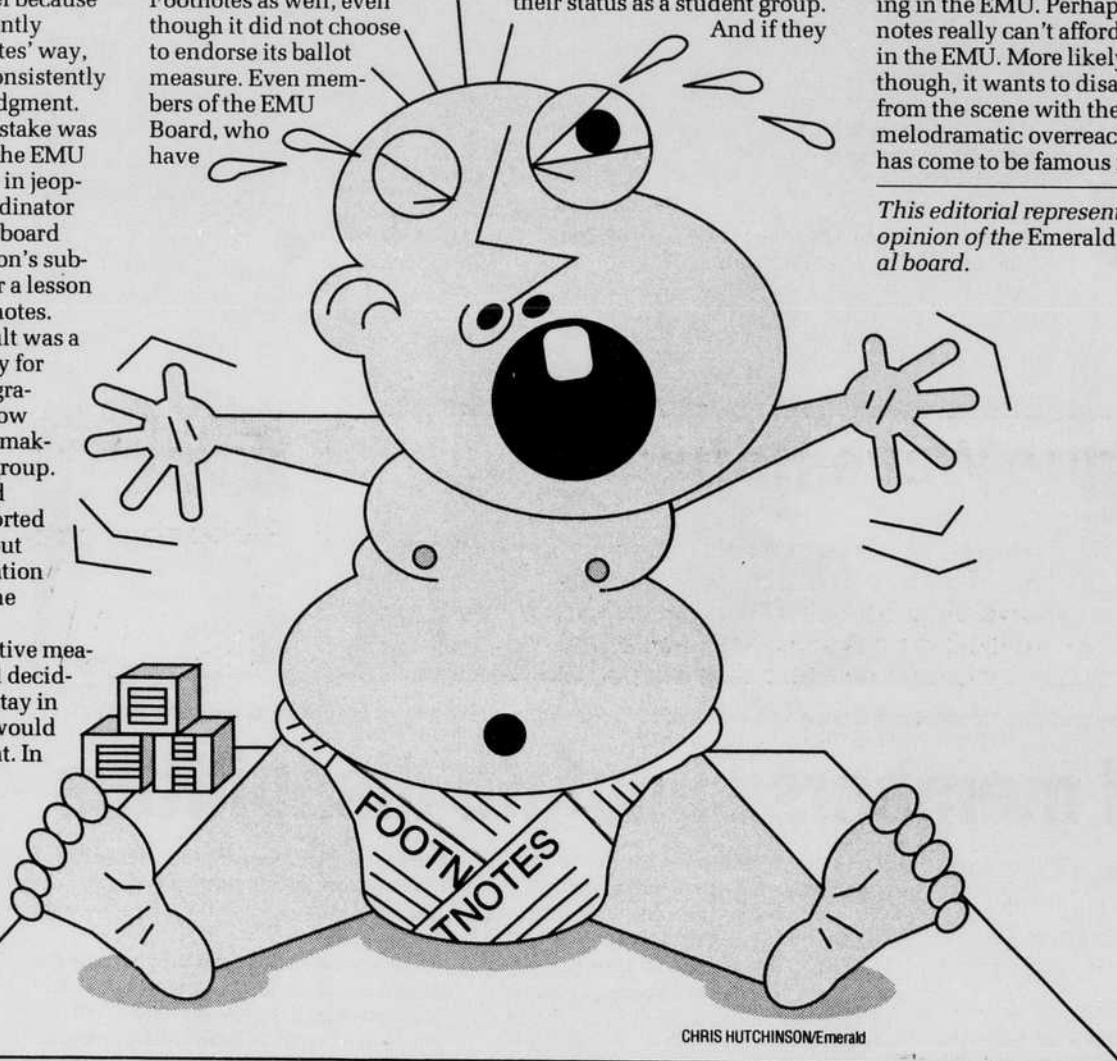
If Footnotes members hadn't turned the lease renewal into a personal battle with the EMU Board, they may not have had their rent jacked up. If they hadn't been so unapologetic about deleting Wasson's subscription, the ASUO Executive might not have taken away their status as a student group. And if they

hadn't bothered the student body by sending out thousands of random e-mails asking for support for their ballot measure, they may have actually received extra funds.

But instead of dealing with minor setbacks, Footnotes waged a war against the EMU Board, and when its measure failed, a war against the very student body it is supposed to be serving.

Now Footnotes employees are marching bravely to the grave, convinced the world is out to get them. Rather than raising subscription rates (which many students would be willing to pay), Footnotes has given up entirely on staying in the EMU. Perhaps Footnotes really can't afford to stay in the EMU. More likely, though, it wants to disappear from the scene with the same melodramatic overreacting it has come to be famous for.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.



All thumbs



THE DAILY BAROMETER

With barely any funds, the staff of the Oregon State student newspaper still manages to publish on a daily basis and is even trying to innovate along the way.

BIJOU

The 13th Avenue theater is regressing to the '70s and '80s, and we love it. *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* has already been shown, and *Saturday Night Fever* is on the way.

OSSHE

The Oregon State System of Higher Education recently passed a pre-proposal for the implementation of Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies majors at the University. Ethnic Studies should become official in the fall, and Women's Studies is scheduled for 1998. Finally.



EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICES

Almost 200 tests for prospective teachers failed to arrive in Eugene from the New Jersey-based company last week. With a monopoly on the tests, the business can apparently afford to make mistakes.

Hilde Cherry
Eugene

LETTERS

Stones roll on

I agree with the editorial on denying The Rolling Stones concert performance in Autzen Stadium (April 9, *ODE*). The points made were great. The University does not seem to care about the students or the community.

Jason Lee
Eugene

Foul journalism

The latest issue of the *Oregon Voice* is one of the foulest and most disgusting pieces of "journalism" I have ever seen. I am aware that the publication is into "parody." However, most of the content of this sex issue is very distasteful, to the extent of being oppressive. The articles display little more than the most degrading sides of sex and are rather misogynistic.

I am not expressing conservatism nor a desire for censorship. I am merely expressing that the *Oregon Voice's* depictions of sex did not fly well with me. I also find it strange that it will print a piece about rape alongside features glorifying pornography, a

factor in perpetuating the rape culture. Remember, student fees pay for this perpetuation, so I urge you to pick up a copy of the magazine and see for yourself.

In addition, I contributed to this issue ... I am the author of the "If you said no, if there wasn't consent, it's still rape." piece (pg. 24). However, for some reason, my name was not attributed to this piece, not on the page, nor on the list of contributors on the first page. Not only is this illegal and borderline plagiarism, it is also extremely disrespectful to not acknowledge that it is my work. Though I am thankful it printed the piece, which contains very important information about rape, it is unfortunate that the surrounding articles promote what my piece speaks out against.

Rebecca Farmer
English

Conservative greed

The uproar over raising the minimum wage in Oregon is astounding! Oregon is not one of the "af-

fluent" states — there is a lot of poverty, and homelessness is still at large and too many single mothers on minimum wage (this is *not* just a starting wage for teens).

On top of this lousy salary, the Restaurant Association was intent on paying less than \$4.75 because of tips! This ploy was trying to make us believe restaurants were suffering, when in fact this is another corporate scheme to avoid paying decent wages.

Compare this poverty level pay to the outlandish ones the CEOs of corporate America are pulling in — salaries in the millions with stock options and perks over 200 times the earnings of the workers who produce.

It is gross and quite unsustainable. How come people who elected all these Republicans into our House could not see this coming? Conservative or plain greedy and uncaring of the common good? Even with this small victory in our legislature, there remains a mountain to overcome.