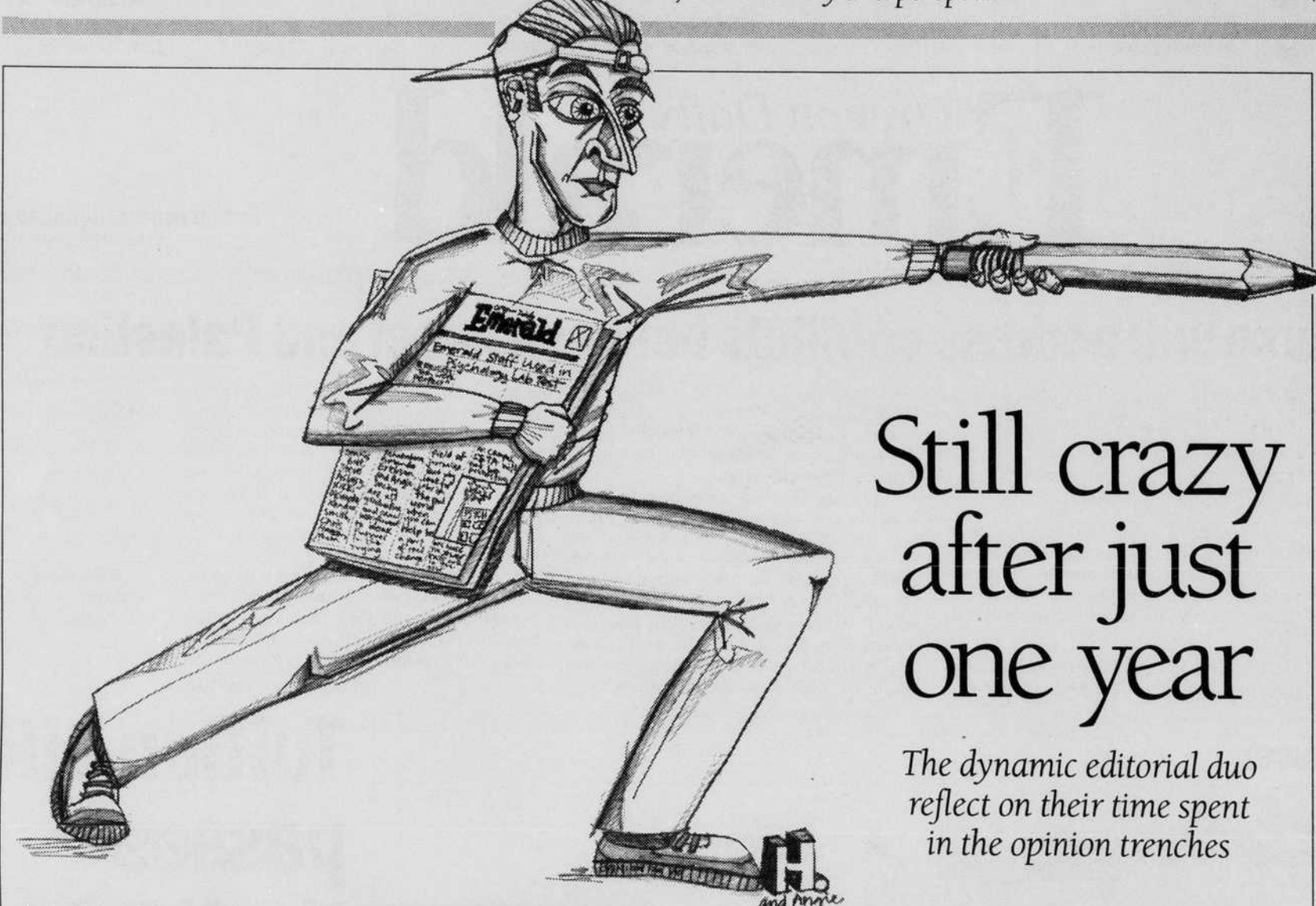


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Thom Schoenborn
NIGHT EDITORS:
Laura Cadiz & Mike Schmierbach
EDITORIAL EDITORS:
Ashley Bach & Brian Diamond

OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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Still crazy after just one year

The dynamic editorial duo reflect on their time spent in the opinion trenches

We know we had it good this year. We got to do what everybody else on the paper wants to do, but can't. Every reporter working on a story forms his or her own opinion on an issue but is governed by the rules of objectivity. We had no such barriers. And for that, we feel lucky.

While expressing the views of the editorial board and overseeing the daily opinion page, we had an experience like no other. We handled responses — to our editorials, to our columnists and to other reporters. We typed in letters — a lot of them. Some made us think; others just made us laugh.

Apart from editorials and letters, we also printed the new features: "Winners/Losers," "All Thumbs" and "Quotable." Like the job, the opinion page had its highs and lows. Each of these elements were interesting at times, boring at others. For this last page of our reign, we present the best, worst and ugliest of this year's opinion section and the experience we had putting it together.

OPINION



Brian Diamond & Ashley Bach

THE GOOD: Yes, the job was fun at times. Despite rumors that no one even reads the page, the response that our editorials created showed that at least some people take the opinion page seriously (*too* seriously for some). While the response was not always positive, it was always a welcome reminder that someone was reading what we wrote.

The highlight of the power of the opinion page came in the ASUO elections when the *Emerald's* ballot measure endorsements mirrored the election results. While it may be jumping to conclusions to say our endorsements completely shaped the election, we can't help but think we had some influence.

THE BAD: Handling negative responses, by phone or in person, was never fun, especially when

those people were idiots. Most of the complaints, we noticed, stemmed from a misunderstanding of how a newspaper works. For example, some people seemed to ignore our letters policy by submitting 600-word, hand-scribbled manifestoes on non-University subjects. Then they expected their opinions to be printed within a week.

For future reference, don't turn in a letter to the *Emerald* until you've looked into our specific requirements on submission. You'll no doubt have better luck getting your letter printed. And if you call to complain, have an *argument*. Don't just randomly throw out the word, "libel," for example, and expect us to be scared. Know what you're talking about.

THE UGLY: Dealing with the public, we had our share of run-ins with Eugene's weirdest. One letter-writer insisted his letter on nudity in the Downtown Mall be signed "Homemade Creature." And the "Reader Voices" section also produced its share of off-the-wall responses. One respondent, when

asked how he felt about the proposed amphitheater, replied, "I tend to let overly vivacious enthusiasts yell over understandings and misunderstandings." Say what?

But our weirdest moment of the year had to be our editorial board interview with ASUO Executive candidates Brad Smith and Karl Shelton. Dressed in bike helmets, sunglasses and even a Hawaiian shirt for one, the two men proceeded to tell us of their plans to reunite Van Halen and party with the Nature Boy, Ric Flair. After challenging the rest of the candidates to a drink-off, Shelton wrote a love note (complete with illustration) to one of our luckier board members.

So, as you can see, being editorial editors wasn't all bad. It was actually quite fun at times. Just the same, we'll be glad to move on to bigger and better things. Oh, and one final note to all the enemies we've made during the year: You'll get yours.

Ashley Bach and Brian Diamond are editorial players for the Emerald. Their views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

BEST OF LETTERS 1996-97

It is interesting to me how there is not even one comfortable place to sit in the Knight or science libraries. There are literally hundreds of chairs available but not one you can really relax in.

Eric Nissani
Alumnus
Nov. 8, 1996

I know when I read libel slander in the first paragraph that your experience at the Glenwood reflects lack of perception.... Your impatience and ignorance of the restaurant industry is clogging your brain.

Amy Fowler
Community Education Program
Feb. 7, 1997

Never in my life have I been so offended.

To Angie Suchy: have you ever heard of a little something called "libel"?

Jennifer Lindsey
Pre-Journalism/Business
March 13, 1997

To all you cancer puffers: Smoke if you choose, but sure as hell don't throw your lipstick-covered, fiberglass-filled, nicotine-spiked roaches on the ground.

Josh Laughlin
Journalism
Feb. 14, 1997

But in the meantime, I have no "cool T-shirt" nor a "\$5 classified gift certificate" to call my own.

Bill Smee
Kiosk Attendant
Feb. 13, 1997

This marks the fifth time I have been struck by a bicycle while walking on University sidewalks.

W. Richard Patty
General Science
May 16, 1997

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

Dan Pierson
History
April 24, 1997

It seems to me that the quality of my professors affects me much more than the quality of the University basketball coach. So

why did we pay Jerry Green \$250,000 when the average teaching faculty salary is something like \$40,000?

Derek Schutt
Geology
April 10, 1997

In fact, the LSD experience can be quite pleasant and spiritually beneficial to the user, if used properly.

Joe Renaud
German
March 4, 1997

The next time Mr. Renaud decides to use LSD, may I suggest administering it as a suppository.

Colin Campbell
Counselor
April 2, 1997

Winners of the Year

BILL MINER & BEN UNGER
After winning the ASUO presidential election and receiving only a slap on the wrist for elections violations, next year's B.M.O.C. are free to rule.

STUDENT GROUPS
Despite opposition, many ASUO programs made their voices heard through various demonstrations, including the STAND rally in May.

Losers of the Year

FOOTNOTES
Ouch! This group was kicked out of its spot in the EMU and then rejected by students through its ballot measure.

SEX OFFENDERS
Since the University passed revisions to the Student Conduct Code and a student/faculty rule, any potential offender will have a hard time when it comes to punishment.