

**Correcting GTFF story**

I am writing to correct some inaccuracies in the article concerning the successful Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation union representation election of Feb. 24 (ODE, March 11).

Prior to this vote, excluded GTFFs had student health insurance that was paid for by the University. By voting to be represented by the GTFF, the GTFFs formerly excluded from the bargaining unit became eligible for the GTFF health plan with its improved benefits. In addition, for these GTFFs, employer-paid health insurance now became something guaranteed by the GTFF's collective bargaining agreement with the University. The same holds true for the tuition waiver. While the waiver was given to excluded GTFFs prior to the vote, by joining the bargaining unit, excluded GTFFs were guaranteed a tuition waiver.

The English department has GTFFs throughout the year, not just fall term as your article stated. However, new English GTFFs were typically excluded from the bargaining unit during their first term, usually fall, when they taught to fulfill a requirement for their degree. That exclusion for first-term teaching in English will no longer happen.

With the successful election, formerly excluded GTFFs will have access to the grievance process in the collective bargaining agreement. However, as I explained to your reporter, the GTFF compromised with the University so that if a formerly excluded GTFF has a grievance concerning the quality of their

teaching, those GTFFs will need to use the academic grievance process instead of the contract grievance process, and once the formerly excluded GTFFs have fulfilled their degree teaching requirements, grievances concerning teaching quality will also go through the contract's grievance process.

Finally, with the addition of formerly excluded GTFFs into the bargaining unit, the GTFF now represents a little over 1,200 GTFFs, not 2,000 as stated in your article.

**Jon Silvermoon**  
GTFF organizer

**Question OSPIRG's budget**

I was glad to see that someone is finally questioning OSPIRG's giant budget. In his letter, Andy Combs makes a good observation, although he doesn't take it quite far enough. What does a volunteer group like OSPIRG need with what will amount to over \$600,000 by the time I graduate?

As for spending \$147,000 on poster materials, Combs should just wait until student elections roll around and OSPIRG is again on the ballot — you'll begin to wonder how they get by on only \$147,000 per year.

Something makes me think that this heightened activity by OSPIRG in the past couple of weeks (since they've been almost invisible over the past year) is more than just increased awareness: this is just the first oh-so-subtle foray into campaigning from the mighty OSPIRG propaganda machine. They go to the ballot every other

year for money. I know this because my freshman year I heard almost nothing from them except scattered student interest surveys at the beginning of each term and then the campaign buzzing that began the weeks before the election. My sophomore year, I just saw those surveys. But once again, with elections approaching, they need to appear active in order to run away with their truckload of cash.

Unlike all other student groups, OSPIRG doesn't account for their budget line by line. They get the whole pie, \$147,000 (\$9 per year from all of us) in one line, and nobody (go up and ask these people if you don't believe me) can tell you exactly where it goes. So this year, I'd like to see a different campaign from OSPIRG, a more honest campaign that convinces us to fund them not because they've clouded our minds with a media blitz, but because they've shown us that they spend wisely and for the benefit of all students. In short, I'd love to see OSPIRG publicly declare exactly where they spend every penny of that \$147,000 — with receipts to back it up. A simple request, really. One that every other student group adheres to.

I don't care how you do it, OSPIRG — write a letter to the editor, put it on your posters, shout it from the rooftops — but do it. And if I don't see it by the time the polls open, then you've lost my vote and the vote of anyone else who cares about responsibility and accountability.

**Liz Bobek**  
Political science

**The Pizza Pipeline**

*March Madness*

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**EMU News**

Check out the **EMU WEB PAGE** for the latest **EMU/ASUO event and renovation information**  
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~emumain/>

**THE EMU TICKET OFFICE**

**your entertainment connection!**

We are a ticket outlet for the Hult Center, Fastixx, Wow Hall, University Theater, LCC Theater, U of O men's basketball, and other area venues.

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**UP COMING EVENTS!**

**String Cheese Incident**

3/17 EMU Ballroom

**Irish Pub Night**

3/17 WOW Hall

**Eugene Symphony**

3/19 Hult Center

**Jonatha Brooke**

3/21 WOW Hall

**Carousel**

3/27 Hult Center

**Spring Break Ticket Office Hours:**

Friday, March 20th 9a.m. - 3p.m.

Closed March 21st & 22nd

Mon., March 23rd - Fri., March 27th 9a.m. - 3p.m.

Closed March 28th & 29th



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**SEEKING STUDENT INPUT**

**U of O Process for Change**

The Provost's Office has assembled several teams to identify what education should look like in the 21st Century — what changes are needed to provide high quality services to students, the people of Oregon, the nation and the world. How can we implement these changes rapidly? Team reports can be accessed on WEB:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~acadaff/change/process.html>

Students can give input either through ASUO officers, email to the Provost (provost@oregon), written comments to the Provost, contacting any of the conveners or team members listed on the web, or by contacting any of the deans.

**PLEASE HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND AID THE UofO POSITION ITSELF FOR THE FUTURE.**



An Invitation to the Campus Community:

**COFFEE TASTING**

Tuesday, March 17

EMU Fir Room

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please stop by and help us evaluate coffees from several potential suppliers. Your feedback will help us in the selection process.



**Have a fun & safe spring break!!**