

NEWSROOM:
(541) 346-5511
E-MAIL:
ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
ADDRESS:
Oregon Daily Emerald
P.O. BOX 3159
Eugene, Oregon 97403
ON-LINE EDITION:
www.uoregon.edu/~ode

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ryan Frank
EDITORIAL EDITORS
Jonas Allen, Kameron Cole

Time to pull the plug on *the Clinton scandal*

Like a sitcom past its prime, the scandal is pulling us where we no longer wish to follow

If we've learned anything during our many years as a TV nation, it is that all things must come to an end.

We have watched many of our favorite shows, from Mary Tyler Moore to Seinfeld, fade into pop culture lore and by now we know that sometimes we just have to let go.

We also know that few things are more annoying than a show that has grown tired, yet continues to trudge doggedly along, clogging our airwaves and grating our nerves.

The President Clinton scandal — in which the president allegedly lied about his sexual relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky — with its daily exercises in absurdity, has become such a spectacle: a sitcom that won't die.

Think about it: The characters are all in place, often filling roles so cliché that one can't help but wonder if they've been scripted. You've got Clinton, the Southern bad boy; Ken Starr, the grizzled grump; noisy neighbor Linda Tripp; and Lewinsky, resident vixen.

It started out slow, with the complicated and tedious Whitewater investigation. It didn't take a particularly astute viewer to see that it was going nowhere. Even Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit did little to arouse our interests.

The quintessential method of propping up a sagging sitcom is to introduce new characters. Enter Lewinsky, a spunky young woman who came to Washington, D.C., with a beret and a dream. Say what you will about this girl, but she certainly did break up the monotony.

The scandal reached its peak earlier this month with the release of Starr's report, and no matter what else happens, it is pretty much a given that it will be a downhill slide.

After all the pomp that surrounded the notorious stained dress, Clinton's videotaped deposition and, most recently, the release of Tripp's taped conversations with Lewinsky, there is no way any new scrap of evidence or information could be anything but underwhelming.

This interpretation of events is a bit flip-



per, but if you have been following the Clinton debacle, you have to admit there have been times when a laugh track would have been more than appropriate.

Although it has raised some legitimate questions about morality and our faith in our leaders, the investigation has degenerated into a ridiculous mess.

Without a doubt the scandal has left us with many memories. Who among us will forget the cigar episode anytime soon?

Now, there's only one important question left to be answered: How will it end? Will Clinton be canceled while Al Gore spinoff's into a starring role? Maybe we'll wake up one day and realize it was all a bizarre dream. Heck, maybe everyone will end up in prison.

Whatever happens, let's just hope the end comes soon.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Project Saferide would like to remind students of the service that we offer. We are a sexual assault prevention shuttle at the University of Oregon. We operate Sunday through Thursday 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. If you need a ride please call us at 346-4239.

Because Saferide is primarily a rape prevention shuttle, we are only able to accommodate female riders. This is in accordance with Saferide's ASUO bylaws. We currently operate four vehicles which do both on- and off-campus rides. Unfortunately, because the number of requests for rides is often more than we can accommodate, we are forced to turn away an average of seven women per night. Therefore, we limit our services to groups of three or less since women traveling alone are at greater risk of being assaulted. Saferide is also not able to provide transportation for women who wish to run errands. With your cooperation, these poli-

cies ensure that the women who need us most are able to get a ride.

As an organization we are concerned with the safety of all students, regardless of sex. Therefore, we would like to mention some transportation alternatives to Saferide. The Designated Driver Shuttle (346-RIDE) and Tandem Taxi (346-TAXI) provide safe transportation for University men and women. Another option in the campus area is the Office of Public Safety (346-5444).

Project Saferide is always looking for female and male volunteers to help with office work and fund raisers. Female volunteers are needed to drive the vehicles during operational hours. If you are interested, please call 346-0653 or stop by our office in the Women's Center (EMU Suite 3).

Celia Bobisud
Valerie Wright
Project Saferide