

In their own words...

Emerald alumni share their memories of life in and around the newsroom



Courtesy Phil Waldstein

The news staff from 1975-76 tries out the barber chairs in a lounge area near the Ballroom in the EMU.



Courtesy Sandi Daller

Ingrid While, Serena Williams and Ronwin Williams show off their costumes on Halloween in 1988.



Courtesy Phyllis Van Kimmel Bell

Reporter Phyllis Van Kimmel stops for a photo with famous evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson after interviewing her for a story in the mid-1920s.



Phyllis Van Kimmel Bell
1920s

"As a reporter for the ODE in the mid-1920s, interviewing the famous (and later, notorious) California woman evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson when she came to preach in Eugene. She was a fascinating personality and had thousands of followers. ... I took a great deal of kidding from my fellow journalists who claimed I 'obviously' had been converted!"

Karl C. Broom
1962-64

"Two stand out in my mind. The first was shooting the Columbus Day storm my freshman year. Ansy sensible person would have been taking cover inside. I, of course, was outside taking lots of photos while branches snapped out of trees overhead, and more than a few trees crashed to the ground just yards away. Some good shots, but... The second was producing the summer ODE with Ev Dennis. Ev did most of the writing; I took care of the photography and did a little writing. We may have had a little help from others. We both proofed everything. I even got to run the linotype!"

Richard Burr
1981-84

"I ... remember listening to fellow Emerald staffers wonder how the University, Eugene and the country would make it through the Reagan years. Well, we did it, and the country is no worse off for the wear."



Cathy Neville Castillo
1961-65

"We loved to party but were very serious about journalism and spent most of our time fighting with or plotting against the state legislature (the conservatives were in power and didn't look kindly on the kind of fuzzy liberal thinking that came out of Eugene). ...

We wrote using the words "girls," as in "closing hours have been eliminated for senior girls over 21," and "Negroes," as in "Negroes joined the CORE march protesting housing discrimination." Bill Bowerman was coaching track, and Len Casanova was the football coach. ... It was a time of very fast change from the old Joe College era of parades on the Mill Race to the hard core activism of the 1960s. We went from house-mothers and closing hours to teach-ins and the Vietnam War in three short years. ...

Important people came and went. Neil Goldschmidt was elected student body president in spring of 1965. Earlier Herbert Hoover and Winston Churchill had died, but to students the most important obit reported that Max Robinson of Maxi's Tavern fame on 13th Avenue had died. Day in, day out, we all went to Maxi's tavern. Some ODE staffers even lived in apartments in Maxi's Alley (property he owned across 13th.) We wrote a big obit when Max died. ...

In the spring, 250 students sat up all night in Erb Memorial at a Vietnam teach-in while Wayne Morse and Ernest Gruening spoke. The Free Speech Platform in front of the student union had been dedicated a year or two before, and it got lots of use. Oregon made headlines for having the first teach-in in the country and also because five faculty members read Alan Ginsburg's poem "HOWL" at the Free Speech Platform after a professor at Central Oregon State College was fired for reading it at a meeting there."



Carolyn S. Chambers
1951-53

"I wrote a letter to the editor that was published in The Oregonian supporting confidentiality of the press, specifically Annette Buchanan's right to protect her sources on a story that some people on campus had tried marijuana."

Jerry H. Claussen
1954-56

"Covering and writing about Pac-8 basketball. ... McArthur Court was old even then!"

Janet O'Dell Davies
1963-67

"Coverage of the Oregon-Oregon State football game on Nov. 30, 1963, becoming the first woman in the history of Hayward Field to be admitted to the press box there to cover a game."



Monte Enbysk
1974-5

"My favorite ODE memory is working with Randy Shilts and having him convince me I should try writing about something besides sports — so I did. But I still was a sports reporter for many years after college, until I became a business reporter and found that is what I loved."