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PERSPECTIVES

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Get wet and be merry

*Don't let the extreme dreary season
get you down*



Read in the paper the other day that this winter is supposed to be the wettest of the last couple of years. According to weather forecasters, November, December and January are going to be so miserable we are going to get more rain than those deluged southeastern towns after devastating hurricanes from the tropics stop for a visit. It's going to be dumping hard-core in the valley, folks.

Well, because we are in the middle of fall and because winter is just around the corner, thought this would be quite a pertinent topic to write about.

Thing is, all this wintry, damp, horrible weather always comes followed by a radical change in the behavior of many people in our campus community.

As the first leaves start to yellow (or redden, if you prefer) and thick, dark clouds shroud the whole town, sending endless hours of rain pouring down on our heads, a lot of people are affected by, you know, sadness and all that gloomy stuff.

All those relentless downpours make many students stumble into the bottomless depths of depression and melancholy. Those once happy, smily faces turn grim, and teary, wistful eyes are all over our campus. It's a pretty sad scene, you've got to agree.

But you, dear reader, you shouldn't let this moist weather put you down like that. No. You can do better than that. Don't come to school sporting that grumpy, whining face, and leave that exaggerated, bile-dripping hatred of rain at home. It doesn't pay. Honest.

Let's make this horrid, gray fall and winter days of love and joy instead.

How does that sound? Let us? Well, first of all, you gotta make sure you break that numbing silence that envelops our rainy campus between classes (usually at 10 to top of the hour) and start saying "hi." Humanize our inhumanely soaked lives by smiling at every bastard you walk by. Crack a beam even when you walk past one of those "aggro" baseball-capped kids. (Odds are he'll never reply to your kind gesture, but give it a try, anyway.)

Also, sell your used textbooks to those

freshmen grommets cheap. Don't get ripped off, that's not what I mean, but don't try to clean up the kiddie, either. Wave to that nice OPS officer who issued you a \$40 ticket last week after your meter had only just expired — after all, "he/she was just doing his/her job." And don't forget to be a courteous driver and let the other guy score your parking spot (even though you had the blinker on first).

You have to keep in mind that giving is more fulfilling than taking. Therefore, help losers clamber out of their eternal geekiness teaching them how to be cool and stuff — the grateful nerd will remember you for the rest of his life. Give your teacher a flower as an appreciation for that nice-looking C. Tip the Subway chick at the EMU, and remember to pick up a flier from that keen activist who spent hours in the rain trying to get his political message across.

And, really important, show gratitude to your friend's friendliness and buy him/her a pint of one of those savory microbrews. Two pints would make an even better impression.

Make sure you hit the slopes, too. Accompanied by a top bourbon to keep you warm and a bunch of hooting friends, nothing beats the thrill of drawing insane lines, snapping off the top of deep bowls and busting all sorts of cool jumps. And you can't forget the coast. A day of surf will most definitely make you happy. Winter is when the biggest swells stalk the Oregon coast. So while wimpy kooks stay at home suckling their mother's bosom, you're left with a clean, giant line-up empty for you. Ah, winter ...

And, most important, make love. Nothing tops love on a drizzly cold night. It doesn't get better than engaging in some loving to the sound of rain tapping on your roof. Eventually you get past that last cotton barrier to unveil a beautiful, delicate silken ... Oh, Jesus!

So be a nice person in the coming months. Never mind the fact that the heavens will be constantly dumping water on our heads, and be a good, happy individual. Let's keep our school a pleasant place. It's possible and most desirable and will make us feel good.

Nothing like a solid spirit of camaraderie and friendship to maintain our campus surrounded by good vibes in this wet, frosty season.

Vince Medeiros is a columnist for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Opinion



Vince Medeiros

