

# PERSPECTIVES

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## Riots disgrace Students and the University



Giovanni Salimena/Emerald

Recent student riots across the country are prompted by intoxication and stupidity

The University is known for its athletic program, top research facilities and Halloween riots. The first two attributes enable students to feel a sense of pride; the last characteristic should not.

Yet another Halloween has passed with students taking to the streets throwing stop signs, lighting lamp posts on fire and generally behaving like idiots on Alder Street between 16th and 20th avenues.

And what is the point to all the rioting? Has there been an infringement on students' rights that everyone but the handful of rioters is unaware of?

Unfortunately alcohol-induced student riots are not unique to the University or the nation. This is the third Halloween riot here in three years, and riots at universities nationally are a growing trend that ac-

counts for eight this year.

These riots seem to be prompted by little more than drunk students becoming violent. The Oregonian wrote on Oct. 31 that recent student riots are "the 1990s version of anti-war protests."

But what social injustice are students rioting against? Unlike anti-war protests that stood for ending the Vietnam war, these riots are prompted by intoxicated losers who could not find anything better to do on a Saturday night.

As students in the '90s, is this what we want to be known for? Is this our cause? We think not. There is no cause behind these riots. It's blind stupidity, and that's not something we hope to be remembered for.

Before you decide for yourself, let us quote some of the members of the

riot-for-the-sake-of-rioting movement.

"It all boils down to fun," claims Josh Connolly, a visiting Portland Community College student.

Well, if tear gas and getting arrested is his idea of fun, then he certainly had a lot of it Saturday night.

Leroy Jenkins explains, "The cops are just house Nazis. They think that just because they wear a badge they can do anything."

Yeah, students throwing stop signs at police officers is no reason to get all upset.

Are these the chosen leaders of our generation? As a student body we should be outraged at this behavior. It degrades the name of the University and all who attend. We need to collectively take a stand against rioting. It is embarrassing to the University, the city and the state.

Although a number of students have chosen to blame the police and publications such as the Oregon Daily Emerald and The Register-Guard for their riot coverage that may have

given people ideas for rioting, this sorry claim tries to excuse the rioters from their behavior and shift the blame. It's a scapegoat.

While the Emerald or Guard's coverage may have brought back the memories of last year's riot, it can't take the blame. The Emerald is not a puppeteer for rioters. The problem lies in the actors. It's time to take responsibility for your actions and stop embarrassing the rest of us.

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

### SAID & DONE

"Last year everyone was pissed at the cops, this year everyone is pissed at each other ... This year it's about students' stupidity."

Ron Weaver, University senior

"It all boils down to fun."  
Josh Connolly, Portland Community College student

"It's a U of O tradition. It's a part of Halloween. We like to have a good time."

Grant Blume, University sophomore

"We're not making too much noise. They're looking for an excuse. I mean, this is how they justify their paychecks."

Matthew Putman, University junior

"The cops are just house Nazis. They think that just because they wear a badge they can do anything."

Leroy Jenkins, unknown

