

PERSPECTIVES

1998: Year in Review

*One last look
at the past
year's ten
most
influential
University
events*

New years are a funny thing. Faced with the prospect of 365 days of infinite possibility, people find comfort in looking back. In this spirit of reflection, the Emerald presents the 10 events that most influenced University life.

1. Danta Graham-Preston

Last year opened with continued fallout from the Danta Graham-Preston sexual misconduct case. The case centered on the alleged off-campus assault of a female student by Preston and sparked debate on a wide range of topics. The most significant issue raised by the case was the question of exactly how far the University could reach in disciplining students for their behavior off campus.

2. Thurston High School shooting

Last spring, tragedy put the City of Springfield in the national spotlight. The shooting first stunned the community and then pulled it closer together.

3. Asian Crisis

Regarded by many as just another item on the evening news, the Asian economic crisis hit close to home at the University.

ty. Currency devaluation and rising prices in their home countries subjected international students here to an average cost of living that was up to six times higher than it was in 1997. Consequently, there was a significant drop in the number of Asian international students at the start of the 1998 school year.

4. Go Ducks!

In 1998 the campus and the community were awash in Duck spirit as the Oregon football team, led by quarterback Akili Smith, were ranked as high as No. 11 nationally. Smith led both the team and the fans through one of the most memorable seasons in recent memory, culminating with a trip to the Aloha Bowl. It wasn't just the football team that made us proud. The women's basketball team distinguished themselves with yet another killer season and a fifth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

5. Oregon University System

One of the biggest things to happen to Oregon higher education was the restructuring of the Oregon University System. The adoption of a new funding model that allocates money based on enrollment is expected to be especially kind to the University, allowing for new programs, facilities and faculty. Whether smaller other Oregon schools will fare as well remains to be seen.

6. 13th Street Police Station

The 13th Street police sub-station moved out of the nondescript trailer in the parking lot of 7-Eleven and into a more prominent, decidedly swankier building across the way. The dif-

ference in the once infamous West University area can already be felt, to the delight of local businesses and those who have grown weary of being hit up for "nuggets."

7. Campus Construction

Gaping holes in the ground and piles of rubble greeted students as they returned to campus in the fall and found several campus sites under construction. Fabulous new facilities are promised, but as we roll into 1999, few of these projects are even close to being finished and parking headaches and general inconvenience abound.

8. The New EMU

Proof positive that there is indeed a light at the end of the long, dark tunnel of campus construction. The EMU reemerged in 1998 as the hub of campus life. The addition of a bakery (the cleverly named Grateful Bread) and The Buzz coffee house have made the student union a place students can actually stand to spend time in.

9. Oregon Campaign

Amid controversy over who donates how much in exchange for what, the University's six-year fund raising drive ended in December having netted more than \$253 million for the school.

10. Students, Cops and Alcohol

As the year progressed, particularly during fall term, more and more University students became intimately acquainted with the vagaries of Eugene law enforcement. The majority of student-police encounters centered around alcohol. As the city moves ever closer to zero tolerance policies on disorderly conduct and underage drinking, tensions on both sides of the issues increased.

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



Giovanni Salemina/Emerald

The campus bar scene no laughing matter

Emerald column was funny, but issues surrounding alcohol are anything but

This letter is in response to the humorous opinion piece on the campus bar scene. (ODE, Dec. 2)

While the skewed perception of Aaron Artman is comical to say the least, there are some serious issues mentioned that need to be properly addressed.

Number One: Stiff Drinks.

Artman stated that at Rennie's "the mixed drinks are more mix than drink." Outside of straight shots, the overwhelming majority of drinks listed in any book or bar guide call for more "mix" than liquor. But, if the over-powering taste of alcohol is the main focus, see the phone book under liquor.

Number Two: Goals.

Artman laments "morning afters where... you wake up alone with no hangover." If one of your goals is to wake-up with a hangover, there are two sure-fire ways

to achieve this: First, drink excessive quantities of Mad Dog 20/20. Second, buy a fifth and borrow a line from George Thorogood's "I Drink Alone."

For help, see phone book under recovery.

Number Three: Social Endeavors.

If, "to wake up alone," is equated to not speaking with someone whom you deem intoxicated, does speaking to someone who is intoxicated improve your chances of companionship? Without re-

gard to the University Conduct Code the notion that one must rely on drunken prey to ensure a tandem night is a sad commentary on one's own inability to socially interact with a person who is not under the influence of intoxicates.

For help, see phone book under attorney.

Summary: The pursuit of fun and occasional debauchery is a pastime of many students and area residents. Living in an alcoholic microcosm is not. With re-

gard, to "stiff" drinks, it is a bartender's legal responsibility to monitor and regulate alcohol consumption. It is a drinker's social responsibility to follow bar etiquette and abide by moral standards regarding one's sexual endeavors. If you can't score with someone who's sober, you shouldn't score with someone who's drunk.

This guest editorial was signed by: Edward Jessie, David Costard, Jorin Weber, Pete Engdall, Kasey Rimmer, Shawn Malikowski, Darren Fabre