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PERSPECTIVES

What's my line?

As bad as they often are, pick-up lines are a necessary evil in today's dating scene

It's the hot spot of the evening. Everyone is there. The band is grooving and there is plenty of drink to go around. Your friends are happy. You're happy.

A girl wearing too much glitter enthusiastically hugs you and says she hasn't seen you in forever. You have no idea who she is and before you have time to ask how she knows you, some guy throws his arm around your

shoulders and flashes his million-dollar smile and asks, "Come here often?"

As you gag and wrestle out of his claw, you see your friend saunter up to the cutie in his Spanish class and throw some cheesy pick-up line in her face. You don't

even think of rescuing the poor girl from your drunken com-padre's moves because Mr. Suave is now muttering something about the stars and your eyes.

Help.

As the art of enjoyment and partying has been perfected, so has the art of the oh-so-smooth pick-up line. Admit it. You've used a line at least once in your life and have probably been the target of one. And whether it's the best or worst of the bunch, pick-up lines are out there and are coming to get you.

Mr. Suave has now moved on and has cornered some other innocent bystander with "Aren't you that model from the Victoria's Secret catalog?"

Your friend has dragged his seniorita onto the dance floor and

is trying to do what might be a cross between swing dancing and gymnastics. The pained look on her face suggests maybe he should stick to the pick-up lines.

However, pick-up lines can make for comical entertainment. Points go to the one daring enough to use "Can you teach me how to make a lasagna?" or "That shirt brings out the cobalt blue in your eyes." Your eyes are brown.

The tangled words that emerge from our mouths never come out the way they are supposed to. Sometimes a rehearsed line seems the best way to go.

"Do you have change for a dollar?" leaves you with enough time to make small talk while the object of affection fumbles for quarters and presents perfect timing to get out of a heading-fast-off-a-cliff conversation.

I guess you can't really see Mr. Suave pull that one out, huh? He has now, by the way, proceeded to woo some girl with his "I have this really cool motorcycle" line. Meanwhile, your friend has been truly dissed by his cutie. Now he's babbling in your ear that he needs a girlfriend and it's your job to find him one.

Gosh, it was so much easier back in the day when we would pass notes that read "Do you like me? Circle yes or no."



Come on. We were all 11 years old once.

But never fear, hidden deep within the realm of pick-up lines, smothered by ones such as "You must be tired. You've been running through my dreams all night" lie the almost normal ones that aren't really thought of as pick-ups.

"You have a nice smile" is innocent enough and deserves a tender response. A boy I barely knew at the time once used "I dig your curls" and somewhat shyly wrapped one around his finger. I melted.

So maybe it's a matter of preference. Perhaps you're one to fall for

cheesy phrases or blush at innocent compliments. Maybe you just want to pour your drink on the person telling you that "You'd look great in this plastic, leopard print string bikini." There's nothing wrong with that — just don't get any on your shoes.

Your friend is now firing glances across the room at some cute little hippie fairy person who you actually know, so being the good friend you are, you introduce them. Mr. Suave is heading back your way. Looking for a place to escape to, you duck into a smiley smoke-filled room. You should be safe for a while.

There really is no one way to avoid pick-up lines. There must be a reason you were chosen for the pick-up line in the first place, so just think of yourself as the lucky target. Keep in mind that not all people use pick-up lines as forms of communication, but if you must, be prepared with a few of your own. You never know where they'll take you.

Oh, by the way — I've lost my phone number. Can I have yours?

Amy Goldhammer is a columnist for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Letters to the Editor

Student voices ignored

How long does Dave Frohnmayer think he can get away with this? Does he think that we don't notice his systematic abuses of power? How many times do we have to see Frohnmayer holding the interests of others above students before we say enough is enough?

For three years, students have been telling administration that we don't want Gardenburgers on our campus any longer, that we refuse to pay for the exploitation of Oregon farmworkers. Yet the administration continually puts the interests of Gardenburger and FLAV-R-PAC above those of farmworkers? Whose university is this?

Numerous student groups, including the Residence Hall Association and the LGBTA, advocated for a PRIDE Hall this year to secure a safe environment for LGBT students. Yet by one swift move from Johnson Hall, the students were squashed in the interest of the administration's own reactionary policies. Whose university is this?

Sarah Brown, a member of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, followed the proper channels through the ASUO to be appointed to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, because she wanted to

learn more about research on campus and have the chance to take part in making decisions about animal care. The administration has reserved sole decision-making rights to the IACUC appointment, leaving the ASUO with no power. We need the student choice and student voice in decision-making on campus. Whose University is this?

When are the students going to join together and say enough is enough?

Jessie Wofsy
Political Science
Kyla Schuller
Comparative Literature

Co-ops a safe space

In response to the vote to deny the request for a PRIDE Hall, I would like to note the inability of the University to meet the needs of a student group. This is especially important when the issues at hand are the safety and comfort of the students. A student's housing while attending the University should be a place where students feel at home. This is presently not the case with the current residence hall situation for the LGBT students. Until there is a place supported by the University for LGBT students, I would extend an invitation to explore the option of living in

the Student's Co-op. The Student's Co-op is a housing co-op that has an open community and welcomes people of all backgrounds. If anyone feels that their needs are not being met by the University, I encourage you to contact the Student's Co-op at 683-1112.

Kristine Solseng
Student's Cooperative Association

Lawyers beware

Without even waiting for the ashes of the PRIDE Hall to stop smoldering, the University Law School has set a meeting for Feb. 12 to discuss the possibilities of a residence hall for law school students. Any future lawyers considering backing this shouldn't bother wasting their time. The University administration surely isn't interested in segregating or otherwise isolating its future lawyers from the rest of the students. And when you take into account how disliked lawyers are in America, such a residence hall would certainly be a target of hate and thus jeopardize these law students' personal safety.

Andrew Fisher
Fine Arts

What do you owe?

Through the United States Student Asso-

ciation (USSA), the ASUO is working to increase federal grants for education because there is a dramatic grant/loan imbalance. Our goal is to tell government leaders that grant programs need a raise, and students should not have to take out so many loans! USSA is working to increase the maximum Pell Grant from \$3,125 to \$3,525 in 2000. Right now we are printing "debt checks" where each student with debt will write out how much money he or she owes. We will then add up all of the checks to make a presentation at the University, state and national levels.

Imagine what kind of a number will appear when the USSA adds up the total amount students owe in debt from around the United States! This will make a huge impact, so please come into the ASUO office and fill out a debt check, or spot us around campus recruiting students with debt. We appreciate any help we can get, and this should be an extremely effective tool in fighting to increase federal financial aid for education. This is an exciting time, so support the ASUO and the USSA while it fights to make education more affordable for you!

Cheryl Revell
ASUO Intern