

PERSPECTIVES

Registration Frustration

As a new term approaches, students throw themselves on the mercy of Duck Call

The rage started Friday morning after the first two classes I tried to register for were full and the third class number I punched into the phone responded with the monotonous "ding-dong" and the computerized Duck Call lady saying, "CRN number blah blah blah blah is full."

I sat frozen, thinking, "You've got to be kidding me." It was only four days into registration, and I held plenty of credits to place me

early in the registration countdown.

But alas, no luck. Oh no, instead of actually taking the classes I want to take, the ones my University dollars should be paying for, I will now spend spring term in a last-on-my-list lecture.

Now don't get me wrong, I tried to keep an open mind and register for my second and even third choice classes. But, yep, you guessed it — I bonded with the Duck Call class-is-full lady again. So after I angrily filled my empty schedule with random classes that I don't need, I threw the phone across my room, cursing at Duck Call.

Everyone in my living room stood with skeptical, worried looks on their faces and tried to reassure me that the three-hour lecture smack in the middle of the day wasn't going to be that bad.

Right.

Just yesterday, a friend of mine who has suffered through what seems to be enough organic chemistry classes for the entire school brought to my attention the "ridiculous series classes" that some students take. Apparently, many classes only allow you to take, say, 301 fall term, 302 winter and 303 spring, each only offered during that term.

Therefore, if you went abroad for a term or two, or switched a major mid-year, you might have to wait an entire year for the first class

in the sequence to come around again.

Yeah, we'll be graduating on time. And what's with the suddenly popular instructor approval. A journalism professor of mine explained that it was to keep the people who weren't supposed to be in a particular class from registering for it.

I can see the future. Not only is instructor approval required, but each student must get 42 signatures, a wet noodle, two pairs of mismatched socks and a flowered paper plate with an Alumni Association sticker on it just to get into

a class.

So professors, when you are wondering why your students are overly cranky and annoyed as this winter term draws to a close, keep in mind it's not the surprise nine-page paper you assigned but the fact that instead of taking your class next term they might be sitting in a class they didn't want.

How awful is it when a professor tells you he or she wants you in a particular class he or she is teaching and you can't get into it?

Why do the scheduling problems always come up during the term you finally decide to take urban farm?

How come the class you promised to take with your new friend is at its capacity when it's time to register?

Why is it just your luck, you finally find two classes you could be happy with and one starts 20 minutes before the other ends?

No, you can't sneak into the later one after it's started or leave the early before it's over. Trust me, it doesn't work.

But to leave you on a positive note, give the random classes a chance. You never know what you'll discover in that weird science or dusty history class.

So my fellow students, I wish you luck in final registration days and spring term, in hopes that you make the best of your predicament, whatever it may be. And to the people who got into that class I wanted to take: #@%*^&%\$!!!

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

Opinion



Amy Goldhammer



Letters to the Editor

Ex-Senator not missed

I am writing in regard to Tamir Kriegel's ridiculous resignation from the Student Senate. I wish to be the first to commend him for resigning. He has brought nothing to the ASUO but a consistent level of tomfoolery, ballyhoo, and back door shenanigans. From his first campaign in 1997, I knew that if elected he would bring nothing but contempt for the ASUO. He has been an inadequate student senator and consequently has caused dissension amongst the student body government.

Tamir Kriegel's resignation from the Student Senate ultimately will only improve the aptitude of the Student Senate. Tamir and his "men wearing face paint, masks and other costumes," (ODE, Feb. 25) a metaphor for his entire disservice to the Student Senate, have struck their final and most painful blow on the ASUO. I can only hope that Tamir Kriegel, for his obtrusive desecration of our sacred institution, apologizes or that

the ASUO reprimands him accordingly.

Ryan John Begley
Humanities

Respect student voice

In response to the conclusion of the 9th District Circuit Court of Appeals decision to allow student funding to go toward groups such as OSPIRG (ODE, Feb. 25), I am overjoyed. But I find this joy only due to the fact that the students have the right to choose what their money should support.

As ASUO President Geneva Wortman said in the Feb. 25 issue of the Emerald, "Today is a victory for students. It's a victory for student control of student fees." So if students vote to not support an organization such as OSPIRG, shouldn't their wishes be validated and not undermined by a special election process and 'special circumstances'?

When the Oregon Legislature tried to negate a law passed by Oregon voters con-

cerning assisted suicide, the voters were outraged. So are we, the students at the University of Oregon, outraged at having our voices smothered by ASUO and OSPIRG.

Leah Rosin
Undeclared

Shedding light

While "good" lighting may contribute to improving perceptions of safety on campus ("Students feel less than safe on campus" ODE, Feb. 26), "bad" lighting can make campus less safe. High intensity, unshielded lights are bad. They result in glare, wasted illumination of the night sky and provide for poor contrast. When an area is overly illuminated, objects that are outside of the area or are shaded appear darker. In other words, when it comes to lighting brighter is not better. Unfortunately we tend to value the aesthetic of the light fixture more than the quality of light. The two can work together quite nicely. It is particularly dis-

heartening to see bad lighting with new construction. The lighting in the new downtown parking garage is painful. While not nearly as painful but still offensive are the street lights by the new Law School.

David Niles
Office of Public Safety

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 28 story of "Safety in the Dorms," the cost of an emergency call box should have read \$1,250. The Emerald regrets this error.

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Letters must be limited to 250 words. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar, style and libel. Letters may be dropped off at EMU Suite 300.