

PERSPECTIVES

Winter Term Blues

*Columnist
moans
about the
perils of
winter and
dreams of a
happier
spring at
the
University*

It is sad out there. No, actually it's SAD out there. I used to think SAD (seasonal affective disorder) was an excuse for foreigners to the Northwest to whine and complain all winter long. Yeah right, I thought, the weather can really have that much effect on one's attitude and efficiency. I've always lived in Oregon, and the rain has never bothered me. I grew up

thanking the rain for keeping the Northwest green and the air clean.

Not this winter. Give me brown hillsides and desert sand — I don't care — just give me one final spring term.

For the sake of my education at least. I'm beginning to find that the only thing more fascinating than seeing that six minutes of teasing, morning sunshine is that 360 minutes of rain that I didn't see while I was still asleep.

Oh yeah, I remember those amazing spring terms of 1995 and 1996. If you were here then, you know what I am talking about.

Seventy-degree mornings, shorts and flip-flops, and an odd feeling of pleasure while walking to campus. No soaking-wet clothes, no giant mud puddles and none of that wind-aided rain that Forrest Gump referred to as "sideways rain."

And that is just the weather.

With such great weather, however rare it has been during the past two spring terms, comes an attitude that screams productivity and enthusiasm.

You can effectively get to class on time, take a break on the library lawn and then head home for some early brew and barbecue.

In general, people are just happier. Guys start shaving their faces again and at least attempt to lose their winter

warmth guts (although the barbecues don't help). Girls start shaving their legs again and get tans from the real sun, rather than jockeying for position for the stand-up tanning machine at Precision Cuts. There are a whole lot of shorts, skirts and short skirts.

Professors are happier because more students are in class.

Improved attendance transforms the campus from a scurrying, soaking-wet mob to a slow-walking, sun-bathing group of utopians. If you listen closely, you can almost hear each and every one of us thanking our respective God that we aren't behind some desk somewhere pushing papers from 8 to 5.

No longer am I sad, or SAD. Rather, I start to feel very happy, or HAPPY.

This latest acronym, although I am sure some others experience the same feeling,

represents the little voice in my head that says, "Hey Aaron, isn't this pleasant. Party? Yes!"

In all seriousness, one would have to be a very strong person to not be negatively impacted by a season that brought 50 percent more rain by mid-

February than Oregon has seen in its very wet history. I sure hope my professors take that into account when they calculate my grades next week. Please take notice, Professors Bivins, Dawson and Kaye, I began this paragraph with "in all seriousness," and believe me, I am.

In fact, maybe we all just deserve a little slack in the final two weeks of this term. Our sins of the winter must have been washed away by now—along with our motivation, enthusiasm and yes, effectiveness. Maybe we are due for some good weather karma.

So please, God, give us a glimpse of heaven. Give us spring term at the University of Oregon.

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

Opinion



Aaron Artman



Giovanni Salimera/Emerald

Letters to the Editor

Farewell Kriegel

Finally, former Senator Tamir Kriegel has done something that is beneficial to the student body (ODE Feb. 25 "Kriegel stages dramatic resignation from Student Senate"). I am referring to his resignation from the Senate on February 24. Kriegel's immaturity, megalomania and stunts have plagued this campus since he was elected, and I congratulate him for resigning.

During his office, Kriegel showed a total lack of respect for both the executives of the ASUO and the Senate. He attempted to make a plaything out of a respectable institution that is in place to protect the rights of the student. With no regard for the issues, he once voted "no" every time at a Senate meeting and at a different meeting he voted "yes" every time. Is this the kind of person we want to represent us?

His apathy as an elected official was appalling and offensive. Personally I have a lot more respect for the process of democracy than that, and I expect the same from those who represent me. The senate faces important issues every week and the senators need to keep this in mind when they are voting.

As a last insult, Kriegel and his prankster friends staged a kidnapping at a Senate meeting. The Senate should be a body that is respected, but instead this group of self-centered men used the meeting as an opportunity to belittle the Senate. I, for one, am glad Kriegel has left the Senate, and I do not believe that the Emerald should condone his actions as they did in their article. More than half of the article, which was supposed to be covering the Senate meeting, was committed to the antics of Kriegel and his cronies. By giving people like Kriegel this kind of press we are giving him or her just the attention they are looking for.

With Kriegel gone, hopefully the Senate will be able to address the important issues that face this campus. So, thank you, Tamir, for leaving the ASUO to people who care. Let's just hope the Commentator will be as kind.

Kyle Swanson
History and Humanities

Safety First

Throughout the term, the Emerald has reported on the safety of students on campus. The latest of these articles appeared on

March 5 ("Vandalism strikes the University Inn"), regarding the repeated acts of vandalism at the University Inn. There have also been articles on harassment in the dorms and lighting on campus.

As a student, I am greatly encouraged that these issues are being addressed and presented to the student body. Everyone has the right to live in a safe and harassment-free atmosphere. And keeping students informed is a good step forward in creating a hate-free environment on campus.

Being informed, however, is not enough. Students need to take an active role in creating positive change on campus. The ASUO Campus Safety Team has realized that there are some issues regarding student safety that need to be addressed. We have been actively involved in working with University Housing and OPS to see what can be done.

Most recently, we helped sponsor and put on the Zero Tolerance Rally on March 1, which promoted a harassment- and hate-free campus. There are also a variety of projects in the works for the upcoming spring term. Things get done on campus when students take a stand and work to create the environment they want. I encourage you to call

or come by the ASUO and see what you can do to make a better campus. It is up to us to take the initiative.

Matthew Lieuallen
Freshman, Political Science

CORRECTION

The women's tennis photo that appeared on Page 8 of Tuesday, March 9's Emerald was of Oregon freshman Janice Nyland.

The men's tennis photo that appeared on Page 14 of Monday, March 8's Emerald was of Ducks freshman Bertrand Devillers.

The Emerald regrets the errors.

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.