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PERSPECTIVES

Let the sun shine in

Spring term promises 10 weeks of joy and delight — if only the weather would cooperate



Sad enough, spring break is over, and we are all back on soggy Oregon soil. Arriving in Eugene after the 19-hour drive from Mexico, the slathered sunscreen is still caked on our skin. Bits of sand still fall from our shoes, and as we sit in our first few classes our minds wander to the brief period we had away from the brain-crushing college world.

For the lucky ones who were able to get the hell out of dodge early in finals week and enjoy an almost two-week break, the fact that you are back here is not a happy one. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad if it was warm and sunny out, like past spring terms.

During typical spring terms, there are scarcely dressed people on the library lawn, the sun beating on their necks as they walk to class in a daze. Frisbees are tossed left and right and Taylor's sun-drenched patio is filled with sunglasses-wearing, flip-flop sporting students.

Oh, you can almost taste it.

But this weather, what did we do to deserve this?

So we may not have studied as hard as we could have last term. We might have skipped a few classes here and there. Someone probably skateboarded down 13th Avenue or parked illegally somewhere on campus. But we deserve to have the blue skies smile on us.

Longing for sun-kissed skin and bare shoulders, we stare at the raindrops sliding down the windows. No puppies running around outside. No ice cream man on a bicycle. No discussions outside on the grass. None of this until the clouds part and Eugene is showered with sun.

What sunshine daydream is complete without people-watching from front porches and Coronas on rooftops? Or barbecues every night and last-minute excursions to the coast? Lying barefoot in the sun, cool and wet from the rope swing down by the river.

Opinion



Amy Goldhammer

Oh, and not to forget the huge spring-term parties. I've heard they tend to be quite enjoyable.

All this, my fellow students, will happen — if the weather decides we're worthy.

Soon enough, I hope, we'll be sportin' those T-shirts and cut-offs. We'll have those afternoon shindigs with margaritas and barbecues. Before you know it, you'll be dusting off your roller skates and getting funky in the spring of Eugene that we know and love.

The warm weather that is right around the corner makes you happier and nicer. There are more smiles and more hugs. It seems you do better in classes for some reason.

People crawl out of the woodwork and trip over drum circles. Music seems to come from everywhere. Grass gets cut, people bust out kiddie pools on front lawns. And Hawaiian shirts seem to flourish.

So, my sun-yearning, fun-loving college buds, as the first weekend of spring term approaches, cross your fingers and hope for the rays of light to break through. Do a sun dance, play music about sunshine and just hope the sun will come out tomorrow.

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

Letters to the Editor

Defending greeks

I am writing in response to Chad Wright's "Greek Tragedy" (ODE, March 11). It is too bad that he has had such a poor experience with the greek system. It is too bad that he feels like part of a "degrading body of greeks." It is too bad that he has subjected himself to something that he finds so distasteful.

It is also a shame that he believes that through his experience with his house that he thinks that he has an informed idea of what the rest of us are like. I know that I have never met him, yet I am stereotyped. Well, let me begin by saying that he is wrong. I don't drink, I listen to my own variation of music, I have my own style of dress

and I am very focused on my studies. Do I fit his stereotype? What he has done here is vented his problems with his house and blamed the whole system. This seems to be a thoughtless generalization. I would suggest that if he wishes to disparage a group that he at least be informed.

Scott Lindgren
English/Theater

Kosovo quandary

NATO policy regarding Serbia and Kosovo appears to be in a double bind. On one hand, something must be done to stop the persecution of Albanians in Serbia. On the other hand, (especially in the United States) NATO needs to reassure

a citizenry that is unwilling to risk losing military personnel. The question isn't how many people can we save, but how many people can we save without putting American/British/French/German/Italian/etc. troops at risk? The result is air strikes, a lackluster attempt to show muscle without the risk of a public relations fiasco if a soldier gets killed.

I am not necessarily a supporter of the air strikes. Nobody has ever been bombed to the peace table (North Vietnam, Iraq, etc.), and I have little doubt that action could have been taken much earlier to stop the ethnic cleansing before it started. What bothers me most is the American

public's apparent lack of compassion toward those of other nations. For a country that says that human rights is an important issue, we are evidently unwilling to take necessary steps to assure those rights for others. What the coverage of the Kosovo crisis has shown is that one American soldier is worth more than all the Albanians in Kosovo. Or, we should help only if it doesn't cost too much. I believe that we as a country need to examine ourselves and decide whether we are going to act on our lofty ideals. The question shouldn't be should we act, but what more can we do?

Adam K. Stuart
History/Political Science

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.