

PERSPECTIVES

Short and Sweet

Columnist makes the best of spring break

God, I'm feeling good. It's Wednesday afternoon, the sun is warm and gleaming like a diamond outside. The chickies have finally got rid of all that heavy, oppressive winter gear, and there's a high-powered a/c unit blowing fresh, cool air right above my desk. On my right, a frosty bottle of lager provocatively stares me in the eye, inviting me for a big, gluttonous drink.

Opinion



Vince Medeiros

On my left, a recent stack of quality Swedish porn awaits to be devoured by the hungry male staffers at the Emerald. And to top it all, the office stereo is wailing that horrible Cher song, but, what the hell, even that hopelessly annoying piece of musical crap sounds good on a classic day like this.

What a beautiful day. I'm feeling good. It's a splendid afternoon, and I feel as if I'd just walked out of Tyra Banks' penthouse after a night of spicy, hot and flaming love with that fabulous woman. But it's none of that. And I don't even think she's that good.

So the intelligent reader quite rightly inquires: What's going on then? Why is that? Where does all this almost childlike, juvenile, romantic joy come from?

Holidays, folks, holidays. I just came back from this epic spring break after an entire term of grueling exams, torturing papers and mind-numbing classes. You just can't beat a week of holidays. Just can't.

I went down to our sun-drenched southern neighbor state and it fully went off. Heaps of sunshine, plenty of action in the juicy Pacific surf, great beer. It's always top to go on a foray down south, catch up with new people, sponge up some new thoughts, ideas, cultures. Getting away

from the familiar turf, you know. Whatever. Traveling is always great, and it's pretty hard to beat California if what you're looking for is good fun.

Plus, near San Diego, as I'm sure you know, there's always the endless pleasures that can be inexpensively bought on the other side of the big border wall—insane parties, more tequila than your gut can ever take and sandy beaches of indescribable beauty. And there's also the cheap sex. A friend of mine brought his prey to the room we were sharing and I still quiver when picturing the vivid image of Wally engaged in some undecipherably bizarre copulating act a mere bedside away, the panting and grunting so violent it stirred the cool night air.

Southern Cali, Baja California, great places.

Also, though I'm no big-time gambler, the dazzling lights of Vegas were too bright for me to bypass them, and though flat broke, I wound up being pulled into its money-sucking vortex. Good thing I did. All those high-rollers had to put up with me making some extra gold at their favorite blackjack table, money which was promptly spent on deluxe drinks and other pleasurable substances and things. Good stuff, as my buddy Wally would put it, good stuff.

To wrap up the trip, I checked out an absolutely killer sunset at the Grand Canyon. Huge freaking hole, that one, pretty impressive, too.

All in all, a full 10 days of utter stoke. Some very well-deserved recreation, too.

And even though it took me a box of No-Doz and five speeding tickets to get back here in time for my 10 a.m. class, it was surely well worth it.

And, just like all you people with lust

for fun and love out there, I too can hardly wait till the next break comes around again.

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



PFC plagued by irresponsible spending

Students are being fed a line of horse sh-t.

The Programs Finance Committee overspent by \$140,000. PFC chairman and ASUO presidential candidate Dan Reid called the senate's failed effort to reduce the PFC's spending "inappropriate."

Last fall, I was at the meeting that set the negative 2 percent benchmark for the PFC. I supported an even larger decrease and distributed a six-page memo that explained, in part, why the PFC needed to decrease its spending.

Put simply, the senate balance sheet tells us that of the \$2 million student groups received last year, \$200,000 went unspent. A number of unforeseen costs and important financial factors must be taken into account, but any reasonable person would conclude that asking the PFC to shave off a mere \$30,000 of the \$200,000 left over last year was the right thing to do.

Last year's underspending was not a special case. For the past two years, more than \$175,000 of the PFC's budget was left over

at the end of each year. This means that the senate is overcharging students for the services student groups provide. The senate's negative benchmark would have put a dent in the overcharge, but hardly.

During the meeting to set the benchmark, one PFC member made public an estimate for wage increases based on a "feeling" about the numbers. Another PFC member and several senators bemoaned the poor timing of the benchmark hearing because the Student Senate president had scheduled it without much notice.

My memo was the only document to offer concrete numbers and reasoning for benchmark suggestions.

With this kind of bumbling, is it any wonder that the PFC overspent, and that the Student Senate sat idly by, approving a 5.2 percent increase Wednesday night? The negative 2 percent benchmark was not inappropriate. The PFC and senate just weren't up to the task.

Senator Reid said we shouldn't have negative benchmarks because that scares student groups. But PFC and Reid's blatant disregard for the benchmark is what stu-

dent groups should be afraid of.

Reid's chairmanship has steered the PFC directly in the path of "greatest warm fuzzies" and now, because the PFC's budget passed, students will pay at least another \$9 per year in fees. Add that to the EMU's budget increase, low enrollment expectations, budget mistakes that need to be fixed and the usual assortment of ballot measures. Allow me to project that our fee will go up by at least \$45 next year.

Commentary

Selena Brewington

When I suggested to the senate that the PFC should have a negative benchmark, I was trying to set an example. The senate needs to show it can control the fee. Senators need to be accountable to the goals they set, and they need to show some backbone in the face of the unpleasant business of allocating and, just as importantly, deallocating money to student groups. The senate has failed the student body.

Just two years ago, the Emerald pub-

lished an editorial blasting the PFC, of which former ASUO President Bill Miner was a member, for lack of foresight and the 6.7 percent of overspending that resulted. Reid beat the ODE to the punchline when he said, "it's going to take a lot more research for [the] senate to set a benchmark."

Funny how history repeats itself. It's all fine and good for Reid to put his spin on the situation, but will he remember anything he says if he is elected? Probably not.

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CORRECTION

In the March 31 story "Budgets OKed for EMU and finance committees," the Programs Finance Committee budget benchmark should have been negative 2 percent. The Emerald regrets the error.