

PERSPECTIVES

The Paper Chase

Daily deluge of fliers on campus wastes paper, tests patience

For a school known for its tree-huggers, we sure do put our Birkenstock-clad feet in our mouths.

Our overly environmentally conscious campus is continuously covered head to toe with fliers, posters and signs advertising some sort of room for rent, entertainment, candidate or class. The amount of paper used to advertise shows, seminars, houses and services could probably rebuild a small redwood.

The kiosk on the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street is plastered with paper fliers that are removed every other day. But in less than 24 hours the poor staple-ridden structure is once again blanketed by brightly colored signs.

You could swim in the paper the ASUO elec-

tion produces. Even the elections coordinator commented on the ridiculous

amount of paper. How many handbills do they really need to pass out?

Come on, you know you have walked by someone who has thrust a red, or blue, or green, or gray handbill into your palm. Then you glance at it and throw it away in the convenient garbage can two steps away.

Granted, this is a college campus and fliers are going to appear, but how many fluorescent signs are necessary to advertise a discussion on

logging?

If someone wishes to take down a particular sign and carry it with them or take it home, he or she is frowned upon by on-lookers and the advertisers.

Relax, 48 copies of the flier are still there.

If you go looking for a certain sign or poster, you can't find it for the life of you because it's been suffocated by the flier of the nanosecond.

But hey, sometimes it is nice on a warm breezy day to see the brightly colored postings blowing in the breeze. The campus becomes full of color stapled to random structures. That is, until the fliers and posters fall off and end up in a puddle where people walk all over it and it becomes one with the concrete-mud substance until a sympathetic soul fishes it out.

A friend of mine was complaining that her environmental studies professor wanted all their work on recycled paper, but the computer labs would not allow her to feed recycled paper into its

printers.

You figure it out.

Professors are given an amount of photocopies they can make, and if they go over the limit, they must pay out of their own pockets. Therefore, professors end up with fewer handouts for large classes. Here we are trying to get an education, but we can't even get a syllabus. In the meantime, the campus is still covered with random fliers and posters.

Now, this is not to say that all these fliers and posters are bad. I'm sure that a decent amount are printed on recycled paper, but the amount of the fliers is mind-boggling. And it doesn't seem to be decreasing. If I received a penny for every flier posted at the University since my freshman year, I could pay back my student loans.

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

Opinion



Amy Goldhammer

