

PERSPECTIVES

I don't wanna grow up

After three years of build-up, columnist gets ready for the big goodbye

Well, kids, this is it. My last opinion column for the Emerald. It's not that I'm graduating or anything yet, or that I'm leaving the country, or taking time off. I've just decided to put down my pen as your faithful columnist, sit back and let my senior year ride. Wow!

One more year and I'm out of this mostly rainy, normally cloudy, sometimes sunny town. It seems like yesterday that I walked up the eight flights of stairs to the fourth floor of Spiller Hall with my mom, dad, some random person carrying my comforter and the camera crew. (Somehow, I ended up being the star of "a day in the life of an incoming freshman" for a television show.)



Amy Goldhammer

My roommate wasn't there. In fact, I didn't end up seeing her for three days. The girl across the hall had broken her nose, and her mother was yelling at everyone to get out of the way in the small, crowded hallway. She was crying.

My immediate neighbor came into the dorm, hung up 29 posters of Bob Marley, asked someone to smoke a joint and left with her friends.

Two girls farther down the hall were jumping up and down, screaming, dancing and making posters with our names on them. All the parents were going on and on about how nice it was to be a freshman and wasn't it great our hall was filled with such nice, fun girls. And all the moms were crying. Ahhhhh, the first day of freshman year.

But now, my friends, it is almost over. Scary.

I don't want to go into the real world. I don't want to have to really worry about things. It's kind of nice to be in the protective bubble we still have, yet deny we do.

Hey, wait. What am I talking about here? Real world?

My schedule for next year will be barely full. It will have open space everywhere for me to do whatever.

I can sit on the roof and kick back a couple of 40s with my friend Taylor. I can drive to San Francisco, Portland, Seattle or visit my best friend in Canada on

those long weekends. I can tie-dye shirts at 2 a.m. I can perfect a recipe for potato soup.

So maybe I lucked out. Sometime during the past few years I did something right, because I'm graduating in four years and I have time to spare.

I didn't take the correct classes when I first started out. I didn't get perfect grades and, believe me, I've been the school slacker one too many times. I even stuck out a summer in Eugene. That was exciting.

But, as it has seemed over the past years, things change each term. You leave and come back and leave and come back, and something's always different. The summers are like that also.

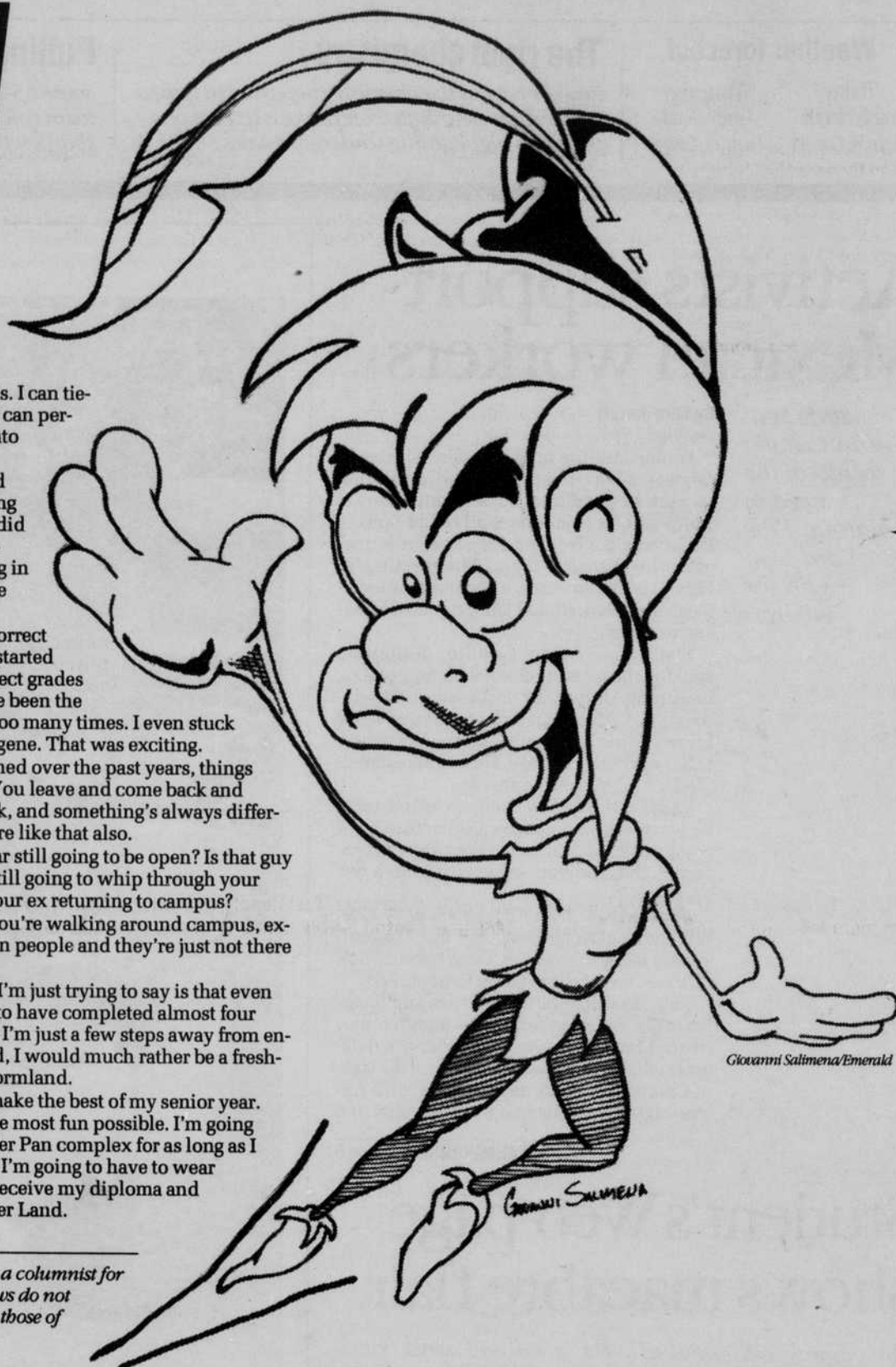
Is your favorite bar still going to be open? Is that guy with the noisy car still going to whip through your neighborhood? Is your ex returning to campus?

It's weird when you're walking around campus, expecting to see certain people and they're just not there anymore.

OK, I guess what I'm just trying to say is that even though I'm excited to have completed almost four years of college and I'm just a few steps away from entering the real world, I would much rather be a freshman moving into dormland.

So, I'm going to make the best of my senior year. I'm going to have the most fun possible. I'm going to hold onto my Peter Pan complex for as long as I can. But eventually I'm going to have to wear the cap and gown, receive my diploma and say goodbye to Never Land.

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



Giovanni Salimena/Emerald

Letters to the Editor

Frohnmyer criticized

I am writing in support of the students who were arrested for exercising their Constitutional rights to free speech and assembly. I remember the campus climate when I graduated in 1997 and know that the administration's failure to respond to students' concerns about issues of race and diversity led to the May 18 situation (ODE, May 19). The students involved in the demonstration have had enough of University President Dave Frohnmyer's do-nothing policy. He has taken a stand on nothing, and he is a disgrace to the history of political progressiveness at the University. From his neutral position on the Gardenburger boycott to his unwillingness to provide a safe atmosphere for students of color on campus, he has failed as a leader of an institution like the University. Often it seems as if the man will do nothing unless Phil Knight says it's OK. All these students are asking for is respect and a safe place to receive an education.

Mario A. Garza
UO Alumnus, 1997

Thank you

I am sorry that some students cannot comprehend the reason why the rally in front of Johnson Hall took place. Can people imagine if a person of color had said the same remarks or had sent the same e-mails? In my opinion, that person would be expelled immediately. I, as an individual and a person who took part in the rally, do not expect to change the views of others nor to limit anybody's ideas. If protesting is the only way that students of color can be heard and get support from our white counterparts, then I believe that the rally was for the best. I believe that the main goal of the protest was to let everybody at the University know what a diversified community exists at the University and that we will not tolerate any aggression toward us. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the rally. I hope this is not the last time that we (people of color) can count on your support.

David Jaimes
Business Administration/Romance Languages

Inaccurate portrayal

I am utterly embarrassed and dismayed at the near-total misquotation of my recent interview with the Emerald regarding my delegation to Chiapas (ODE, May 25). I am horrified that most of the quotes were either the opposite of my actual comments or misleadingly paraphrased.

First, regarding support for the Zapatistas, I did not say that "the region [Chiapas] is split pretty much 50-50," but rather, one community in Chiapas was divided in that proportion.

Second, I did not say that I "am torn by the decision to deny support for the politically powerful because [my] family members there own a majority of the land," (which I certainly hope no readers actually believed), but rather that I have family in Chiapas that owns some land and opposes the movement — a perspective I simply wanted to explore.

Third, I was quoted as saying the Zapatistas "bring up a lot of things and do things that I might not agree with, but I would certainly call myself part of the movement." I specifically said that I do support their is-

sues, whatever I think of their tactics. Nor am I so arrogant as to say that I'm "part" of the movement; rather, I described myself as a supporter because I still have so much to learn and experience in the conflict.

Surely, anyone who knows me questioned these apparently arrogant, ignorant statements. I am disappointed, after trying to raise awareness about important issues, to see my words and views completely distorted.

Gabriella Solis
Political Science/Spanish

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.