

History

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ning and the end of the decade touched the nation and the campus. A new president promised to lead the country into the new millennium but found some bumps in the road.

If these few highlights from the last decade of the century are any indication, then the next six months should be quite a ride.

Protests and Politics

One of the hottest issues of early 1990s was the Central Intelligence Agency's presence on campus.

Angered by the CIA's political activities and alleged discrimination against gays and lesbians, students disrupted the group's recruitment activities and lobbied the University to keep them off campus until they adopted a non-discriminatory policy.

In 1990, the decision to resume the use of monkeys in University-sponsored research revived the campus animal rights movement. The Emerald addressed both sides of the issue in a Feb. 19, 1990 editorial.

"If cures for cancer, leukemia and other diseases are found, they will most likely be discovered because of invasive animal research. However, that does not mean researchers have carte blanche to do whatever animal experiments they want.... Whenever possible, other scientific techniques should be tried. Only when there is no other way should animals be used."

As the decade wore on, students staged protests against increasing corporate influence on the University, labor practices and war in Yugoslavia.

Most recently, the long running campus discussion of diversity and a series of e-mails threatening sexual violence against members of a planning, public policy and management class sparked a sit-in at Johnson Hall, culminating with the arrest of 31 people on charges of trespassing.

Persian Gulf War

On Jan. 15, 1991, the United States and its allies launched Operation Desert Storm, polarizing the country, the city of Eugene and the University.

The war occupied the Emerald's editorial page in the form of both staff commentary and letters to the editor.

Before the cease-fire took effect on Feb. 27, 1991, several thousand students and community members on both sides of the conflict had marched through the streets of Eugene.

Riots

Early in the spring of 1990, police attempts to disperse two West University parties that had gotten out of hand led several students to hurl beer bottles and obscenities at the officers. The police responded with several cans of tear gas.

The incident prompted a great deal of hand wringing on how to prevent similar incidents in the future. An Emerald editorial was optimistic:

"The solution is communication. By talking, perhaps students and police can work out the recent problems."

Apparently, they were wrong. Later in the decade, the Halloween "riot" established itself as a dubious campus tradition.

In 1996, 1997 and 1998, overzealous revelers again clashed with the Eugene Police Department and received tear gas and tickets as their inevitable rewards.

During the weeks following each event representatives from the University and the community met to try and find solutions to the party problem.

Columnist Jonas Allen offered his take on the dialogue in 1997.

"Parties blame police for showing up in riot gear. Police blame parties for being too rowdy. The public blames students for not restraining themselves. The media can't blame anyone so they call the parties 'riots.' The University blames the media for blowing the isolated incidents out of proportion."

Measure 5 Fallout

Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 5 in November 1991. The measure lowered property taxes for Oregon residents but forced the state's public colleges and universities to raise tuition and make deep cuts in programs. At the University, several programs were

axed or reduced, including the School of Education.

Outraged students voiced their displeasure at Johnson Hall and in Salem.

In February 1991, about 300 students rallied outside the Capitol to protest the Measure 5 cuts. After the rally, several students staged a "study-in," sitting down in the Capitol rotunda with their books to show their commitment to education.

National Politics

In 1992, fresh off of war and recession, the nation was looking for a change. The election between incumbent George Bush and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton was especially notable for the huge turnout of young voters. Students here were in step with the national trend.

An informal exit poll conducted by the Emerald found that University students were solidly behind Clinton.

That support drew Vice President Al Gore to campus on October 30, 1996.

Gore addressed an enthusiastic crowd of 4,000 in Mac Court just a few days before the 1996 presidential election.

"The great state of Oregon will put the Democrats over the top," Gore said. "This great university is going to lead the way."

An Emerald article reflected on the frenetic atmosphere of the event.

"If Gore's messages were political, the atmosphere was all MTV," the Emerald reported. "A secret service agent danced to 'Whoop, There It Is.' Rubberneck, an alternative rock band, warmed up the audience before the candidates took the stage."

Though they handily won the election, the Clinton/Gore administration was soon tainted by scandal that ranged from a sketchy land deal to infidelity.

A 1997 Emerald editorial on the administration's alleged campaign finance violations related the scandals and flagging idealism.

"Today's youth have been especially criticized for having a cynical outlook. Perhaps the blame should fall, not on the cynics, but on the leaders whose actions continue to justify such an outlook. Until our leaders give us reason to trust them, being cynical is a rational reaction to an unfortunate reality."

Thurston

On May 21, 1997, a gunman walked into the cafeteria at Thurston High School and opened fire.

Thurston student Kip Kinkel, 16, is charged with killing 17-year-old Mikael Nickolauson, and injuring 23 others before he was tackled by students and faculty members. Another student, Benjamin Walker, 17, died in the hospital.

Police later found the bodies of Kinkel's parents in their Springfield home.

The impact of the tragedy was felt throughout the Eugene-Springfield community, including the University. In response to the shooting, organizers of the annual Take Back the Night march, held the evening of the shooting, decided to broaden the focus of the event.

One of the organizers, Elizabeth McCravy, discussed the march with the Emerald.

"People are stunned; they need somewhere to gather and work through what has happened," she said. "The message about violence against women will not be lost; it will just be expanded. Everyone in this town is fed up with violence, and we're all going to be speaking the same language."

Kinkel is in the Lane County Jail awaiting trial in September.

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