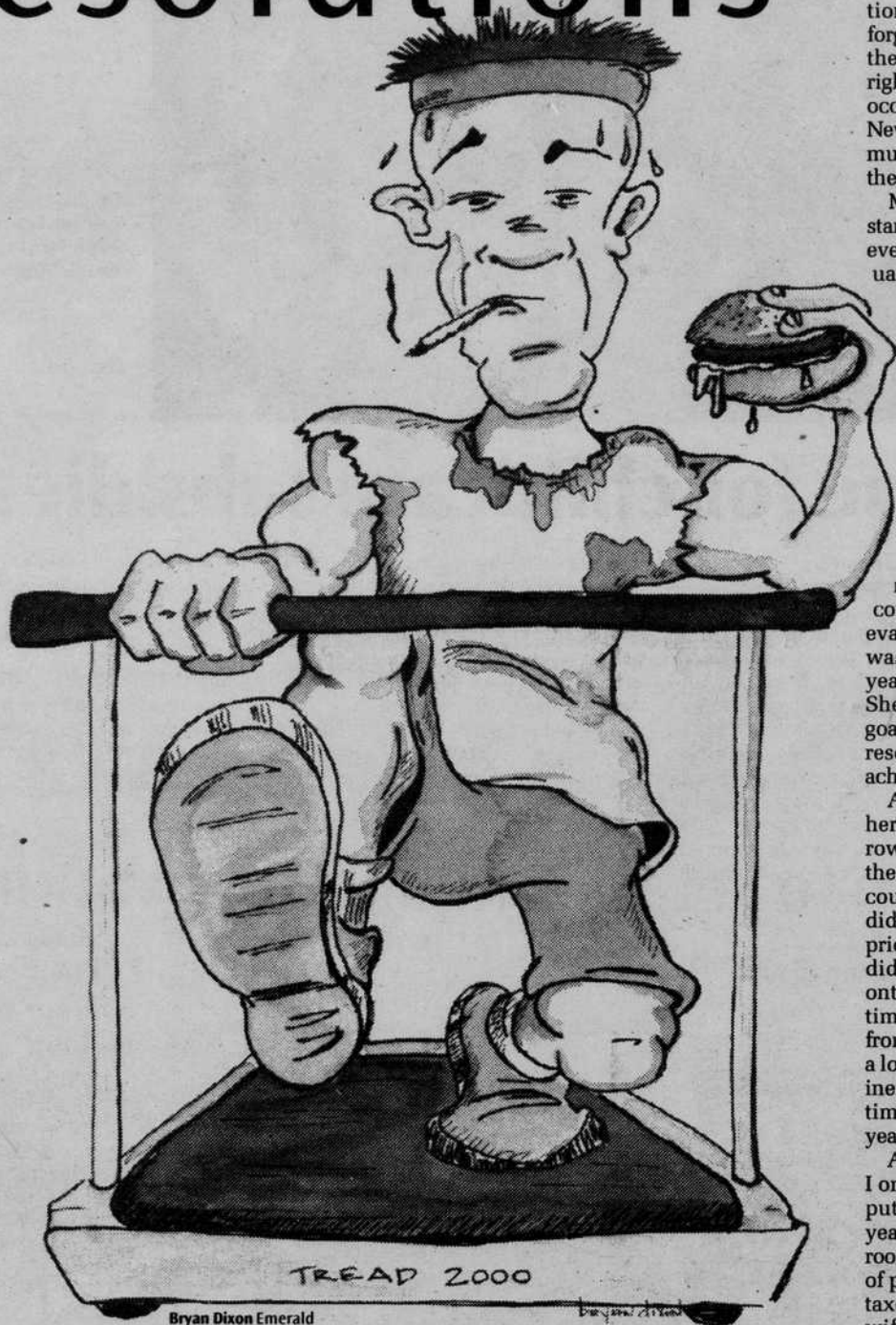


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# Perspectives

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## Courageous resolutions



Bryan Dixon Emerald

Well, the new millennium has come to pass, and so far the world as we know it hasn't ended, the Christians haven't ascended and our computers are still working. But despite all the hype, the first of January really was more than a new century and a new millennium. It was the beginning of a leap year, anticipating presidential elections. And with the new year comes ... New Year's resolutions.

Not everyone bothers with resolutions, and generally those who do forget them by the first bowl game of the year. Since childhood, I've fit right into the standard scenario, my occasional forays into the world of New Year's resolutions rarely lasting much past the time it took to write them down.

My wife is the rare exception. She starts by considering the predictable events of the coming year. She evaluates her long-term goals and remembers the frustrations she's experienced during the past year, then she makes a single resolution, something that will either enrich her life, further her goals or both. She makes sure that it is something she has control over and can achieve, even if it's difficult. She writes it down. Even though limiting her resolutions to one makes it easy to remember, she refers to it periodically over the course of the year. The last part is to evaluate how well the resolution was kept during the course of the year before beginning a new one. She repeatedly accomplishes her goals, and she uses her New Year's resolutions as tools to help her achieve those goals.

After watching her make and keep her resolutions for five years in a row, I was inspired last year to do the same. I refused to believe that I couldn't succeed at something she did so well. A man has to have some pride, after all. I studied the way she did it carefully, then skated back onto the thin ice of resolve. This time, using the system I learned from Kristin, I would not fail. I have a long history of procrastination and inefficiency, so I resolved to use my time more effectively. Maybe next year I'll get around to it.

Actually, I did pretty well. Sort of. I only wasted 1,825 hours on computer games, down from 2,412 the year before. I got half of the living room done, though now it's in a state of permanent construction. I got the taxes done on time — barely. My wife was kind and didn't say any-

thing while she kept her own resolution.

Don't you hate it when someone sets an ideal example for you to follow?

Hey, at least I improved. So I consider it a qualified success, and I'm



Fred M. Collier

ready to tackle the new millennium's New Year's resolution with renewed vigor and determination.

First, anticipate the predictable events of 2000:

One big event is graduation. My life will change in

June when I'm thrust from the Ivory Tower and forced to make my own way in the world for the sixth time. That's right, it's been awhile since I left home. But this time I'll be leaving with sheepskin in hand, so things will be different. At least I hope they will.

But the degree pales in comparison with the biggest change in my life to date. I'm going to become a dad in July.

In short, I'm going to start a new career without time, money or sleep. I won't be able to depend on my wife's paycheck anymore, and I will have a defenseless baby depending on me completely. Given all that, my old resolution for time management had better start to pay off.

But what new resolution can help to mitigate the effects of the changes that will happen this year? What can help me achieve my goals of being a good father, of providing for my family and success in a new career?

The answer falls like a plum in my lap. This year, I resolve to avoid campaign ads like I would a trip to a Y1K compliant dentist. No TV before Nov. 8. No news magazines. Limit the newspapers to the comics, crossword puzzles and sports. Sure, it's bound to be a challenge. But think of the savings in time and reduction in aggravation. Surely it'll make me a better man and give me the patience to put up with midnight crying and dirty diapers.

And what better way to usher in a new millennium?

Fred M. Collier is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at fmcollier@aol.com.

### Letters to the editor

#### WTO coverage great

Thank you for your editorial on the World Trade Organization protesters (ODE, Dec. 3). I live in Seattle and am hoping to attend the University next year. I want to commend you for the article because you're the first medium to get it right! There was a difference between the peaceful and violent protesters. Everyone needs to realize that. Again, great article!

Mindi Rice  
senior, Roosevelt High in Seattle

#### University needs active students

As a freshman here at the University I have been impressed by

the outstanding variety of clubs and opportunities available to me. I have taken an enthusiastic approach in finding as much information about the organizations that interested me and have taken an active stance in joining these clubs. Walking down 13th Avenue every day, I see the open-minded diversity that embodies our campus that makes me proud to be a Duck.

However, as great as it is to see this eclectic gathering in our gorgeous campus community, I was disheartened to learn that voter turnout in our very own school elections was a pitifully low 14 percent last year. I pay out-of-state tuition and have a little more invested than most students. My view is that if I am spending money to be here, then I want things to

be as favorable toward me, the student, as possible. I feel that we should all feel this way regardless of how large our tuition bill is every month.

I sincerely hope that we as a student body can become less apathetic and more active toward the quality of our student life. I know that all of us cannot be 100 percent satisfied with our school, which is why I am challenging and inviting my 17,000 fellow Ducks to do something rather than complain and be elsewhere than a poll booth on election day. Together we can make the University a school we can all look forward to attending in 2000 and in the coming years.

Bennett Lacy  
pre-journalism

#### Keep intolerance out of seminars

Last month I attended a Diverse Families seminar. Something occurred that made me feel as though my learning environment was compromised, and I think that students should be aware. Views of intolerance and hate were expressed by a few people, some from diverse backgrounds who have likely encountered discrimination and intolerance themselves. Intolerant views were expressed regarding same-sex partner marriages and other issues families face. Perhaps I was naive to expect that a seminar addressing diversity and related issues would actually foster the desire for tolerance in all who attended. Perhaps I was naive to expect peo-

ple to express their differences in ways that are not demeaning or offensive. It's one thing to disagree if opinions are expressed in a respectful manner that promotes meaningful discussion. But it's an entirely different thing to make value-based judgments in an offensive manner that makes some feel unsafe and promotes intolerance in others. A University seminar is no place to express views of intolerance. It's a place where educated people from diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences converge to learn in a (hopefully) hate free environment. If we can't express our values and disagreements cordially, let's keep them out of the classroom.

Mandi Cox Eblen  
education