

Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
Editorial Editors: Bret Jacobson, Laura Lucas
Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
E-mail: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

Perspectives

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Emerald

Who Wants to Marry a **COMPLETE STRANGER?**

The fall of civilization just may have been marked by Fox TV's "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?" because it demonstrates that our society is ready to passively enjoy the degradation of one of our holiest institutions — not game shows, but marriage.

But if Fox can air an offensive game show where the victory booty seems to be just that, then let's get ready to play "Who Wants to Marry a College Student?"

Perhaps it would be hard to commit to that unless there were guaranteed riches. Let's face it, without ever meeting the person, would you, for the amusement of others, decide to marry a psychology major who had halitosis, tennis elbow and was \$40,000 in debt?

The rules of our game are easy, however, and the game is for keeps. You have to pick out a spouse with good prospects, a good figure and an ability to express him- or herself in short, smiling sentences in front of an audience of millions.

The parade of sexy contestants dressed in a variety of elegant or revealing clothing is a necessity for any game that's worthy of air time. Because it's rainy Oregon, there can't really be any swimsuit or formal wear competitions. Instead, a parade of college students dressed in their finest Abercrombie hats and Sigma Pi sweatshirts, complete with a stain from that raging jungle juice party two autumns past. Then the formal wear makes its appearance, such that it is around this University, with the clean sweatshirt and the rare pair of Dockers.

Besides the clothing competition, no good marriage contest would be complete without the life perspectives and backgrounds of the contestants. Between the sorority girl who thinks that we should all be nicer and that Diet Coke should taste more like Classic Coke, and the hippie guy who thinks that the future of America lies in harnessing the power of hemp, there are plenty of wonderful mates to

choose from. And, of course, no one should forget that wonderful person from the Czech Republic who believes that we should treat every day like Christmas.

After a rousing and thought provoking round of intellectual dialogue from 1.97 GPA students, it's onto the lightning round where contestants must name the type of hops in their favorite beer. No one who claims their favorite drink is malt liquor will be chosen for this round. After all, this show is supposed to be classy.

Of course, one must wonder if the contestant ultimately chosen is really that much of a prize. There are some serious ramifications for marrying a college student.

Financially, the decision is devastating unless you actually like consuming 312 tons per year of "mac and cheese surprise" because your spouse is on a restricted budget. College students are notorious for their poor dieting habits, relying heavily on the grease of cheap pizza and the fizzy goodness of their favorite cheap beer. This is not usually the lifestyle a gold digger would choose, which makes marrying a college student a less appealing prize.

The social lifestyle of college students is unique and difficult to adjust to for those not in the know. The late nights, late mornings and all-hours dining form a formidable schedule for someone expecting an easy-going life after a tough experience on the game show. Besides the new timing a winner must adjust to, there is also the social interaction that can be worthy of serious forethought. A general aversion to serious relationship commitment and a proclivity toward piercing one's body through a plethora of painful punctures can often be expected.

With all the negatives most mature people associate with the college lifestyle, from the reliance on mac and cheese to the jungle juice nightmares, it seems unlikely our little game will catch on in the near future.

Fox's disgusting, voyeuristic show to marry off a millionaire to a gold digger tells us that our society has sunk so low that a lonely man will marry a desperate woman without knowing each other so others may be entertained. Society has reached a new low, though no doubt there will be other shows attempting to lower that bar in an attempt to profit through shock value.

You should feel safe, however, in the knowledge that the self-interest of contestants wanting a better life will protect America's campuses from the fickle arm of televised marriage for money.

This editorial represents the view of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

THE WEEK IN **THUMBS**



To Ducks on cable

Undeclared freshmen Dan Johnson and Josh Sidis are performers in "Apocalypse," a 17-minute movie that won first prize at the Northwest Youth Film Festival and will be shown periodically on prime time HBO for a year, beginning in May.

To recognizing an array of quality

"The Cider House Rules," "The Sixth Sense" and "Being John Malkovich" all are fairly independent-minded films recognized by being nominated for Oscars, a nice change from the usual pattern of nominating big box office successes.



To defeat by the hated Huskies

The men's basketball team lost to Northwest rival Washington Saturday night, 67-58. The team lost its bid for win number 19 and hurt its seeding in their likely NCAA Tournament bid.

To losing control of the circus

During a debate among Republicans Gov. George W. Bush, Sen. John McCain and Ambassador Alan Keyes in Columbia, S.C., moderator Larry King lost his grasp of the conversation as Bush and McCain haggled over negative campaign tactics.



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

Gabbe and Larson: setting the record straight

COMMENTARY

C.J. Gabbe & Peter Larson

Students of the University of Oregon, we would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight. If many of you have read the coverage given to the issues surrounding the elections, you would think us to be criminals. That, however, is the furthest thing from the truth. In the case of the "Gabbe and Larson" campaign we have done nothing wrong.

We feel that this unfortunate situation has shadowed the true meaning of elections. We would like students to remember how serious this decision is. We want to see this campus remain a good place to attend college, and that the quality of life remains high. That cannot happen, however, with the rapid rising cost of education, poor relations with the Eugene Police Department, a lack of diversity

in our community and many other issues that only students can address.

It is our privilege to the student who is reading this in their dorm room, the student who is picking up their child at Moss House, the student who felt harassed by the police officer but finds nowhere to go and all of the groups who lack adequate representation on this campus that we will continue to fight on. The ASUO Constitution Court will hear our appeal and we have confidence that they will rule in our favor.

With all of the problems in the world today it is essential that students are represented by the best leadership people. We feel that our

experience in student programs and advocating for students on local, state and national levels can move us one step closer to solving those problems.

The Elections Board and misled students have given many the impression that what we did at the International Student Association Coffee Hour was wrong. They would equate purchasing some snacks and coffee with paying off our neighbors to vote for us. This is a very awful link and no student should see it in that light. By co-sponsoring the event we only wished to encourage international students to get out and vote, not even necessarily for us.

Election rule 2.4, the rule in ques-

tion here, states that we have to seek "compliance" with an "election outcome" in order to violate this rule. Now, it seems to us that coffee and snacks that just sit in the corner of the room can seek no such thing, save the miracles of modern science. We, did not ask anyone to vote for us that day, we just educated students on the issues and what the ASUO can do for them.

We encourage all students who read this to take action, educate yourself on the issues that really matter here, not coffee or snacks. We can only hope that we are given the opportunity to work on campus to improve the world that we live in.

C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson are ASUO president and vice president candidates respectively. Their views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Emerald.