

Letters to the editor

Vote yes for USSA

Is it worth \$1 a term to you to fight for increased student financial aid? Can you justify membership in an organization that fights for hate crimes legislation, affirmative action and equal opportunity?

The answer to these question is YES. In the ASUO General Election, students will have the opportunity to vote yes on a ballot measure that will continue their membership in an organization that fights for increases in federal financial aid, child care funding, graduate student aid, affirmative action policies, hate crimes legislation and a wide variety of social programs.

The USSA referendum ballot measure asks students to support membership in the United States Student Association. Voting yes on the USSA referendum means voting to continue membership in an organization that speaks for students on the federal level. USSA is the only recognized voice of students in the U.S. Congress, the White House and the Department of Education. As a direct result of USSA's advocacy, funding for the Pell Grant has been increased every year since 1995. USSA is a strong advocate for increased child care legislation, as well as for increased graduate student aid, a historically under-funded portion of the total federal financial aid allocations.

By fighting to increased all kinds of federal financial aid for students, USSA is fighting for you future. Vote yes on the USSA referendum because \$1 per term

now will equal hundreds or thousands of dollars less debt after graduation. Fight for your future! Vote yes on the USSA referendum ballot measure!

Robin Miller
ASUO Federal Affairs Coordinator

Hey Emerald, thanks a lot

Kudos to the Emerald for their investigative exposition of the self-defeating hypocrisy not only of everyone involved in the Collective performance of "Koyaanisqatsi" (ODE, Feb. 18), but also in the motivations of the original film-makers themselves. Godfrey Reggio's classic film is a stunningly poignant portrayal of human culture's constant risk of neglecting its environment and, after having flourished through thousands of years of evolution and progress, eventually eliminating itself along with many other wonders of earth's system. The film also contains strong messages concerning the plight of singular personalities within general human society and the ludicrous nature of that society's blatant consumerism and constant desire for increased power through wealth or recognition.

Unfortunately, as the tone of the Emerald's article (with the aid of insightful associate law professor, Keith Aoki) pointed out, all parties involved in the making of this masterpiece may soon prove themselves to be utter hypocrites by pursuing an imminent money-grubbing lawsuit against an equally deceitful group of young artists who have chosen to use selections from the film to voice opinions which are in complete agreement with those of the original version of the film. If it weren't for brilliant reporting and shinningly intuitive

leaps of faith such as those displayed in this article, the entire world would quite likely fall prey to the vicious schemes of these groups of "artists." Thank you, Emerald, for your preservation and protection of paranoid and greedy human culture as we know it.

Brian Mumford
student

Rice a good leader

I am shocked by the allegations against Shantell Rice, Programs Finance Committee chairwoman, regarding the apparent misallocation of student fees (ODE, Feb. 24). I have known Rice for three years, and in that time I have known her to be a dedicated member of our student government and a true asset to the student body. I have often spoken to Rice after the exhausting, frustrating ASUO Student Senate meetings, and I have never heard her speak negatively or accusingly of her colleagues. I have also never known Rice to have a personal agenda involving the proceedings of the PFC — an amazing feat for someone involved in any type of government. I do not know ASUO President Wylie Chen or the intricacies of the situation, but I do know Rice — and I know that she possesses the honesty and integrity needed to fairly perform her duties as PFC chairwoman.

Berkeley Williamson
chemistry

Vote Breslow and Magner

During the ASUO primaries this week, students must vote on 2000-2001 ASUO Executive leadership. While there are a variety of candidates to choose from — those who are running to ridicule

student government, those who simply wish to harass other candidates — one ASUO Executive ticket stands out as best. Jay Breslow and Holly Magner are campaigning for ASUO president and vice president because they are committed to student empowerment. Breslow and Magner intend to work with student groups and administration to make our campus the most diverse place possible; they will fight in state legislature and in congress to protect and improve financial aid programs; they will work to protect the incidental fee system so that students will still have access to the programs that make our campus a great place; they have a positive relationship between the University and the Eugene community; finally, they are committed to serving students and being the best resource imaginable for students at the University. Breslow and Magner are extremely intelligent, dynamic, capable leaders; they combine experience with the fresh perspective necessary to meet the needs of all students at the University. Electing the ASUO Executive is about electing people who will get things done, and Breslow and Magner are the people for the job. Students have the power to make big changes in the year's ASUO elections, and voting for Jay Breslow and Holly Magner is the only way to use that power to make positive changes.

Lauren Manes
sophomore, linguistics

Ed Madrid on Ed Madrid

Three cheers to the Emerald for that gloriously cathartic editorial regarding Ed Madrid's legitimacy as an ASUO candidate

(ODE, Feb. 23). I have followed Mr. Madrid's political career rather closely, cheering on his outlandish pranks and wondering whether his rare genius would ever be publicly recognized. Finally, the Emerald has acknowledged the joke Mr. Madrid is playing on all of us.

Wake up, gentle reader: Something has changed inside of you. You have Mr. Madrid to blame. Indeed, Madrid has "a mind of his or her own" — sometimes, his piercing words reach so deep inside of me I feel he has somehow entered my own, far inferior mind. This year, all conventions were shattered by Madrid's plan to use a simple name change (i.e., "All These People Are Idiots") as a vehicle for unifying a campus community.

Unfortunately, the ASUO Election Board's Kenneth Best — an otherwise well-meaning man with wonderfully opaque eyes — failed to acknowledge the deep moral vision that accompanies Madrid's stomach-clutchingly funny political satire.

But alas, the campus institutions that seek to oppress Madrid's oppressive idealism have no jurisdiction when it comes to our own lavish, self-edited memories.

And so, 20 years from now, we will close our eyes and remember how Ed Madrid really *was* elected ASUO president. We will remember how he dismantled student government and courageously gave incidental fee money back to the students, but not before requiring each fee-paying student to promise to love one another, honestly and unconditionally.

Ed Madrid
English



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