

PERSPECTIVES

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Got Faith?

SCRIBBLES OF SANITY

JAYNA BERGERSON

There is faith at the University of Oregon. While attending the University, I have heard issues ranging from diversity and culture to beer guzzling and streaking. But somehow faith doesn't seem to be on the list of stereotypical college issues. Philosophy, yes. Religion, sometimes. But faith? Not that I can remember.

Perhaps it is because too many people assume that faith is only connected with religion. If you know or follow a religion, then you must have faith, right?

W.A. "Billy" Sunday explained that "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile." Makes sense, just like going to the University makes you a student, but being classified as a student doesn't make you smart.

However, it is important to acknowledge that

religious faith does exist. In history, most martyrs died for their religious beliefs. Joan of Arc may have been accused of a lot of things, but lack of faith was not one of them.

So, you can have faith without religion just like you can have religion without faith. Therefore, faith can be more than just a belief in a higher power or an omnipotent being.

At a college committed to the study of science and philosophical pondering, faith almost seems out of place. A full definition of faith means complete acceptance of a truth which cannot be demonstrated by the process of logical thought. It's faith if you can't prove it but you believe it is true.

In that case, I know practically every student at the University has experienced faith — the illogical belief that despite rarely attending class, sleeping through the lectures you did attend and never studying, you will, by some miraculous interposition, pass the final exam. That's faith!

Then there is the notion that faith is not academic; therefore, it has no place in a university. A university is characterized by studies that are liberal or classical in nature. What is more liberal than faith? Faith allows you to have, express or follow views and to act or express those views any way you choose. That is a liberal definition.

I once heard a student say that in today's world, faith no longer applies.

Well, someone needs to tell the rest of the world.

According to Adherents.com, a Web site that monitors participation in various religious groups all over the world, two billion people identify themselves as Christians and 1.3 billion people claim the religion of Islam. Nine hundred million people are adherents to Hinduism.

Another nine hundred million profess to be agnostic, non-religious or atheist. It is the belief that a higher being does not exist. This is faith because, let's face it, we can't demonstrate it. There is no way to prove whether there is or is not a higher purpose or power, so it's all faith.

And that is religious faith. It doesn't include everyone's blind faith that death will not occur today. Everyday, whether you realize it or not, you are living by faith that you will make it to tomorrow.

Consequently, there is faith on the University campus. It's diverse and it varies, but it's here. And let's not look at it as a bad thing. In the words of Oliver Lodge, "Never throw away hastily any old faith, tradition or convention. They may require modification, but they are the result of the experience of many generations."

Jayna Bergerson is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. She can be reached at bjay@gladstone.uoregon.edu



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CAROL TECH

CAROL RINK

When Nike CEO Phil Knight halted all of his personal donations to the University, more than 75,000 of you read about it online before any paper went to press with the story.

When you missed yesterday's news and couldn't find an Emerald lying on the floor in class, you came to the Web.

And when you actually graduate from this University, you'll want to keep informed about campus news and events, and yes (gasp), you will even want to read the Emerald — online.

But when you want breaking news, as well as sports, community, entertainment, and opinion coverage, the only place to go is www.dailyemerald.com.

Sure, you can find all of these stories in the paper you're reading right now, but dailyemerald.com is different. As online editor, it's my job to make it that way.

dailyemerald.com embraces cutting-edge technology with exclusive material — feedback, message boards, interactive online polls and extra sections you won't find in the daily print publication: The Moving Guide, 100 Years at the Oregon Daily Emerald, and the recently-added Elections 2000 — a compilation of Emerald articles about the 2000 presidential elections and online voter information.

Coming soon, you'll also find a weekly online-only tech column, written by myself for all you computer geeks, Internet junkies,

or friends that simply want to make fun of my attempt to bridge technology and college life together without the lingo of a professional computer tech magazine or the fluff of "U. Magazine." Think of it more as an edgy and sassy "Wired" article, but don't hold me to it, either.

If you don't want to read my thoughts and opinions, write your own. One of the more popular features on our site is feedback — a way for you to spill out your own ideas on Emerald articles. If you thought "The Princess Bride" was inconceivably the worst '80s movie ever, but our staff loved it, tell us. If you want to speak your mind about current events or campus news such as the University's decision to join the WRC and FLA, post your comments. Selected stories have their own feedback box, which can be found on the bottom of the page of each story.

Feedback posts are not letters to the edi-

tor, but with permission may be included in the print edition as well. And as online editor, I have the right to edit for length, content or obscenity. Remember, this is a forum for discussion — respect your audience and make comments the way you would like to be addressed, and above all, RESPOND to other responses. There's nothing more boring than a message board with only one response, so communicate with each other just like we used to before the glorious invention of the Internet and e-mail. That wasn't too long ago, was it?

Well, what do I know? I'd be out a job if it wasn't for the Internet.

Carol Rink is the online editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at webmaster@dailyemerald.com

New scientific study reveals shocking findings: Glitter rocks!



DIARY OF A MALCONTENT

MICHAEL J. KLECKNER

OK, I'm mad. The Pulse staff are clearly biased against glitter wearers. They are anti-

glitterites of the highest order. In Thursday's Pulse, the "15 Minutes" feature had a survey on glitter use. Their obviously-biased survey found 64 percent of respondents thought glitter was pesky, as opposed to 36 percent who thought it was pretty. This is a concerted effort to eliminate glitter from our rave-cool world, and I'll have no part of it.

So I did my own poll, using advanced randomizer statistical techniques (such as finding people who didn't run from me) and a cross-pollinated sampling of the student

body (pollinating a student body is fun), and here's what I found:

Out of 30 responses, 19 thought glitter was "fun" or they "love it." That's 63.333 percent in favor of glitter. Seven people thought glitter is "dumb" or "juvenile" or "trying too hard" (that's 23.333 percent opposed, y'all). And four people were indifferent or said it depended on the circumstances (13.333 percent). For some weirdos, everyday glitter is not copacetic, but on special occasions it passes muster.

My findings plainly dispute the Pulse staff's efforts, and you'll notice that my survey is much more science-dude-like, because I had three possible responses, not just a measly two (plus, I used three decimal places in my percentages). I guess this clears that up. Glitter rocks!

In case you still doubt the supremacy of glitter, just listen to the wisdom of Frog: "I think it's a great accessory. Every body should be without glitter!"

Letters to the editor

Mad about Yahoo!? Lighten up

I want to applaud the Emerald for running such an original and amusing ad campaign

as the recent Yahoo! ads. While they are a little off-color, they are certainly not worthy of the controversy they have sparked.

I encourage the editorial

staff to show a little chutzpah and keep running the ads. My prediction, however, is that you will cave to the demands of petty whiners with too-thin skin.

As for all of you self-ap-

pointed PC police, I say "lighten up." Nobody cares about your indignant letters, nor does anyone care that you lack a sense of humor.

Brandon Oberlin
sophomore

CORRECTION

The headline for an Oct. 2 front-page story on Department of Public Safety cars equipped with red and blue lights should have read "Department of Public Safety vehicles violate statutes." The Emerald regrets the error.