

# PERSPECTIVES

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## Exit, stage left, with no grace

The news, of late, has been filled with President Clinton stories. It's almost as if he is more newsworthy out of office than he was his last few weeks in office. Granted, all the stories being printed about Clinton's last days have uncovered a lack of taste, class or grace on his part, but enough is enough. Bad Clinton! There, can the country be done with it now?

The most recent, and perhaps most egregious example of Clinton's lack of style (and possibly Clinton's breaking of the law) is the Marc Rich pardon story. Rich has been living in Switzerland since being indicted on 51 separate charges and is wanted in connection with more than \$48 million worth of tax fraud. Rich's ex-wife donated millions of dollars to the Clintons in various capacities (the presidential library, election campaigns, etc.) and then Rich received a pardon. This smells bad, looks bad and tastes bad. But is it worth fighting over any longer? For the sake of the country, no.

Earlier stories focused on the Clintons' last day or so at the White House. Staffers supposedly removed the letter "W" from computer keyboards, left hidden surprises in refrigerators and generally ran amok in the office. Was this funny? Maybe, in a sophomoric

way. It would have been funnier as a skit on "Saturday Night Live" than it was acted out for real. Shame on them; it reflects poorly on the Democrats, now that the Clintons are de facto leaders of the party.

More stories were printed about the Clintons' alleged sticky fingers. Items of value were missing from the White House. Apparently, Air Force One was stripped of everything not bolted down. Could the Clintons have done a

better job of playing into and perpetuating the "Southern White Trash" stereotype? To the Clintons: Here's a dollar; go buy some class.

All of these things are somewhat interesting, somewhat salacious, and they provide a bit of a snicker of derision. But these stories also raise some questions. Do the Clintons care about the country that

they served (some would say that they served very well)? Does Hillary realize how poorly all of this reflects on her as a new senator? And perhaps most perplexing, how could a Rhodes Scholar act with such a lack of intelligence or forethought? Surely the Clintons were aware of the press coverage such acts would provoke.

But now, it's time to let it go. There are many more important

topics that should be taking up space in newspapers and on TV. The political world needs to get on with the business of rebuilding bipartisanship and working on the country's problems. The Emerald editorial board doesn't want to read any more about Clinton's last days of gracelessness.

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



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

## ASUO, Emerald present candidate debates

There may not be a feverish atmosphere on the streets of campus yet, but the student election season is well under way. Candidate signs are going up and coming down. More signs are being posted. Meetings with student groups, back-room lobbying and hallway meetings are taking place. This year's general election takes place Mar. 5-8, but the primary is just around the corner.

Voting in the primary begins Monday (yes, in just a few days) and is available via Duck Web 24 hours a day through March 1.

In the interest of intelligent debate (well, at least debate) and a thorough

examination of the issues and candidates, the ASUO, in conjunction with the Emerald, is presenting a debate Thursday with all six of the presidential candidates. Currently confirmed to moderate the debate are: Jeremy Lang, student activities editor for the Emerald and Michael J. Kleckner, editorial page editor for the Emerald.

The debate will center on specific issues of concern to the student body, as well as focused platform questions based on the candidates' Q & As, which are currently appearing in the Emerald each day. Following the structured debate, there will be an open forum where students are invit-

ed to ask questions of the candidates.

The Emerald is participating in the debate in hopes of raising student interest and increasing voter turnout. We believe an informed (and entertained) student body makes better voting decisions. Please come to Room 110 Law School from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday. Free alcohol will be provided! OK, there will actually be no alcohol allowed, but the candidates will be excited nonetheless. So listen to the debate, ask questions, have some fun, and remember to vote next week.

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## Music students struggle for places to play

### GUEST COMMENTARY

Melanie King

I have been studying music at the University of Oregon for the past four years and have been noticing interesting changes here in our school. Every term, the halls seem to get fuller and fuller with new faces I've never seen. These new people must be very dedicated to practicing their instruments, because in the last two years I haven't been able to find a practice room without waiting at least half an hour.

Last week, I got so frustrated looking for a practice room that I went to the elevator to practice, only to find an equally frustrated trumpet player already using it. Thinking I was

smart and beating people to practice spots, I toted my instrument to the basement bathroom (an acoustic nightmare) and was met with a panicked vocalist.

Right now, it's 4 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and I am jammed in the only computer lab on campus that has the necessary software to complete my assignments. I had to wait 15 minutes for this computer. We need more room in this school.

I am now officially making the claim that the University of Oregon school of music is busting at the seams. The only "unpracticed" area of this school is the roof — because we can't find the roof access. We can't practice in the residence halls or community living spaces. And our study requires regular and long (10-20 hours a week) practice hours.

The reason why this school is

growing so rapidly is the outstanding faculty we have here. From Pavarotti World Contest winners to world renowned jazz pianists to international composers, our star-studded faculty is drawing some of the biggest groups of music students to the University. Also, with the recent development of new programs such as string pedagogy or music technology, there are waiting lists to get into the class or to even be admitted as a major.

The University's school of music is in dire need of both renovation and expansion. Attention, people! Our campus has the best music school in the Pacific Northwest, and it has the potential to shine in the 21st century, but only with the proper facilities.

Melanie King is a senior music technology student.

## Letters to the editor

### Jacobson is the one

In just less than two weeks, the students of the University of Oregon will have the opportunity to vote for student body president. The individual elected will play a significant role in determining how your student fees are used. If you are someone with an interest in seeing that your fees are put toward useful and beneficial activities, then I'd recommend casting your vote for Bret Jacobson.

I have known Jacobson for more than four years and consider him an intelligent, creative and considerate person. Whether you are a first-term freshman, a grad student or enrolled in law school, Bret Jacobson is the type of person who will take your concerns into consideration.

Additionally, Jacobson is someone who possesses the poise and presence necessary to make him an excellent ambassador for the University. In closing, I would encourage anyone interested in casting a vote for responsible and responsive student government to cast a vote for Bret Jacobson.

Mike Morgan  
 PSU Pre-Law Society president  
 Portland

### Play by the rules

Matt Swanson is a great student leader who cares about student government and is not afraid to voice his concerns. This aside, it was an irresponsible decision for him as an ASUO Elections Board mem-

ber to file a grievance against my running mate, Eric Bailey, during the campaign.

It is the responsibility of the ASUO Elections Board to remain impartial, and Swanson's action now puts his impartiality in question. I have spoken with Matt, and while he maintains the legitimacy of his grievance, he understands our concern. In response, Matt has assured me that his grievance will be removed in a timely manner.

I was also shocked by Bret Jacobson's accusation that we removed campaign posters ("Executive candidate takes on campaign strain," ODE, Feb. 19), but even more so when I discovered that several of our campaign signs had been removed throughout campus. It just so happens that in many places, our signs were replaced with "Bret and Matt" signs.

So, Jacobson, how can you morally accuse someone of an action, and then turn around and do it to them? You stated yourself, "We'll leave the dirty politics to other campaigns." Well, you have reached that level yourself.

Other campaigns — including ours — are playing by the rules, and I encourage you to do the same. It is vital that this election be decided on the issues and not on grievances or posters. I encourage the student body to educate themselves, so they can make rational, educated decisions.

Jeff Oliver  
 junior  
 political science  
 ASUO Executive candidate