

PERSPECTIVES

Editor in chief: Jack Clifford
 Managing Editor: Jessica Blanchard
 Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 E-mail: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

EDITORIAL EDITOR: MICHAEL J. KLECKNER opededitor@journalist.com

Give us a BREAK

Sit back, fasten your safety belt, close the guard rail securely and keep all body parts inside your classrooms until the ride, er, until the next two weeks come to a complete stop. Do not attempt to throw yourself bodily from classes just yet. It will end soon, and then the bingeing known as spring break can begin.

It is yet another gawdawful, gorgeous sunny day outside as this is being written. The sounds of skateboarders, happy children and Frisbee players waft through the windows of the Emerald office. Just remember, those people aren't in classes, they aren't being productive, and they'll pay dearly for it. They are pure evil, tempting others with visions of joyful outdoor activities, and the Emerald editorial board hopes their grades reflect that evil.

All we need to do is hang on. Tomorrow is March 1, the beginning of the month in which spring break occurs. Spring break itself is only 23 days away. Sit tight for three weeks, do your homework, go buy those textbooks (remember those?) that you'll need for the final, and we'll all make it out alive. The biggest question is whether we'll make it out of spring break alive.

We're certainly not advocating any sort of debauchery (free sex) or hedonism (total intoxication) during our one cheap, lousy week of vacation. By the way, couldn't they take a few days from winter break and add it to spring break? After the fourth week of winter break, it gets old anyway. Wouldn't those days be better spent on the beach, in the sun, rolling around naked and covered in alcohol? Uh, sorry. That's not exactly what we meant.

Some people — even some editorial board members — will be spending spring break being productive: training for a summer job, volunteering at a social service agency or spending time with parents. Those activities probably rank really, really low on most students' lists of desirable spring break adventures, but the students undertaking them are awfully noble, aren't they?



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

The rest of us are breathlessly waiting for a rip-roarin', snortin' good week of spring break fun. So try to be good. Go to class a few more times, even when it's incredibly sunny and mild enough for shorts and a tank top. Better attendance will make professors more amenable to our next request: Please go easy on us for these final weeks! Instructors are just as susceptible to that silly, scintillating spring sensation coursing through the veins. The sun affects faculty too.

OK, it's time to go. Despite using the

phrase "spring break" a total of 11 times in this article, spring break isn't any closer. If professors can have a little mercy and students can give a little more effort, together we can all make it to the top of the giant hill and scream aloud in unison as the roller coaster dives toward the end of the month, the end of the term and the end of our imprisonment in classrooms. Viva spring break!

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

Campus paper used bad judgment

GUEST COMMENTARY

Dave Frohnmayer

A campus newspaper, in a recent issue, published material about sabotage of property that would create real risks to human safety. I considered that primer to be unconscionable and absolutely unacceptable, and I believe any reasonable person would agree with me. The newspaper then listed the names and addresses of individuals on campus and, by the context in which the names were included, in effect created risk that put these individuals' safety and the safety of their families in peril.

None of our campus publications

should ever publish material that in such a manner threatens any member of our community. This act was not only threatening to the individuals and their families but also to the extraordinarily valuable work done by these members of our community. That is, of course, the very intent of those who try to terrorize our colleagues.

Publications that print and distribute this kind of information cannot in good conscience cloak themselves in the First Amendment and think they can then avoid well-deserved censure. Responsible journalism engages in voluntary and ethical constraints. And responsible journalism is the only kind in which members of this community should engage.

Newspapers across the country (including our campus publications) voluntarily do not publish the names of

rape or sexual assault victims. In only one state (and it is not Oregon) does the law does require that they do so. I call on campus publications to exercise this same good judgment and common sense in any case where the safety of a member of our campus community is placed at risk by what is published.

Am I calling for our campus publications to hold themselves to higher standards than perhaps the law itself does? Yes.

I am a lifelong student of and published author on First Amendment freedoms. I have and will continue to defend those freedoms. And I will continue to condemn those who show unconscionably bad judgment, as the campus newspaper did.

Dave Frohnmayer is president of the University of Oregon.

Letters to the editor

Violence unnecessary

How did it progress from "could you please sit down" to a brawl? Maybe it was the homophobic slurs he tossed around, or perhaps the refusal to consider his fellow fans. Whatever the cause, the fight that broke out in Section 117 at Mac Court last Thursday night was saddening in many ways.

Why in the presence of violence such as this do people declare they "haven't seen a good fight in ages" and that they want to "see some blood"? Are the young people of our society so insecure they feel the need to prove themselves using violence? Is the only way to enjoy a sporting event to verbally harass the crowd and the opposition?

Competition is one thing, abuse and violence is another. T him up, Ref.

B. Cichosz
 freshman
 pre-psychology

Don't accept OSPIRG bid

I disagree with several of Eric Pfeiffer's key points in endorsing OSPIRG ("OSPIRG: A model for citizens," ODE, Feb. 20).

To begin with, he asks us to "accept the fact that you go to school at a liberal arts university." This is a moot point. Nobody is going to argue that we attend a fundamentally conservative university. Most of us were drawn to the University of Oregon because of its politically active and environmentally aware campus.

However, this does not justify blindly sending money to OSPIRG. If I attended Oregon State, I would not accept my incidental fees' being sent off campus to a pro-gun-owner lobbying group just because OSU is a somewhat conservative school.

The argument that students who disagree with a particular group should be allowed to withdraw their money into a general-fee surplus is ludicrous. We do not need a ballot every year asking which groups we support. That reduces the process to a popularity contest. All student groups — whatever their political orientation — should follow the letter of the law. That is the real issue.

Finally, I cannot help but wonder if Pfeiffer's glowing endorsement is politically motivated. If Jacobson also backs OSPIRG, then it seems to be an olive branch to "liberals" who might otherwise vote for Schatzel/Stolle.

Adjusting one's image to appeal to moderates didn't work in the 2000 presidential election, and I hope people would not be so easily fooled now.

Richard "Pete" R. Hunt
 junior
 journalism

Information about Jesus not scarce

The assertion that we know little about Jesus Christ because of a "scarcity of reliable sources" is almost laughable. Several different biographers (some of whom knew him personally, and all of whom draw on eyewitness accounts) wrote very detailed accounts of Christ's character and ministry within a few decades of his walk on earth. Indeed, there are very few historical figures from the ancient period about whom more is known.

The only thing "unreliable" about these sources is that certain people don't want to believe what his biographers are telling us about him.

Ted D. Smith
 documents reference librarian
 Knight Library

CORRECTION

The photograph that ran with Lisa Toth's article, "Hillel offers Jewish students free trip to Israel," [ODE, Feb. 27] carried the wrong photographer credit. Rayna Dushman took the photo.

The Emerald regrets the error.

CLARIFICATION

In an article about faculty pay, "Professor pay failing the test," [ODE, Feb. 27], it should have read that the University Senate Ad Hoc Committee was created to analyze the structure and terms of employment for support of non-tenure track faculty, including adjunct professors and instructors.

In addition, University assistant geography Professor Shaul Cohen did not say that professors who choose to stay at the University instead of leaving for more money are a "large problem," but instead reflect dedication to the University.

The Emerald regrets the errors.