

## FUN in the SUN



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

It's sunny and it's warm and students are playing everywhere. What's more, students are playing in the EMU Amphitheater. The Emerald editorial board is super-stoked that the amphitheater is being used in a fun, engaged way.

Part of the credit goes to the weather, of course. If it were raining and cold, no amount of exciting activities (not even Woody Harrelson) would fill the amphitheater with students interacting.

But this week, it hasn't just been the weather bringing students to this central point of campus to gather, laugh and study. Some credit is also due to the ASUO Programs Faire, which has students stopping to talk about ways they can be active in extracurricular activities.

An additional heaping of congratulations goes to the ASUO Street Faire, which has organized a talented line-up of musicians to entertain us all. Thanks to groups such as On the Rocks — which sounded great and drew almost as many people Wednesday as Harrelson did last Friday — the Emerald office has been filled with tunes and students can study in the amphitheater with musical accompaniment.

We have been most impressed this week, though, with the International Students Association. This week was International Week, and the students involved in putting the events together have shown amazing spirit.

According to the Office of International Education and Exchange, there are cur-

rently 1,626 international students at the University, representing 91 countries. This wide range of culture has caused the University to be "ranked number one in the United States among public universities in international student enrollment" relative to its size, according to the Office of Communications Web site. These students seem to be overflowing with energy and enthusiasm to share their culture and heritage with others. And they seem to be having a lot of fun while doing it.

On Monday, the ISA kicked off International Week with a parade ending at a rally in the amphitheater. They were shouting and joyful while announcing the week's events. When it started to rain, they invited students under the tent to dance and stay dry. On Tuesday, students were teaching others to dance the salsa. There were students participating, students watching and students just enjoying the atmosphere. Thursday saw an amazing African dance and drum presentation which again filled the amphitheater and electrified the audience. Today, World Forum day events kick off at 2 p.m., and there's sure to be something fun going on.

Yes, it's sunny, so students naturally hang out outdoors. But the feeling of engagement, of interest and of the amphitheater being the center of campus life hasn't been this strong all year. So to the ASUO, the bands that played and the ISA, we offer congratulations and thanks for a great week.

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

### Letters to the editor

#### Thank a campus worker today

After reading a letter to the editor ("Janitors are human beings first," ODE, April 26), I am quite appalled at how this campus treats its workers. Without the classified staff, this campus could not function for more than a day. Yet students and the administration still treat them with an incredible amount of disrespect.

The instance recounted in the letter, coupled with how the administration deals with them at the bargaining table, shows this quite clearly. This is classism, pure and simple. It seems everyone is quick to denounce sexism and racism on campus, yet nobody seems to be willing to look down their upturned noses and accept workers as people.

Make no mistake: Almost everyone on campus will be workers someday. Probably, you already are.

I personally think that everyone should try to thank at least one campus worker today. The Silent Action that the Oregon Public Employee's Union is having on the steps of Johnson Hall today is a perfect opportunity.

Randy Newnham  
 senior  
 anthropology/linguistics

#### Ad supplement has its uses

I want to assure the staff of the Emerald, as well as the student body, that "lovematters.com" (an advertising supplement in the ODE, April 24) does in fact serve a purpose. I have placed it in my

backpack just in case I'm ever in a public restroom and I run out of toilet paper.

Granted, the magazine won't be as comfortable as regular toilet paper, but in the end it will end up in the right place: the Eugene sewer system.

lovematters.com needs to wake up. Publishing ridiculous propaganda won't change minds. In fact, this reduces the "pro-life" movement to a proverbial mosquito, buzzing around the head of reason. What kind of rational person would believe that a woman pregnant with a male baby loses ownership of her own body? How can lovematters.com justify saying that a woman who is impregnated while being raped has a moral obligation to have the baby, even if she isn't ready to be a mother? Should that child be submitted to a life with the knowledge that he or she was conceived as a result of sexual assault?

If these people want to change minds, can't they do it with a little more logic? The only people who would read this magazine with any sense of seriousness are people who already hold "pro-life" beliefs.

Everybody else, as I witnessed Tuesday, is either laughing at the pure idiocy of it or tossing it.

Jan Montry  
 freshman  
 computer science

#### Mark Baker displayed ignorance proudly

The depth of white privilege and complacency on this campus never ceases to embarrass me. Mark Bak-

er's self-serving linguistic tirade "correcting" Prof. Coleman's objection to the use of the term "a coon's age" last Friday ("Coon is short for 'raccoon'," ODE, April 20) is a prime example. Why would you consider it appropriate to mock someone for objecting to racial slurs?

If you were African-American, you would have known better. If you were ignorant, you could have appreciated the information. If you are deeply invested in your white privilege you might have said — as you did — "Oh, please."

The future of this nation depends on our collective ability to end discrimination. Do not be so proud to be so ignorant.

Jane Robin  
 senior  
 English/ethnic studies

#### Thanks for a great campaign

I would like to thank everyone who helped my and Jeff Oliver's campaign for ASUO Executive. Countless hours of volunteer help contributed to my campaign's visibility and viability.

Two people who went well above and beyond the call of duty, however, are Jen Ames and Mindi Rice. These two amazing people did all that was asked of them and more on their own. And while Jen was already one of my best friends before, Mindi became one of my best friends over the course of the campaign. You two are simply wonderful.

Now, that's not to say that everyone else who helped out with my

campaign isn't wonderful ... they all are! I can never say "thanks" enough to everyone who helped me.

I would also like to thank a few other good friends of mine who helped with my campaign: David Christensen, Brandi Church and Curtis Buell. Much like Jen Ames and Mindi Rice, these three kind, wonderful people campaigned more than could/should be ever asked of someone. These five together, and everyone else who helped are the reasons why I can

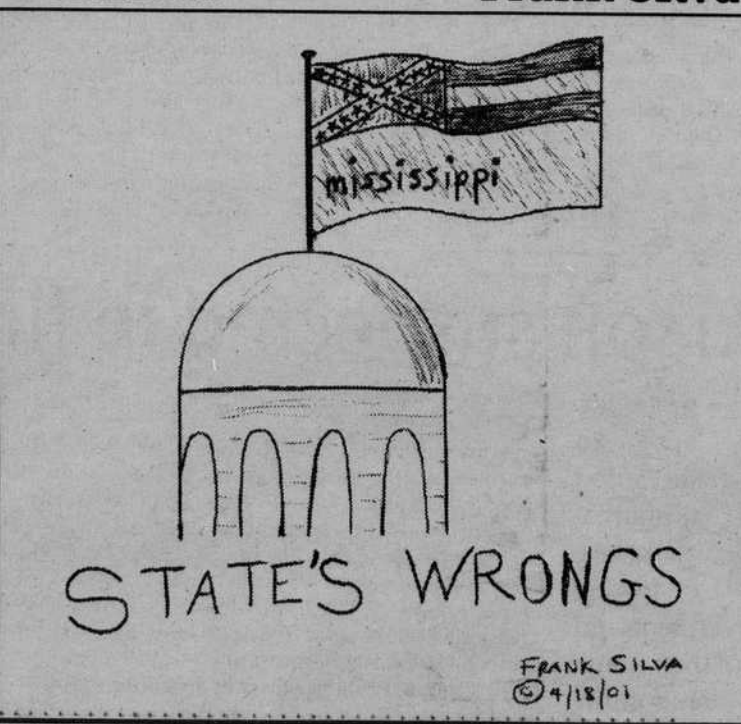
look back on my campaign with positive thoughts and memories despite the fact that we lost and had to go through some political strain.

I made a lot of friends, we all had some laughs and our campaign was one for positive change. Thanks to everyone and I'm sure I'll say it again to all of you in person very soon.

Eric Bailey  
 sophomore  
 major  
 ASUO Senate vice president

### Leftfield

### Frank Silva



FRANK SILVA  
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