

# 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

## Kudos to Ducks for preserving Bucks

Well, proper congratulations are in order. The Bucks for Ducks campaign was an unqualified success, at least in comparison to the usual student involvement with the ASUO. Forty-one proposals were submitted, suggesting ways to spend \$100,000 of the overrealized fund on a project that would benefit all students. And the Ducks for Bucks committee, composed of ASUO Public Relations Director Jamie Gerlitz, ASUO Student Senate President Peter Watts, ASUO President Jay Breslow and Dean of Students Anne Leavitt, sifted through the suggestions and made a fantastic choice.

So \$100,000 of our incidental fee money will be used to mount solar panels on the roof of the EMU to generate electricity for the building. This idea, thanks to Ben Gates and Jocelyn Eisenberg at the Ecological Design Center, was the best choice because it will pay off in the long run for every student — pres-

ent and future — by saving energy and shaving costs off the EMU budget.

Some students may not be aware of this, but the EMU is the students. According to Susan Racette, the business manager for the EMU, the building was built with incidental fee money. The building might be owned by the state (as is all University property), but students are the major users of the building. And students' incidental fees pay for roughly half the EMU's operating budget, which includes nearly \$250,000 for electricity for the next fiscal year.

So by investing in an energy-generating technology, students are paying the \$100,000 back to themselves again and again. The committee could have chosen a free concert or covered moving sidewalks on 13th Avenue, but those options would not have put money back into students' hands for years to come.

There were other realistic and beneficial suggestions made during the Bucks for Ducks campaign.

One proposal suggested revamping the Pocket Playhouse. Last spring, the Emerald reported on a theatre arts department rally to earn public support for renovating and improving Villard Hall's theatre arts facilities. Nothing much has changed since then, and both the Pocket Playhouse and the Robinson Theatre most likely need significant improvement.

It upsets us, however, that students felt the need to ask for incidental fee money for departmental improvements. In order to teach effectively, departments need working equipment and decent buildings. The Athletic Department certainly isn't hurting for facilities. But the University administration should raise the money and take care of departmental needs. Students shouldn't have to pay tuition and then also pay for maintaining buildings.

But the winning proposal, for solar panels, will earn students money. If you haven't done the math since hearing about the project

("Solar panel idea wins big 'Bucks,'" ODE, May 22), don't try now. Rates for industrial users are complicated. The Register-Guard reported that the solar panels will produce an average 8 kilowatt hours, but the story didn't say if that's per hour, per week or per year. In the Emerald story, Gerlitz said the project will save 79,000 kilowatts per year. How much money that amounts to is unclear. Dana Winitzky, facilities manager for the EMU, said that he's supportive of the project and that it will save students money. EWEB has said it will pay the EMU a premium for the wattage generated because it's an alternative energy source. And Winitzky said that a rate hike, likely to be anywhere from 60 to 300 percent, is coming in October and will make the solar panels' contribution even more valuable.

Kudos should also go to EWEB itself for contributing to this project. The utility will design the project free of charge to once again help

reduce the University's energy use. Racette said the two public institutions have long worked together to save energy and money, from giving the EMU a loan for an HVAC system a few years ago, to more recently installing "vending mizers," which are units installed by vending machines that turn off their motors when not in use.

Whatever the dollar figure, it's nice that the solar panels will save students money. The real point, though, and the reason this project deserves a standing ovation, is that the solar panels send a message of conservation at a time when many people are saying "energy crisis" more and more loudly. This is the Pacific Northwest, and more to the point, this is the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore. If this community doesn't lead the way toward responsible environmental policies, who will?

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

Leftfield

Frank Silva



**CORRECTION**

In the story "Airport debate slows budget talks," (ODE, May 24), the story should have read the Eugene City Council will vote on the

proposed budget June 18. Also, the committee approved a recommended budget of \$296 million.

The Emerald regrets the errors.

## Alternative fun for sun lovers



**DIARY OF A MALCONTENT**

MICHAEL J. KLECKNER

The sun is shining. I usually write to y'all about issues close to my heart or things that piss me off. But the sun is shining, and what I want to do is play outside in the heat. Disrobed bodies are some of my favorite things, and the shining sun, which is expected to last through Tuesday, generally facilitates the shedding of clothes.

So in the spirit of the sunshine and the long holiday weekend, here are a few alternative-minded suggestions for fun activities this Memorial Day. Bear in mind these are just my picks. I'm not trying to speak for a generation, plug anybody's event or advance a particular notion of what's "cool." But I've had fun doing this stuff when it's sunny and I'm trapped in Eugene (as I will be this weekend).

**Ride into the hills**

The bike trails at the end of West Amazon in South Eugene are a fantastic place to get away and breathe some pine. Drive down Hilyard a few blocks past 30th Avenue. Make a left onto West Amazon Drive and keep going. The road will end at Pearl Buck Center, a support and employment facility for those with developmental disabilities (they always need volunteers, by the way). At the end of the road is a little trail winding into the woods. Bikes are allowed here, and if you poke around enough in the bushes, you can ferret your way to the Ridgeline Trail.

There are many open areas in here for flinging some disc, so bring a buddy and your Frisbee or Aerobie or other round thing. There are also plenty of hidden recesses in which to check out the local herbs, flowers and each other.

**Sun your nether parts**

For a little more daring and open activity, check out Eugene's local nude beach. Finding it can be a little tricky, but here's the gist: Go out to Lane Community College and go down the hill past it. Cross the freeway, make a left and then make a right at the Texaco station. Just around the bend is BRING Recycling. You can park just off the road here, and then walk past BRING on the same side of the street. Just a little way down is a trail through the forest-y stuff. Follow the trail to ... the river. OK, it's on a river, so "beach" isn't exactly the right term, but it works. Water, sandy areas to sun your buns and great people watching. Public nudity is legal in Oregon, but public sex is not, so be careful not to flagrantly enjoy yourself. Most of the clientele here are men, so if you like to hang out with nude men, by all means go at once. If you're a woman, please come on down and help balance the equation. Every time I've been here, the atmosphere is really relaxed and cool. Just don't go digging into the deep, private recesses of the area's foliage unless you already know what you're getting into.

**Commune with the dead**

So this is the creepy-coolest thing about Eugene, in my opinion. Hope Abbey, a mausoleum adjacent to the Lane Masonic Cemetery at 25th Avenue and University Street, was put on the National Register of Historic

Places in 1980. It was finished in 1914 by Ellis F. Lawrence, who then became the first dean of architecture at the University. (Some of you alterna-kids might not know it yet, but history is way freakin' cool.) Besides its campus connection, the mausoleum is insanely neat, and (scary music begins here) *they only open its doors on Memorial Day and Labor Day*. My tradition here started in high school, when we were unwise kids and would take LSD and dress in black and trip out on the very old, very dead spirits in the room. Believe it or not, we meant no disrespect. Actually, we saw our activities as super respectful because we were communing with the dead. Anyway, I still go back every year to check out the names, the flowers and the cold feel of marble and granite.

I have a few other suggestions, but I seem to have run out of room. If you like traditional BBQs or the kitsch appeal of gawking at the locals, drive out to the Fern Ridge area to watch acres and acres of families with lots of pickups and tons of pig to roast. If you want even more kitsch-American enjoyment, attend Monday's official Memorial Day service for veterans (last year it was held at the Pioneer Cemetery on campus). This isn't just kitsch, though, folks. I may be a cynic and I may have my own definition of patriotism, but standing, recognizing and listening to veterans who fought and killed for what they believe in brought tears to my eyes last year. Who knows what's alternative anymore anyway?

Michael J. Kleckner is the editorial editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached at opededitor@journalist.com.