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Leading history Black History Month person of the day

Maggie Lena Walker was born July 15, 1867, in Richmond, Va. When she was 11, she joined the Grand United Order of St. Luke, a fraternal and cooperative insurance society. She received a diploma with honors in 1883 from Armstrong Normal School and immediately began teaching.

While she taught, Walker began studying bookkeeping at night school and working as a part-time insurance agent. Walker had worked her way up in the Order, and in 1899, she was named Right Worth Grand Secretary. Under her business leadership, the organization thrived.

In 1902, Walker founded a newspaper, the St. Luke Herald, to increase the Order's profile. Then in 1903, she decided that black people could help themselves

economically if they pooled their money and lent it out. She founded the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and became the nation's first female bank president.

Walker worked constantly for women's suffrage, and in 1921, she ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She lost the race, but her candidacy challenged the political establishment.

In 1930, Walker's bank merged with two others and was renamed the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, and she became the chairman of the board.

Walker died Dec. 15, 1934, but her bank continued on. It still operates today as the oldest continuously run black-owned bank in America.

—Michael J. Kleckner

Carlin draws on classic taboos to deliver damn funny standup

Ryan Nyburg
Freelance Reporter

There comes a time when artists must prove they are still relevant or move on. It always works out the same with painters, musicians and writers. Artists who don't keep proving their worth to the public end up becoming pale imitations of themselves, objects for ridicule rather than praise.

It works the same way for stand-up comedy, yet few would consider this a serious art form. It's easy to see why. Turn on Comedy Central any day of the week and you will see a multitude of stand-up comedians who adapt ready-made stage personae and belt out formulaic material as if any deviation from the expected would be tantamount to slitting their own wrists.

George Carlin has always been different. Seeing him live at the Hult Center on Saturday would have been a revelation to anyone exposed to the safe, harmless sitcom-brand of American stand-up during the past decade. From note one, he unleashes

a barrage of observations, attacks, insults and complaints.

The audience barely has time to get its footing before Carlin switches them around in another direction. The topics read like a grocery list of American taboos: disease, enemas, car crashes, airplane wrecks, necrophilia, gun violence and suicide were all covered in detail.

Being offensive is one of the cornerstones (some would say clichés) of modern American comedy. Carlin, most famous for "The Seven Dirty Words You Can't Say on Television," is one of the pioneers of this style. However, being offensive just for the sake of offending is rarely funny, something Carlin always seems to keep in mind. His act, even at its most vile, always questions the attitudes and assumptions of his audience.

Revisiting Carlin's earlier work can be startling without the intervening 30 years as a guide. His style, which began as laid back, easy going and fairly low key, has now evolved into that of a grizzled nihilist. His persona is one of a bitter, angry man

who has figured out just how much he can get away with. Quoting him is often futile, given that his act is rooted in his impeccable delivery.

One thing that is missing from Carlin's targets is politics. He makes few, if any, jokes about current political situations, sticking to everyday life and observations about people around him. The political material appears in the most unexpected place — during a rant on bumper stickers — particularly of the "My Child is an Honor Student ..." style. "How about one that says, 'My Child Has Enough Self-Confidence So That I Don't Have to Praise Their Minor Scholastic Achievements on the Back of My Car?'" Carlin asked.

Carlin's diatribes can often be hard to swallow, and his world outlook is a bleak one. He wouldn't seem to mind watching the world go up in flames. But listening to him describe it can be immensely entertaining, not to mention damn funny.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Budget

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The chairwoman said PFC only wants to recall the Emerald's budget in order to come up with a clear method of linking the newspaper's funding to a set formula. She added the committee wants to recall the Career Center to consider funding a graduate teaching fellow position, which the center now funds with its own reserve account.

Kleckner said he would actually welcome a formula that remains consistent.

"Given that the Emerald is a watchdog of student government, there should be the possibility of getting money that's not variable," he said.

Oregon Commentator publisher Bret Jacobson, who had his own experience with the Constitution Court two years ago, said the Emerald's petition will probably just buy the newspaper some time.

"It's important to use one set of standards so students have faith the money is being used properly and so no corrupt group can get a disproportionate amount of money to defend their cause," said Jacobson, who appealed to court justices in

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Bret Jacobson
Oregon Commentator

2001 when he ran for ASUO president. "The ConCourt will probably extend time for the Emerald's budget hearing — I don't think they'll just kill the recall."

Interestingly, Kleckner's petition may stall the process so much that it will end PFC's recall attempts altogether.

Shull said the committee needs to pass its budget soon so there is enough time for the ASUO Executive to review it by Dead Week.

"That's why we're kind of running on a short schedule," she said.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

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