

COMMENTARY

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Editorial

'ASUO' means governance of students, by students

They may not be the most powerful jobs in America (an ASUO official was recently overheard saying "We may be the dregs of Oregon elected officials, but we're elected officials nonetheless"), but they are critically important in their own way. This week is the beginning of the campaign season for all ASUO elected offices.

It's vitally important that students get involved in the ASUO elections process. This is your chance to change those things on campus that you feel need fixing. Don't like the way the PFC allocates money? Don't think the Executive has the right priorities? Run for office and fix it.

This is also a perfect opportunity to learn leadership skills. The ASUO is a functioning government for the students of the University and a laboratory environment for the elected officials of tomorrow.

Tuesday is the last day that students can file to run. Step up and join the campaign.

End-of-the-term haiku for you

Have too much to do
 Should sit down and concentrate
 Nah, I'll clean my room

A last-day midterm
 Graphite missile in ceiling
 Boredom is the king

Finals piling up
 Too much thinking; make it stop
 Only one term left

Weary end of term
 Work ethic, free time dwindling
 When will sleep find us?

Running class to class
 College life has got me down
 Six years is too long

Editorials
 Why must we write so many?
 Dead Week really blows

Editorial policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words.

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Land of the free, home of the scared

The American government is spooked. After it was revealed that two Sept. 11, 2001 hijackers entered the country on student visas, the prospect of getting other shady international students from evil countries simply freaked us out.

We don't want to make the same mistake twice. That's why the geniuses in Washington created "special registration" for international students from a laundry list of mostly Muslim countries — because everyone knows incognito terrorists would feel obligated to tell our government their whereabouts or face deportation.

The office formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Services — now the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services — has been tracking students from such truly evil countries as Eritrea. The BCIS wants to see what they are studying, track their money trail and monitor what kinds of "terrorist" hobbies they participate in, like diversifying our college campuses.



Julie
 Lauderbaugh
 Judge Julie

The BCIS recently extended the special registration deadline by a month for Group three and four on the hit list, which include nonimmigrant aliens from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Kuwait.

How exactly are these rules keeping me safe from terrorism?

These actions are merely a symbolic step to warn the international community that the U.S. is too scared to take in "your tired, your poor; your huddled masses yearning to breathe free; the wretched refuse of your teeming shore ..." We're basically saying we don't want any more foreign students with "jihad" in their vocabulary — they're too risky.

The Bush Administration must have some inkling that these steps are not going to have any effect on potential terrorists. They are designed to deter the actions of innocents and instill the same nightmares in others that have kept America from a good night's sleep for a year and a half.

The program will do nothing to make me feel safer; instead I fear even more for what is to come of my international friends who are now blacklisted for the potential actions of their fellow countrymen. As an American student, I would feel better about my per-

sonal safety sitting next to a quiet, mustachioed Pakistani man than a convicted felon/future football star like Rodney Woods.

Then again, my fears are based on fact and reality. Woods had due process and got a conviction; the government is entering a guilty plea for international students when their only crime is an attempt to better themselves with a quality education.

Inherent fear of the "enemy" — whoever the flavor of the administration may be — is just as part of Americana as baseball and hot dogs. The United States is no longer the land of the free and home of the brave. Land of the paranoid and home of the ignorant is more like it.

Those who have come here seeking an education — centered on our American value of freedom — are in for a rude awakening. The wary mistrust of foreigners that has infiltrated American minds will only encourage hate crimes and more programs like special registration.

Freedom doesn't exist here anymore. We're too scared to enjoy it.

Contact the columnist at julielauderbaugh@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Letter to the editor

Counterterrorism efforts fracture families, lives

The war on terrorism has reached an impasse.

The United States and its allies are moving closer to taking military action against Iraq. Some military experts say that a war with Iraq is only weeks away. Many innocent lives will be lost; many families will be destroyed. The sad reality is that one need not wait for bombs to drop on Baghdad to understand what im-

pact the war will have on families.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the federal government has waged war against thousands of families. Under the pretext of fighting terrorism, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has destroyed families by deporting males from Arab and African nations. According to The New York Times, approximately 3,000 individuals are waiting deportation. Some families, after waiting for weeks, have yet to be told the whereabouts of their sons and fathers.

The Bush administration asserts that the tightening of immigration policy is necessary

to weed out terrorists. The problem is that only individuals of African and Arab descent are being squeezed.

Timothy McVeigh was neither African nor Arab, yet his terrorist actions were responsible for killing hundreds of Americans. Imagine having a family member taken away by the federal government. The federal government was never charged with waging war on families. Yet this is exactly what the federal government is currently executing under the guise of terrorism.

Javier Ayala
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 education