

Lane County soon to vote on PATRIOT Act resolution

Also, Commentator staff were found guilty of charges the Voice editor pressed for taking and spoofing her articles

Year in review

Jennifer Bear

Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Rumors and whispers of executive excess, loss of liberty and nefarious pranks between publishers all found their way to the front page of the Emerald this year. Students who have been taken over by the summer spirit may already be on vacation in their own minds. But for readers who stay tuned until the ending credits roll and the school year fades to black, the major stories from 2002-03 need one final close-up.

One issue that has continued to galvanize the citizenry and spark numerous protests is the constraints placed on civil liberties, especially with regards to the USA PATRIOT Act.

Locally, the Lane County Bill of Rights Defense Committee has been the biggest organized opposition to this controversial piece of legislation. Hope Marston, a coordinator for the committee, said the group hasn't ceased its efforts to oppose the PATRIOT Act.

The committee's most recent efforts included an appearance before the Lane County Board of Commissioners on May 14 to urge the commission to pass a resolution challenging the act. Representatives from the group brought a petition to the board meeting with about 4,000 signatures, and Marston said they hope the commission will pass the group's resolution in June.

Marston added that similar committees from all across the country are planning to move their fight from the local level and bring national scope to their cause by holding a conference in Washington, D.C., in October, tentatively titled "Grassroots America Defends the Constitution."

"Committees from all across the nation will converge on Washington, D.C., to strategize and lobby our congressional representatives to repeal the UPA and other violations of our freedoms," Marston said.

A long-time rivalry between two campus publications heated to the boiling point this year. The Oregon Commentator was accused of breaking into the personal Web site of Raechel Sims, the Oregon Voice's editor in chief, and spoofing articles the Voice was working on in an edition of



Caleb Fung for the Emerald

Lane County Bill of Rights committee encourages passage of a PATRIOT Act resolution.

the Commentator. Because the Commentator hadn't actually plagiarized the Voice's work, Sims said she had to find alternative means for making the Commentator accountable for sully the hard work her staff had undertaken.

Sims said she pressed a total of three charges against the Commentator, but they were only found guilty of two. She added that they were just basic infractions of the student conduct code. For example, one of the offenses the Commentator was found guilty of was "intentional disruption, obstruction or interference with the process of instruction, research, administration, student discipline or any other service or activity provided or sponsored by the University."

Sims said she was pleased with the process overall. She added she harbors no hard feelings for the Commentator.

"I actually feel kind of bad for the Commentator," Sims said. "Had I known they were so hard-up for content, I would have offered to write something — it would have saved them the trouble of ripping us off, as well as spared the masses of Bret Jacobson's vague, watery, anti-liberal rants."

As of press time, Jacobson had not responded to a request for comment.

Ben Buzbee, 2002-03 ASUO vice president, is almost finished ironing out the wrinkles in his reputation after being cited for furnishing alcohol. Turn to **Wrap-up**, page 6

Today's crossword solution

BARD	SEEP	PANGS
EMIR	ELLE	APART
AEGEANSEA	RODEO	
UNHAND	GRITTIER	
TRY	MILKSHAKE	
IFFY	BIZ	EW
MOA	TOTEM	IGLOO
PICKAXE	ARTMONK	
SLEET	RAJAH	CUR
ETC	TOP	NASA
LAMPOONER	SAL	
EPIPODIC	SOPHIA	
ORATE	CROUPIERS	
NOTER	HONE	ERIK
SNAPS	EWER	ROSS



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