

Monday, September 22, 2003

EDITORIAL

Students miss big changes this summer

The long summer months have been ripe with breaking news and controversial issues here at the University. Here is an overview of summer events that students may have missed:

- The University administration pushed a proposal through the Eugene City Council in July to allow Department of Public Safety officers who witness municipal offenses to issue citations. Municipal citations include minor in possession of alcohol and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. DPS said it wanted the expanded power to improve campus safety and to free the Eugene Police Department from having to respond to simple municipal offenses. We say, "Reno 911!" anyone?

- Didn't you hear? Tuition is increasing. A lot. And classes may be cut to cushion a \$4 million shortfall.

Higher education administrators from around the state made a push in July to increase tuition for winter term, and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education approved the changes shortly thereafter. At the University, residents will pay an extra \$20 per credit between 14 and 16 credits, while non-residents will pay an extra \$60 per credit between 14 and 16 credits.

- McArthur Court madness was abound this summer as Eugene's news agencies assigned teams of journalists to sit in a small room and guess where the new Pit will go. Well, not really. But it was still a hot issue. In July, officials announced seven sites under consideration for the new arena. Now, the top sites look to be the Autzen Stadium area, Howe Field and Williams' Bakery.

And guess who was already named as a donor? Calling all protesters, it's our favorite funding deity, Phil Knight. Possible name for the new area: McNike Court.

- The summer also had some sad moments as two fellow University students died.

Sophomore Jay Rowan, known by his family and friends as caring and outgoing, died Aug. 9 in an accident on the Deschutes River. He was 20 years old. The aspiring film producer made headlines last April when he worked tirelessly to get his friend Jake Johnston back into the United States. Johnston was detained in Mexico and jailed in San Diego after an immigration misunderstanding.

University biology major Daniel Levey, described as bright and humorous, went missing July 21 while he was hiking in Hawaii's Koolau mountains. The 19-year-old's body was found July 25 after he had apparently fallen 150 feet. Levey was active in the Jewish communities in Hawaii and Eugene, and was an avid hiker and runner.

- A warning to all you student-terrorists: The federal government is watching! Following federal guidelines, the University updated the student privacy code this summer. Now, Feds can seize student records legally, and nobody is required to inform the student about it.

- Look man, Theta Chi is on fire!

No way, bro.

Way.

Whoa!

Dude, you think we can stay with some sorority girls?

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. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.



Eric Layton Illustrator

Journalism: the learning process

I spent the better part of a Thursday afternoon in the office, sorting through my and past editors' clutter and accumulation, looking for handouts and words of wisdom for the incoming staff.

This week, a group of nearly 50 student journalists is in the Emerald office, trying to get the necessary footing for the upcoming year. It's a scary thing, being a journalist. Day in and day out, you contribute something for the paper, something that you know — well, hope — will be analyzed by 10,000 of your peers.

Lately, I've expended a lot of energy thinking about what a newspaper is. Clearly, it's a piece of paper with words and photos and advertisements. Leaving it at that, the Emerald is no better and no worse than any paper in the country.

What makes a strong newspaper is the content it brings to readers each day. If you pick up the paper and don't see stories that interest you, odds are you're not going to read it.

Another aspect of a good paper is its visual appeal. Readers want to quickly see what a paper has to offer. If the paper is designed in a way that makes it difficult to find what you're looking for, or if the paper is just a block of text, odds are you're not going to read it.

To end this simplistic overview, the final ingredient of a solid newspaper is its staff.



Brad Schmidt
 Of chief concern

News happens everyday. News is going on right now. But you can't be there to see and hear it all, so you want someone to tell you about it. If you can't trust the person who's telling you the story in the paper, odds are you're not going to read it.

So I suppose that's why I'm sitting here, sifting through desk drawers, trying to find the magic that will ensure an ideal paper.

And guess what?

I didn't find it.

I don't think I'm going to.

Not where I'm looking, anyway.

The three things I mentioned do indeed create a strong newspaper. But I can't find content in my desk drawers. I can't shoot photographs from inside the office. And I surely can't create an element of trust between the staff and the

public with an inspiring guest speaker.

For many of the staff, this week is going to be a crash course in journalism that doesn't make any sense and seems quite overwhelming. In a few weeks, some of the training exercises will become worthwhile. In a few months the job will become routine. By the end of the year, these journalists will come up with ideas of their own about what makes a good newspaper, and how it can be accomplished.

Journalism is a gradual learning process. We'll be here on a daily basis, until the paper is done. And in that time, we'll find the stories that interest you and we'll share them. We'll create a paper that you'll want to pick up. And, more than anything else, we'll work to get it right day in and day out.

Of course, you can aid in this process by keeping in contact. Drop me an e-mail at editor@dailyemerald.com with story suggestions, general ideas and complaints.

So thank you, in advance, for reading the Emerald this year. Simply, I want you to read the Emerald because you want to.

Maybe I'll write that one down. They may not be words of wisdom, but it is the truth.

Contact the editor in chief
 at editor@dailyemerald.com.
 His opinions do not necessarily
 represent those of the Emerald.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students should be aware of draft procedure

The New York Times' Thomas Friedman recently stated: "If you think we don't have enough troops in Iraq now — which we don't — wait and see if the factions there start going at each other. America would have to

bring back the draft to deploy enough troops to separate the parties. In short, we are at a dangerous moment in Iraq."

I think you would be doing the University student body a service to begin a series on the Selective Service and what it means to them. When, or if, the Secretary of the Army asks for an increase in the size of the mili-

tary, the draft will probably be close behind. Take special note of the rules around student status. It's very limited, unlike the student deferments under the old draft system during the Vietnam war.

John Lawrence
 retired University employee
 medic, Vietnam conflict, 1969 draftee

ONLINE POLL

Each week, the Emerald publishes the previous week's poll results and the coming week's poll question. Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

Last Question: What's the best college movie of all time?

Results: 227 votes

"National Lampoon's Animal House" — 61.7 percent or 140 votes

"Old School" — 7.0 percent or 16 votes

"Revenge of the Nerds" — 6.6 percent or 15 votes

"Girls Gone Wild: Endless Spring Break" — 5.7 percent or 13 votes

"PCU" — 4.8 percent or 11 votes

Leave me alone! — 4.8 percent or 11 votes

"National Lampoon's Van Wilder" — 3.1 percent or 7 votes

"Real Genius" — 3.1 percent or 7 votes

"Dead Man on Campus" — 2.7 percent or 6 votes

"Back to School" — 0.5 percent or 1 vote

This week: What's the worst part about coming back to school?

Choices: Buying books; Paying higher tuition; Early morning classes; Tests and quizzes and finals — oh my!; Walking in the rain; Taking classes from scatterbrained professors.