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OREGON DAILY EMERALD LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged, and should be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com or submitted at the Emerald office in EMU Suite 300. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month.

Submissions should include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style. Guest submissions are published at the discretion of the Emerald.

Editorial

Summer news highlights include officer conviction, campaign stop

Welcome to (or back to) campus, reader. While the academic school year may stop in June, the news does not. To catch our readers up to speed, we're dedicating the editorial space to a discussion of the summer's most important news stories from campus and the community.

- Summer opened with sad news: Longtime University architect Garry Fritz died of cardiac arrest June 9, and University pre-journalism major Michael Joyce died when he was hit by a vehicle on East 13th Avenue on June 12.

- Former Eugene police officer Roger Magaña was convicted of 41 counts of various crimes, including rape, July 1, and was sentenced to 94 years in prison July 13.

- In mid-July, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education proposed a \$710 million budget for the 2005-07 biennium that increases tuition for students by 5 percent, a hike that the board said it hopes will keep education "accessible and affordable."

- A divided Student Senate Summer Committee debated in its July 15 meeting whether it could assume the full senate's authority to pass resolutions, like the motion it passed June 24 supporting the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation in its stalled labor negotiations with the University. In addition, the Senate was unable to supply the administration with documented minutes, because of technical difficulties.

- Courtesy of a Department of Defense appropriations bill passed July 22, the University snagged \$8 million for research. The allocation included a \$3 million grant for the Brain, Biology, and Machine Initiative and \$5

million for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute.

- Some 5,657 young athletes converged on Hayward Field July 27-Aug. 1 to compete in the 2004 USA Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships, packing area hotels.

- A day after holding "Empty Campus Day" Aug. 4 — in which many GTFs held classes off-campus in what they called a show of solidarity before entering arbitration with the University — the GTFF reached a contract settlement with the University that union President Eric Lindgren said was "twice what we asked for."

- Both Presidential candidates, President Bush and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., campaigned in Portland Aug. 13, touting their qualifications.

- In mid-August a conservative Eugene group launched a campaign asking outgoing Mayor Jim Torrey to consider a write-in campaign against primary winner Kitty Piercy this fall. Torrey announced Sept. 9 that he would not run for a third term.

- Also on Sept. 9, the Eugene-based anti-war group Justice Not War held a candlelight vigil to honor the 1,000 U.S. soldiers who have died since major combat began in March 2003.

- Finally, parcels of campus were Cyclone-fenced off for much of summer as construction workers built several new and in-progress sites around the University, including the Heart of Campus, the Living Learning Center and the Many Nations Longhouse. See page 1C for more details.

Guest Commentary

ASUO President Adam Petkun talks about his goals for 04-05

Given that you have a few more exciting things to do right now, I thank you for reading this. You have likely been told that college will be the best four, five or six years of life: a time of exploration and growth... and, well, a lot of fun. In many ways the archetypal college campus, I have found that all of these things can be true at the University of Oregon.

This week before classes begin can be especially entertaining, as you begin to enjoy student life without having to attend class. As such, it is vitally important that you become aware of the services available for your personal safety as you navigate your first weekend. One noteworthy service is the family of shuttles, funded by your student incidental fees, that can be reached at 346-RIDE when you need a safe way to return to your home. When cognizant of such services, one can begin to construct a safe space in which to enjoy new surroundings.

It is important to note that despite the opportunities here, there is certainly improvement to be made. You enter this institution in the midst of unbearable tuition increases linked inexorably to eroding state funding. You come to a town without housing standards — leaving student renters with inadequate protection from shoddy housing off campus. You are living in a community where many people still fight to feel as welcome here as I hope you do.

You are also part of the solution.

The Associated Students of the

University of Oregon — the ASUO — is not the student government you became acquainted with during high school. We do not spend our time planning prom here. The ASUO is responsible for allocating \$9.8 million of your student incidental fees (you are paying \$180.75 this term) to the EMU, the Athletic Department Finance Committee and over 120 student groups, such as the Designated Driver Shuttle and the Multicultural Center. The ASUO Executive office represents and organizes students so we can exact change on this campus and in the community.

The ASUO, like everything else you will encounter here, can be as effective as you are willing to make it. This term, among other things, we will endeavor to mend the problems listed above. Only with the energy of you and your fellow students will we succeed. As students, we are on a tight budget, with little room for expenses beyond caffeine. We cannot throw \$2,000 checks at our problems. However, we do have power in our numbers.

The election this November is important not only because we will choose our president, but because it also yields an opportunity we must not let pass. This November we will have the opportunity to employ our power by voting. Only if we vote will we be able to challenge the Oregon State Legislature to invest in making higher education affordable. This same effect extends to city

government, where we will fight for housing standards this fall.

It is imperative that all students (excluding those from Alaska) register to vote at their current address by October 12, and equally important that they educate themselves and vote. The ASUO has joined the Student Vote Coalition and set a goal of registering 7,500 students to vote on this campus and 30,000 statewide. Many students have already volunteered to join what has become the most extensive non-partisan voter registration drive conducted on this campus.

In order for us to exceed our goal, we need more students to come by our office and volunteer their time to better this university — and wear a lovely, green T-shirt. The best way to become involved is to swing by our office in the breezeway of the EMU and sign up to intern for course credit. In addition to supporting the voter registration campaign, opportunities exist to aid our office in work on other campus and community issues such as housing standards and multi-cultural advocacy. Furthermore, there are over 100 open student seats on committees governing any imaginable aspect of campus life.

Good luck with the start of this new period of your life, and I hope to see you join in improving this campus.

Adam Petkun, a senior majoring in economics and political science, is president of the ASUO.

In my opinion



JARED PABEN
HELP WANTED

Emerald history is long and distinguished

As I listen to sappy, overly sentimental John Mellencamp songs at 11:45 p.m. on a Friday night almost a week before my time as Emerald editor in chief ends, I've come to a few sappy, overly sentimental conclusions about what the summer of 2004 meant to me:

It meant moments of divisiveness when deadline was missed, but it also meant pride in working with devoted, talented staff.

It meant frustration when mistakes were made and angry phone calls poured in, but it also meant a sense of accomplishment watching two guys sit at Maple Garden and discuss every front-page story.

Lastly, it meant something I didn't really understand until I sat down and started doing research for an article on the Emerald's history: The Emerald staff, the people it covers and the stories it records will someday end up in a green-covered, hardbound book on a shelf in the Emerald library. This didn't truly hit home until I realized I will someday represent a humble slice of time in the newspaper's 105-year history, sharing work with editors who did my job throughout a long, tumultuous 20th century.

Now, I could outright declare that the Emerald has a long and proud history of reporting on the University campus, but that doesn't say anything more than this 32-word sentence can.

So, I'm going to share a little bit of that history — milestones in this paper's history and the news of the day:

- The Emerald's first issue published on Feb. 12, 1900. The paper, which at the time was named The Oregon Weekly, was published by the Eutaxian, Laorean and Philogian Societies of the University of Oregon.

- On October 1, 1900, the paper became a publication of the ASUO, and remained so until 1952.

- In the fall of 1909, the paper's name was changed to the Oregon Emerald, and it began publishing twice weekly.

- The paper began publishing five days a week (Tuesday-Saturday) and changed its name to the Oregon Daily Emerald in fall 1920. A headline on the front page of the second issue, published Thursday, Sept. 30, reads, "REGISTRATION FOR TWO DAYS IS 1300: Enrollment Higher Than For Same Time Last Year — 2,000 Mark Expected."

- In 1941, Helen Angell was named the first female Emerald editor. A December 11, 1941, issue of the Emerald carried a front page story headlined, "Japanese Cash Ordered Held." The story starts: "On orders from Washington the funds of all University students of Japanese descent have been 'frozen' in local banks, according to Clifford L. Constance, assistant registrar."

"Twenty-three second and third generation Japanese students have been affected by this sweeping war-time order ..."

- In 1942-43, the Emerald was staffed almost entirely by women because of World War II. The size of the paper was cut from eight pages to four, an army page was added and a special section was sent to soldiers overseas.

- Monday issues were printed for the first time in 1949-50, but because of budget problems staff members were forced to accept pay cuts to keep