

NEWS STAFF
(541) 346-5511

JEN SUDICK
EDITOR IN CHIEF
STEVEN R. NEUMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

JARED PABEN
AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITORS
PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER
MORIAH BALINGIT
MEGHANN CUNIFF
KARA HANSEN
ANTHONY LUCERO
CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTERS
CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR
JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER
STEPHEN MILLER
BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTERS
RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

NATASHA CHILINGERIAN
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER
DAHVI FISCHER
AMY LICHTY
RYAN MURPHY
PULSE REPORTERS
DAVID JAGERNAUTH
EDITORIAL EDITOR
JENNIFER MCBRIDE
AILEE SLATER
CHUCK SLOTHOWER
TRAVIS WILLSE
COLUMNISTS

ASHLEY GRIFFIN
SUPPLEMENT
FREELANCE EDITOR
GABE BRADLEY
NEWS FREELANCE EDITOR/
DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT

DANIELLE HICKEY
PHOTO EDITOR
LAUREN WIMMER
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

TIM BOBOSKY
PHOTOGRAPHER
NICOLE BARKER
ERIK BISHOFF
PART-TIME PHOTOGRAPHER

BRET FURTWANGLER
GRAPHICS EDITOR
KIRA PARK
DESIGN EDITOR

ELLIOTT ASBURY
CHARLIE CALDWELL
DUSTIN REESE
DESIGNERS

SHADRA BEESLEY
JEANNIE EVERS
COPY CHIEFS
KIMBERLY BLACKFIELD
PAUL THOMPSON
SPORTS COPY EDITORS

AMANDA EVRARD
AMBER LINDROS
NEWS COPY EDITORS
LINDSAY BURT
PULSE COPY EDITOR

ADRIENNE NELSON
ONLINE EDITOR
SLADE LEESON
WEBMASTER

BUSINESS
(541) 346-5511

JUDY RIEDL
GENERAL MANAGER
KATHY CARBONE
BUSINESS MANAGER

REBECCA CRITCHETT
RECEPTIONIST
NATHAN FOSTER
AIBING GUO
ANDREW LEAHY
JOHN LONG
MALLORY MACHONEY
HOLLY MISTELL
DISTRIBUTION

ADVERTISING
(541) 346-3712

MELISSA GUST
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
TYLER MACK
SALES MANAGER
ALEX AMES
MATT BETZ

HERON CALUSCH-DOLEN
MEGAN HAMLIN
ELISA JESSOP
MAEGAN KASER-LEE
MIA LEIDELMEYER
EMILY PHILBIN
SHANNON ROGERS
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
KELLEE KAUFFHEIL
AD ASSISTANT

CLASSIFIED
(541) 346-4343

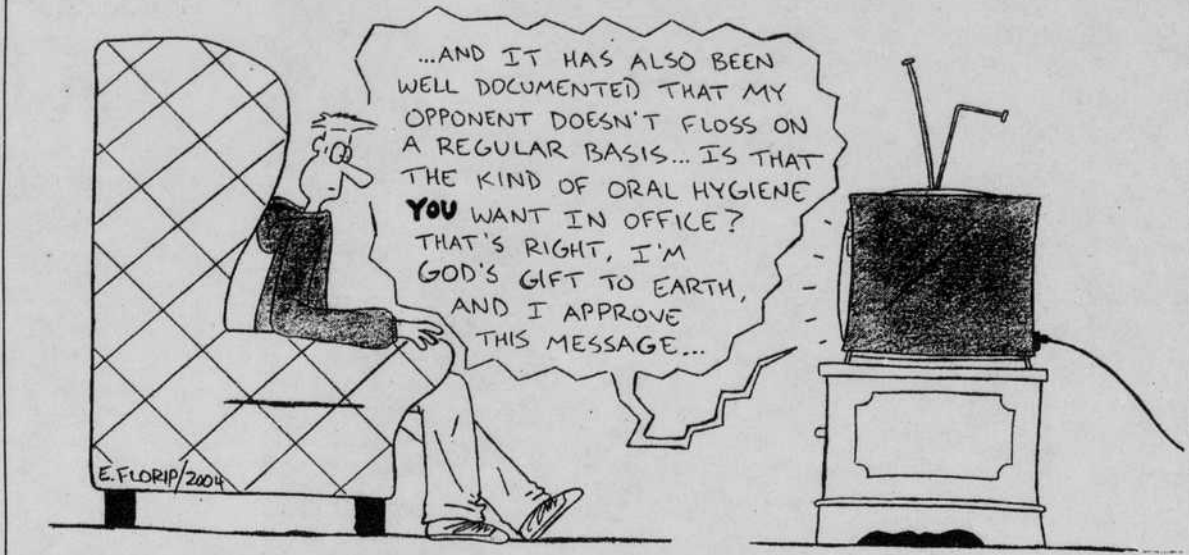
TRINA SHANAMAN
CLASSIFIED MANAGER
KATY GAGNON
SABRINA GOWETTE
LESLIE STRAIGHT
KERI SPANGLER
KATIE STRINGER
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
ASSOCIATES

PRODUCTION
(541) 346-4381

MICHELE ROSS
PRODUCTION MANAGER
TARA SLOAN
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
JEN CRAMLET
KRISTEN DICHARRY
CAMERON GAUT
ANDY HOLLAND
DESIGNERS

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. Unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

THE 2004 CAMPAIGN HITS A NEW LOW...



ERIC FLORIP | FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR

In my opinion

Kerry barely the lesser of two evils

For liberals who so desperately want to see George W. Bush lose the White House it's easy to gloss over John Kerry's faults. Starving men don't critique the menu. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party has closed ranks around Kerry, defending him against every attack and refusing to admit the candidate may have a few chinks in his armor. This leaves voters few places to get an honest assessment of Kerry — it certainly won't come from the Republican Party.

Almost no one backed Kerry from the beginning of the Democratic nomination process. Howard Dean had many young liberals wrapped around his finger, and organized labor threw its weight behind longtime union champion Dick Gephardt. After Gephardt and Dean destroyed each other in the Iowa caucus with a nasty ad war, Kerry snuck to the top and stayed. This left Democratic activists with a candidate they could tolerate, but not love.

The Bush campaign has relentlessly hammered Kerry as a flip-flopper, a charge that has considerably damaged the senator's campaign. Here's the rub: It's true. Kerry has never met a politically advantageous position he didn't like. As Bush has repeated ad nauseam, Kerry did indeed vote for the \$87 billion package for Iraq before he voted against it. He voted for the USA Patriot Act, then criticized it repeatedly. The same goes for the No Child Left Behind Act, Bush's clever attempt to subvert public trust in the whole concept of public education.

Kerry was once a principled opponent of the death penalty, even for terrorists. Now he supports executing terrorists. Democrats have always had a difficult dance with the death penalty, a policy many of them



CHUCK SLOTHOWER
TAKING ISSUE

oppose but can't fight too hard against because most Americans support it. But instead of providing leadership on the issue, Kerry has taken a politically palatable but morally nonsensical position. Why does Osama bin Laden deserve the death penalty but not a serial killer?

Kerry also undermined his claim that he's "fighting for us" when he promised during last week's debate to lower corporate tax rates. Corporations already pay a ludicrously small portion of the national tax burden; the last thing America needs is lower corporate taxes, especially with a projected deficit in the trillions of dollars and Kerry's expansive new spending proposals. This is one issue on which Ralph Nader has a point: Corporate America has far too much power, and neither party wants to address it.

Kerry has also been less than forthright with the American people about the future of Iraq. He asserts that he can persuade foreign nations to contribute more troops and money to Iraq, but nations such as France and Germany have been burned so badly that they aren't eager to do America any favors, regardless of who wins the White House. Kerry also says he will accelerate the training of Iraqis to police their own country, but American soldiers in Iraq have already tried that tactic with mixed results. Whoever becomes president will find it difficult

to turn the situation in Iraq around. I fear the war in Iraq will be an issue in the 2012 election.

The Kerry campaign has also done a poor job of highlighting Kerry's accomplishments in the Senate. From listening to his campaign, you wouldn't know Kerry led the Senate investigation into Ronald Reagan's Iran-Contra machinations. Kerry has also been a longtime defender of the environment, but the Kerry campaign has only briefly touched on his record or that of George W. Bush, who has in some cases allowed polluting industries to actually write environmental regulations.

In last week's debate, Kerry threw a few bones to the left, promising a gradual increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7 an hour and universal health care. But liberals who think Kerry is the second coming of Franklin D. Roosevelt will be in for a rude awakening should he win the White House. Kerry would almost certainly have to tangle with a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, a chamber that repeatedly frustrated Bill Clinton's best efforts. Furthermore, despite his pledge to the contrary, Kerry would eventually have to raise taxes across the board. Bush has run up the deficit so high that the next president will have no choice but to increase taxes. Just as Reagan's historic tax cut in his first term was followed by a historic tax hike in his second term, so will Bush's unaffordable tax cuts see a significant reversal.

A Kerry presidency would represent the best chance for liberals to influence the White House since Lyndon Johnson's term in office. Should he win, let's hope he doesn't waste it.

chuckslothower@dailyemerald.com

Editorial

Student Senate: four strikes... who's out?

There is absolutely no doubt that the ASUO Student Senate has violated Oregon Public Meetings Law four times by failing to provide the Emerald and the public with advanced notice of its intent to hold an executive session.

Colin Andries' contention (ODE: "Violations by ASUO senators debatable," Oct. 18), that notice of an executive session is not required when it is part of a general meeting, is simply absurd.

The Oregon Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual, which provides general legal advice based on the attorney general's interpretation of the Public Meetings Law, states: "Notices for meetings that will include both an executive session and a non-executive session should give notice of both and state the statutory authority for the executive session."

We have yet to find someone willing to offer a different interpretation of the law, except for Andries, who ironically is a law student. When asked if he had received outside legal advice, Andries refused to comment.

We know what you are thinking: Why does the Emerald keep harping on this? Why should the average Joe and Jane care?

The answer is simple. It's your money that the senate is spending — you should care what they do with it. It is the Emerald's responsibility as a campus newspaper to be at every meeting on your behalf in order to inform you about how the senate spends your money. But for us to do our job properly, Public Meetings Law must be followed. Advance notice of executive sessions allows our reporters to ensure that public matters are not discussed in private.

The media is allowed to observe an executive session but not report on it, unless there is a violation of the law. It is in the senators' best interest to follow both the spirit and the letter of the law, because the Emerald vows to report on the content of every executive session that is not properly called. We have stopped short of filing a formal complaint at this time, but any student on campus has the right to do so on their own.

Our goal is to see the senate achieve full compliance with the law, which doesn't seem like too much to ask. Unfortunately, the senate has continued to rationalize its behavior with an interpretation of the law that is dubious at best and goes against the interpretation of every lawyer, professor and journalist we have talked to, as well as the interpretation of the attorney general himself.

The members of the ASUO Student Senate are either ignorant of the law or are so arrogant as to think they are above the law. Either way, it is appalling.

What the Emerald originally saw as a mistake has now turned into a flagrant disregard for state law by the officials elected to represent the University.

We again demand that the student senate cease this illegal behavior, issue a formal apology and institute an orientation session so student senators can be briefed on public meetings law.

The student senate's best possible move at this point would be to air this whole mess out, take responsibility and get back to the business of addressing student issues instead of going through the whole "damage control" routine of denying, rationalizing and making excuses.

Seriously, there ought to be a law...

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jennifer Sudick
Editor in Chief
Steven R. Neuman
Managing Editor
David Jagernauth
Editorial Editor
Gabe Bradley
Freelance Editor

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 Oregon Daily Emerald office, 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.