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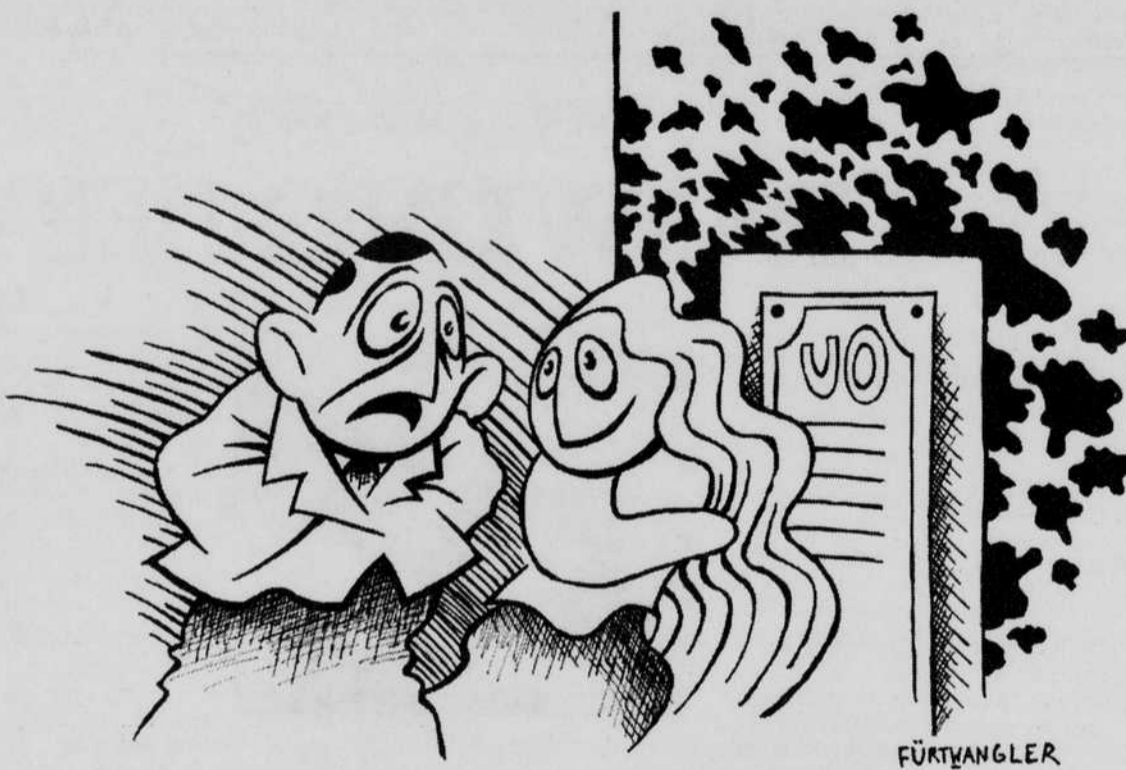
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“‘DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LIST?’ LADY, THAT’S JUST THE STUDENTS THAT WAS ABLE TO FIND JOBS AFTER GRADUATING.”

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

In my opinion

Columnists weigh in on Measure 33

Travis Willse — NO

Marijuana should be legalized. Alcohol is certainly a more damaging drug socially: It's a factor in about 40 percent of violent crimes. There's much less reason, by contrast, to impose prior restraint on marijuana users, but marijuana prohibition costs the nation \$7 billion annually, and more than 130,000 people are in prison for felony marijuana offenses. Marijuana legalization is good news for taxpayers, law enforcement officials, civil libertarians and, ostensibly, medical patients. That said, Measure 33 is simply the wrong way to reform Oregon's drug policy: It requires residents to register with the state to receive special benefits (the government approves prescription drugs but generally does not interfere in the prescription process). Worse, those rights would be applied unequally. Moreover, the ballot measure forces the government between the health care professional and the patient. This proposition is unwarranted and costly, as the act would incur annual costs of up to \$560,000. Vote no on ballot Measure 33.

Ailee Slater — YES

In the coming weeks, there is one overwhelming question being asked of almost every Oregon citizen. Left or right? No, it's not a political query. We're trying to decide which

way the bowl goes. With the issue of medical cannabis, and cannabis policy in general, the main problem seems to be that fear exists not of the drug itself but of the drug's image. For many, marijuana may conjure images of college kids gathering in dingy laundry rooms for one more bong rip, rather than AIDS patients desperately seeking the one medicine that can calm their stomachs, allow them to eat and possibly save their lives. So, come this election, remember that voting yes on Measure 33 simply lets already qualified patients receive more of the medicine that they need. Don't vote with stereotypes, vote with your right hand. Because everyone knows that you pass with your left.

Chuck Slothower — NO

Only in the state that hosts the Oregon Country Fair would the people propose a ballot measure that would allow convicted drug dealers to become a "dispensary" and distribute marijuana legally. Marijuana doesn't pose a great enough danger to public health to override the individual's right to live the way he or she chooses, so I support legalization. But Measure 33 isn't the way to do it. It should give voters pause that the chief petitioner of the 1998 measure that started Oregon's medical marijuana program opposes Measure 33, believing it would interfere with the current patient-based

program. Measure 33 would also allow individual users to possess up to a pound of marijuana. A friggin' pound! To those of you who haven't lived in Eugene long enough, a pound is an enormous amount of pot. Allowing users to possess that much, I believe, would lead to a lot of illicit dealing.

Jennifer McBride — YES

The Oregon voters have decided that marijuana is a legitimate medical treatment. However, some sufferers are unable to have access to any cure because of their condition. There is no reason mobile people should have access to one drug and immobile people another; that is discrimination on the basis of illness and it is wrong. By current law, the people who need it most are excluded from treatment when they should be helped. The arguments against the measure — that this is a step towards legalization — are fallacious at best. Medical marijuana is already legal, creating distribution won't increase chances of legalization, it will only increase access. There's still a long way to go between that and decriminalization. Finally, I think we have a moral imperative to relieve suffering whenever possible. The government should not stand idly by when it could help its own people.

Editorial

Incidental fees wrongly fund ASUO's \$3,200 retreat

Let us just lay the facts-out, for the good of the student body.

The ASUO spent about \$3,200 of incidental-fee funds on housing for an Oct. 8 fall finance retreat in Sunriver. Participants received multiple warnings from the ASUO Executive that the event was to be substance free.

On Thursday, a panel of ASUO officials told the Emerald that numerous ASUO members violated Oregon Administrative Rules and the Student Conduct Code when they drank alcohol and smoked marijuana during the retreat, prompting student government leaders to write letters of apology and discuss potential disciplinary actions.

The names of ASUO representatives, including the ASUO Executive, Student Senate, Programs Finance Committee, EMU Board of Directors, Athletic Department Finance Committee and ASUO Controllers Office members, who consumed alcohol and smoked marijuana are currently undisclosed because of ASUO's locked-arm politics.

The individuals who broke the law must take individual responsibility for their actions. Group responsibility is not appropriate for public officials, both elected by the student body and appointed by student-elected officials, who break the law and violate University Student Conduct Code.

The ASUO's apology to the student body, published Friday in the Emerald, is a step in the right direction, but it is ludicrous to imply that the identities of those involved should remain anonymous. What happens when one of the retreat participants decides to run for an ASUO Executive position? How will we know he or she didn't violate state law during this trip?

Every time elections roll around in the spring, the ASUO complains about the low voting rate — the much-voiced "voter apathy" of the campus community. Seriously, does the ASUO expect students to care when it blows incidental fees on joyrides to the Oregon countryside? Last time we checked, there is plenty of space on campus for ASUO members to use. If ASUO members — i.e., public officials — want to break the law, they should pay their own way. It's time for students and the University to stop paying for the ASUO's gross incompetence.

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ONLINE POLL NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you support Oregon Measure 33, which would allow access to medical marijuana through government-run dispensaries? Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

- **Yes** — Medical marijuana patients need safer and more convenient access to this medicine.
- **Yes** — But why not take it one step further and legalize marijuana for everyone?
- **No** — The current access patients have, through licensed civilian caregivers and personal supplies, is working fine.
- **No** — Marijuana is a dangerous drug and should be illegal for both medical and recreational use.
- **Undecided**

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.