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■ Guest commentary

EPD breaks up charity benefit

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the actions of the Eugene Police Department on Halloween weekend.

The Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, located on the corner of 18th and Onyx, hosted a safe and dry Halloween party, called the Blood Dance, that raised money for the Eugene Chapter of the American Red Cross on Oct. 30.

Despite notifying neighbors and the EPD prior to the event, officers shut down the dance due to a supposed noise complaint. Fraternity members sent letters to six different officers and alerted neighbors in the vicinity. Not one neighbor had an objection or complaint about the party. Consequently, 700 people were sent home, including almost 200 who had yet to get in. In addition, the fraternity was cited with a hefty fine for the noise violation.

Since 2000, the men of Delta Sigma Phi have allowed thousands of students to enjoy a safe, non-alcoholic environment during Halloween, while contributing to the community. It has

members Delta Sigma Phi's policy, for brothers and visitors alike, to never allow alcohol to enter the house under any circumstances. As is apparent by the numbers, many students prefer the Blood Dance over the typical unsafe party scene involving alcohol. Just last year, over 700 people attended the Blood Dance, which sent \$1,300 to a worthy organization.

In preparation of this year's event, members channeled much energy and effort into planning the dance and transforming the building into a haunted house. The men built an intricate tunnel system with three slides which fed onto two dance floors, and put countless hours into decorating the interior as well as the exterior. The fraternity also hired a five-man security group in order to check for alcohol and to ensure a safe and enjoyable time for everyone.

However, on Saturday night many were turned away from this chance to enjoy such an event, and many people's hard work and extensive planning

were disregarded because of the EPD's misguided efforts. Approximately \$1,000 was lost because over 200 people, who had been waiting in line, were not allowed to enter. It is difficult for me and many others to find the reasoning and legitimacy of ending such a worthy cause. By breaking up dry functions, the police leave little alternative to the alcoholic scene on Halloween. It appears to me that the EPD desperately needs to reorganize its priorities.

Ironically, a few weeks before the dance was to occur, the fraternity had two large rocks thrown through two separate windows. Not one officer responded to the residence as numerous efforts to file a report with the EPD were simply ignored. Why was the EPD so willing to break up a dry Halloween philanthropy, but unwilling to respond when people have their safety threatened and property damaged? The actions of the EPD just don't add up.

Luke Andrews lives at the Delta Sigma Phi house.

■ Guest commentary

Club crew takes fifth in Boston regatta

The Club Sports program competes locally and nationally on tight budgets with minimal support from the school, all for the chance to wear gold or hold a trophy while standing in green and yellow. But the Emerald does not write so much about these sports, so I will.

One example, from close to home: The Crew team is good. We are proud of our accomplishments and our commitment to our sport. Our fall season has been extraordinary, especially for a program of our size. The Head of the Charles Regatta calls itself "The biggest two-day race in the world," and rowers strive to compete at this race, held annually on the Charles River dividing Boston and Cambridge, Mass. The boathouses that line the river symbolize the

history and prestige of the sport. The attendance for the regatta adds 200,000 people to the Boston population for one weekend a year, where spectators total half a million. This year, we were there.

The women's varsity four boat (four rowers and a coxswain, the navigator and "coach in the boat") received a lottery entry in the Club Fours event. We had no reputation, no previous standing, and no expectations. In a race based on times, we came in fifth. Over a 15 minute course, we were 15 seconds off of first place, and a mere 0.07 seconds from the boat in fourth. We were proud. We still are.

I was interviewed about our Boston success, but I assume it was deemed "old news" as it was never published. I can only assume our upcoming race

is not worthy of the Emerald's time or space, either. In a school of over 20,000 students, there are 40 Club Sports who receive minimal coverage in a campus paper that reports on school activities. A staff of four reporters covers 15 D-I sports while one, maybe two, freelance reporters pick up a Club Sports story every now and then. Across the program, we train, practice, win, lose, celebrate, rethink and enjoy ourselves on a daily basis because we want to compete for the University of Oregon in the most accessible way we can. If only the Emerald, the most accessible way for students to find out information about their school, recognized this.

Laura Breedlove
UO Club Sports Crew Head
Coordinator and Coxswain

INBOX

FAFSA should offer voter registration option

Many college students go through the annual ritual of filling out their FAFSA forms. For those of you piling up debt like me, you know that filing for financial aid also registers you for the Selective Service, or the draft. It's hard to ignore that our country is at war. Many students may be more fully realizing the power of checking that little box on their financial aid forms.

Now I don't care if you are for or against this war, but I do care about young people having a say in government. The federal government should make it easier for us to have that say because we need all the help we can get. Youth voter turnout in this last election was pathetic.

Just as students register for the draft through their FAFSA forms, so too could students simply check a box that could authorize the government

to send them a voter registration card in the mail. Wouldn't it be a great vote of confidence if the federal government added a way for young people to register to vote this way? I think a FAFSA voter registration opportunity would greatly improve college student voter turnout.

Tim Young
Graduate Student

Measure 36 supporters cite inaccurate information

The director of the Defense of Marriage Coalition, a Measure 36 supporter, was quoted as saying: "The issue for us is that kids do best ... in a household with both their mother and their father." (ODE: "Amending Marriage a Constitutional Controversy," Oct. 28.) In the past few months, this coalition has used this argument to support its position against same-sex marriage. It's too bad it has no evidence to back its claims.

It merely points out that studies have

shown that children do best in houses with both their birth parents. If you look at the sources cited, you would see that the studies it acquired this data from have absolutely nothing to do with gays or lesbians. The studies compare households with one parent to households with two. The experimenters are even outraged about the inaccurate use of their results.

Child psychologist Dr. Kyle Pruett, who was listed as a supporter of Measure 36, is actually a supporter of gay marriage and child rearing. He believes, professionally, that children do best with two parents even if they are of the same gender. There is no credible data to prove otherwise. In fact, the American Psychological Association supports gay marriage and parenthood. It seems to me that the Defense of Marriage Coalition doesn't care much for the truth, or for children.

Brad Cabe
Undergraduate

■ Editorial

Bush staff suffers huge loss: Powell's resignation

On Monday, one of the good guys made a disappointing, but not surprising, announcement: Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was hanging up his Bush administration spurs.

Powell's resignation is a loss to the Bush administration, and whether the scheming politicians and the smirking minions of Karl Rove residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. realize it, it is a loss for American foreign policy as well.

Powell's less-publicized successes include his diplomatic efforts with India and Pakistan. He has provided an even keel in a recently stormy era of international politics. Within the first months of Bush taking office, it was Powell's cool head that diffused a well-publicized U.S. scuffle with China. During a two-day visit to Moscow in January, he sharply criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin for his vaguely undemocratic actions, and then held talks with him to press for solutions.

The man commands respect at home and abroad. It is admirable, considering the way the government has treated the notion of diplomacy. (Strike any mention of the word "French" from America! I'll have my eggs with a side of "Freedom Toast," says Congress.)

For the past four years, Powell has been buffeted as the fall guy for the Bush administration's numerous blunders — and without grimace or letting it slip that he was unhappy — Powell has acted as a moderate and intelligent team player who thinks with his head in an administration that thinks with its military budget.

When the administration would slip-up, like when the Abu Ghraib scandal broke in May, it was Powell who was thrown to the masses on NBC News' "Meet the Press" instead of Donald Rumsfeld. When confronted with the difficult task of presenting evidence to the U.N. in February 2003, it was Powell who spoke to the general assembly with charts and satellite photos. Bush took it upon himself to make emotional speeches.

For four years, Powell's sage advice was marginalized. Much of it may have had to do with Powell's ties to the Clinton administration, but Powell is and was respected in both conservative and liberal circles, and we cannot imagine any better person for his nuanced job at this time.

Powell was a moderate voice inside an administration known for its homogenous echo-chamber-like group-think. Sadly, we can't help but think that if Bush had listened to Powell's rationalization, Iraq might have been a success instead of the bloody mess it has become.

Good-bye, Colin. We'll miss you and that little thing called rationalism you brought to the Bush administration.

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Editor's Note: This week Chuck Slothower's column will appear on Friday with a column from Oregon State University's daily newspaper for the annual pre-Civil War game showdown, an off-the-field battle of words. Slothower's column will return to Tuesdays next week.

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