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Web logs transform expression methods

Blogger is one of many services available to make blogging easy and accessible for Internet users

BY ANTHONY LUCERO
NEWS REPORTER

Through the Internet and blogging software, the voices of the masses are now being heard loud and clear. Blogs (short for Web logs), have changed the way people communicate with friends and family, express their views of the world and even the way media report the news.

Blogs have made a huge splash since services like pioneer Blogger (blogger.com), LiveJournal (livejournal.com) and Movable Type (movabletype.org) began automating the process for bloggers, allowing neophytes and experts alike to create and easily update a personalized page with interactive features like comments, "trackbacks," to see who has visited entries, and options to e-mail entries to others on any computer with Internet access.

Paul Bausch, a former Blogger senior developer, worked at the company until January 2001. He said blogs came at the right time as people were getting on the Internet and reading blogs.

"The ability to type into a box, push publish and have it up on the net instantly is powerful," Bausch said.

Bausch's Web site, onfocus.com, was one of the original blogs on the Internet along with those of other members of the Blogger team.

"We were living our philosophy of putting our lives on the Internet," Bausch said.

Bausch, who now independently develops Web sites and maintains ORBlogs.com, a Web site for Oregonian bloggers, said blogging is powerful because entries are able to reach a worldwide audience, but he wants to see more focus on smaller communities and local news.

But even Bausch said he didn't anticipate blogs would become a system for pundits and watchdogs to express views outside of mainstream media and even correct headline stories.

The best example of bloggers' impact is when the "blogosphere" cried foul at CBS News and Dan Rather by publishing documents that invalidated President Bush's National Guard service. Blogs proved, through the font type on the documents, that the document was a fraud created on a word processor despite CBS' insistence it was not. Finally, the blog Little Green Footballs (littlegreenfootballs.com) recreated the document in Word and showed how identical it looked to the CBS documents.

"The power of blogs to influence the news media and paint a more detailed picture of world happenings is all very empowering and, frankly, amazing when you consider that the whole blogging phenomenon is just a bunch of people posting on the Web," University student and blogger Trevor Sehrer said.

Sehrer, however, said his blog, Life as News, focuses on him and his circle of friends. Created to send press releases to friends in lieu of repeating a story several times over, Sehrer's site mimics the tone of the media as he reports on breaking developments in his life such as "Really Cool Leaf Examined, Put Back On Ground" and "Area

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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

The allure of alcohol

Exercising freedom, fitting in and daily pressures are among reasons why students start drinking

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

Among the many facets of student life, drinking alcohol is one aspect that has become

heavily embedded into college culture. Each weekend, hundreds of students stream into bars and parties or settle down in their living rooms to have a drink or two. Yet, for some students, it's never just a drink or two and it's not uncommon to hear students regale friends with tales of weekend mayhem, getting "wasted" or "black-ing-out."

Clearly not all college students drink. Results from a University Health Center survey conducted in May 2004 showed 87 percent of University students drank last year; 13 percent did not.

But with about 1,400 alcohol-related deaths each year among students aged 18-24, according to a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol study, and a tide of other outcomes such as injuries, property damage and

sexual assaults, the culture of drinking at colleges has garnered national attention as a critical problem. This fall, for instance, two teenage students died in Colorado from alcohol poison-

ing. Samantha Spady, a 19-year-old student from Colorado State Uni-

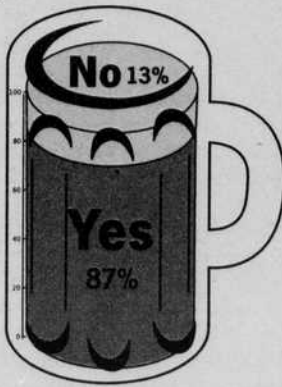
versity, drank the equivalent of 30 to 40 beers and shots before she died, according to the New York Times. Other students have also died in Arkansas, Virginia and Okla-

homa this year, according to the Times.

"Most of our college students on this campus and nationwide are not high-risk drinkers," said Sheryl Eyster, the assistant dean of students and associate director of the Office of Student Life who also heads the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Team. "For the most part, 80 percent of the drinkers on this campus are responsible drinkers."

Drinking still has the administration's attention though.

ALCOHOL, page 8A



In a survey conducted in spring 2004, 87 percent of students reported having an alcoholic drink within the 2003-04 school year.

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST



Examining ASUO

Student senators submit proposal for punishment

Group takes responsibility for conduct code violations; retreat committee may be formed

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS REPORTER

ASUO officials have proposed additional office hours for student leaders, the formation of a retreat committee to prevent future violations, possible community service on campus and restitution of the student fees used on the Sunriver retreat to punish attendees for violating the student conduct code by consuming marijuana and alcohol on the trip.

The proposal, which was sent to Student Judicial Affairs Director Chris Loschiavo Friday, is awaiting his approval before it can be voted on at a public meeting, ASUO Vice President Mena Ravassipour said. When the vote will take place is still unknown.

The proposal outlines what steps have been taken and what ASUO officials will do in the future to reprimand those who violated the student conduct code — and subsequently Oregon Administrative Rules — by smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol on the

Oct. 8-10 retreat.

Because the ASUO is taking responsibility as a group for the conduct code violations, it is up to the group to decide what actions warrant what punishments, Ravassipour said.

Strauss and Ravassipour are unsure how the decision to draft a group punishment was reached, but Strauss said there seemed to be a consensus that because they are all student leaders, "it was just the responsible thing to do."

ASUO officials previously suggested the possibility of cleaning MacArthur Court after basketball games to help fundraise the approximately \$3,200 in student fees that were spent on housing and transportation for the retreat, but the sign-up deadline for cleaning has passed, Ravassipour said. Both Ravassipour and ASUO Public Relations Director Nathan Strauss said they are unaware of any other fundraising possibilities.

Attendees are still looking to

ASUO, page 12A



Programs Finance Committee

Nearly \$5 million in incidental funds available for groups

ASUO responds to a request to revise current model and pay more attention to campus group spending

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS REPORTER

Budget hearings for incidental-fee funded groups began Thursday, but a needed revision to the current stipend model for these groups created a glitch in the ASUO Programs Finance Committee hearings.

To allow the ASUO time to draft a new model, any group that uses the current stipend model will have to wait until January to have its 2005-06 budgets approved. ASUO had to implement the changes after University President Dave Frohnmayer sent the ASUO a letter requesting a revision of the current model, citing a need for greater attention to be paid to the amount of money spent on stipends, ASUO Controller Rosie Sweetman said.

PFC budget hearings will take place several times a week until the end of February, allocating nearly \$5

million in incidental funds to campus groups. Anywhere from five to 15 group budgets are approved at every meeting, depending on the amount of time each approval takes.

ASUO Controller Christina Diss said PFC members and ASUO controllers meet with group representatives prior to their budget hearing to help the group draft a properly formatted budget and answer questions.

A representative from each group presents the proposed budget to the PFC, which then hears the ASUO executive's budget recommendation for the group. Decision are made based on the two proposals.

The PFC must approve both a group's mission statement and its budget.

Mission statements are generally unanimously approved but budgets are often subject to

PFC, page 7A