

NEWS STAFF (541) 346-5511

JEN SUDICK
EDITOR IN CHIEF
STEVEN R. NELJMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

JARED PABEN
AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITORS

MEGHANN CLUNIFF
PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTERS
MORIAH BALINGIT
AMANDA BOLSINGER
ADAM CHERRY
KARA HANSEN
ANTHONY LUCERO
SHELDON TRAYER
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

AMY LICHTY
RYAN MURPHEY
PULSE REPORTERS
CAT BALDWIN
PULSE CARTOONIST

DAVID JAGERNAUTH
EDITORIAL EDITOR

GABE BRADLEY
JENNIFER MCBRIDE
AILEE SLATER
TRAVIS WILLSE
COLUMNISTS

ASHLEY GRIFFIN
SUPPLEMENT
FREELANCE EDITOR
DANIELLE HICKEY
PHOTO EDITOR

LAUREN WIMER
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
TIM BOBOSKY
PHOTOGRAPHER

NICOLE BARKER
ERIK BISHOFF
PART-TIME PHOTOGRAPHERS
BRET FURTWANGLER
GRAPHIC ARTIST

KIRA PARK
DESIGN EDITOR
DUSTIN REESE
SENIOR DESIGNER

WENDY KIEFFER
AMANDA LEE
BRIANNE SHOLIAN
DESIGNERS

SHADRA BEESLEY
JEANNIE EVERS
COPY CHIEFS

KIMBERLY BLACKFIELD
PAUL THOMPSON
SPORTS COPY EDITORS
AMANDA EVARD
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
HOLLY MISTELL
HOLLY STEIN
DISTRIBUTION

ADVERTISING (541) 346-3712

MELISSA GUST
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
TYLER MACK
SALES MANAGER

MATT BETZ
HERON CALISCH-DOLEN
MEGAN HAMLIN
KATE HIRONAKA
MARGAN KASER-LEE
MIA LEIDELMEYER
EMILY PHILBIN
SHANNON ROGERS
SALES REPRESENTATIVES

KELLEE KALIFTHEIL
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 GAULT
JONAH SCHROGIN
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.

■ In my opinion

Innate gender differences legit



TRAVIS WILLSE
RIVALLESS WIT

Lawrence H. Summers is a smart man. An economist by training, he earned a bachelor's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a doctoral degree from Harvard, and taught at both — becoming one of Harvard's youngest tenured professors in recent memory. He edited the Quarterly Journal of Economics, won the National Science Foundation's prestigious Waterman Award and served as the World Bank's chief economist, as the secretary of the Treasury and most recently as the president of Harvard.

If Summers' analytic prowess is formidable enough that world leaders have tapped him to manage some of the most complex fiscal machinery man hath wrought, then why has he spent much of recent weeks apologizing for remarks in a speech at the conference, "Diversifying the Science and Engineering Workforce"?

Well, during his speech, which was organized by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Summers reviewed several factors that might explain the large gap between the numbers of men and women among the scientific elite. The most influential, he suggested, was that fewer mothers than fathers were willing to sacrifice family hours to work the 60- to 80-hour weeks that scientific research can demand. Summers also fingered discrimination within academia as a likely culprit (incidentally, the conference's morning proceedings suggested that, however extensive discrimination is, its grip is weaker than it used to be).

He then referred to research suggesting that, while boys and girls post similar medians on standardized math tests, variance in boys' scores were much higher than those of their counterparts

— in other words, boys are more likely to score unusually high or low than girls. The result, Summers postulates, is that because most of the top scorers are men, more men end up in top science jobs.

Some critics were disgusted by his suggestion: "I felt I was going to be sick," MIT biology professor Nancy Hopkins told The Washington Post. "I was extremely upset."

Unfortunately, because Summers' comments came from notes but were extemporaneous, and because no public transcript was drafted, we can't argue too much about the nuances of what was said. But there's general agreement that the differences between men and women that lead to differences in test score variances are "innate" — and that's what prompted outcry about Summers' half-formed sensibilities, shortsightedness, "fatalism" about Harvard's ability to attract top female scientists and whatever other non sequiturs critics concluded from his remarks.

There are good reasons why suggestions that one gender is more genetically predisposed to academic success than the other prompt reactions as visceral as Hopkins'. Purportedly "innate" differences between genders (and among races, for that matter) have been used as excuses to deny rights and privileges to otherwise deserving

individuals; academia, for its supposed intellectual modernity, hasn't proved to be a consistent exception.

But that doesn't mean "innate" differences don't exist. Olympic sports are usually split by sex, and no one would argue that the differences that prompt such segregation are exclusively a product of social conditioning. And socialization — which is itself biologically influenced — is likely the most significant factor in the gender demographics of various disciplines. Regardless of how much the statistical differences between genders that Summers mentioned are biological and how much are social, given that an estimated one-half of the human genome is involved in brain development, we should expect some innate cognitive differences between the genders. In terms of achievement, however, these differences are aggregate: They are characterizations of diverse populations as a whole; they are not (nor could they be) predictors of, or limitations to, individual achievement. Construing them as justifications for limiting rights would be nonsensical and outrageous.

In any case, the well-placed loathing for undue discrimination has fathered obdurate toads of political correctness that inhibit discussion of innate gender differences for reasons that include the above. Work on the human genome began recently, and will almost certainly reveal new genetic differences between genders (and therefore, ones that are "innate" in a very real way). An academic and political culture willing to admit these differences would be one better prepared to navigate the ethical challenges they might incite.

traviswillse@dailyemerald.com

■ Guest commentary

Emerald inciting 'tabloid fodder'

In light of this year's events involving the various branches of the ASUO, and the subsequent Emerald coverage and editorials, we feel that a response is more than necessary. It is our obligation to inform students of the facts, a duty that the Emerald has proven it is unwilling to fulfill.

The most recent ASUO event the Emerald has reduced to tabloid fodder was the Emerald's PFC hearing. The student-elected Programs Finance Committee is independent from the ASUO Executive and is responsible for allocating student funds to more than 140 programs. The Emerald is partially funded through this process.

During their hearing, Mason Quiroz, one member of the PFC, made a motion to defund the Emerald based on what he said is an excess of papers being printed. The other members of the PFC, and the

Executive, recoiled. Adam Petkun, ASUO President, immediately voiced his opposition and willingness to veto such a motion if it were to pass. Not surprisingly, the motion fell far short of the unanimous vote it would have needed to succeed. Instead, the Emerald was allocated \$111,992, in accordance with the Executive recommendation.

The Executive recommendation, prepared by Finance Coordinator Mike Martell and Vice President Mena Ravasipour, was based on a readership survey the Emerald provided, which it is contractually obliged to conduct. The Emerald has since said they're not satisfied with this survey and do not believe its results to be accurate. The Executive welcomes the Emerald to conduct another, more satisfactory, reader survey per their contract; they have had two years to do so, yet have done nothing.

The content of the Emerald was never addressed in the hearing. Coverage of the ASUO Finance retreat or any other matter was in no way introduced as an issue to be taken into consideration with regards to the budgetary process. To allege as much is a serious accusation that impugns the integrity of everyone involved in the process.

What's more disturbing is the Emerald's willingness to use this as a basis for further accusations of censorship. What seems more conceivable is that the Emerald believes that through such threatening editorials it can scare the PFC into giving it additional student dollars. Fortunately, we take the incidental fee more seriously than that.

2004-05 ASUO Executive

INBOX

Combat racism: understand its complex history

The other day as I was running by Autzen, I noticed anti-Semitic graffiti all along the footbridge. My first reaction was to shake my head in disappointment, lamenting at the fact that even today bigotry and hatred lives on. The University espouses and aggressively promotes ideals of diversity and tolerance, yet in spite of all that, old prejudices still exist.

Perhaps it was not on the mind of the person who spread this anti-Jewish

message that this month marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army, when the world was so appalled at the full extent of Nazi racial policies that we swore such hatred would "never again" happen.

I have frequently been instructed by other white people that racism is evil and that racists are basically evil people. To that cultural norm, I say: How can we possibly hope to understand racism if we simply dismiss it as a distasteful relic of our past? It is obvious to me that racism and

anti-Semitism are not simple issues of good and evil; they have complex roots stemming from centuries of experiences between different peoples and are deeply embedded in societies. During this month, as we honor the lives of those who perished at Auschwitz, it is my hope that we attempt to better understand racism and its historical roots, instead of just labeling racists as "evil." Only then can we ever hope to combat hatred and bigotry.

Zachary White
Junior

■ Editorial

Incompetent student government nothing new

If we were to sum up the behavior of this year's student leaders in a single word, well — we think you know what word we would use. But if we were to use a word that is not four letters long, it would be "unprofessional" because for all their seemingly official trappings, the entire student government is plagued with an organization-wide case of terminal incompetence.

Not that this should be much of a surprise. The history of student government on this campus is peppered with examples of supreme incompetence, the heights of which this year's group has not come close to reaching. But in terms of consistency of incompetence, of a shocking lack of professionalism time and time again, it is doubtful that any other year can compare.

Examples of unprofessional behavior among our student leaders are too numerous to mention, but they include arriving late to meetings, being absent during voting and using disrespectful language when discussing groups' budgets.

Case in point: The Jan. 10 meeting of the Programs Finance Committee started with an apology by PFC Chair Persis Pohowalla for her "unprofessional behavior last week." The PFC members then agreed to "respect what others have to say," as if they were a group of kindergartners and not student leaders in control of millions of dollars.

The most egregious example of the PFC's unprofessionalism this year is its inability to treat groups consistently. The standards with which the PFC measures the need for funds seem to arbitrarily shift with each group. Many groups can attest to the PFC members' disorganization and confusion over simple matters and the bizarre rationales that are used to justify certain decisions.

How can Pohowalla justify funding the Lane Transit District buss pass fee, which is only used by a fraction of the students, by saying, "Like everything we fund, not every student is going to benefit, but they'll have the opportunity to benefit," when the logic used in the Executive recommendation to reduce funding for the Emerald was that less than 100 percent of the students currently read the paper every week?

How can PFC member Jael Anker-Lagos condone the OSPIRG budget, which is sent off-campus for projects not focused on the campus community by saying, "I want to think of OSPIRG's money being sent off campus as saving University of Oregon students money," when the Emerald was criticized for distributing some papers in off-campus areas students utilize frequently?

If anything good has come from the PFC's incompetence this year, it is the cold, hard proof that our current student leaders do not possess the skills or professionalism required to distribute millions of dollars in student incidental fees. Hopefully, they will be held responsible for their behavior when elections roll around rather than ride back into office on a tide of voter apathy.

CORRECTION

On Tuesday, the Emerald published photos of Pulptent's "Fashion Fo'Paws" show and stated in a caption that Brandi Frederick organized most of the modeling for the show and choreographed three of the show's dances. In fact, Frederick choreographed all of the dances and organized all of the modeling, makeup and styling before and after the show. The Emerald regrets the error.