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IN CREW Year

National, state and local elections set campus abuzz with political activity this fall. Oregon voters debated the merits of banning same-sex marriage from the state constitution, capping medical legal settlements abolishing a public accident insurance corporation and expanding the use of medicinal marijuana. Oregon's status as a swing state increased national attention, and the University played host to visits by Howard Dean and vice presidential candidate John Edwards. Teresa Heinz Kerry spoke at the McDonald Theatre, and the state received visits from both George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

About 100 people protested election results in a rally Nov. 3 in front of the Eugene Federal Building, holding flags and signs and waving to passing motorists. Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance marched around campus that day protesting the passage of Measure 36, which defines marriage in Oregon as a union between one man and one woman.



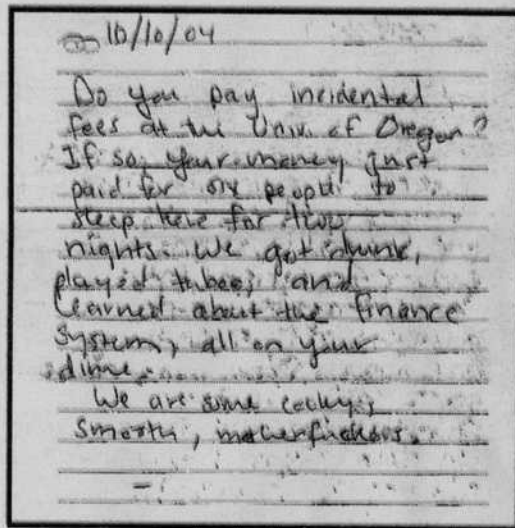
LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

For the first time in 10 years, the Oregon football team had a losing season. Things looked bleak for the Ducks from the beginning. In the first game of the season, Oregon lost at Autzen Stadium to Indiana, a team that would go on to win only three games the entire season. After a come-from-behind win at Washington State in which Kellen Clemens accounted for all six touchdowns (three running and three throwing), the Ducks ran off four wins in a row to give themselves a 5-3 record, needing only one more win to be bowl-eligible and secure a winning season for a record 11th consecutive year. But the Ducks let one slip away against No. 4 California in Berkeley, couldn't get the job done at home against UCLA and were embarrassed by in-state rival Oregon State in the Civil War. During the offseason, Oregon brought in former BYU coach Gary Crowton to take over the offensive coordinator position, replacing the departed Andy Ludwig, who went to Utah. Oregon also signed Jonathan Stewart, the top-rated running back recruit in the nation.

Thirty-nine ASUO members took a finance retreat to Sunriver Oct. 8-10. Some ASUO officials admitted they drank alcohol and smoked marijuana on the retreat, which are violations of the Student Conduct Code. This note was written in the guest book of one of the houses rented by ASUO members. The retreat was funded by about \$3,200 in student incidental fees, which student leaders later said they would repay. The leaders then changed the punishment to 100 hours of community service to be completed by the fifth week of spring term, the making of a "dos and don'ts" retreat video by March 10 and 10 extra office hours by May 25. The original plan to repay the incidental fees was scrapped because of its unfeasibility and because officials were concerned that paying back the money would send a message that the retreat was unsuccessful. As of May 27, the punishments still had not been completed.



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The ASUO Programs Finance Committee approved the Oregon Commentator's mission statement and budget at the end of February following months of drawn-out debate about the conservative journal's mission statement. PFC members voted in December to reject the journal's mission statement when former ASUO Senator Toby Hill-Meyer said some of the statements in the magazine made the senator feel unsafe. The journal's PFC hearings drew such large crowds that the Feb. 1 meeting had to be moved to a room in the EMU that would accommodate everyone. At this meeting, former PFC Vice Chair Mason Quiroz verbally resigned and later recanted the action. As a result of comments about viewpoint neutrality at the meeting, the Commentator filed grievances against Quiroz and former PFC members Eden Cortez and Dan Kieffer.

The Oregon women's basketball team, led by all-conference player Cathrine Kraayeveld, made an unprecedented run to the NCAA Tournament but lost to eventual national champs Baylor. That moment was just a blip in the radar for the team this season. The Ducks (21-10 overall) started the season a blistering 10-0 until they lost to then-No. 10 Ohio State in the Nike Classic held at McArthur Court. Less than two weeks later, Oregon pulled off its biggest win of the season, handing No. 5 Stanford its only loss in Pacific-10 Conference play. By the end of the conference season, the Ducks found themselves with the No. 2 seed for the Pac-10 Tournament. They would lose in the second round but were invited to the NCAA Tournament and upset TCU in the first round before bowing out to Baylor. Kraayeveld and fellow senior Andrea Bills earned All-Pac-10 honors while freshman Kristen Forristall was named to the All-Freshman team.



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October brought an appearance from actor and environmental activist Woody Harrelson. Harrelson promoted his documentary "Go Further" and spoke about transforming the planet and taking money away from the timber and petroleum industry. Another political activist and filmmaker, Michael Moore, also came to Eugene to promote voter registration while lambasting the Bush administration and conservative pundits alike. Also, the University Theatre got a lukewarm reception from Pulse Editor Ryan Nyburg for one of its major productions, "Kafka Parables." The play, which wove together much of Franz Kafka's collected works into a looping and manic collection of images and events to express deep social discontent, was described as "(leaving) the audience wondering whether it is expressing these problems in a meaningful way or just adding to the noise," in Nyburg's May 19 review.

Other highlights: "Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation" hit Eugene again this year, becoming one of the favorites at the Bijou Art Cinemas. The UO Cultural Forum's Queer Film Festival, the longest-running gay and lesbian film festival in the Northwest, was back for another go on campus. This year's festival was one of the biggest ever and included such films as the critically acclaimed "Tarnation," Andy Warhol's "Lonesome Cowboys" and a "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" musical sing-a-long.

Ethnic discrimination issues were brought to the forefront at the University in May with two College of Education rallies protesting alleged racism at the college. Some students wore gags symbolizing they have experienced discrimination in the COE but have had to remain silent. Administrators said an external review will be conducted on the diversity issues students raised. Also in May, the Office of Multicultural Academic Support defended class enrollment restrictions on the basis of race. Ten slots were reserved in seven University classes this term for minority students, forcing other students to arrive on the first day of class and meet with an adviser before being allowed to register. Greg

Vincent, vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, said these "gateway courses" provide a comforting environment for minority students. A University student later filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education claiming the enrollment practice is racist. Vincent announced that week that after a year and a half at the University, he will be leaving for a similar position at the University of Texas at Austin. Vincent spearheaded the five-year Diversity Action Plan, released this spring, which has drawn criticism from the University community. The plan is a set of recommendations intended to diversify the cultural climate in and around the University.



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