

Use those University dollars to travel the world

When I consider advice I would give to a prospective student of secondary education, I come to one conclusion: Take the thousands of dollars for tuition and do with it what you will. I suggest buying a plane ticket. It doesn't matter where you go, or what you do, but before consigning yourself to four years of academic servitude, see and experience the world.

Now don't misunderstand me: The University has excellent opportunities to study abroad, and a college degree is an important piece of paper to frame and put on your wall, yet having gone through the motions of higher education, I've come to reflect on certain aspects of this thing called "college." The majority of us enter college at age 18 with our knowledge of the world limited to our naïve conceptions based on high school experiences. The general solution is to stick thousands of clueless 18-year-olds in close proximity to each other, forbid them to drink alcohol or do anything remotely illegal and order them to pursue a "valuable" and "necessary" education.

American culture has developed the delusion

that a college education is required to become a contributing member of society. While traveling, I met about 10 Americans of the 18-24 demographic. I guess the other 10 million were back in America studying for classes. I also met countless Europeans and individuals of other nationalities, all within this same age group and all experiencing what the world had to offer. When I asked if they'd gone to college, or if they intended to, most shrugged or nonchalantly said they might "try it" some day.

This left me with a question. Who is learning more? Do I benefit from buying a \$200 math book? Or should I buy a Greyhound bus ticket and ride across the country? Or go skydiving? Or hop a plane down to San Francisco? When I returned from my travels, I began to feel like college was a smothering blanket that had been thrown over the last four years of my life. I wanted to breathe, and I couldn't do it at a university.

And yet, I've met and become acquainted

with some amazing people while at school. I've enjoyed a multitude of great experiences. Left with such irreconcilable feelings, I find myself now wondering what constitutes a successful youth. Does filling my head with mathematical equations or literary theories constitute success? Or is it the experiences that compose my life and that have shaped who I have become? The success one finds in life cannot be quantified, yet I have found that what I value is the didactic experiences of life and not the dry education of a classroom.

Each person measures the success of his or her own life. I think if I'd had a little more time to consider this, before plummeting into the depths of higher education, the last four years might have adopted a different course. My point is, whether you're entering, still attending or leaving college, do with these years what you want, not what your parents, friends, society or culture tell you. Higher education is an investment, but it is an investment that can wait.



GREG BILSLAND
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE

DOCTORING a dream

After four busy years,
Peter Leimena now gears
up for medical school

BY CHRIS COHOON
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Patrons hover over the checkout desk in the Knight Library, often piling up enormous stacks of books to be checked out. Although the line of people grows, staff member Peter Leimena greets every patron with a beaming "hello" and a pondering, "How are you doing today?"

Working at the library might seem like a simple job for most students, but when Leimena added hours of work on top of being a Robert D. Clark Honors College student, writing a thesis and applying to medical school, life became a little hectic.

While many seniors graduating in spring are busy preparing for the work force, Leimena is trying to further pursue his education in the medical field.

"So far I haven't got into the 18 medical schools that I applied for, but I did get accepted into graduate public health programs at New York Medical College and George Washington University," he said.

Leimena said he has wanted to be a doctor for as long as he can remember and that his volunteer work has helped support his dream. During summer 2003, Leimena paid \$3,000 to volunteer in Africa. He spent part of his time on an island in Lake Victoria, Kenya, where he helped run a free clinic.

"Huge amounts of people would come through the clinic every day, and this was a small island," he said. "There were only six students and one doctor, so it was easy to attain experience."

Much of Leimena's trip was dedicated to teaching health education to primary school students. The common lessons were about personal hygiene and AIDS.

"The surprising thing about the small island is that HIV is so prevalent there," Leimena said. "While there

LEIMENA, page 21B

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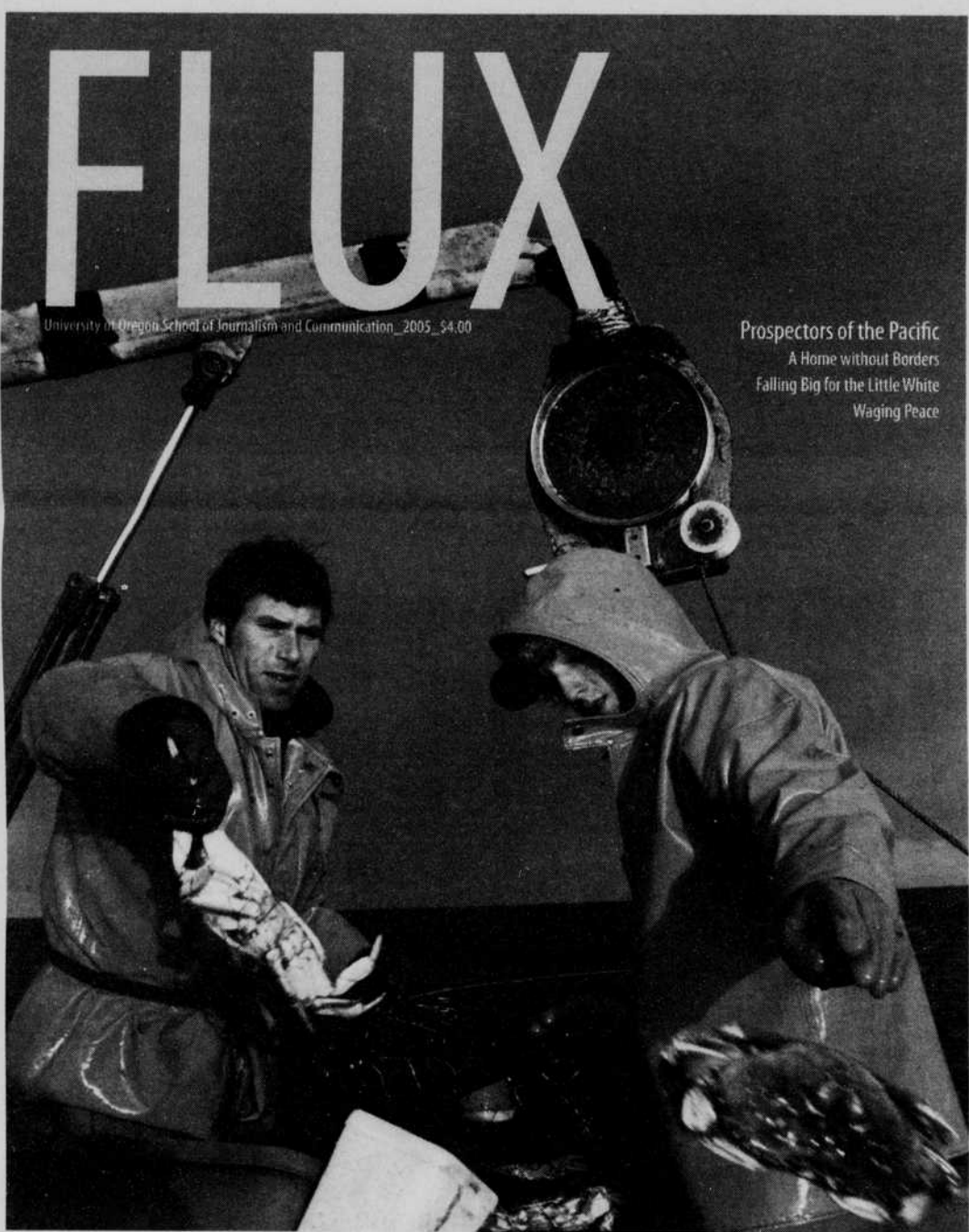
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Welcome to another issue of the School of Journalism and Communication's *Flux*. This year's magazine focuses on nonconformists who brazenly challenge boundaries. Three fishermen temper risk with humor in their search for the valuable Dungeness crab. In the Belizean jungle, a tour guide uses ecotourism and education to protect the country's precious biodiversity. By retaining her Mexican heritage, a young woman fosters cultural pride in her rural Latino community. And a peacekeeper in the Middle East exercises nonviolence to help improve the lives of Iraqis.

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It is my hope that these stories inspire you as much as they have spurred us to create a unique magazine.

Catherine Ryan
Catherine Ryan
Editor-in-Chief

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