Three years of happy servitude reveal that journalism matters

I don't want to write this graduation column. It just serves a reminder that I must now grow up, join the real world and be a responsible adult. The safety net of Univer-

sity life is about to be yanked away, and quite frankly, I'm pissed. And frightened. For one, how will I possi-

bly survive without my job at the Oregon Daily Emerald? Trust me, it's not the pay I'm talking about. It's just that for the past three years, my life has been rooted here.

I have spent more time at the Emerald than anywhere else on campus. It defines my college life. (Which goes to show you that I don't have much of a life!)

This newsroom consumes you so much that even when you don't need to be here, you'll still come in or suffer from withdrawal symp-toms. I'll probably come in on June 11 and the Department of Public Safety will have to drag me away kicking and screaming.

In the past three years, I've watched three editors-in-chief take over and numerous reporters suffer through the workload and quit. Only the really courageous, the overambitious or the crazy survive here. I fall under the crazy. I've worked here so long, I'm almost part of the furniture.

I have to admit that the Emerald has taught me a lot, which is why I've stayed all this time.

I've learned that there is nothing quite like having deadline in 10 minutes and your main source still has not returned your seventh phone call. It gives the word stress a whole new meaning.

I've also learned that there's a special kind of thrill that comes

from chasing a story and staying up until 2 a.m. to get it done like we did on election nights or the night I had to cover the Commentator's budget hearing with the Programs

Finance Committee. I've learned that it's really painful to be scooped on article an by The Register-Guard, but it sure feels good when we scoop them.

I've learned that sources are real people, and contrary to popular belief, journalists have hearts.

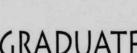
There's something gratifying in knowing that story made a difference in someone's life. I'll never forget the time I wrote an obituary about a student and his parents e-mailed the next day to say they thought the article captured their son's life so well.

I have also learned that what we write holds a lot of weight, even when we don't realize it. The hundreds of insulting e-mails I received after I covered a lecture by Los Angeles Times' John Carroll, who criticized FOX News, taught me that the public will react and not always be civil about it.

I've been surrounded by a great team of editors and reporters who remind me every day why journalism matters. We've covered some phenomenal stories in the past three years. We've made some people really angry. But I'd like to believe that we've also given the University community information that it needs, that we have evoked discussion, that we have the set the ball rolling for change.

I will miss the Emerald, not just because I loved working here, but also because it offered me a great way to connect to my university.





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

VON KLEIN PROPERTY

MANAGEMENT, LLC

CAMPUS RENTALS

Largest Selection – Personal Service

630 E. 14TH Holly Court 1930 Onyx Lake Crest 1390 Mill Maple Arms **1345 Ferry** Patterson Manor 611 E. 11TH **1085** Patterson 1250 Ferry

1765 Ferry Alley 365 E. 16th 1677 Mill Alley

361 E. 14th 944-946 E. 19th 1340 Mill **1365 Ferry** 531 E. 14th 1881-1891 High 315-365 E. 19th 1911 Kincaid 354 E. 14th 1550-1556 Mill St. 1647 Mill FOR THESE LISTINGS, CALL 485-7776

Alderwood Manor 1884-1860 Alder 686-0743

Blackstone Manor 1750 Alder 687-0684

> Campus Plaza 750 E. 18TH 686-0743

Flintridge 500 E. 18TH 485-0060

Garden Terrace 1893 Garden Ave. 302-5713

Talisman 888 E. 18TH 683-9546







AYISHA YAHYA

AFRO CAFÉ

Campus Twins 735 E. 14th 302-9088

University Manor 745 E. 15TH 485-9773

College Side 737 E. 16TH 683-9546

485-7776

1884 Garden Ave. 1210 Villard 302-5713

1301 FERRY

VON KLEIN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC. www.vonkleinrentals.com

.