PHIBETA KAPPA SOCIETY ALPHA OF OREGON CHAPTER · UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Alpha of Oregon chapter congratulates the 250 students elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society at a meeting held May 19, 2005. Members-elect who accept the invitation to join the society will be initiated Saturday, June 11, in the Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest, most prestigious academic honorary society. For minimum requirements, see <http://www.uoregon.edu/~pbk>.

2005 OREGON SIX

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How the crazy sports desk made one more year worth the stay

I have no business writing this column.

College should be a distant memory. I should be long gone, doing old man things such as settling into a career, los-

ing my hair and watching the size of my waistline grow (though you could argue the latter two have already started). Instead, I've managed to hang around the University two terms longer than I should have.

And I wouldn't have it any JON ROETMAN other way.

I thought I needed 16 credits to graduate when the academic year began. It sounded easy enough. Take four classes during fall term, and get out of here. I just had to find a way to balance my schoolwork with time spent at the Emerald and attempt to have a social life.

The natural thing to do when you're close to graduating is to buckle down and finish your classwork so you can move on with your life. Covering the football team was going to be a big deal for me during fall term, but I figured it would come secondary to my quest for a degree.

Then something happened that changed my outlook

I realized I really liked the idiots I work with on the Emerald sports staff. I didn't know C Jo, Dome, Shaggy or

20 that well when the year started, but things quickly changed. Rarely do I run into people who possess the same goofy mentality as I do, let alone in the workplace, but these guys made coming into work fun.

We went on road trips. ROUGHING THE PASSER We went to Rennie's. We drew uprights on an office wall and tried to kick field goals with a mini foam football

We always found a way to laugh and have fun.

As fall term was coming to a close, my previous thoughts of finishing in one term proved premature when I found out I still needed two more nonjournalism credits to fulfill my requirements. Sadly enough, I was actually excited to know I wasn't done.

The good times continued with the sports staff through basketball season. We played poker, we threw things at each other, and, despite coming down with a brutal case of the flu, I managed to pass History of Modern Europe to close out winter term.

Time to leave, right?

In true immature, waste-of-life, don't-want-to-grow-up fashion, I managed to hang around spring term as well. I signed up for - but didn't attend - a table tennis class so I could keep working (if you want to call it that) at the Emerald.

As sad as it may sound for someone to unnecessarily hang around as long as I have, I feel like the last year truly completed my college experience. I had plenty of fun the first four years, but staying around for an extra couple of terms gave me endless memories that I'll keep with me the rest of my life.

So as my final days of being a kid wind down, I want to thank the sports staff for all the good times. Whether it was driving to Pullman, Wash., with C Jo, doing something stupid to amuse Dome, taking 20's money during poker games or attempting to give Shaggy female advice, I'll always remember the good times.

Sports staff ... ASSEMBLE !!!

Nyburg: A degree will go far in North Dakota

Continued from page 16B

actual liberal educational experience. It now seems to center almost squarely on flinging you into a career as quickly as possible.

This is highly pronounced in the journalism school, where I've spent the majority of my time. "Get an internship or you'll starve in a gutter" is the most common advice. The idea that you might approach journalism exclusively from the perspective of intellectual curiosity is something

alien and spooky to these people. The idea that you might not want to do this for the rest of your life approaches blasphemy. Try to explain that you might consider film criticism to be a form of journalism and you get looked at like the retarded cousin nobody talks about but to whom everyone is polite to because he can't help being what he is.

Not that I'm ungrateful. If anything, I can at least say that I'm college-educated, which should take me far in North Dakota. Or it could get the crap beaten out of me. Depends whom you're conversin' with. In any case, it was a necessary part of my life, a chapter now ending, new one beginning, blah, blah, blah. Maybe it will hit me on graduation day, the importance of all of this. But with my natural dislike of ceremony, I think my mind might be more concerned with how uncomfortable I am in robes. Maybe it will hit me later. Maybe.

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