



BRET FURTWÄNGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

■ Editorial

Celebrating Eugene summers

Summer in Eugene is waking up at 10 a.m., exhausted, because the night before was filled with fun or homework or housework.

Every night during summer in Eugene is too great to explain; it's relaxation and it's stress, but it's also knowing that everything you do is being done, just for you.

It's not for the people on campus. Summer in Eugene is not dressing up for the cute freshmen, and summer in Eugene is not caring that your outfit don't match, unlike the perfectly polished sorority girl sitting two seats down in whatever pointless intro class you might be taking at the time.

Summer in Eugene is companionship for the sake of similarity: You both are here, assuming no one else has stayed in town, so bonds grow out of nothing more than the kinship of location.

Summer in Eugene is drinking your roommate's Hefeweizen on a weekday afternoon, because the sun is shining, and you can.

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■ Guest commentary

We must advocate for better health services

During the beginning of August, myself and other members of the National Association of Black Journalists (Oregon chapter) had the privilege of attending the NABJ national convention in Atlanta, Ga. A week of attending workshops, keynote speeches, career fairs and networking came to an unsettling close with the deaths of two outstanding journalists. Peter Jennings, former ABC news anchor died Sunday night from lung cancer that he was diagnosed with only this year.

Jennings played a key role in developing what broadcast news has become today, and will be dearly missed worldwide. But what was even more shocking was the death of 23-year old journalist, Akilah Amapindi. Amapindi was, like myself, a student member of NABJ. She arrived in Atlanta on Sunday to begin a student project at the convention, and was hospitalized early Tuesday and diagnosed with malaria. On the following Sunday at the gospel brunch, we received word of her passing.

However, it wasn't until later that day, after two plane flights and a three-hour layover, that her death really hit me. Amapindi, was only the one-third the age of Peter Jennings. She represented a new era — a generation of journalists that represent the face of the world (she was born in Jamaica and lived in Staten Island, N.Y.), a generation of journalists using new and old media (Amapindi worked in print, broadcast and interactive Web), and a generation of journalists and people who are committed to social justice and human rights (Amapindi founded a service sorority at Kenyon College, Ohio).

Amapindi had most likely been infected with malaria during her internship at Namibian Broadcasting Corporation in southern Africa, which she had just completed in July. Her work and aspirations are an inspiration, and although I never met her, I feel close to Amapindi because we both represent that new generation. It is the responsibility of our generation

to concern ourselves with world-shaping news regarding politics, culture, economics, science and health. Because malaria is a parasite infection, it will be much more difficult to create a vaccine for it. And although the impact of malaria is not recognized in the Western world because of the lack of deaths here, the deaths accumulating in the developing world should be enough indication that there is a need for increased research and funding.

Malaria causes or contributes to 3 million deaths per year, the majority of them children. Children are dying at a rate of four per minute, 5,000 a day and 35,000 a week. The number of malaria-related deaths in Africa is close to that of HIV/AIDS, but the amount of funding for research and treatment is in no way comparable.

The deaths of Peter Jennings and Akilah Amapindi on August 7, 2005, send two important messages to the world, especially the developed world:

1. We need to take care of our own health; risk of lung cancer and HIV/AIDS can be eradicated or significantly reduced by the choices we make.

2. We need to voice the concerns of health and other issues to our government representatives, advocating for more funding for health services, sciences, and training. By making the changes in our lifestyle to reduce the risks, we can allow more funding to go towards health epidemics that are less preventable.

There is more information on malaria at www.malaria.org. Also, Amapindi did not have health insurance, and her family does not have finances to ship her body to Jamaica, or for memorial services. Donations can be sent to: Akilah Amapindi Memorial Fund: c/o NABJ, 8701-A Adelphi Road, Adelphi, MD 20783-1716.

Jordan Thierry is a student at the University.

INBOX

ASUO Senators owe University students apology

In response to Nicholas Wilbur's "ASUO committee neglects duties" (July 19, 2005):

What an insightful, albeit disappointing article. This is an example of the courageous reporting that I love to read. Unfortunately, this expose concerns the ASUO and their recent malfeasance. As a student at the U of O, I along with other students finance the student government's payrolls and budget with incidental fees and am deeply concerned about their performance this summer. Apparently they have not been doing their jobs and it seems that they have lackadaisical and nonchalant attitudes about their duties. I will admit that I did not vote for any of the members, but after reading this article, I realize that it is my duty as a student to vote. The ASUO senators are a disgrace to our school and they should be held accountable for their

actions (or lack thereof). If the Greentape Notebook states that the nonfulfillment of duties is in violation of code, then a grievance must be filed. I don't care whether it is the summer session or not, they should still meet, if not transcend their obligations. Is it acceptable for our state senators to forget about their responsibilities in the summer? Isn't there a system of checks and balances for our student government? What I mean is that typically another body of government or agency acts as a watchdog to oversee their duties. This task should not be left to news reporters. These are just a few of my concerns. Hopefully this weak performance won't foreshadow the not-too-distant academic year. If the senators have any guts, they should make a public apology condemning their lack of professionalism.

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