

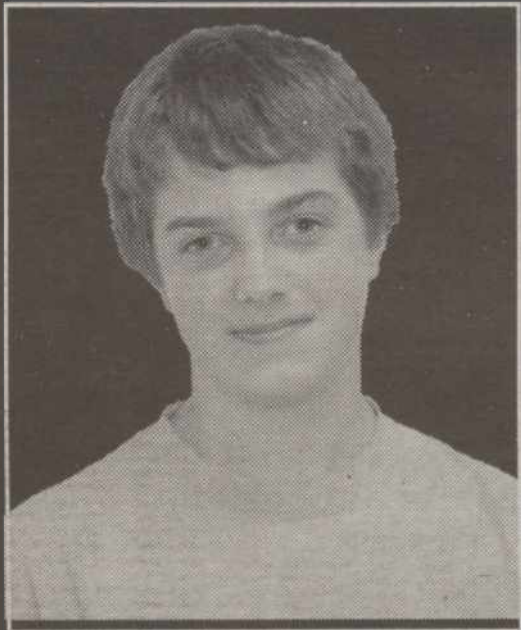


"I think it's stupid because Portland is a happy place. Roses are happy."

—**Mackenzie Johnson, freshman**

"Well, I never thought it was that boring but I guess I would rather be living back in Calgary."

—**Matt Glenn, sophomore**



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

What do you think about Portland being named the unhappiest city in the U.S.?

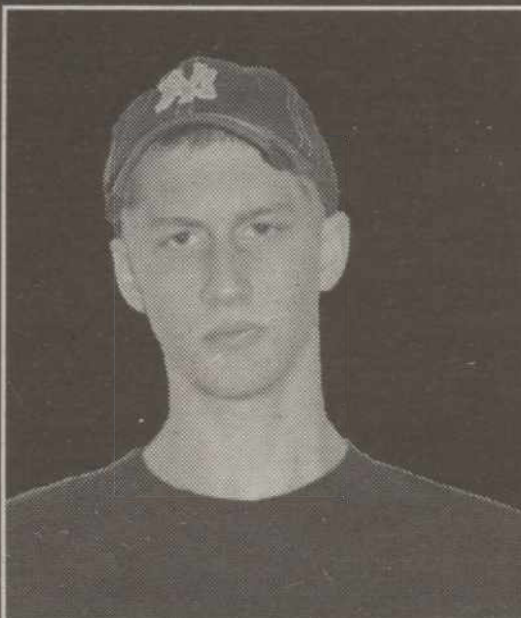


"We're in a tough spot right now—so many people are out of a job and it's understandable but there is always hope. We'll just have to hold on to that until these rough times are over"

—**Jaimie Lorenzini, junior**

"I think it has to do with the weather. The sun has a lot of vitamins that are important for us."

—**Miles Rifkin, senior**



Photos by Avery Breyne-Cartwright

Entertainment industry ignores economic downturn, prices rising unreasonably

With the economy in a disastrous state, businesses continue to go under and prices in every industry seem to be dropping. One industry, however, doesn't seem to be affected—the entertainment industry, specifically movie theatres. As new attractions such as "17 Again" and "Monsters vs Aliens" premiere, box office prices rise, but that doesn't stop the crowds of people from coming.

With ticket prices at \$10.50 per person, a family or group of friends could easily drop \$40 at the box office on a Friday night. This, mind you, is just for a standard non-matinee movie ticket that may or may not include stadium seating. It costs an extra \$4 to see a movie in the IMAX theater at Bridgeport Village and an extra \$2.50 to see a movie in 3D.

Then there are the refreshments at the concessions counter. Most theaters do not allow any outside food or drinks. This is because theaters make about 85% of their profits off concessions sales. A small popcorn costs \$5.50 at Bridgeport, so it would be easy to spend another \$40 on snacks. It is outrageous that a person could buy the exact same candy or drink for a fraction of the price elsewhere.

Even with inflated prices, people still flock to the theaters. Shows sell out and concessions are bought by the truckload. At the end of the day, many people forget about the prices. In a time when people can't seem to pay their mortgages, the amount of money we spend on entertainment seems a bit unreasonable.

It would appear that

a fortune. Check out a movie at the library or rent the most recent release and watch it in the comfort of your own home; go and get a movie from the Red Box at Safeway for \$1 and return it the next day. While you are at Safeway, stop at the candy aisle as well and I guarantee that when you return to your car, you will have spent less than the cost of one movie ticket. We don't



nothing is changing, if you go by the crowds at the theaters on a Friday evening. Movies provide an escape from reality. They provide a chance to sit back and relax. It seems that once the previews start rolling and everyone gets settled, the cost of getting there doesn't matter.

However, it is still possible to have a good time on a Friday night without spending

have to just sit back and suffer the rise in prices.

We need to let theaters know where we stand. Its time to voice our opinions and boycott the theaters until they get the message. They need to lower the prices and stop ignoring hard times people are facing. And, if they don't, I will refuse to support them or their business, and I think you should too.

Portland named unhappiest city in America

■ **MAX HAYS**

Staff Reporter

Anyone who has been to the great city of Portland could tell you that it is a place with beautiful scenery and wonderful, interesting people. When you walk down the streets of Portland, people are friendly and overall Portland is a very upbeat city—one of the best in the country contrary to a recent study by BusinessWeek.com.

To the amazement of many Portland natives, The City of Roses was named the unhappiest city in America by the study. The ranking was based on many factors including the rates of suicide, depression, divorce, crime, unemployment, weather, job loss and green space. Suicide rates, depression, unemployment and crime carried greater weight in the composition of its report.

Portland ranks at number 12 for suicide in the nation.

Oregon is the only state in America that allows physician-assisted suicide, which might have affected the suicide rate in Portland drastically. Portland was also the highest listed city in depression rates, but this ranking was based on how many anti-depressants were sold. Just because Portland sells a lot of anti-depressants, doesn't mean that we are all depressed, this just means that we are able to realize it when we have problems and take action to better ourselves.

Portland's unemployment rate was relatively high at 7.8 percent, but our unemployment rates were lower than cities such as Yuma, Ariz., where the unemployment rate is 21 percent.

The biggest surprise to me was that Portland was ranked number 24 in crime rate. In recent years, the murder rate has gone down, with only 20 murders being committed in 2006.

Just because Portland was named most unhappy doesn't mean that it is not a great city. Portland was also named the Greenest City in America by PopularScience.com and by BestPlaces.net. It was named the best city for senior citizens, the eighth most energetic city, the 14th most secure large metropolitan area, the 15th best city for dating and the 16th healthiest city. The only negative reviews were that it was the sixth most stressful and the 11th riskiest for identity theft.

While I don't doubt that these numbers are accurate, I think that it is impossible to rate a city on how unhappy it is based on statistics and numbers. I think that to truly say that a city is unhappy, one must experience the city and have a good feel for it. To say that Portland is an unhappy city is ridiculous. It is a beautiful city—one of the best in America.