



On the lighter side

by Stephani Veff
Opinion/Copy Editor



Activities for winter boredom

The holidays are over and you have nothing to look forward to except spring which is still a few months away. There is something about January that tends to make people feel run down and bored. The excitement of November and December just seems to end as soon as the new year walks through the door. The weather seems to have a lot to do with it. Constant gray skies could bring down even the happiest of people, not to mention freezing rain, ice, and gale force winds. Just about the only weather that cheers people up in winter is snow. All that clean, cold white blankets the ground and makes everything look so calm and peaceful.

What is there to do for fun while we wait for the warmth of spring to come? The weather does create some enjoyable activities like skiing (cross country and down hill), sledding,

building snowmen, snowball fights, and snow-shoeing to name a few. True most of us are not able to do these things in our own backyard, but Mt. Hood is quite close as well as some other popular snow areas.

So, you don't like to go out into the cold and wet? Well, you don't have to; there are a lot of fun things to do right in the house. Baking cookies, fitting pieces into a jigsaw puzzle, playing board games or cards, or even just curling up with a good book can make a gray day go by faster and lift your spirits too.

Maybe you don't like to entertain yourself, you'd rather have someone do that for you. Then go see a movie or rent one for your video recorder, go to a concert or a play, or go to a sporting event.

If you're feeling intellectual or into the arts, go to a museum

or take the day and spend it at Powell's Bookstore. Estate sales and garage sales can also be fun and interesting if you know how to look for the best bargains.

This is also a good time to keep in touch with old friends. Writing letters or even making a few phone calls is sure to put the life back into a long day. Maybe a friend is just as bored as you are, then you could get together and do something to relieve each other's boredom. There's really no end to what you can do if you just stop and think about it.

Winter doesn't have to be boring if you don't let it. There's always something new to try or to see. Ask yourself about what you've always wanted to do, but never had the time for and then do it. It's really not that long until spring gets here, but it can seem like forever if you don't have anything to do.

Trust is key to peace

When President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Michail Gorbachev signed the ABM in early December most people hoped it was going to be the first solid step towards total nuclear disarmament and provide a safe world for all people.

Although the ABM treaty is the first step down the road of peace between the United States and the Soviet Union, there are still miles to go and the road is not going to be a smooth one. In the last 30 years such a large wall of distrust has been built between both countries that it is going to take quite a while for trust to develop.

In order to build trust between the two countries both need to open up the one area where there is the most distrust to each other, the military. If both countries were to allow top military officials on each other's military bases both countries would know what the other is doing.

Total nuclear disarmament is very necessary in order to provide a safe world for everyone to live without fear. Now is the time to start and trust is the key.

-MKT-

Note-taking services allow more freedom, less responsibility

Wouldn't it be nice to sleep in instead of going to an 8 a.m. class? Well, for most students the consequences of not going to class are too high, but for a few (and the number is growing) there is such a luxury as paid note-taking services.

These paid note-takers attend class, listen to the lecture and take notes. While note-taking services are intended to supplement the lecture and not to replace it, many of their opponents feel that students who buy the notes skip more classes and pay less attention if they do come to class. The proponents feel that the services allow students to listen more intently to the lecture if they are not bothered with the task of scribbling notes or copying complex charts.

Note-taking may not be the most exciting part of taking a class, but for the most part it can help a student to remember things if he writes them down and if it doesn't do that at least it will keep him awake during the lecture. Hiring someone to take notes is almost as bad as buying a test before it's given or having someone do your homework for you. Grades are given on the basis of the student's own work, not on whether or not he has enough money to pay someone to do it for him.

-SLV-

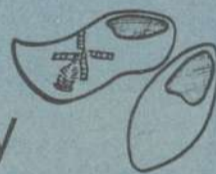


Wooden shoe like to know?

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

Editor's decision

not always easy



Well, after a long and fantastic vacation it's time to write again. A lot of things happened in the news, so there's enough material to write about.

During Christmas some issues arose concerning newspaper reporting. The story about Michael Stoops for example. November 18, Willamette Week published an article accusing Stoops of sexual misconduct with minor boys.

I don't know if you read the article in Willamette Week, but it made some pretty strong statements. "Michael Stoops engages in sexual activity with young boys he encounters at Baloney Joe's... medical records help piece together a composite of a driven individual who has found release in sexual relations with minors," are parts that I directly quoted from the paper.

I mean, these accusations can wreck one's career, and in the case of Stoops it did. Friday night, January 8, he resigned from his post as chairman of the Burnside Community Council.

Gary Hart is another example. Because of an article published about him and Donna Rice he had to withdraw from the presidential candidacy. At first a newspaper article destroyed his career.

However, Hart re-entered the race pretending nothing had happened. I wonder, will Stoops do the same thing in a couple of months, when most people have forgotten all about him and probably are involved in some other scandal? Wouldn't surprise me much, because everything is possible!

Anyway, I won't get into whether it was right or wrong what Stoops and Hart did, or being accused of doing. I'll leave that up to you. I just want to express how far papers can go to publish those kind of stories.

Printing these kind of strong statements can be quite libelous, and a paper's best defense is

truth. That means whatever they published has to be true, or defended as the truth.

The stories written are probably correct, because why would a paper print a libelous story? But it still doesn't take away that a newspaper article can ruin one's career opportunities.

Editors are the people who have to make the decision whether to run a story like that or not. It's got to be a very hard decision. Being an editor myself, I don't know what I would do in a case like that.

I know that people have the right to know and we have freedom of press. But would you want to be responsible for

destroying one's opportunities and disappoint many people?

Many of you do not realize that before printing such an article a lot of good thinking preceded publication. Often the papers get blamed for everything, but editors think in terms of "the public has a right to know!"

My conclusion about this deal... Maybe it is not fair to the individuals in question to write a ruining article about them. But some how the truth needs to be said and let's give the editors some credit or having the guts to let the truth come out!

Lenard



The Print

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