

# CAREER & EDUCATION

## Portland Student Named UO Editor

### Tyree Harris tackles justice issues

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Racial inequity, women's rights, social justice, and drug users are just a few subjects University of Oregon student journalist, Tyree Harris, prefers to engage his readers about.

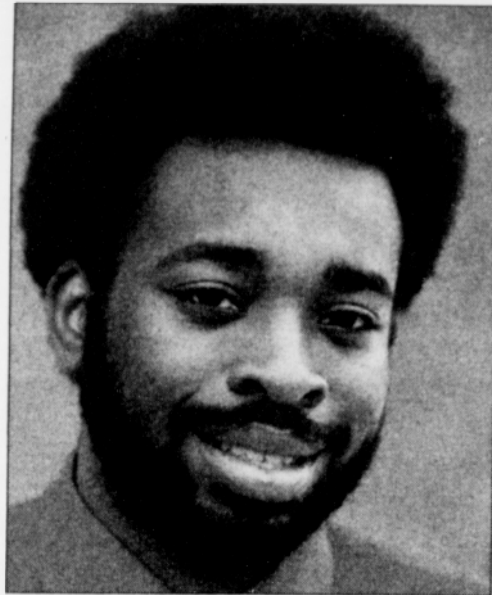
Selected as best suited to lead innovation in the university's newspaper, the junior journalism major and 2008 Parkrose High School graduate will lead a staff of 40 as the first-ever African American to be editor in chief of the Daily Emerald.

Over a year prior, Harris joined the independent nonprofit news

organization as a columnist for his weekly perspectives column, "In These Eyes," where he ties in larger societal issues to profiles and creative illustrations of other peoples' lives.

Beginning this summer, Harris will take the seat of former editor-in-chief, Norma Simon, where among his top priorities; he aims to move the Emerald into the digital future by increasing its web presence and staying in better touch with the papers surrounding community.

"I'm looking forward to learning from everyone," Harris said. "This is more responsibility than I've ever had journalistically. It's



Tyree Harris of Portland is the new editor in chief of the Daily Emerald, University of Oregon's student-run newspaper.

really exciting to see what changes are going to be made and how different the Emerald is going to be next year."

Keeping today's newspapers above water and safe from a certain death by lack of readership, funding, and online competition, Harris promotes the idea of pushing two different news products; one print and the other, optimized for online service with strong multimedia staff and web-linked visuals.

Board Chair Melody Ward Leslie, part of the Oregon Daily Emerald Board of Directors who unanimously selected Harris said, "We think he has vision, new judgment and the ability to mentor others, and these are the key traits in the editor of an independent student news organization."

The Emerald can thank

Parkrose English teachers for encouraging young Harris to write for his high school newspaper, the Bronco Blaze where he served as an opinion writer and commentary editor.

In 2009, Harris was the winner of the Northwest Scholastic Press Publications for bylined columns.

Among other accomplishments, Harris is known around Eugene for writing, producing, and performing his own hip-hop songs. He says music goes hand and hand with journalism because both revolve around expression, telling a story, and bringing significant ideas to the attention of readers or listeners.

## Voters Protect Teaching Positions

### But say 'no' to building upgrades

Portland School District voters passed a five-year replacement local option levy to pay for

teaching positions in the May 17 election, but voted against a six-year school facilities bond to increase safety and update classrooms.

Although the local option levy doesn't close the funding gap created by recent budget cuts, it will provide job security for 200 teaching positions within the next year.

According to PPS, state funding for 2011-13 is \$1 billion short of the amount needed to maintain Oregon's K-12 schools. As a result, Portland Public Schools faces a \$20 million shortfall, even with the additional \$19 million in funding from the levy.

Voters narrowly defeated the school construction bond—postponing needed improvements to PPS schools.

The average PPS is 65 years old, and therefore a number of school buildings throughout the city face multiple infrastructural issues.

The school facilities bond, Measure 26-121, would have paid for needed upgrades by asking residents for a bond rate of about \$2 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value, which would cost the median homeowner roughly

\$25 a month.

The \$548 million bond would have fully renovate nine schools within the city, as well as the measure would have also supplied new playgrounds, science labs, roofs, new desks, and more to the remaining schools.

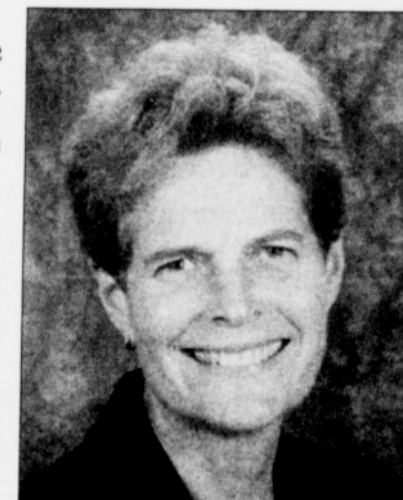
Without dedicated funding for school building projects, PPS students will continue to attend class in inadequate and outdated facilities.

Costly repairs to de-

teriorating school buildings will continue to strain the school district budget and drain dollars from the classroom. Consequently, many stakeholders in the Portland Public Schools remain committed to improving school buildings to increase education and safety for Portland's youth.

Superintendent Carole Smith has proposed a number of central office and school-based cuts, prudent use of reserve funds and no cost-of-living increases for all employees.

"Our next step — as a school district and as a community — will be to determine how we address these challenges in a way that matches the urgent need for these upgrades with the challenges of these economic times," Smith said.



Carole Smith

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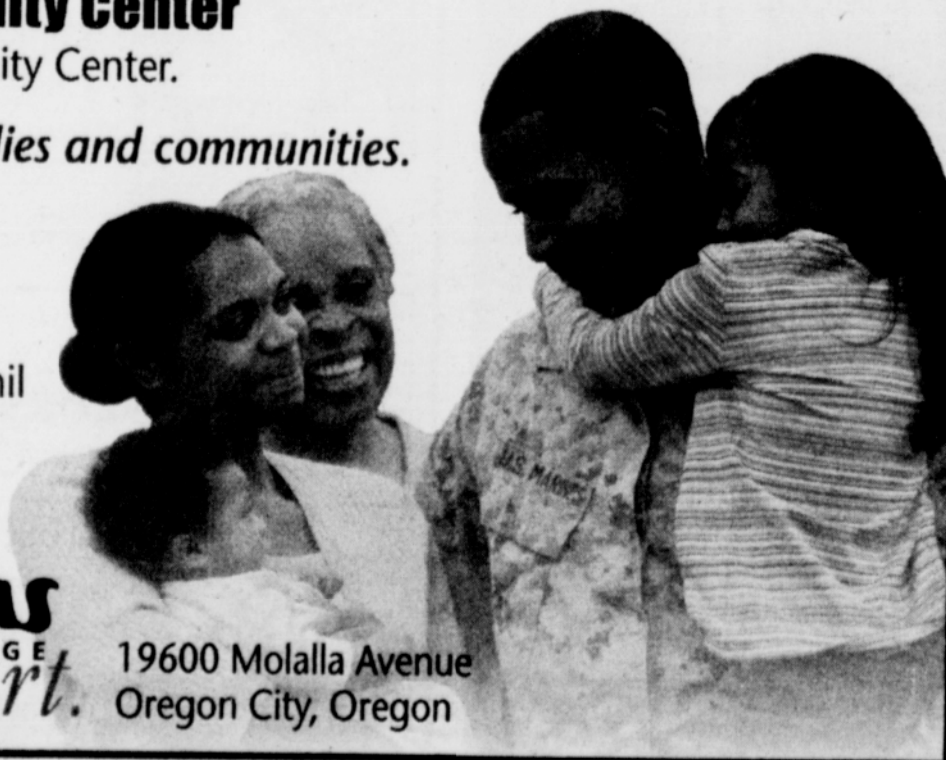
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