

# THE PEOPLE'S NEWSLETTER

May 2026



The People's Newsletter exists to remind us of the shared struggles that have happened at the Univeristy of Oregon and in Eugene. Our goal is twofold: (1) to generate an active account of what happens each month within the current local political sphere, and (2) unearth previous moments of struggle which connect to today. Let us know what you think and keep up the good trouble. Produced by *A People's Guide to the Univeristy of Oregon* research group, spring term meetings on Tuesday nights in Allen 304, 8pm-whenever. Sometimes we have chocolate milk.

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## ON THIS DAY IN PEOPLE'S HISTORY: "ALTERNATE U"



IMAGES: (Left) Student Jeffery Miller is murdered by National Guard at Kent State, *John Filo*. (Right) Alternate U commences on the Memorial Quad outside of PLC Hall, *Oregon Digital*.

On May 4, 1970, the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four students at Kent State University who were protesting the US military's expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia. In reaction to the massacre in Ohio, students at UO called for a three-day strike from all university activities, which President Robert Clark "legitimized" by cancelling classes May 6 through 8. In this time, students created their own "Alternate University" to "emphasize a principled and active opposition to Vietnam, Racism, Imperialism, and Repression." Graduate students, professors and department heads taught classes like "Radical, protest and revolutionary poetry," "Sociology from the road," and "Red guard in action." The Alternate U lasted for weeks beyond the strike, classes being called "when someone had something to teach." Read more about it in the *People's Guide* entry about the Quad.

What's familiar today? During the 2026 Mayday Festivities at Johnson Hall, the Latinx Student and Anti-ICE coalitions hosted a series of teach-ins on the lawn. Much of the momentum of the anti-ICE movement has originated from anger over murders at the hands of federal officers, in some ways paralleling the push for popular education created by Kent State.

# ***IN THIS MONTH OF PEOPLE'S HISTORY, MAY 2026***

## **MAY 1<sup>st</sup> - MAY DAY FESTIVITIES**

On May 1st, the Anti-ICE Coalition hosted a rally, teach-in, and vigil. The events were held in solidarity with International Workers' Day, also known as May Day, and further advanced their demands, including: an ICE alert system; a Latiné Cultural Center in conjunction with the Latinx Student Coalition; comprehensive protection plans for student workers; and a change to the code of conduct to protect students from prosecution should they intervene with ICE.

## **May 5<sup>th</sup> - EMERGENCY ICE ALERTS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED**

On May 5th, the University of Oregon implemented an emergency ICE Alerts system through Duck Alerts. This system was released nearly 150 days earlier than the September 30th deadline legally required by HB 4079 (which the UO lobbied against), following pressure from the UO Anti-ICE Coalition. Full implementation of an ICE Alerts system is expected to occur before the legally required deadline.

## **MAY 14<sup>th</sup> - 65 MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, CAMPUS SCRAMBLING IN RESPONSE**

On May 14th 2026, Karl Scholz sent an email informing students and staff of UO's \$65 million deficit in this year's annual budget. Last fall, UO reported a \$30 Million deficit for 2025-2026, citing a "gap in out-of-state enrollment & lack of international enrollment". Scholz says UO will implement a hiring and pay action freeze effective immediately, halting students and prospective staff from being hired. This means students seeking on-campus jobs are stuck in limbo, awaiting word on when the freeze will end, as well as a temporary halt on salary increases, cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), or promotions for hired employees.

Students and staff are outraged by this large increase in the university's deficit and fear budget cuts and the possibility of majors and/or minors being cut to close it. Last time around, UO cut multiple programs, resulting in an estimated 117 layoffs of professors and staff and the gutting of entire language programs, drastically impacting campus life and academics. United Academics (UA) and the general student body voiced their outrage at UO not releasing a comprehensive list of exactly what has been cut; they only release data on the total amount to be cut, not on specific programs or staff cuts. Given UO's track record with last year's cuts, it calls into question how far UO will go now that it has a \$65 million deficit. **And why did it double?** The campus community is stuck in a free fall awaiting a potential fix or future cuts to our programs, all while the Daily Emerald reported that the UO Foundation allocated \$5 million last year for a private jet service for administrators and athletes.

## **MAY 15<sup>th</sup> - SEIU RALLY: SAY NO TO PAY FREEZES**

On May 15th, the day after Karl Scholz's email, SEIU held a rally demanding that UO agree to a fair contract and not implement pay action freezes, which would negatively affect UO staffers. UO management offered a 0% economic offer at the bargaining table, meaning no raises, no COLAs, and no step increases over the next four years. SEIU members swarmed Johnson Hall with promises "we will be back" in regards to upcoming bargaining sessions for a new contract.

## **AND THE ROUNDUP... IN OTHER NEWS... THINGS PEOPLE DID... OR DIDN'T DO...**

Climate Justice League Campout & VICTORY at the Blue and Gold Timber Sale · Anti ICE Coalition meets weekly · Latinx Coalition holds Teach-In at the EMU Amphitheater, meets with Scholz who says "I'm not Rumpelstiltskin" · ROAR Hires Co-Directors for 26-27 · NASU Hosts 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Powwow · UOSW Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary of Contract, plants tree in commemoration at the Grove Community Garden · UOSW Workers of Color Social at the MNCH · UOSW Elects leadership for 26-27 · ASUO, YDSA host Future of Work Conference · 3rd annual JVP x MSA Solidarity Dinner · ASUO, ROAR host Socialist Speakers with Joy James, Rhiannon Hamam · Students for Justice in Palestine rallies outside Alareer Hall on Nakba Day · CAER hosts Leah Thomas for 31st Annual Environmental Justice Keynote · Black Cultural Center Plants Tree in Memorial of Eric Njue at Grove Garden