



## Satire Final Reflection

By Shannon Elliott and Mandy Desmarais

### Satirizing the University of Oregon Student Culture

For the genre, we were really inspired by a combination of satirical pieces that we've examined over the course of this term. Of course, *The Gashlycrumb Tinies* was our starting point for the content of our work, and we found the way in which it subverted the expectations of what would be considered as a children's book and the way it changed the content into something darker and unexpected to be particularly effective.

As far as our subject goes, we were greatly inspired by the strange cultural norms on college campuses, and the even stranger culture of collegiate life in Eugene. Our impending transition back into the "real world" after graduation has encouraged us to reflect frequently and deeply on what is considered normal at the UO and how our campus culture defies or counters expectations.

Additionally, because we feel that the University of Oregon has its own unique way of life and culture, we wanted to explore this way of life and the specific terms that define how students and ducks live during their four, or more, years on campus. More specifically, we really enjoyed examining and satirizing the drinking culture on campus. Whether or not its practiced by underclassmen, or upperclassmen, who are of legal age, we feel this culture is a natural subject to satirize.

Additionally, we wanted to shed light on a subculture within the University of Oregon culture. This subculture is greek life. We feel this subject is also a natural subject to satirize simply because some of its practices and terms are naturally and overtly absurd. Overall, the main point of our satire was to draw attention to aspects of college and college culture that are, at times, absurd and hilarious. Over the term, we've come to find that satire is an excellent way to shed light on subjects, ideas and ways of life in a humorous way. Therefore, we wanted to focus on using horatian satire for our project.