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COMMENTATOR

FEBRUARY 26, 2001 • VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE VIII • A JOURNAL OF OPINION

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COMMENTATOR

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OSPIRG TROUBLE

OSPIRG petitioners: you can't live with them, and you can't have them locked away. What's a frustrated student to do?

By Jeremy Jones
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@#\$\$%^&*!@#\$\$%^&*! Deal with it.**

By Jason Larimer
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2001 ELECTIONS COVERAGE

See OREGON COMMENTATOR interview candidates. See OREGON COMMENTATOR endorse candidates. See a monumental waste of time and effort.

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ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM RAP MUSIC

Method Man, meet St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas, Mr. Man. We all have to learn valuable life lessons somewhere.

By Pete R. Hunt
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JUMP

If you started reading on this page, you would be very, very confused.

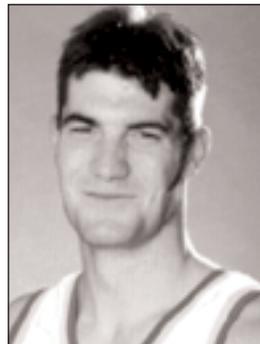
PAGE 26

**Vote No
on OSPIRG!**



Gee, really? Vote against OSPIRG? Well, if the Worker Rights Consortium says so, then there's really no arguing, is there?

THE DANE SAYS...



"I was once a lowly bench-warmer from a small, socialist country and a former running joke in the OC. Then I decided to vote against OSPIRG, and now look at me! I haven't played ball this well since I accidentally stepped on my copy of NBA Jam!"

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February 26, 2001
Copyright ©2001 Oregon Commentator Publishing Co., Inc.
Come on, OSPIRG, let's go. We'll even give you first punch.

DO THE RIGHT THING

Vote no on OSPIRG. Not only do they have their hand in your back pocket, and not only do they refuse to be honest about where your money goes, but they're also not very nice about it.

Vote no on OSPIRG. Not for our sake, but for your own. Need it be any more complicated than that? Of course not. However, OSPIRG, the Beast Resurrected, is quite good at a few select things. While saving the environment is not necessarily one of them, taking credit for the work of others often is: the PIRGs took credit for a 1998 Republican bill expanding student aid through the federal Pell grant, not to mention the independently-created UO Campus Recycling Program.

Their Machiavellian brilliance should be duly noted. It often is, in the pages of this magazine, but there are many other reasons why we at the OREGON COMMENTATOR despise OSPIRG. We know that deep down, if you really knew what they did, you'd despise them as well. Maybe it's Munger, maybe it's the signature-gatherers, or maybe you love the Corvair — whatever it is, the facts speak for themselves. But in fact, it is none of those things.

OSPIRG is very good at obscuring the truth about their program. Many on this campus consider themselves liberal-minded and thus are more willing to grant OSPIRG a pass when their budget numbers don't add up or aren't even itemized by expenditure.

The logic goes something like this: if they don't do it, who will? The answer: take your pick!

Are we truly to believe that OSPIRG is the only environmentally-concerned organization in Oregon? Local to the UO are a half-dozen groups, such as the Coalition Against Environmental Racism and the Sustainable Business Symposium. Their combined budgets add up to a fraction of OSPIRG's, plus their money stays on this campus and benefits students directly.

On a statewide level, 1000 Friends of Oregon, a lobby carrying on the tradition of the maverick Republican former Governor of Oregon, Tom McCall. 1000 Friends of Oregon are heavily involved in statewide campaigns to preserve the land use regulations around Portland — the so-called “green belt” — and promote light rail. And they have the victories to prove it.

Furthermore, OSPIRG doesn't accomplish anything on the UO campus. More than a few former members can (and do) tell stories of signing up with the image in mind of feeding the homeless or testing the pH-level of the Willamette, only to find themselves petitioning student signatures like robots, or worse, dropped off for the afternoon in various neighborhoods across

the state and told to walk door-to-door collecting donations.

Of course, you won't find that in an OSPIRG press release. What happens inside the PIRG is really quite interesting, and truth be told, it functions not unlike that of a religious cult. The new recruits are lured in by the promise of being part of something larger than oneself. A narrow-minded ideology is introduced and re-enforced; the PIRGian train of thought is unquestioned.

For example: Truly, OSPIRG supporters will tell you that they “don't really like capitalism,” then freely admit that they haven't the slightest idea who Adam Smith was, or what the Theory of Comparative Advantage is about. Sociology and Environmental Studies majors should be required to take Economics classes just as Journalism majors are — it at least stands to reason that the detractors of the laissez-faire economy should at least be able to explain it.

Even more significantly cultlike is the fact that those who are involved with OSPIRG on a state level — Ben “Bunger” Unger, Jereme Grzybowski, Merriah Fairchild (they should all be on campus in the next week; go talk to them) — already know everything in this editorial. It is, of course, their in their interest to keep this information from becoming accepted by their campus volunteers — their cult members — not to mention the students on campus who merely pay the nearly 150K annual fee.

This is why posters for the anti-OSPIRG Honesty campaign (of which this magazine's editor is completely open about being Director of Communications for) are routinely covered up or taken down. Those who know the PIRG best — from the inside — are clearly afraid of the information that Honesty seeks to promote. The last thing they want is a fair and open debate on campus.

The very last thing they want is for a widespread debate on the PIRG's legitimacy. In 1999, less than a year after the students of the University denied OSPIRG's ballot measure for the first time in nearly three decades, then-ASUO President Geneva Wortman called for a “special election,” without ASUO Constitution precedent, and opened the door to OSPIRG's re-entry. Following a COMMENTATOR investigation, a grievance and intervention by the ASUO Constitution Court, the election was allowed to proceed without OSPIRG's funding request. The object of the move was clear to many: **CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**





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MISSION STATEMENT

The OREGON COMMENTATOR is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon for the campus community. Founded by a group of concerned student journalists Sept. 27 1983, the COMMENTATOR has had a major impact in the “war of ideas” on campus, providing students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by other student publications, professors and student groups. During its eighteen-year existence, it has enabled University students to hear both sides of issues. Our paper combines reporting with opinion, humor and feature articles. We have won national recognition for our commitment to journalistic excellence.

The OREGON COMMENTATOR is operated as a program of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) and is staffed solely by volunteer editors and writers. The paper is funded through student incidental fees, advertising revenue and private donations. We print a wide variety of material, but our main purpose is to show students that a political philosophy of conservatism, free thought and individual liberty is an intelligent way of looking at the world — contrary to what they might hear in classrooms and on campus. In general, editors of the COMMENTATOR share beliefs in the following:

- We believe that the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate — instead of the current climate in which ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality interfere with academic pursuit.
- We emphatically oppose totalitarianism and its apologists.
- We believe that it is important for the University community to view the world realistically, intelligently and, above all, rationally.
- We believe that any attempt to establish utopia is bound to meet with failure and, more often than not, disaster.
- We believe that while it would be foolish to praise or agree mindlessly with everything our nation does, it is both ungrateful and dishonest not to acknowledge the tremendous blessings and benefits we receive as Americans.
- We believe that free enterprise and economic growth, especially at the local level, provide the basis for a sound society.
- We believe that the University is an important battleground in the “war of ideas” and that the outcome of political battles of the future are, to a large degree, being determined on campuses today.
- We believe that a code of honor, integrity, pride and rationality are the fundamental characteristics for individual success.
- Socialism guarantees the right to work. However, we believe that the right not to work is fundamental to individual liberty. Apathy is a human right.

nobody asked us, but...



ikeda

A schwing! A misch!

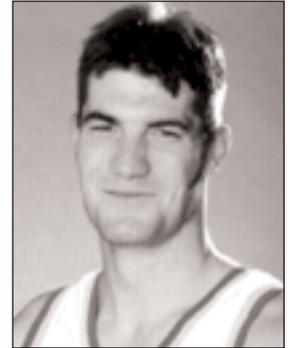
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND — NOT TO MENTION THE CUSHIONS OF the couch in the OC office — it's more about the recent star-crossed OC golfing trip. The above picture is now available at OC Online, but the notes printed below are a relatively recent discovery. Intrepid OC staffer Jeremy Jones wrote them down at one point or another, and while we failed to decipher what they fully say, we nevertheless felt it was in the interest of our readership to make them available. If you figure out what it all says, we'll give you Rebecca Newell's phone number. If you figure out what it all means, we'll throw in Jack Clifford's phone number too.

Bill pulls carties
on fair way ~~back~~
Dart down.
last hole pretty good
Shot sort of Pete starts
my jacket. ~~the~~
I am a factual drunk
I can drive the cart
Gave only other cart
m.a.

The Dane Also Rises

ONCE AGAIN, THE OC WAS AHEAD OF ITS TIME. THREE YEARS into his college basketball career, the first recipient of the annual OC "Rising Star" Tater Award, 7'20" junior center Chris "The Dane" Christofferson has finally arrived.

At UCLA on January 27, Christofferson exploded for 15 points — real points that help win ball games, not the type he imagined making while he warmed the bench during his freshman and sophomore years. Previously, the Dane had scored eight points against USC and 11 in the game before that against WSU, but Christofferson's game-winning effort against the Bruins was something else.



Oh, did we say game-winning? Our mistake. Since the Dane turned his game on, in fact, the UO men's basketball program has been sliding further and further into the lower echelon of the Pac-10 conference. Could it actually be the fault of Chris Christofferson? Could the now-good Dane be the reason the Ducks themselves are now-not-good, to use a specific basketball term?

Probably not.

However, with the exception of Oregon's anomalous trouncing of the Pac-10 powerhouse Arizona Wildcats, the men's team is pretty much screwed. So are the women's team, but who cares, really?

Described unfairly as the "biggest toddler ever" by the *Oregon Daily Emerald* on Jan. 31, Christofferson's intellectual capability are months and possibly even years beyond that of toddler stage. The Ducks now let the Dane speak to the press, and following he UCLA game, Christofferson told the *Emerald*: "We want to show the rest of the conference we're a force to be reckoned with down low," a display of verbosity that Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal couldn't wrap his tongue around. The Dane's ability to use polysyllabic words and construct moderately complex, grammatically passable sentences put him at least the third grade level — coincidentally, the same level at which newspaper articles are written.

At long last, this hulking oaf has come into his own.

OC SHOUT-OUTS

- Mr. Castle: Have ASUO Legal Services called you back yet? Why not?
- LGBTA kids: Next time leave the Honesty posters alone. There's space on the bulletin board for everyone.
- No, Biff. You leave her alone!

OREGON COMMENTATOR

OC *Emerald Watch*

By **Tim Dreier**

There's nothing like context. We've all seen the wonderful headlines in the *Ol' Dirty Emerald*. The better proportion are far from noteworthy, but some... oh yes, some deserve reviewing.

Student's death incites fear and sadness

Monday, February 12, 2001



There are at least 10,000 active verbs in the English language. 9,999 of these would have been a better choice for a headline regarding the death of a student. The above gives me the image of hordes of paranoid, depressed students trying to break down the doors of the Student Health Center, clambering over one another to gain access to the expensive vaccine within. While slightly amusing, this image puts totally the wrong spin on things.

UO soccer nets recruiting class

Friday, February 16, 2001



What does this headline mean? Can somebody, please, tell me just what the hell this headline means? Exactly how does one "net"? What is a "recruiting class"? I've had friends say more coherent things while tripping on acid. For the love of everything holy, try to write headlines that can be deciphered.

'Taste of Asia' comes to county fairgrounds

Friday, February 16, 2001



All right, now this is a decent headline. It may be boring, it may be simple, but dammit, this headline actually works. Hooray, somebody up at the Ol' Dirty knows enough to put together a coherent headline with an active verb that isn't "incites." Congratulations to whomever wins this: you win.



Emerald

Cocaine use is not out of style

Friday, February 16, 2001



This headline gets five stars, if for not other reason than it makes me feel good about myself. I thought I was the only one left doing lines of blow in the restrooms of posh upper-class restaurants. Thanks to this headline, I know I am not alone. Thank you, ODE, you've made my day that much brighter. (EP: Do you by any chance have Robert Downey Jr.'s digits? I hear that guy really knows the scene.)

Follow the OC

OF COURSE, IT ALWAYS TAKES SOME TIME before everyone else catches up with what the OREGON COMMENTATOR is doing — it's only natural.

For example, the OREGON COMMENTATOR warned students about the expanding powers of the Department of Public Safety, including the possibility of security officers becoming armed. For students on campus, this was cause for alarm, and following the publication of Issue IV/V, "Behind Closed Doors," a number of student leaders made their views on the issue of DPS to Director Tom Fitzpatrick and UO President Dave Frohnmayer.

Nevertheless, Frohnmayer approved Fitzpatrick's request to allow a number of DPS employees the privilege of some police powers — including the ability to

stop, search and cite people on campus.

Not a few weeks later, a bill was introduced to the Oregon legislature asking the House and Senate to approve a law for... what? For arming Oregon public universi-

ty public safety officers the right to carry firearms. Of course, the same right would not be afforded to university students, but then, hey: authoritarianism is all part of the fun. We hate to say it, but we told you so.

CORRECTION

In the last issue, it appeared that in our February 15, 2001 edition, the OC mistakenly referred to the "ADFC" as the "APFC." This is patently false. ADFC refers to the Athletic Department Finance Committee, whereas APFC stands for Alaskan Pacific Forestry Commission, a large company hell-bent on blowing the tundras to smithereens. Mr. Ouellette, the author, is the second-largest stockholder following Rupert Murdoch. The OC apologizes for withholding this conflict of interest from our trusting readership.

You cannot
escape them.

OSPIRG TROUBLE

BY JEREMY JONES

My rant today will focus on OSPIRG. The OC and the Honesty Campaign have already established the fact that OSPIRG spends money with all the discrimination and accountability of the Democratic Party. Instead, I am going to talk about something more irritating than their incredible efficiency at pissing money away. For three days, these self-important twits hit the streets with their clipboards on a quest to annoy every living being on campus. Even the squirrels tried to avoid them.

Before this whole ordeal, I had almost no knowledge of OSPIRG. All I knew was that they printed posters worth laughing about on the way to class. At the time I was sitting on a couch in the OC office, having a deep philosophical conversation with an OC editor about the volume of beer needed to cover the entire earth in a malt liquor ocean. Two guys walked in to discuss the planned anti-OSPIRG pins and t-shirts. I threw out a few questions about OSPIRG and their hatred of it, but I really didn't give it a lot of thought.

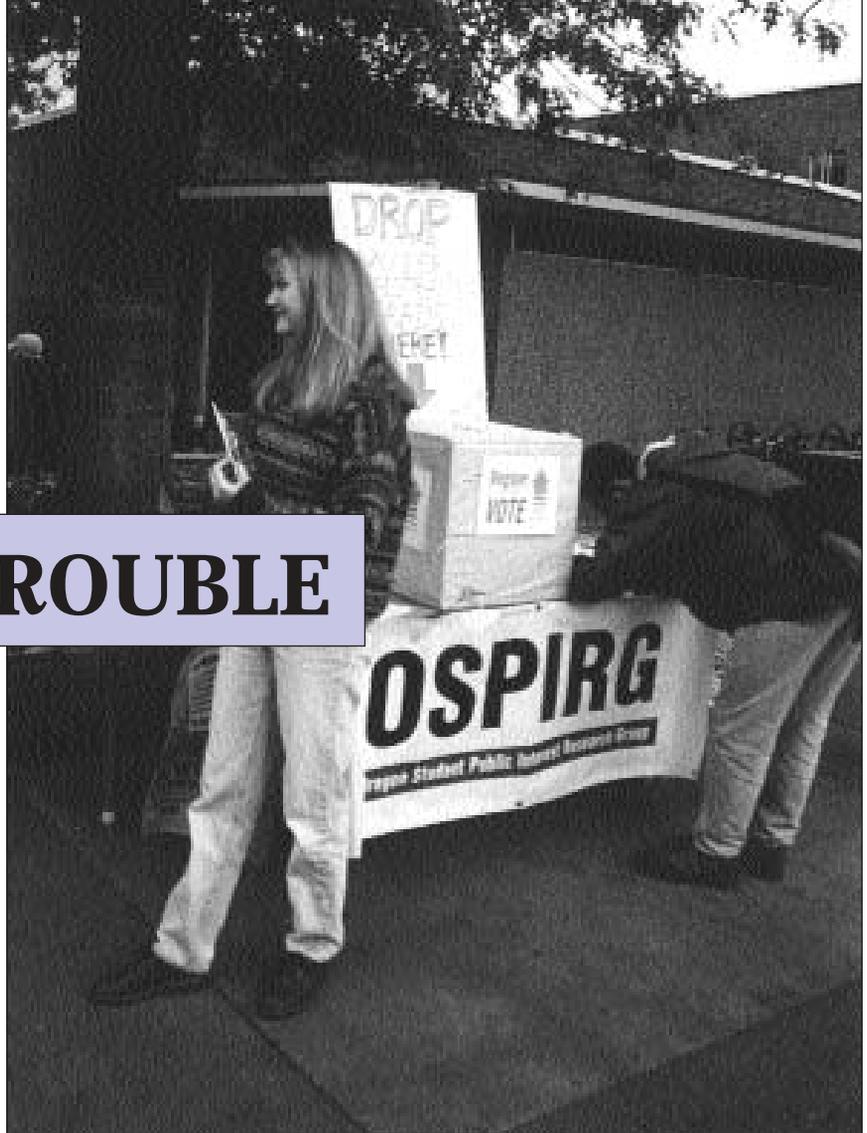
My relation to these liberal groups is one of tolerance. Frankly, I don't care if they plaster their posters all over the school and then go chain themselves to a tree in the forest. Things like that give writers like me a lot of material to ridicule mercilessly, so I don't care what they do so long as they leave me alone.

Unfortunately, the very next week, members of OSPIRG upset this delicate balance of apathy. That Monday, I was walking back to my dorm after my Economics class, and was confronted by the first idiot with a clipboard. Considering it was a Monday morning, I think I acted very civil. I asked the clipboard-toter to explain her views, and finding I didn't agree with them, politely dismissed her with a simple, "No, I don't think

so." Then came the second one, and the third, each rubbing another layer off my rapidly thinning patience. Afraid that I would eventually beat one of these people to death with their clipboard, I went to the OC office to seek the wise counsel of the aforementioned editor. And this knowing editor said unto the irritated writer, "Take you this pin of anti-OSPIRG. It will protect you from the clipboard welding maniacs that dwell near the EMU." The pin was white with the word "OSPIRG" printed on it and crossed out by a crimson slash. I put the pin on my shirt and proceeded to walk back home. I was stopped by one more clipboard idiot. Without even a word, I pointed to the pin and proceeded on my way. The clipboard moron gasped and said to herself, "That was mean!" as I walked back home, protected by the pin. That first day I was stopped four times for my signature.

Like a virus, they mutated into a form that more annoying, and worse, immune to the pin. Walking to my Spanish class, I was stopped once again for the signature I would not give. I tried my best to keep the pin in plain view, at one point going so far as to pin it directly onto my forehead. Even that attempt was greeted with a, "Wow man, I bet that hurts! Would you please sign..." By the end of that day I had three anti-OSPIRG pins attached to various parts of my clothing. By this time all the civility I had once fostered had a distant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



\$#@&%!

Listen up, liberals: Here's what conservatives think conservatives are doing wrong. Listen up, conservatives: Here's what you're doing wrong.

BY JASON LARIMER

I am going to write a critique of conservatism from the viewpoint of a conservative. I think that in some ways a lot of what passes for conservatism these days is misguided. Also, I think that conservatism has a problem rallying popular indignation against leftist causes — especially in Eugene.

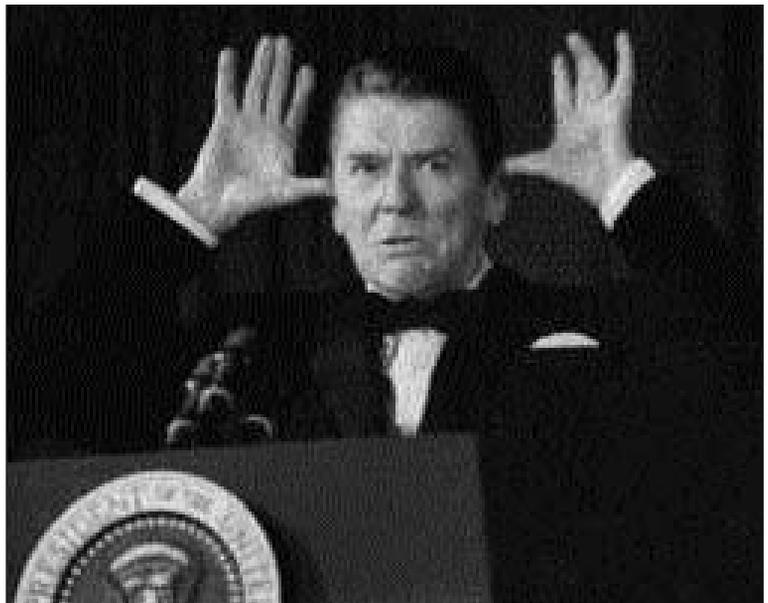
My ideas stem from the conviction that OSPIRG, WRC, and SETA do not represent a majority of students, not by a long shot. What's more, the vast majority of people in Eugene like Christmas trees in City Hall. Some of them probably think Jim Johnson should have one himself — where the sun doesn't shine. Then why in the \$#@&%! has this \$#@&%! state become no more than a \$#@&%! prostitute, giving up the juice to California?

Simply put, the so-called conservatives everywhere in this are most ineffective at getting votes. They seem to think their main occupation is either preaching, stumbling around Seaside drunk as the Irish, or \$#@&%! about how this state is filled with left-wing heathens who are going to roast in hell. Republicans couldn't beat Goldschmidt, that \$#@&%! lunatic Roberts, or that well-dressed cowboy Kitzhaber.

Here, a bunch of ASUO screwballs can \$#@&%! around and lose the school 30 million dollars and no one seems to give a good \$#@&%!. What the \$#@&%! have campus conservatives done about it?

Effectively nothing. Year after year the eyes of students keep getting redder and redder because of that marijuana called Marx; and just plain marijuana. Why does this happen?

I've come to the conclusion that the left is able to market itself as everybody's best friend. They only want what is in the best interest of everyone and everything, Alaskan ice included. They exist to make sure no one is oppressed by the market, by religions, or by themselves. Unable to conceive that a free market



benefits a society through spontaneous, voluntary action, they guarantee people state entitlements and social justice. Unfortunately, the so-called conservatives do not promise much better.

Think of it: we have a Republican president who wants to give churches money to help solve social problems. I wonder how quick it will take for that entitlement to get etched into the rock of expectations. Who knows? Maybe the Anglicans will use that money to rid us of the Anabaptists and the Papist menace once and for all.

We have a whole group of so-called social conservatives who feel that the Bible would be the best law of the land. Apparently, learning that making graven images is wrong will heal all our social problems.

Finally, we have a whole brood of conservatives who argue for the repeal of the death tax because of fairness or the moral implications of political theory, a la George Will. Never mind this is straying into liberal territory by allowing mere ideals to take the place of hard-headed factual analysis. Well, at least it shows fairness of wealth distribution mustn't exist

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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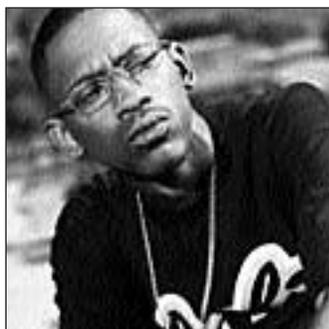


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ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM RAP MUSIC

Okay, so all I really learned about was drugs. But at the University of Oregon, is there really any more you need to know?



BY PETE R. HUNT

Nobody bothered to tell me the real facts of life when I was growing up. My parents were too embarrassed to tell me about their “wet-and-wild” youth. They thought the less I knew of their infamous past, the better. Well Dad, your story of getting hassled by the federalees in Tijuana could of come in handy when the EPD found me hotboxing in the bathroom at a busted keg party. My high school health teacher loved to talk about the dangers of STDs, but the school refused to hand out condoms. I learned about gonorrhea from listening to a guy named Ol’ Dirty Bastard. Where was the guidance counselor on that one? We live in a society of hypocrites who more or less insist that our youth learn about the dangers of society on their own.

Well, what our public learning institutions wouldn’t tell me about drugs, Snoop Doggy Dogg did. And when people told me “nobody” really knows to please a women, I knew they meant nobody but Too Short. Where our “politically correct” driven culture has failed, our “id” driven hip-hop heroes have succeeded. Like Ken Kesey said in the Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, it’s all about transcending the bullshit.

What follows is a collection of wisdom that has been passed on to me from hours of bumping “Doggystyle” in my Jeep Cherokee. These quotes deal with everything from sex to drugs to the law. Rap music may not be the deepest form of poetry out there; but in keeping it simple, it keeps it real. So read on, young men and women; be entertained, but more importantly, be educated.

Yo, I don’t smoke weed or cess / ‘Cuz it’s been known to give a brother brain damage.

—Dr. Dre

Back in high school I was about as hip as Encyclopedia Brown. I never went to a single unchaperoned party, and I never touched a drop of alcohol. I certainly never smoked “la-la.”

Although a vibrant personality and a good sense of humor may have won me friends, it never afforded me the opportunity to bang the head cheerleader in the back of my car after prom. Take it from me, chicks don’t dig chess trophies. Still, I got good grades and a few scholarships, and that got me into the “higher” education system. I have Dre to thank for keeping me on the straight and narrow.

Smoked weed with a lot of college students / most of ‘em wasn’t graduating and they knew it.

—Redman

This would aptly describe my sophomore year of college, when I really started puffing on the indo.

Sure, my GPA went from 3.86 to 2.5, but I was having a hell of a time. What did I care, I was going to community college. Smoking opened up a whole new world to me. Cultural differences all but disappear when somebody whips out a bubbler. I would smoke with the campus stoners one-day, and with the captain of the basketball team the next.

My love of Indo continues to this day, but I’ve learned a thing or two since my early days as a toker. First, you’ve got to realize that the old cliché that smokers are lazy do-nothings is entirely true. Of all the people I smoked with back-in-the-day, only a few are still in school. Most of them flip the whoppers that I eat for lunch, or worse still, run green chain at the mill. Yet they still show up unannounced at my house to toke. We reminisce about the good old days, but that’s about all we have in common. I can’t relate to stories about getting high in the bathroom at work anymore. In conclusion: If you can smoke and still handle going to school, then more power to you. But getting an education is far more important than getting high. End of sermon.

If Kurupt gave a fuck about a bitch / I'd always be broke / and I'd never have no mother-fucking Indo to smoke. —Kurupt

You can divide the friends you know into two categories. Those who are whipped, and those who party hardy. I put myself into the latter category. Hey, I might not be getting laid every night, but I don't have to check in with anybody when I want to go to Highlands for a drink either. I know some guys who have tried to do both — be the loyal boyfriend and the boozin' buddy — but it never works. When they're with the guys, they're always too worried that their girlfriend is going to find out they're taking bong rips. When they're with the girlfriend watching a Meg Ryan flick, they always wish they were with the guys. You can't have it both ways man.

And speaking of getting laid, here is my take on the whole thing. Waking up next to a beautiful young sorority girl with a body as toned as a '64 Chevy is a great thing when your 20, but it's going to be even cooler when your 40. Older guys always get the best chicks; look at Michael Douglas. So party while you can, you're going to be dealing with the opposite sex for all of your life, but it's only socially acceptable to pass out drunk on a pool table when you're in your early twenties.

Just took some ecstasy, ain't no telling what the side effects could be. —Dr. Dre

If President Bush hadn't blown most of his brain cells out on coke, he'd appoint Dr. Dre as our nation's drug czar. If you've seen "Traffic" then you know that our war on drugs is a joke. In primary and secondary school they show you films like "Reefer Madness" that desensitize you to the seriousness of drug addiction. Nobody really believes that smoking one joint is going to put you in the loony bin.

Dr. Dre, on the other hand, has been preaching the drug gospel for years now, and he never gets any thanks. Sure, he might puff a little weed now and then, but he also tells the kids some straight hard facts about drugs that they aren't getting from Barry R. McCaffrey. Young, uninformed adolescents may think that MDMA is completely harmless. How dangerous can something be if Morley Safer — the epitome of uncool — did a 60 Minutes piece on it? People know more about the dangers of Ecstasy from one Dr. Dre song than they do from countless MTV after-school specials.

I don't really care if the po-po stop and stare/ I'm way out my body / way out / my body. —E-40

Oregon Revised Statue number 430.325 states that it is illegal

to be under the influence of a controlled substance on public property. But you're free to be as trashed as you want to be on your own property. That means that if you're sitting on the front porch drunk as a skunk — and more than a little stoned — there is absolutely nothing Johnny Law can do about it. If there is one thing rappers know, it's the law.

Pass the Blunt/ My nigga don't front/ you've had it for a minute/ but it seems like a month. —Method Man

One night about a year back I was sitting around my old apartment with a bunch of friends smoking weed. We had a major case of the munchies, so I headed to the freezer and pulled out a mas-

WAKING UP NEXT TO BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SORORITY GIRL WITH A BODY AS TONED AS A '64 CHEVY IS A GREAT THING WHEN YOU'RE 20, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN COOLER WHEN YOU'RE 40.

sive frozen DiGiornos pizza. I could hardly wait to bite into that delicious rising crust. Well, I should have waited, because five minutes later when I pulled it out of the oven, I ended up with a mouth full of dough. Time seems to go by slowly when you're stoned. That's why I thought the pizza was done, when in fact it had barely defrosted.

The nineties were a rough time to grow up. Pops was doing 12-15 on an intent to distribute charge. Mom was barely holding down two jobs. Big brother left the family to go slang rocks on the corner of Crenshaw and Slausun. People getting shot up on the streets. It was all a brother could do to make it to school every day.

Okay, this doesn't really describe my teenage years, but it may as well, because it does describe the life of your typical rapper. Many young people live vicariously through the lives of rappers. They think it's all about "switches and bitches" and "shorties and forties." Well, in some ways it is, but there's really a lot more to it than that. I challenge you, the next time you're bumping your old Ice Cube CD, listen a little more carefully to what the guy has to say. Learn from it, take it with you in life.

Check yourself before you wreck yourself.



Pete R. Hunt, a junior majoring in drug consumption, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 memory. I now answered all these people with a sharp, “No! Leave me alone, for the love of God.” The pins kept a few signature seekers at bay, but I was still badgered three times on the second day.

Wednesday was the worst. Besides the clipboard idiots, I was stopped by some lady wanting me to have a Bible. Now, I was not only a cynical, cold-hearted conservative, but also a heathen destined to be damned to hell.

All I wanted was to get to class, not an assessment of my character. After being bothered three more times, I went to the anti-OSPIRG dealer to get another deterrent. They were standing outside the Business school with their anti-OSPIRG paraphernalia. I went to them and said, “I need another anti-OSPIRG fix. No more pins; that stuff isn’t working anymore. I need something stronger.” The guys smiled and said, “Okay, we just got these shirts. These will keep OSPIRG away from you for good. Only eight bucks.” “Oh, sure. Get me hooked, then raise the price.” But not wanting to be bothered anymore, I forked over the money.

Walking back to my dorm, I was confronted by some hippie that was tolerant of everything except differing opinions. She looked at me and said, “You feel proud wearing that shirt?” And I answered, “Yes, I am.” It was then I realized that I was no longer a man, but a walking symbol of every bad feeling against OSPIRG. I was now Cynical Bastard! Protector of the Disillusioned and Bitter, Enemy to Idealistic Morons. No one is safe from my smart-ass comments! About that time, a DPS officer told me to get down from the tree and accompany him to

the station for a sobriety test. The point is, I am comfortable with my innate cynicism.

In closing, I would like to add a note to any OSPIRG members that might be reading this.

First, I think you picked up the wrong magazine, idiot. This is a magazine based on reality — not some false utopia where people live in peace and harmony and everyone lives by your

FOR THREE DAYS, THESE SELF-IMPORTANT TWITS HIT THE STREETS WITH THEIR CLIPBOARDS ON A QUEST TO ANNOY EVERY LIVING BEING ON CAMPUS. EVEN THE SQUIRRELS TRIED TO AVOID THEM.

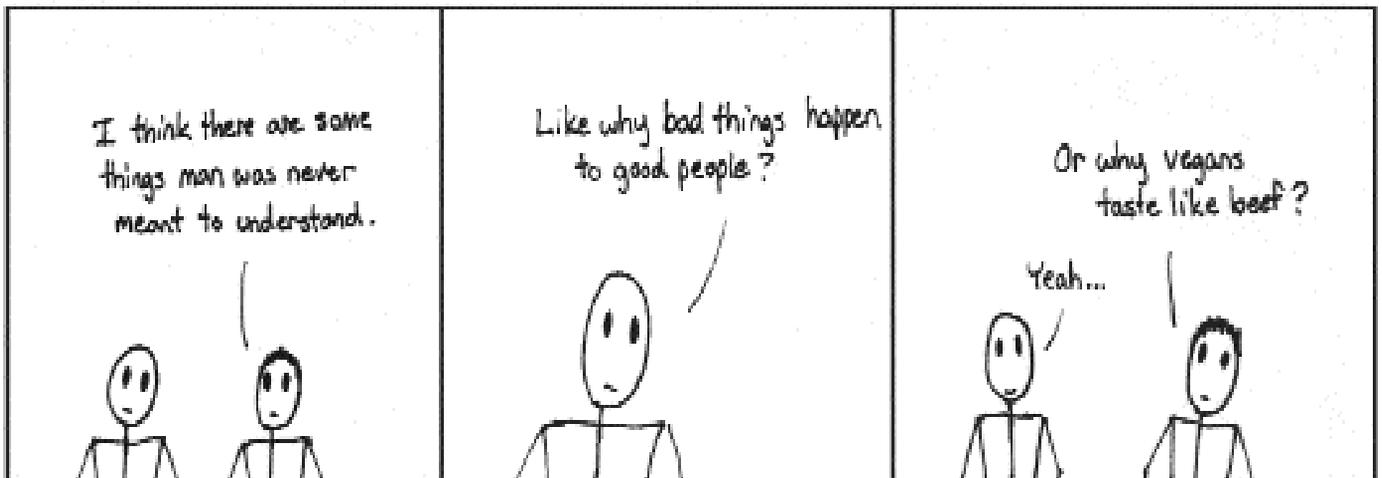
narrow-minded opinion of what is “right.” For this caliber of journalistic material, may I suggest the *Insurgent*?

And second, quit annoying us with your quest for signatures. All you do is irritate people and give them a reason to vote against your cause. You’d be better off just sitting back and leaving us alone. All you do is spread knowledge, and let’s face it, knowledge is not your friend. The only way a normal person would vote in favor of OSPIRG is if they didn’t know any better.



Jeremy Jones, a doctoral candidate in OSPIRG Studies, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR

Random Stick Thoughts



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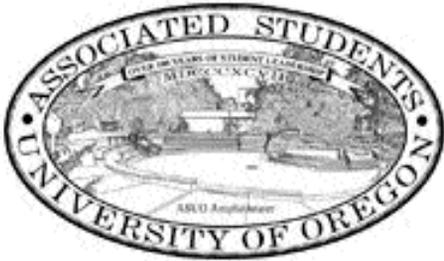


online

AT LEAST NOBODY'S BEEN LAID OFF YET.

That's right, kids. It's our long-awaited...

2001 ASUO



Elections Coverage

Many will play. Some will win. Nobody will care.

Two short years after the OREGON COMMENTATOR swore off the ASUO for good, here we are: legitimately endorsing a ticket for the ASUO Executive Office.

And why, pray tell, are we doing such a thing? How could we have fallen so far? Are we out of our freaking minds?

That is for us to know.

What is for you to know is what the candidates in this election had to say to us, and what we now have to say about them. In the weeks prior to the primary election, we sat down with each of the candidates (who would return our calls) and traded words over a number of issues that matter to us at the OREGON COMMENTATOR. Those interviews may be found on the following pages, if you are so inclined.

A note: some readers may note that two candidates, Vice Presidential hopeful Brian Boone and Presidential contestant Sho Ikeda are both employed

in various capacities by the COMMENTATOR. It would follow that these two candidates received special treatment from the editors who collaborated on the following series of interviews. This is not true. First, the interviews were conducted in exactly the same manner. As for the second reason, well, just read the endorsements.

Another note: Yes, some of the interviewed bought advertisements in this issue. No, that did not matter either. It's sort of like the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes: no purchase is necessary to win.

Are you ready? Can you wait any longer? Is every last ounce of your concentration devoted to refraining from jumping to the end of this section just to see who you should vote for, regardless of the information contained forewith?

Well, don't. You might learn something this way. There's no need to be a total jackass.

You may now the page. ▶▶▶

Eric BAILEY & JEFF Oliver

The OREGON COMMENTATOR interviewed Eric Bailey on 02/20/01.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

We have the experience and we know the issues.

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

Diversity is not only based on ethnic, cultural and gender background, it is also political background. Both my running mate and I believe that the current ASUO office does not represent the student body in terms of political views. Even though I may not agree with everyone, I would want to make an office that shares the student voice — all the student voice, not just one representation of the student voice. Also, I think that people just say a lot about diversity on campus — “Oh, we have X amount of blacks on campus, X percentage of whatever.” — it’s more important not just to get those people here, we need to actually let them be heard. Jay Breslow has supported many student groups on campus and that’s what he says, that’s his way of going around. I’d like to take a more active approach toward fostering diversity. It’s kind of hard to get the numbers as well because we have such a homogeneous state. Oregon’s white; that’s the bottom line. Back to my general definition, I think it has to include political views as well as ethnicity, culture and gender.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPIRG?

Well, I think that ASUO president you don’t really have direct control over the funding of OSPIRG. That’s the student vote every two years that has control over that. My running mate and I have both taken a neutral stance on OSPIRG and said that we want to inform the students on where the money would be going, how it is applied and how much they would be paying out of pocket. If the majority of the student body still wants OSPIRG, then that’s the way it should be. OSPIRG should be funded.

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

That refers to what I already said in regard to diversity. I believe that the ASUO office definitely can and I think—I know—I work better when I get opinions from all sides not just a bunch of people agreeing with what I say. I know that Jeff and I will definitely create an office that does represent the student body and its views. I think sometimes it is said as an empty campaign promise. Some people just say “student voice” because it’s a buzz word. I think it can definitely be more that, and creating an office that represents all views across the political spectrum is one step in that direction.

OC: What efforts would you make to control the costs of attending the university that are associated with tuition and incidental fees?

I’ve always felt that it is an oxymoron to raise the incidental fee, while those same people are advocating for lower tuition. Jeff and I want to, not decrease the incidental fee, we do want to make sure it is being spent wisely. We want to inform students about the incidental fee. Right now, we think there are a lot of people who a) don’t know they’re paying the incidental fee, or b) don’t know where it is going. We want to change that; it’s one of our top priorities. You’re going to see it on the back of T-shirts, it’s going to say “fee awareness.” That is our stance on that, we want to inform students on the incidental fee and where it is going. Another take, as far as tuition goes, it’s kind of hard to keep that lowered—especially with the big budget shortfall that is expected. Of course, we’ll fight; we’ll write state legislature. But it is also going to be hard next year, the ASUO president and vice president to keep that lowered for a few more reasons. One of the main being that the state legislature only does its budget every two years. They’re making the decisions not only for this year—but the year after that too. When Jeff and I would be in office we really wouldn’t have that much power—we could say stuff, we could write the legislature—but they’re not really going to be in control of the office to lower that tuition.

OC: We’re through with our questions, so this is our forum to tell us what you’re going to do with your administration next year.

If elected, a couple things that we would do would be to look into creating a greek advocate in the office. Right now there is a housing advocate, but there is no greek advocate. We also want to create town hall meetings, bi-weekly, to make it so students could come and tell us their opinions. Because currently it is kind of intimidating coming into that office and just saying what you want to say. We’d fight for these issues—renters rights, a housing code in Eugene, most major cities have a housing code; Eugene does not, that is a big issue—we think there are already steps being taken toward implementing that, but we want to make sure it is done get accomplished in the next year. Safety, not just campus safety, that’s another one of those buzz words, but we need to create a safer environment around campus. I know a big issue over by Autzen Stadium—it’s pretty dark there if you’re walking from Duck’s Village to the UO campus. So we need to make sure that’s more lit. Campus relations, that’s a big one. We’re trying to mend relations with the UO administration—I’ve already met with Dave Frohnmayr and he doesn’t see why we can’t do this. We’re trying to build bridges, not burn them. And, that’s basically it.

NILDA Brooklyn & Joy NAIR

The OREGON COMMENTATOR interviewed Nilda Brooklyn on 02/20/01.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

We're the only women on the ticket; we have the most experience working together. (ed. note: We are aware this reply contains more than ten words. We may be writers, but we can still count.)

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

Both me and Joy's current positions in the ASUO work exclusively with diversity issues. She's the recruitment retention coordinator and I'm the multicultural advocate. So for the last two years that has basically been our main focus on campus. We choose not to put it on our platform because everyone does and it is pretty much lip service to 'I'm going to personally diversify a campus.' Mainly our position is that the administration has written plan after plan after plan for about the last ten years, and there's blueprints for what you actually need to do to physically diversify a campus. And they just haven't put any money into it and they haven't put any time into it. And so, students have been stuck in the committee process of talking about plans and how they're going to write another plan that already exists. I think that the committee process is kind of dead, and it needs to move on. The administration needs to put their money where their mouth is.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPiRG?

I think it's great. I support any organization that hires staff that advocates for student needs—that advocates student leadership on a statewide level and at the university. Students on this campus compete with stadiums, compete with law buildings to have staff that is here to help us, I think is really valuable.

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

I think the ASUO makes the mistake of holding events that students have to come to. I know that I could physically spend every single hour on this campus going to an event, and I think that it is not fair to ask the average students to come to the Ballroom at five o'clock on Saturday. I think the ASUO could serve more students by being where students are—why don't they hold events on the corner of 13th and University—why don't you hold events where students don't have to take time out of their schedule to come and meet you—you take the time to out of your schedule to go and meet them. And also, [many] think that the ASUO is for undergraduates only, and I don't think that the undergrad experience is necessarily the universal experience. So just talking with graduate students, law school students—I know this sounds like 'Oh, I'm going to do everything,' I know I'm only one person. My experience on this campus is not how everyone else experiences it, and so I need to talk with people who have different experiences and see what they need.

OC: What efforts would you make to control the costs of attending the university that are associated with tuition and incidental fees?

Next year won't be a legislative session, but it's something we can work on. Since I would only have one year, I could work on a tuition freeze for the next biennium. There is a 4 percent tuition increase that is going to happen. The unfortunately thing is when tuition increases 1 percent it means that one hundred cannot access the university. I think just working realistically that student needs are always presented at a state level. Now more than ever students are seen not just as a disposable income, but as voting citizens and we'll vote you out if you don't listen to our needs.

OC: We're through with our questions, so this is your forum to tell us what you're going to do with your administration next year.

I think one really big thing for me is the party ordinance that was recently passed that basically targets students. So do you know who Bonny Bettman is? She is elected to serve us and she screwed us over. Other city councilor people were voting against her little... Betty Taylor, I totally love her. My feeling is that she either needs to get on the student page or she needs to be recalled. I'm really committed to working on that because I don't support anything that targets anyone. Economic harassment could become the next issue. Another thing is a housing code. It's ridiculous. Eugene? No housing code? I live in a shack. I don't need to pay \$21,000 and then \$900 to breathe bad air, to have no heat. So definitely a housing code. I think just kind of question the ASUO outreach, every year we're going to be a friend of the student, and then we end up being kind of cliquy. It's sad that people know where the ASUO because we say we're near Club Sports. I think it should be vice-versa. Just protecting student fees, making sure that it is student controlled. I think the student fee seems like a mystical thing—that we give money and it just kind of floats around—making sure that students know what they're paying for and what they can get out of it.

Sho IKEDA

The OREGON COMMENTATOR interviewed Sho Ikeda on 02/19/01.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

I like... river... uh... Meow Mix... please deliver... yeah.
OC: Please repeat that, a little smoother, for the record.
SI: I like chicken. I like liver. Meow Mix, Meow Mix.

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

SI: Define diversity.
OC: That is the question. It's strictly up to you.
SI: I believe diversity kills. Carmen Electra.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPIRG?

SI: Yeah, I mean, I think the funding of OSPIRG is great. I mean, they're out there, you know, doing their stuff, helping sweatshop workers, increasing the awareness of communism on this campus. I mean, that's great stuff. It's good to help poor Vietnamese people and help the starving kids in Africa and to stop the nuclear arms race between us and the Soviet Union. And getting Nixon out of office. Good stuff.

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

Student government will always be full of compulsive masturbators, and that's the bottom line. However, I think the student government would be able to make a difference if they got more hot chicks in the Student Senate. And if they were compulsive masturbators.

OC: What efforts would you make to control the costs of attending the university that are associated with tuition and incidental fees?

I would have all incidental fees go toward my bank account, therefore making it easier for me to attend school.

OC: We're through with our questions, so this is your forum to tell us what you're going to do with your administration next year.

Well, I'll give the same spiel I gave to the Emerald. I am the Middle Prophet of the Church of Wazeth. There is a First Prophet and a Last Prophet. We are a very, very large religion, and in fact, probably the largest religion in the world, considering the fact that every person here is a member of the Church of Wazeth, whether they know it or not. If you are unhappy with this idea that you are a member of this church and do not want to belong to this church, just send five dollars money — money order or cash to the Church of Wazeth, payable to the Church of Wazeth. Wazeth is spelled W-A-Z-E-T-H. Praise Wazeth.

BRET Jacobson & Matt COOK

The OREGON COMMENTATOR interviewed
Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook on 02/18/01.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

BJ: Might I have a minute, just to think about it?
OC: I believe "Might I have a minute, just to think about it" is already ten words.
BJ: Competency... moderation...
OC: I was thinking more along the lines of a sentence to describe yourself.
BJ: Because we're competent and moderate.
OC: You have five more words.
BJ: We'll end the WRC.

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

Diversity is pretty much a part of this campus, so we'll continue the efforts that are already going, but the main way we're going to improve diversity is by trying to get ideas out from all sides, not just the culturally popular sides. And we're going to do that by getting out the voices of student groups, like the College Republicans and College Democrats and things like that. By setting up an in-house ASUO PR hub that students can use to get out their message.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPiRG?

Well, it's hard to argue with the basic fundamentals of what OSPiRG wants, which is clean air and clean water. And it's good that they have some presence on campus, but I don't think that without full disclosure of what they use their money for there's any reason to fund them right now. Full disclosure is way too important.

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

BJ: Student government can only work for the students who know how to take advantage of it. So by making more students aware of what it can do, it will start increasing its effect on the student population, but it can't reach all students all the time.
MC: Bret and I are both two pretty average students when it comes down to where we are in our education. I think we represent a vast majority who don't really know what the ASUO — we know what the ASUO does but don't feel that it's very accessible. And I think that puts us in a really good position to help out the average student in becoming involved. We can relate to that.

OC: What efforts would you make to control the costs of attending the university that are associated with tuition and incidental fees?

BJ: It would be nice to say that we could just cut incidental fees dramatically, but that's still not the majority of where student money comes from. It is in the form of tuition, so the best and only real way of keeping the cost down is to work with the state to find a different funding model because right now the state is only the third highest source of income, so you basically have to find a brand-new funding model that some faction in Oregon helps pay for tuition. That's realistically the best thing we could do. And... bring back Phil.
MC: It also helps to keep in touch with the alumni, not just Phil Knight, but the alumni in general. I think a good deal of the alumni are ready and willing and able to help out financially and support the university in general; that could really help us keep tuition cost low. There's also other things we can do up in Salem as far as lobbying. I mean, there's only so much weight the ASUO can carry, but just having a presence up there and having our voice heard, to get another tuition freeze going is one way to do it.

OC: We're through with our questions, so this is your forum to tell us what you're going to do with your administration next year.

BJ: Basically, the main theme that we're trying to carry is having the average student perspective back in student government, so that really extreme people don't control student government anymore. We've recently had problems with being informed by the MCC [Multicultural Center] about their debates. They apparently didn't want us in there, and the ASUO office isn't always very helpful, so we want the average student with the occasional politically incorrect idea to feel they at least have the chance to talk. So that's how it starts, and we do that by having a PR hub. It's a new thing, won't cost much money at all, but it gets out the student voice. [We'll find] PR and advertising students come in and consult with these groups and have it at a central location so they don't each have to figure out what these tactics are.

Eric QUALHEIM & BRIAN Boone

The OREGON COMMENTATOR interviewed Eric Qualheim via email on 02/20/01.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

Other candidates are so serious they are constipated. We aren't.

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

Well aside from sponsoring an event wherein a group of children sing "We are the World," we have a top-notch Diversity Coordinator in mind for next year. I'd also like to see some type of student run street fair for people to set up booths to sell trinkets and snacks from their country of origin. People like snacks. People like trinkets. People like diversity. It's an incredible plan.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPIRG?

I applaud OSPIRG's goals, but I cannot stand the organization. Who wouldn't like to see the Willamette River get cleaned up and pay less rent? Wasting our student incidental fees in Portland does nothing to better our local environment. I bet no other candidate will say this for fear of chasing away too many voters: I love trees, but I hate OSPIRG. You might say I'm feeling kinda "mungery" for a change in OSPIRG's funding. If it's a volunteer organization, why not solicit volunteer donations instead of robbing the students on campus?

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

This is a 1 pound promise in a 100 pound bag. There just isn't enough interest on the part of the average student to even know what it is that they want. If elected, we will do our best to be visible to students, to be open to suggestions and to run the ASUO in a manner that benefits the greatest number possible. However, because less than 10 percent of students vote, our administration would be run with a lot of common sense rather than with the goal of making everyone happy all the time.

OC: What efforts would you make to control the costs of attending the university that are associated with tuition and incidental fees?

Any candidate that claims they can change or influence what happens with funding on the state level is promising an impossibility. The solution lies in reorganizing and reallocating the way we spend our student incidental fee. For example, we would like to take one dollar, just one little dollar, from each student's incidental fee and combine all those little dollars into a whopping \$17,000 grant. One or two deserving students would then receive this money. That easily pays for a year of school and housing. And if we took just two little dollars from each student's incidental fee, we could do it again.

OC: We're through with our questions, so this is your forum to tell us what you're going to do with your administration next year.

If elected, Eric Qualheim at Brian Boone will be the first memorable Executives. Ever. We are utterly average students, who happen to have realized that we could do a better job of running the ASUO than the other candidates. We look forward to making the University a better place for the ordinary student. Our ideas focus heavily on helping students pay for their education and creating a safer environment on campus. Our plans are outlined on our website at <http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~equalhei/elec.html>. We wrote a joke platform of every trite and tired campaign cliché of which we could think. Imagine our surprise to find that it read just like all of our competition's platforms. Well, not Ikeda's. It would be tragic for the students to elect yet another Executive drone, especially when we present a better choice.

BRAD Schatzel & Kevin Stolle

Hey, the OREGON COMMENTATOR
tried to get ahold of Brad Schatzel.

OC: In ten words or less, how would you describe your campaign?

Neither Brad Schatzel nor Kevin Stolle could be reached by press time.

OC: Diversity is always a big issue on campus. What is your position on diversity and how would your administration handle the issue?

Neither Brad Schatzel nor Kevin Stolle could be reached by press time.

OC: What is your position with regard to the funding of OSPiRG?

Neither Brad Schatzel nor Kevin Stolle could be reached by press time.

OC: Every year, candidates for ASUO office contend that student government can and will serve the majority of students on campus. Every year, this never actually happens. Is this possible, or is it just an empty promise that everyone makes?

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OC: We're through with our questions, so this is your forum to tell us what you're going to do with your administration next year.

Neither Brad Schatzel nor Kevin Stolle could be reached by press time.

And finally...

Our endorsement.

Each of the candidates interviewed displayed many of the strengths and weaknesses of past Executive candidates (and office-holders), though in the end our recommendation for endorsement was a relatively easy one.

First, how the candidates stacked up: Eric Bailey made an important, oft-ignored point about tuition and incidental fees: ASUO Presidents typically support tuition freezes while supporting increases in the fee that all students pay before enrolling in classes. This hypocrisy should be duly noted by whomever does become next year's ASUO Executive. His respect for differing political opinions, a hallmark of this magazine, is also well-received. On the other hand, his endorsement of a city housing code is a popular one around the ASUO, but it is short-sighted and wrong-headed. Any Economics 101 text will explain that housing codes only raise rental prices, while rent control squeezes out smaller competitors and reduces a renter's options.

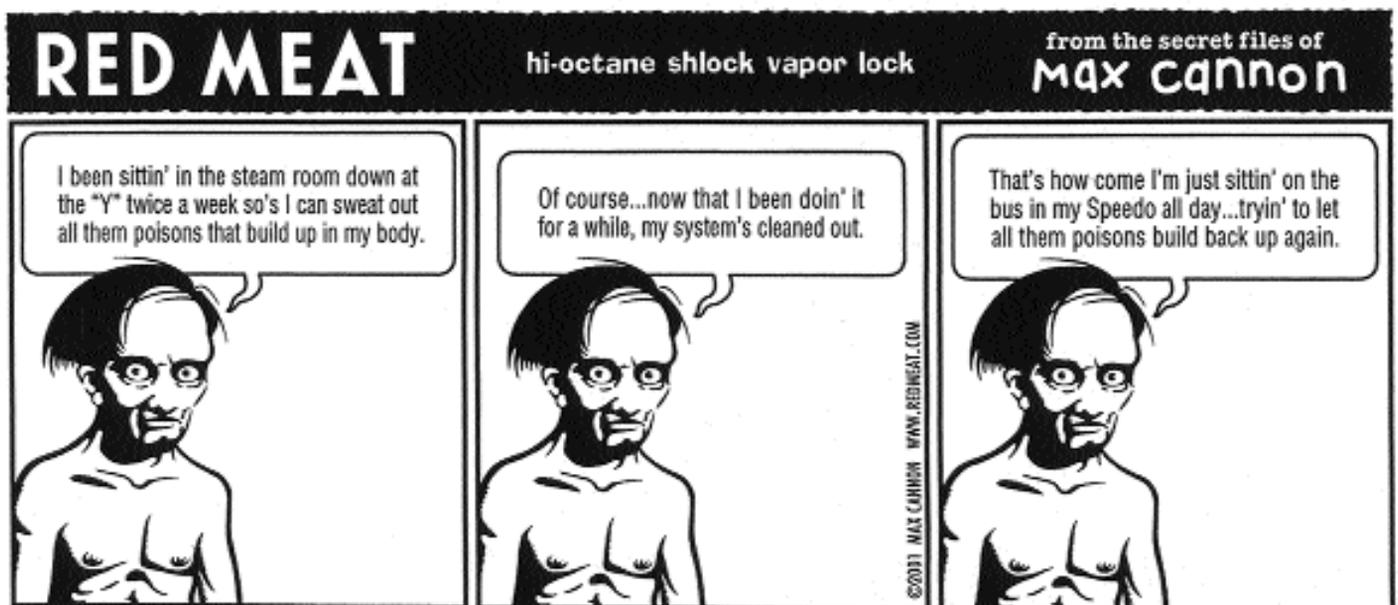
Nilda Brooklyn's focus on community relations — in particular, her opposition to City Councilor Bonny Bettman and endorsement of Councilor Betty Taylor — and concern for the City Council's recent party ordinance that many feel targets students, were important issues to be addressed. On the other hand, her positions on diversity, the role of the ASUO in students' lives and — of course — OSPIRG were a little too much in line with what this magazine recognizes as an ineffective status quo for us to endorse her bid.

Sho Ikeda and the Qualheim/Boone ticket were good for quite a few laughs (whether they win or not, we're looking forward to their "We are the World" rendition, and Eric Qualheim had some original — if unrealistic — ideas about how to turn this student government around. Also, Ikeda has far and away the best posters of any candidate.

What has been on Brad Schatzel's or Kevin Stolle's mind this week is a mystery to us — it certainly hasn't been outreach, or for that matter, campaigning.

In the end, it may simply come down to shared political beliefs, but the Oregon Commentator will endorse [Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook](#) for the 2001-02 ASUO Executive office. Their positions with regard to the WRC, OSPIRG and diversity fell closest to that of this magazine's editorial board. We had some concerns about the relative lack of ASUO experience among the two (Jay and Holly's ineffectiveness this year should make everyone think twice), but Jacobson appeared to be well-acquainted with the issues — his former position at the Oregon Daily Emerald certainly doesn't hurt. In particular, their plan for an ASUO "PR hub," as they call it, is an inspired idea. Student groups would benefit greatly from in-house, organized, professional media support. Most of the candidates offered at least lip service to promoting the awareness of student fees, but this idea was the most specific idea, and likely most effective, idea proposed. A vote for Jacobson and Cook would send a strong message to the student government about letting new ideas in through the door — not just talking about them.

The management of the Oregon Commentator feels confident recommending that you vote for Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook. That is how our votes will be cast, and we hope that you are among that majority.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9 if it is two different things to two different groups of people.

Really, the whole problem boils down to the fact that most people do not desire to hurt others and the left seems to embody this idea perfectly. After all, they identify this idea with justice itself, a la John Rawls. The problem with conservatism is that it cannot embrace this leftist rant. When conservative politicians such as George Bush embrace some of the positions outlined above they dilute their own message of self-reliance, common

THINK OF IT: WE HAVE A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT WHO WANTS TO GIVE CHURCHES MONEY TO HELP SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS. I WONDER HOW QUICK IT WILL TAKE FOR THAT ENTITLEMENT TO GET ETCHED INTO THE ROCK OF EXPECTATIONS.

sense, or letting social processes work themselves out.

Thus, the leftist alternative is more appealing to some as at least it has always been the same and seems to be the position of rebellion against inhumanity, though this is false. This perception is what hurts the conservative movement on campus. Young people yearn for the symmetry of nature. When they see someone like George Bush wanting to give money to churches for social work they smell a rat. They think: "Isn't this the same group of people who was supposed to be against government intervention?" Of course, they also think: "Why do conservatives stand up for special interests, all kinds really, though they advocate a lais-

sez faire approach toward society?"

Of course, then it becomes very easy for anyone to be accused of kowtowing to corporate interests if they oppose OSPIRG or the WRC. If they happen to think that race is unimportant they are supporters of the KKK or Ronald Reagan's attempt to bring on Armageddon through arms shipments to Israel.

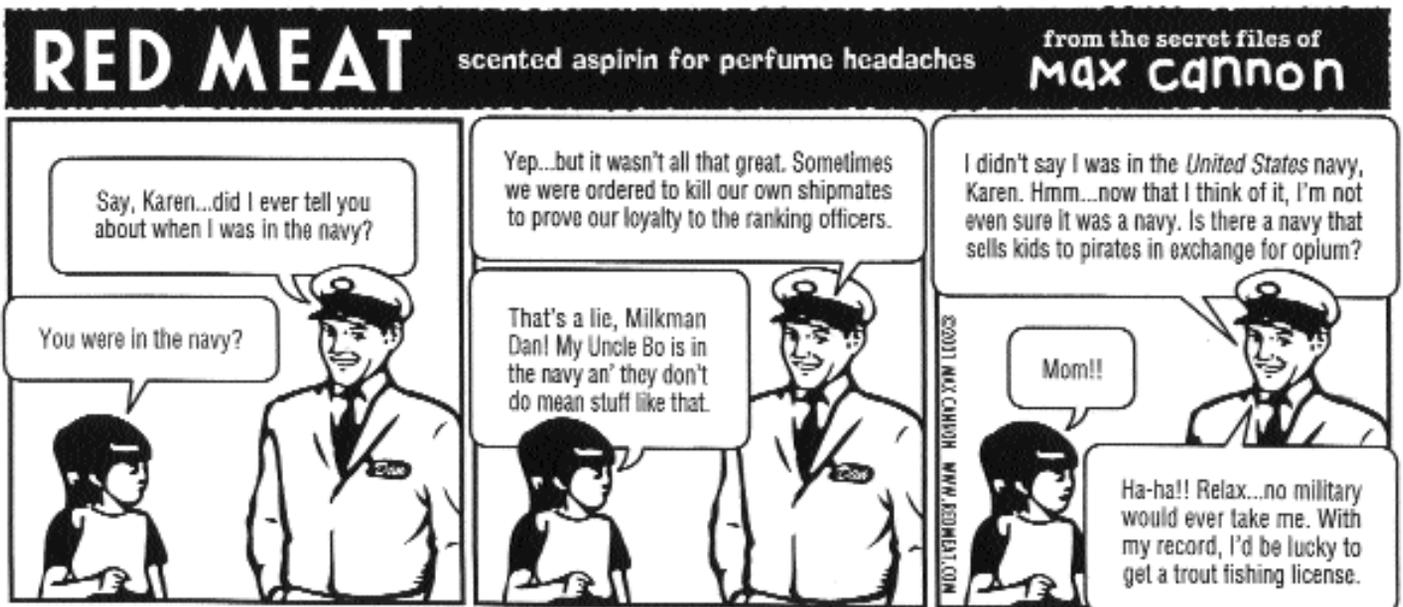
Thus I predict the fight against OSPIRG will probably be lost once more. So, how do we focus popular indignation against the left? I propose the following steps to accomplish that end.

1. Forget the religious-metaphysical part of things. Argue conservative causes in terms of meat and potatoes costs and benefits rather than airy notions of fairness or the will of Zeus.
2. Be consistent. If conservatives are supposed really believe that the best way to do something is to let free persons do it; then let them. Don't say you trust people, then give them money that necessarily carries restrictions.
3. Be Wary. Remember that politics is the art of the possible. Just because one conservative did something did not make it right; it was probably just expedient.

I would like to end by saying that the \$#@&%! words in the beginning were meant to increase my readership. Knock yourself out trying to figure out what words I meant. Who knows, maybe they're even vulgar.



Jason Larimer, a damned Communist in Libertarian clothing, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 refund the program during a poorly-funded, poorly-advertised special election. The lower the voter turnout, the better. The less free the flow of information, the better. This is a group you want to give a pass to, just because they pay lip service to saving the environment?

And it is lip service. They lobby for legislation that increases prices, cuts jobs — quite possibly endangering the financial means that allow you to attend the University, as any undergraduate who has a parent employed by the oil or timber industry will tell you — and bothers you while you walk to class in the morning.

Let's say it again, and maybe it will sink in this time. OSPIRG is unaccountable. The budget they submit to the ASUO each year is printed below. Take a look at it.

No one knows where this money goes. Last year the PIRG made off with a cool \$128,000. Next year, if you let them, they will make off with a cooler \$144,426. That's a lot of money to just allow to leave campus and disappear into a Portland law office. Why is it that the OC, just like every other incidental fee-funded group, must provide a line item budget accounting for every printer-toner cartridge, wire newspaper rack and office

liquor bottle we buy? [Note to ASUO Controller: of course we're joking.]

OSPIRG does have one thing: promises. Save the environment. Sign a pledge to tell your congressman you like the arctic wildlife. Get involved politically. OSPIRG has the left on this campus deep in its pocket, to the point that supporting OSPIRG is politically correct, even when they know better. And a lot of them do.

On March 5-8, OSPIRG's ballot measure will be put to the students of this campus. If you are a student, you should plan on voting, and you should do so with full knowledge of the facts. It is the opinion of this magazine that you should vote to reject OSPIRG's funding. The activities it carries out on this campus are voluntary and benefit not at all from their massive subsidy, which, as we have said millions of times before, is not spent here.

Vote your conscience. And when you do, ask yourself if OSPIRG as a group and based on their recent behavior, has earned your money, your support, or your vote.



This budget information is available at your friendly local ASUO Controller's office.

Index No.	Oregon Student Public		2000-01	128,000
OA 3980	Interest Research Group		1999-00	Ballot
			% Change	0.00%
Program Code	Account Code			
		Program Expenses		
45501	92001	Subsidy	128,000	
		Total Program Expenses	128,000	

IN PRAISE OF APATHY

By BRANDON HARTLEY

An open letter to anyone who cares about anything other than themselves.

“The problem with apathy is that it’s just like any other political belief system. It’s filled to the brim with plot holes and contradictions. Just like the tenants of socialism and democracy — it’s Grade-Z ethos.”

—Dr. Chase Montego

Dear Mr. and/or Ms. Idealistic,

I once considered myself a radical. I was an anarchist and an environmentalist until I reached an age of reason. For most activists this happens in their late-20s, usually around the time the average American tires of living in abject poverty and realizes that the mindless pursuit of material wealth might be a fun way to spend the rest of their lives. As for myself, I guess I matured early. At 21, I am as apathetic and cynical as anyone who has made a career out of filing customer complaints deep within the bowels of some gigantic corporate beast.

There was a day when I enjoyed roaming the streets in search

of things to smash, scratch, steal, bend, liquefy, or set on fire. My rationale? I was raging against the hypothetical machine and paying back the upper 10% for their crimes against humanity. I have spray painted government property, stolen mail, pissed in the living rooms of partially built townhouses and poured sand in the gas tanks of bulldozers. One time I set a vintage Jaguar on fire just because some rich moron made the mistake of parking it on the street. Somewhere, and I’m not saying where, there’s a \$5,000 reward for information leading to my arrest.

But this was all years ago. I gave away all my Lifeforce and Earth Day t-shirts to Goodwill a long time ago. I have no idea where my copies of the “Anarchist Cookbook” and “The Monkey Wrench Gang” have gone off to. These days I only recycle because I can’t fit all of my trash into a standard twenty-gallon can.

One day I guess I woke up and decided I didn’t care where my Pert Plus bottles end up. There was an epiphany somewhere along the line, causing me to stop caring about the oppressed and impoverished peoples of wherever. Someday it’ll happen to you too. I guarantee it. In fact, I’m willing to put a twenty-dollar bet on it. Anyone?

▶ ▶ ▶



You rebel scum! You don't know the power of the Dark Side. Scream, publish, protest and tree-sit all you want; you'll never stop the mighty waters of progress. If you were raised in America, capitalism is your religion, the Gap insignia is your cross and Alan Greenspan is your god (I guess this might make Steve Jobs Jesus, Victoria and her Secret, Mary Magdalene and Michael Eisner, Moses. Never mind.). Buying Nike "Boing!" shoes and wolfing down Jack N the Box lard is what you were born to do. It's in your nature.

You're a cancer, a Judas, and you're making life for the rest of us miserable. We're depressed enough as it is. Most of us don't have the credit limit to buy everything we don't need and would never use; to satisfy a deep-seated consumerist craving that has been reinforced by the American media since birth. It's hard enough to pay for Prozac and Ritalin without you coming along and giving us a reason to spend even more money on mind-altering prescription drugs.

Just stop caring. It's simple. Bush version 2.0 is in the White House and the world's on a superhighway to the ninth layer of hell? So what? Someone's dumping raw sewage in your drinking water? Eh, sewage probably has plenty of vitamins and minerals. The steel-toed minions of countless faceless corporations are anal-ly-raping your cat and Erin Brockovich is at the door with a subpoena in her hands? Who cares, MTV's "Jack Ass" is about to start.

Come on, there's plenty of space at the table; room for everyone to grow fat and stupid. All of your complaining will get the human race nowhere. Give in and give up already. Grab a Budweiser, a copy of the Beatles "1," and join the vast majority before you get yourself arrested and have to go begging to your parents for bail.

This is not to say that I'm a capitalist. Or a Republican. I don't want to give you the wrong impression. I may work for the Commentator, but I think these kids are as full of shit as anyone who's liberated a ferret, only to have it get hit by an SUV a few blocks from the lab. It's just a different brand of feces; scented instead of unscented, I guess. I hate the system as much as anyone, but I realize there's nothing a lifetime of petitioning and lobbying would do to change anything.

You see, I'm an Apathet (not to be confused with

a Nihilist, who believes in zealous self-improvement). I'm neither Left, Right or Middle. I was a Middlist for a while but then I grew tired of being torn between two words; my desire to hike in the woods and my biological need to wipe my butt with the toilet paper its trees provide. I've completely given up. I'm the one in infinite space eating Fritos while all the other sides go at it on the 2-dimensional political plane. And there's billions of other Nowhere Men, Women and Transgenders out there just like me.

How's that for a political allegory? So anyway, yeah, Republicans and capitalists are inherently evil and love to steal souls, pave over everything and all that, but damn if they don't know how to foster an environment for we Apathets to thrive in. They support my lethargy; that's why I won't be criticizing them any further.

But back to you, the pebble in the Doc Martens of so many who just don't give a damn. By trying to get us to acknowledge the chaos and crapulence all around us, you make us miserable and distract us from the important things in life: TV and other shiny things that make whirring noises. It's time for you to grow up and realize that it's impossible to blink in this country, or any other, without inadvertently exploiting someone or something, somewhere.

How many of you use toothpaste that was tested on countless innocent lab animals? How of many of you drink coffee and contribute to the soil erosion and human exploitation in South America? How many of you print your anti-capitalist rants on unrecycled newspaper and (Insurgent, this one's for you) haven't updated your publication's website in over a year. How many of you live in houses made out of wood and lit with

hydroelectric power that has completely destroyed the Columbia river? How many of you are of European, African, Asian, South American, Australian or Antarctic descent and don't even belong on this continent in the first place? By merely sputtering the words, "I'm an environmentalist," you've branded yourself a hypocrite and a liar. Humans can't be environmentalist. The very notion of "saving the planet" is a complete antithesis of everything we are. There is no such thing as an environmentalist. They're humanists with inferiority complexes. The environment, a figurative entity conjured up by humanity, doesn't care about you and still won't care after humanity's dead and gone. So stop poking your noise in its business.

We're a virus, a cancer on this planet. We're lice with opposable thumbs and debit cards. By merely living on Earth, you're contributing to its destruction, no matter how many days a week you ride a bike to work. Recycle and protest all you want; you're still going to destroy an infinite amount more than you save.



If you really want to help out poor, old Mother Earth and maybe buy her a metaphorical colostomy bag and one of those motorized wheel-chairs Andy Rooney advertises on late night cable, there is only one thing you can do: Stop making more humans. That's right, no Mother's/Father's Day cards for you! Humans, by their nature are vain, destructive, greedy little monsters and no amount of recycled napkins is going to save them/us. The only things that's going to slow down humanity's descent is about 6 billion boxes of Trojan condoms, enough for everybody. The average person plows through two old-growth trees during their lifetime. If you really care, don't have kids; get a hamster instead. Or kill yourself.

And you thought you were extreme.

If the birth rate on this rock keeps increasing, things should start getting really interesting about 2105. Hopefully, by then the wizards in Washington will have found a way to fill the planet's oceans with cement. The Human Genome Project will lead to creation of people who can live off exhaust fumes.

Maybe there's still hope for us yet, if you want to call it that.

In conclusion, to hell with capitalism, socialism, nazism, religion, morality, nihilism and all beliefs and ethos; there simply isn't enough room here to print them all. Praise apathy! Fuck everything, I'm going home to watch Conan O'Brien tell poop jokes.

Love,
Brandon Hartley

Now, I'd like to contradict everything I've written in this article. Why? Just because.

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE "YES" ON OSPIRG

Is OSPIRG corrupt? Yes. Is OSPIRG unaccountable? Most definitely. Does OSPIRG need your money? Of course not. The following are the only two reasons why the organization deserves funding (or at least the only two reasons I could come up with after a week of pondering).

1. You know who else is undeserving of your money? The ASUO Executive office. You can criticize OSPIRG's lobbying and stream walks all you want, but at least they get a teensy, weensy bit accomplished. The ASUO receives \$222,197 a year in funding, compared to OSPIRG's relatively paltry \$144,426. What does ASUO do with nearly twice OSPIRG's funding? Three times the amount of "nothing" OSPIRG accomplishes. When was the last time you saw anyone in Suite Four do anything but play with their iMacs and pad their resumes? What does all that money go towards? An annual "orientation" field trip for ASUO staffers,

stipends and, well, that's about it. The rest must be going to some kind of shadowy off-campus location, just like the OSPIRG head office. There's no other way those kids could waste all that money every year.

Winning the Executive office on this campus is akin to winning a beauty contest. Both the ASUO president and Mrs. Oregon make the occasional public appearance in a pathetic attempt to justify their existences. Both are completely worthless, incompetent and unworthy of your attention and money. The Constitution Court deals with student grievances, the PFC and senate with funding for student organizations, thus leaving no relevant duties for the Executive office. \$222,197 is way too much to give to a insignificant figurehead. If the ASUO deserves a chunk of the incidental fee, then so does OSPIRG.

2. A campus organization can only justify spending your money if you participate in whatever it is they blow all their funding on. If you don't read the *Emerald*, then it's not doing anything

The steel-toed minions of countless faceless corporations are anally raping your cat and Erin Brockovich is at the door with a subpoena in her hands? Who cares, MTV's "Jack Ass" is about to start.

for you. It doesn't deserve your money. If you don't know what a "grievance" is then the senate doesn't deserve your money. If you don't attend OSPIRG informational meetings, then it's not doing anything for you. It doesn't deserve your money. None of these organizations merit any of your cash if you're not paying attention and would rather spend all of your time cuddling one those overpriced Hunky Dory glass pipes than participate in some lame extra-curricular activity. They shouldn't even be able to lay claim to that Taco Bell gift certificate in your wallet that technically has a monetary value of 1/1000 of a cent.

Given the fact that 95% of the campus could care less about the incidental fee or OSPIRG, it is as deserving of student money as any other group. If it's their money and they don't care where it's going, then neither should you. If you participate in the Honesty campaign, take down all of your posters (or let others tear them down for you) and shut up already.

With that out of the way, I really am going home to watch Conan. I wish Andy would come back. And Triumph the Insult Comic Dog too. Conan's nothing without them.



Brandon Hartley, a senior majoring in English, is a featured columnist for the OREGON COMMENTATOR

ON *THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, PART I*

“Hey, sign the OSPIRG pledge!”

“Don’t sign it! They’re a political lobby stealing your money!”

“Heretic!”

—*Conversation between OC Associate Editor and OSPIRG petitioner on 13th. They even mispronounced “heretic.” But deep down, they’re good people, really.*

“Have you signed the pledge for OSPIRG yet?”

“I don’t want your crack, hippie!”

“Fine, yuppie!”

—*Conversation between OC contributor and OSPIRG petitioner on 13th. No, really, they’re people, too.*



ON *GEOGRAPHY*

There is more to India than mild chicken curry. There will be curry there, but in our culture a [whole] home-cooked meal is a symbol of love and respect.

—*Aashim Tyagi, quoted in the Feb. 16 Ol’ Dirty Emerald. Wouldn’t you know it — he’s right! Apparently India also has occasional earthquakes, not-infrequent political assassinations, and can be found on a map just south of China. Will wonders never cease?*

ON *NOSE CANDY*

I have never seen anyone on cocaine before, but it was interesting because it was completely obvious they were high.

—*The pseudonymous “Courtnee Frier,” quoted in the Feb. 16 Emerald. What a coincidence. We were completely uninterested in you because you were not.*



Everything I have ever associated with cocaine has been with CEOs. It puts you on this pedestal of untouchableness.

—*“Frier,” continued. Actually, it makes you ten feet tall and bulletproof, but we’re splitting hairs. At least you’re catching on.*

ON *A WONDERFUL, MAGICAL ANIMAL*

I hope you know that an animal died for that pork chop.

—*Overheard in the Carson cafeteria. Tragic, isn’t it? Especially when you consider that pork chop could have come from a spotted owl. Or a grizzly bear.*

ON *COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE*

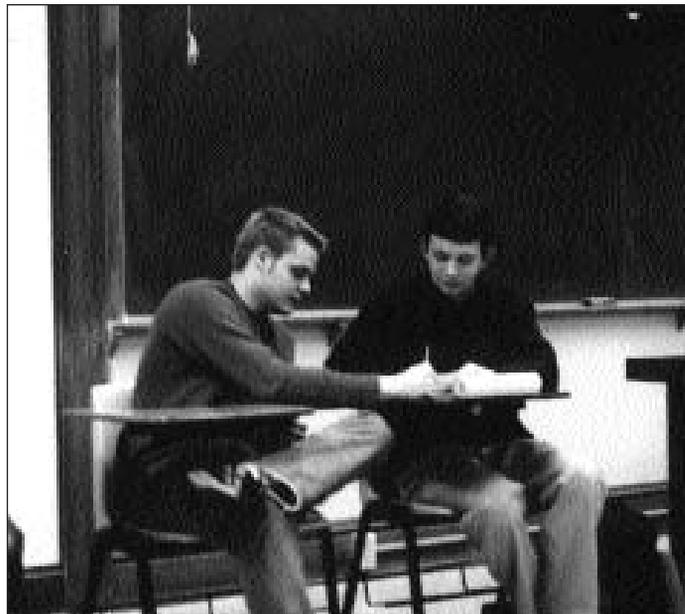
I could hit all of you with a brick once, or I could hit this guy 291 times and make you all better off.

—*The OC’s favorite Economics professor, Ron Davies, just being adorable.*

ON *BECAUSE IT'S A* ——— *WONDERFUL TIME* *TO BE SILVER*

Saturday: Attended one of the biggest ripoffs this side of the Willamette. Ron Jeremy's S&M Sideshow whisked me back to the time I accidentally visited this place called the Brick House in Springfield. Pretty damned scary. Folks from the OREGON COMMENTATOR were all too excited.

—*The ASUO's near-geriatric hanger-on, "Queen" Autumn DePoe in issue four of the Unscene, a local zine covering the Eugene music scene. The Brick House? Isn't that the place that burned down back in '41?*



file photos

ON *YOURS TRULY* ———

The OREGON COMMENTATOR is a magazine, same size as the *Comic News*. I briefly skimmed through it at John Henry's. What I read was hilarious. [sic] It's very opinionated and funny. Check it out if you come across a copy. I know they have a stack of them by the front door of John Henry's.

—*From the very same issue of the Unscene as quoted above, uncredited, likely the editor. You sir, we will buy a drink.*



FEBRUARY 26, 2001

Don't get us wrong; drinking is fine. We're no OREGON COMMENTATOR, but we can enjoy a swanky 40 oz. bottle of Olde [sic] English or a ghetto Jameson sour with fresh-squeezed lime juice.

—*From an editorial in the Feb. 14 OI' Dirty. You're right — you're definitely no OREGON COMMENTATOR. If you're gonna go with malt liquor, you might as well make it Crazy Horse. If it's hard liquor you want, give "ginskey" a shot: equal parts gin and whiskey — you might want to call Sacred Heart ahead of time.*

ON *SPIT OR SWALLOW?* ———

We still have that bad feeling in our mouths and stomachs [from Sunday], but we need to remember that feeling, move on from that and never feel like that again.

—*Ducks center Chris "The Dane" Christofferson, quoted in the February 8 OI' Dirty. Uh, Chris, you just went down to Arizona State, right? Then again, it's not his first language.*

ON *PART II* ———

"For OSPIRG? No."

"All right, well have a nice day, punk."

—*Conversation between OC Managing Editor and OSPIRG petitioner outside the Knight Library. Hey, I'm not prejudiced. Some of my best friends are in OSPIRG.*

OC Classified Ads

Want to run an ad?

Call us at (541) 346-3721 or stop by Room 205 Erb Memorial Union. Actually, never mind. Just do what everybody else does and tag every single bulletin board on campus with dot-matrix print-out sales posters of all your useless crap.

095 PERSONALS

Eugene's Most Swinging Party Line
Meet other sheltered introverts!
Free Call Ages >14 **Try it NOW!!!**
Just dial: 346-5511

120 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

USED BONG!! Needs scraping and fresh water. Call quick, amigo, I need a dime sack pronto!! 342-0702

Wednesday is New Comic Day

Emerald City Comics

You know, just because we're 34-years-old and still live with our parents doesn't give you the right to dump us for some Captain Kirk wannabe. Or does it Rachel?
770 E. 13th 345-2568

Misplaced BWA Event Funds

\$300 for use on cake, ice cream and party hats. We'll show those money-hoarding Scrooges at the PFC!
302-5566

Bootleg Phish Tape From Red Rocks Show 4/26/98 Poor Sound Quality, as I was too stoned to find my way near the stage. Actually, this tape could be old Pearl Jam show I saw at the Gorge. *Either way:* \$10. 446-9292

130 CARS / TRUCKS

Great college car! 2 of 4 doors, stick shift (automatic, but it sticks), needs breaks, '84 Jetta with 190K miles, hit several mailboxes over the years, resulting in minor dings. \$500 OBO Comes with dash full of Bachman Turner Overdrive tapes!
call: 541-342-4291

Divine Wind/99 Acura Integra with mould kit, rear spoiler, lowered, Hello Kitty seatbelts. Bought for \$15,000, will sacrifice for \$14,750 (firm).
call 346-5025 (ask for Tamiko)

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

The OREGON COMMENTATOR accepts no responsibility for prank calls you may make to the phone numbers found on this back page. Thanks.

150 TV & SOUND SYSTEMS

Classici! 1983 Toshiba Beta VCR

w/ manual. Will not connect to TV's made after 1991. Free "Karate Kid, Part II," "Godzilla 1984" VHF tapes. \$85 OBO / 346-8756

145 COMPUTERS / ELECTRONICS

1978 Apple II+, w/ Appleworks disk I, Appleworks disk II, Appleworks dictionary, Appleworks Fonts, Appleworks Spreadsheet, and used disk containing my term paper on Zebras from the fourth grade (includes bibliography). CALL BY THURSDAY and I'll throw in Spy Hunter, Joust, Zork II and Moon Patrol!! **Ask about the Apple Lisa!** 345-6789

Toaster, no longer working, will relay messages to the Nebulars from the Z-dimension if you drop enough acid. 302-6979 — Don't ask for anybody.

205 HELP WANTED

Custodian: Erb Memorial Union

Good intern level job for Sociology majors. Responsible for interior and exterior cleaning of building, including (but not limited to) litter pick-up, floor care — opportunities to clean bathroom, stairwells, and elevator. Knowledge of structural diversity, social inequality and advocacy of the welfare state not useful at all. Full time salary. Where else are you going to get a job? 346-6065

Staff Writer: Small Town Paper

Journalism Majors, this means you. Face facts, graduating in the bottom third percent of your class with a 2.25 GPA and a minor in Communications isn't going to get you to the

Oregonian, or even through the front door Register-Guard for that matter. Prepare yourself for a career covering middle school dance recitals and pie-eating contests for papers with names ending in "Weekly Gazette." 1-800-346-2321

Lifeguard: City of Eugene Public Pool

Non-18-21-year-old attractive sorority girls need not apply. You will be asked to slowly rub suntan lotion over your firm young body on the hour, every hour. Basic knowledge of life saving techniques preferred, but not required. 443-1997

\$\$\$ GET PAID FOR YOUR PLASMA \$\$\$
American Red Cross. Hey, if you say you've been drug free for 24-hours, we'll believe you!
Finance that last hit, junkie!! 302-4532

£££ GET PAID FOR YOUR SPERM £££

And to think that Mom said you'd go blind! We provide reading material and suggestive videos, you provide a handful of love juice.
770 Pearl 302-6574

Earn Extra Cash. \$50-\$300/hr
Amateur Filmmaker looking for female models. You only have to do what you feel comfortable doing. If the goat isn't your thing, then we'll tie him back up in the corner. This is art we're making, not smut. 346-3721

Don't forget to throw away the

PULSE

every Thursday in the Emerald

220 APARTMENTS (UNFURNISHED)

Large 1 bdrm, near campus, \$150/mo.
PET REQUIRED! / 347-0987

Studio apartment, holds one person only. Plexiglass. Pick up phone if it rings, could be for you. All other calls cost \$0.35.
FREE YELLOW PAGES! 302-3456

245 ROOMMATES WANTED

Female College Student. 22-years-old. Active, clean, seeking female roommate. Craig, don't even think about calling. I swear to God I'll call the cops if you keep stalking my mom. Take your medication and get a life, jerk!! 343-1001

**Why let
anarcho-syndicalists
have all the fun???**

Come on down to the
anarcho-capitalist rally April 15
at your local IRS office!

285 SERVICES

Problems? Call the UO Crisis Line for free, anonymous counseling. M-F, 5pm-8am
24 hrs/day weekends. 346-4488

Horny? Call the Hot Young Coed line for free, steamy chat w/ virgin freshman girls eager to experiment. M-F, 5pm-8am 24hrs/day weekends
346-4488

Pregnant? Maybe?

I'll find the creep who did it and beat a confession out of him. Your baby's going to have a daddy, even if he just writes you a check every month.
Damn. 347-0157

300 CAMPUS MINISTRY

Having trouble finding

God in those sinful dorms?

Let us help you find salvation! Father Bojangles welcomes all faiths from pagan to OSPIRG supporters this Saturday. Guest Speaker will be celebrity Ryan Schmidt!
Unitarian Church of Christ
440 Olive St. 346-7788