

O R E G O N

# COMMENTATOR

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A JOURNAL OF OPINION

# How the ASUO is sweeping everything under the rug

Plus: Campus Parking, Student Senate Grievances and WAR



**FOUNDED SEPT. 27, 1983 • MEMBER COLLEGIATE NETWORK**

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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 nineteen-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.

# COMMENTATOR

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# TOO BIG FOR THEIR OWN BRITCHES

*Some in student government have already abused their power; and they may soon pay the price*



Above: Joy Nair and Nilda Brooklyn at one time rejoiced at gaining their

There is something rotten in the state of Denmark. Or at least in our state-overseen governing body of students here at the university. After reading this issue, in which we outline for you, dear reader, the multitude of ways corruption, ineptitude and downright dirty dealings have seeped into student government, you will not only be sickened but should be moved to anger and action.

The ASUO Executive's decision to suddenly fire former controller Justin Sibley is possibly the most stark and startling example of little people with big egos and official titles attempting to inflict upon the rest of the world the order they desire. In this case even the most superficial of examinations will find that not only was Sibley the most efficient and personable controller in the office — he was praised alike from his coworkers, student-funded groups he aided ranging from the Black Student Union to ASUO Legal Services and the LGBTQA, as well as the administration's accounting department — but he was fired because he was willing to legally answer questions from inquiries regarding the misuse of student funds by groups on campus.

Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair originally claimed they fired Sibley because he didn't fit in well with the other controllers and there were problems with his work. However, Student Senate President Peter Watts has said he will testify in a Constitution Court case that Nair confided in him that there were no problems with Sibley's work or personal skills — she even went so far as to say she liked him personally — but the problem was that they couldn't have staff members "leaking backdoor information to the COMMENTATOR," and that he wasn't adequately protecting the student fee.

That is a buzz term veteran students understand to mean that Sibley was unwilling to cover up illegal activities by student groups on the off chance that the state would find the motivation to institute some reasonable control of the millions of dollars in student incidental fees collected and spent on campus every year.

Deeply at the heart of this issue is the abuse of power and the student fee process by student leaders and student-funded groups such as the Vietnamese Student Association and MECHA, the Mexican student group on campus. Both were just the most recent examples of grotesque mismanagement and galling disregard for state law, as the former is rumored to have had a director spend ASUO money on Nair (somebody's wearing short shorts all the way to the bank) and the latter buying a number of items clearly intended for personal use.

Next, look to the case of Student Senator Dominique Beaumonte, who made a spectacle of himself and further impugned the already diminutive stature of the most ridiculous of the three branches of the ASUO's Terror Triple Team. 'Nique took it upon himself to cast aside the apparently outmoded style of MLK's peaceful protest when he ran up against his own form of modern day oppression and instead chose to deface EMU property and stage a sit-in in the EMU Computing Center until he was threatened with the possibility of being removed by city police. You may wonder what victimization he encountered, but you needn't look further than the EMU CC's policy to disallow the use of instant messaging services, an attempt to make the center more accommodating to those with actual work.

### The People

Originally this magazine had made the editorial position to keep the names of the ASUO Executive out of print as much as possible as a small but satisfying attempt to withhold the very attention that the two females crave the most. However, as they have crossed the line from politically-active leaders into truly despicable politicians, it is now time to name Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair for what they really are: two sad girls at the apex

of their lives attempting to do everything within their meager power to hold on just one more day to the illusory glory that has never existed and will never appear.

But they are not the only individuals within the incestuous family tree of the student government. Long-time money guru Jennifer Creighton has done as much as she can through her knowledge of the money process to hide the truth about the illegal deeds of student groups because of her deep-seeded belief in the time-tested mantra of "student control over student fees."

But she has also circumvented other rules and made questionable hires under her authority. David Jaimes, he of the offending MECHA group, quit his position as a director of the group after the financial transgressions came to the attention of those who would in the end attempt to cover it up. Needing to cover the lost income, he turned to Creighton to hire him as her assistant. Did she go through the steps outlined in the student government's bible, the Green Tape Notebook? No, claiming her pseudo-administration position didn't require following student guidelines. One can only suppose that none of this hiring business has anything to do with Jaime's marital engagement to the head controller, who also happens to be a friend and co-worker to Creighton.

### **The Problem**

Every year an informed observer can find something wrong within the ASUO, ranging from a small procedural gaffe to a slightly more irreverent attempt to subvert the will of the students through a special election. But never has such a crescendo of disregard for state law, common decency in hiring and unabashed disdain for basic fairness rocked the ASUO this early in the year.

The root of the problem is that those who are supposed to be carrying out the will of the student body are instead focused solely on their own selfish drives for power and an attempt to make sure student fees are never regulated by anyone but their would be corrupt followers.

### **The Solution**

Unfortunately, when things get bad enough, it is time for heads to roll. The ConCourt should hear Sibley's grievance and remove Brookly and Nair.

- The student senate should immediately kick out a member who acts like an ill-mannered buffoon. If they don't, the Constitution Court should. And if the ConCourt sends it back to the body, kick him out again. This manner of behavior is ridiculous and shouldn't even waste the time of those on campus.

- Regarding the misuse of student fees, it is time for the administration to take a more proactive

role in insuring that the appropriate laws are being executed and protected. Clearly there is no interest by those in power, from the two-headed Hydra of Brooklyn/Nair to UberController Creighton, to act responsibly, so it is up to more grown up and serious individuals to take charge.

- The employment of Jennifer Creighton must be re-examined. No student weilds more power for less effective causes than Creighton, who has also demonstrated through the Sibley incident that she can act quite unprofessionally.

The ConCourt and Senate should investigate and take seriously the wrongful termination of a good employee, and the greater problem of some in student government believing they are above the ethical and legal standards that their roles demand.

If decisions are handled right and jobs taken seriously, Brooklyn and Nair won't be long for political office and the ASUO can be returned to more professional hands.



Above: Within the glass house resides the honor of office tread upon by the filthy, corrupt soles of tyrants. The first stone has been

## In the

### **Anthrax Found in Commentator Office Staff Writer Jeremy Jones: "Bring The Noise"**

EUGENE — Rumors spread like wild fire through the EMU on Thursday that the infamous toxin Anthrax had been found in the office of the OREGON COMMENTATOR. The *Oregon Daily Emerald* staff evacuated the building immediately, fearing for their own safety. PETA agents in clean suits sprayed down naked featured columnists one-by-one, starting with a trembling Jeff Oliver. DJs at KWVA locked themselves in their studio and put "KLF is Going to Rock You" on repeat. Down at Suite One, members of the ASUO staff issued a press release urging students to remain calm, while they drove en mass to Bend to take shelter at the SunRiver house they rent out on their frequent retreats. At 5:00pm, OC publisher Bret Jacobson stepped in front of the press to play spin control.

"Rumors of anthrax contamination in the COMMENTATOR office have been widely exaggerated," Jacobson said to relieved crowd. "Was there Anthrax in our office? Yes. Was that Anthrax a biological terrorist attack?"



No. Rather, it was simply the poor musical choice of a staff writer who shall remain nameless."

The Anthrax in question turned out to be nothing more than the late-eighties thrash metal band "Anthrax," a forerunner of the lightening speed metal guitar style of Mettalica and Megadeth. Though Anthrax never equalled the success of their musical peers, they did have a breakout single with "Bring the Noise," a joint rerecording of the Public Enemy classic cut. The collaboration undoubtedly influenced the soon to come rap-rock sound of Rage Against the Machine, and later Limp Bizkit.

"Fucking Anthrax rules man," said Jeremy Jones, the staff writer believed to have blared the music at full blast out of his boom box, causing quite a stir with the International Students Association next door. "Fuck the haters, thrash metal lives forever," he opined.

"In light of the horrible events of September 11th, we've told our staff to use careful judgement when playing music in the office. We're all fans of Biohazard, Nuclear Assault, Body Count and Stormtroopers of Death, but playing there unique brand of blues influenced hard metal just doesn't feel right yet," said Editor-in-Chief Pete R. Hunt.

## School of Hard

Naive Eugene liberals essentially believe that everyone on campus thinks the same way they do and that nobody has hidden agendas. Hence, it was easy for one OC staffer to sit in during one of the first School of Americas (SOA) meetings. Here is what was uncovered:

According to those who are fighting the SOA, it is a military organization that trains soldiers to murder innocent women and children for the sole purpose of maintaining oppressive labor tactics and preserving our materialistic society. Coming from such sensible people as a guy with CIA crossed out in red ink on his hat and anti-American slogans on his back, and a lady who was dressed like Hatoon, there can be no question that they are completely reliable sources.

In any case, the SOA is located at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

But because it would require money and effort--neither of which any hippie has a lot of--to protest there, the small group decided on one or two demonstrations right here, where it has just as much effect. Here is what they are planning so far. Movie marathon: disguised as just another series of movies, this would be a chance to spread their propaganda to unsuspecting victims. Die-ins: Why just have a sit-in when you can drench yourself in ketchup and play dead? Their plan is to do this so other people will lay down beside them because no one at this University has anything to do, like trying to graduate for instance. Although they never said it aloud, they hinted toward hand billing and setting up stands. It wouldn't be a proper movement if they didn't irritate the whole university, now would it?

## Don't Believe the Hype!

Have you seen our new ad campaign?  
Kudos to the creative geniuses behind this one. We love you too, Suite 1.



THE OC CHALLENGE :

Hey Kids! See how many errors you can find in this e-mail from one of our illustrious leaders! The winner gets a cookie!

Date: Tue, 9 Oct 2001 14:09:29 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jennifer Lynn Creighton <jcreigh@gladstone.uoregon.edu>  
To: Undisclosed recipients: ;  
Subject: ASUO KICKOFF & Free Food please  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Status:

Hey Everyone!

Just a reminder...

ASUO Exec will be having there fall kick-off this Wednesday October 10th at 6pm in the Gerlinger Lounge

And guess what there will be FREE FOOD

Come find out about what YOUR student government is doing and ways you and your organization can get involved.

If you have questions, call 346-3724

See you all there!!!

-----  
Joy Nair  
ASUO Vice President  
(541) 346-0625  
-----

# Emerald

## The Sweet Smell of Success...sort of.

We're only six weeks into the term as this goes to press and everyone's favorite bastion of journalistic prowess has been hard at work. So, without further ado, the OI' Dirty Emerald's Top Five Faux Pas:

5) The weakness of editorial positions: For Christ's sake, the editorial board is about as likely to take a stand as a quadriplegic on muscle relaxants. The general position of the editorial board has been, "This might be a good idea, but the other side is at least as good an idea." I, for one, would rather have my spleen torn to pieces by an angry wolverine than read the namby-pamby PC crap that the ODE editorial board manages to churn out every week. Hell, at least the Insurgent has the balls to pick a side.

4) Apologizing for running an ad: I don't remember which date the advertisement ran, but it was an 11x17 masterpiece about why going to war with the Taliban was a good idea. I say bravo to the OI' Dirty for running the thing, but boo for apologizing. Again, if you're going to run an ad, just run the damned thing and have that be the end of it. Will some of your little PC sheeple be offended? Yes. Does it matter to you? No. Your publication is free, who gives a pair of dingo's kidneys if a little

OSPIRG sycophant stops reading?

3) "There's No Hope In Dope": Enough said. Well, maybe not, but this article was just one big piece of crap. It reminded me of Nancy Regan's "Just Say No" shtick from my youth. First of all; this is Eugene, everyone does drugs. The cops in this town are probably stoned half of the time, not to mention the general populace. Secondly, who the hell cares? Is it your problem is some pot-headed bink fails out of the University? I don't think so.

2) Everything Mason West has ever written: See the story on Buh, the Bijou cat. Enough said, just...there's nothing to say.

1) Jeff Oliver: If there's anything the OI' Dirty's editorial board should be apologizing for, it's letting this foolish orangutan get near the word-processing software. It was once said that given enough time, monkeys would produce the entire works of Shakespeare...thanks to the ODE and Jeff Oliver we now know this not to be true. ATTENTION JULIE LAUDERBAUGH: Call the Biology department, offer to trade Jeff Oliver for a monkey that is slated for vivisection, if you talk fast to one of the acne-scarred lab-assistants, you might be able to con him into the deal.

# Let's Get

## SIX REASONS WHY THIS WAR IS A GOOD IDEA

By Timothy Dreier

**W**ar is unavoidable. Any student of history should know this, and anyone who thinks otherwise is deluding him or herself. We will find a reason to hate one another, and we will use this hatred as an excuse to kill one another. This is how it is, this is how it has been, and this is how it always will be. I'm sorry, but the truth is sometimes not very pleasant.

As a prelude, I would like to mention the war-like and violent nature of most of human history. I would like to make mention of this simply as an illustration that warring is not a modern phenomenon. The classic example is the nature of most of Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. Germanic tribes warred with each other for territory and resources; eventually the strongest warlords established fiefdoms and the feudal system came to be. Other examples include much of Asia during the same time period, Africa for the majority of its human history, and most of North and South America at various periods of time. There have been wars wherever and whenever there have been people and to say that we have become particularly violent in this day and age is a bit of a misnomer. Again, see Rome: Gladiatorial Combat and headlines such as "Boys Kick Baby to Death in Street."

This bit of background brings me around to current events. We here in America have once again become involved in a war. This war happens to be with a group of Middle-Eastern people who are difficult to locate and apparently hate us very much. This is not very surprising; when you have the most money, toys, influence, power and whatnot, people are bound to hate you for one reason or another. That's how it goes, I'm afraid. The question on everyone's mind seems to be, "Is it right for us to start a

war with these people?" Other questions include: "Well isn't it our fault that they hate us in the first place, couldn't we do something differently so they would not hate us?" and "Aren't we sinking to their level by wanting to kill them, does this mean they win?" The answer to these questions and many of the others that I have noticed floating around is more complicated than anyone would like to think, and I am going to attempt an answer below.

Is it right to start a war? No, but neither is it wrong. A war, by its very nature, is not something that can be viewed as a matter of morality. We, as those who are not directly involved have the luxury of moral debate; but, when things come right down, the question that needs to be answered is not "Is it right?" but, "Is it prudent?" Because we have been warring with each other for so long, the question of whether or not war is morally right is a moot point. Many people have had many different answers, and the same people will often have different answers in different circumstances. Therefore, the only question with a consistent answer happens to be, "Is it prudent to get involved in a war?" This question, being of a purely factual nature, can be argued logically and a conclusion can be reached. The issue of morality is impossible to answer in this manner and therefore rather useless.

Thus, is it prudent for us to be involved in a war with this group of Middle-Easterners who seem to hate us very much? The answer, seemingly, is yes for the following reasons:

- 1) People willing to hijack four planes at the same time in order to destroy two civilian buildings and damage a large military one pose a definite threat to America. Are they right about our policy in the Middle East? Who cares? Whether or not our policy in the Middle East is good or bad does not change that

these people pose a real and definite threat to the United States and our way of life. Doing something like this once probably means that they are willing to do it again, and the prudent thing to do is to stop that before it happens. The first rule of self-defense is "Neutralize Every Threat." Sure, our country was founded by a bunch of terrorists, but Britain did everything in its power to neutralize that threat, didn't it? The same thing applies here; we should do everything in our power to neutralize any threat to the security of the United States, that is a prudent maneuver.

2) Lifting of economic sanctions or other barriers will have no net effect on the lives of the Afghani people, no matter what the Taliban says. The Taliban can accurately be called a regime. And, as is true with any regime, any money that flows into the country will be used first to help them keep power and secondly to help them gain more power. Eventually, some will filter down to the average citizens, but this will have no net effect on their lives. The trickle-down policy of the 1980s in the United States is a good example of why more money to the Taliban will not help the Afghani people. As a student of economics, I know that economic sanctions are not an effective tool for crushing regimes, but I also know that supply-side economics is somewhat sketchy at best and can only operate in truly unregulated markets. I can assure you that the markets in Afghanistan are far from unregulated.

3) Perhaps our policy in the Middle East is the result of the actions of the governments of that area. If we are responsible for these most recent attacks because of our policy in the Middle East, perhaps the governments of that region are responsible for our policy because of their actions on previous occasions. Why should other countries get to blame our policy for their actions if we cannot blame their previous actions for our policy? The argument that the Taliban has been using can be used on them, with the same effect. The United States has said repeatedly during the past few weeks, "If you give us Osama bin Laden, you will not be

bombed." The Taliban did not give us Osama bin Laden and so now they have been bombed. Also, the United States and United Nations have set many conditions for the lifting of the economic sanctions against Afghanistan. If the Taliban would meet these, the sanctions would go away. If there is a cause and effect relationship between our actions and their actions, it can go both ways, not just one.

4) Appeasement of people who hate a certain group of people enough to want to see that group completely eliminated from the Earth does not work. The histor-

**The government is obligated to protect the safety of its citizens and this sometimes means finding people in other places who would see harm done to said citizens and killing them.**

ical example of Europe trying appeasement on Hitler before WWII leaps immediately to mind. Did Hitler stop after he got Czechoslovakia? Did he stop with Belgium or Poland? No, he didn't. No matter what he said, Hitler kept right on rolling through Europe and killing people. Pol Pot, Edi Amin, and every other third-rate butcher have made all sorts of claims about appeasement and appeasement has never worked. Why would that change now?

5) American and civilian casualties will, in all likelihood, be minimal. Face it, we have the largest, most advanced, most capable armed forces in the world. Our military technology is far superior to that which the rest of the world, and especially the Taliban, has. We also have over 20

times the manpower of the Taliban's standing military capability. Estimated total military capability of the Taliban, including Osama bin Laden's resources, is somewhere around 50,000. The United States certainly has 1 million troops, at least. Quite frankly, we have the capability to crush them under our boot-heel if need be. Civilian casualties will be minimal because winning a fight all-out has the least fall out. Also, we are not carpet-bombing the whole country. Thanks to our superior technology, the classic WWII and Viet Nam era saturation bombing can be avoided and targets can be struck precisely. Will some civilians be killed? Yes, that has happened in every war that any nation has fought against another. This happens, is it right? Maybe, maybe not. Regardless, it will happen and will probably be minimal in comparison with civilian casualties in other wars or the 6,500 civilians lost by the United States.

6) The Government of the United States has an obligation to protect its citizens through the social contract (See Locke and Hobbes for more on this). This last point relates back to the first one. If these people pose a threat to citizens of the United States, and there are other justifications for killing them (such as those seen above, perceptible future threats, probable links to other acts of terror/war in the past, etc.), then the United States is obligated to find and destroy them. The government exists because of a mandate from the people, and is therefore obligated to defend its citizens both at home and abroad. When there are threats from abroad to the safety of our citizens when they are on our soil, the obligation is just that much stronger. The government is obligated to protect the safety of its citizens and this sometimes means finding people in other places who would see harm done to said citizens and killing them. In addition, the United States is under no such obligation to citizens of other countries. They do not live here, and they do not participate in our governmental system. Therefore the United States is under

Continued on page 17

# The Solution to Campus Parking Problem is More Parking



Wouldn't it be nice if more people carpooled? I almost had a conniption the other day at the intersection at 23rd and Hilyard. It was a total mess, and I was already late for class. The LTD bus had blocked the entire right lane of traffic while picking up a student on the corner, and anxious drivers were trying to push their way into the left lane and detour around the lumbering behemoth. I cursed the dozen drivers piled up around me for not sparing me the indignity of gridlock by utilizing some other form of transportation. Carpool, hop on the bus, ride a bike; just find the decency in yourself to do something other than inconvenience me. In this sentiment I am not alone, and therein lies the problem with any proposed "solution" to the campus parking problem other than producing more parking spaces.



A few weeks ago, the Emerald ran an editorial called "Solution to Parking is Not More Spaces," which seemed like an odd deduction. After all, wouldn't the obvious solution to parking be more spaces? The reasoning behind the Emerald's argument was more ideological than practical. They offered the clichéd argument that Eugene "offers many alternatives to driving to school, including bicycle lanes en route to campus, bus service straight to the University, and park-and-ride lots for further destinations. More students should embrace these options instead of contributing to traffic congestion, road rage and air pollution." Of course less people in cars means more parking, but that argument is little more than hollow talk. It's the same talk we've getting since the University considered building a parking garage back in 1988. And talk is all we've been getting since.



Even if you set aside the hassle of parking, driving isn't always a luxury. There are always the factors of insurance, gas and rush hour traffic to consider. There are 19,000 people enrolled at the UO for fall term, and the majority of them aren't parking on campus every day. Witness the hundreds of bikes you see chained to poles in the street and next to buildings, and the flood of students pouring out of LTD busses every day.

However, there are also those students— and let's not forget faculty as well— who simply have to drive. Perhaps they live out of town or far away from a bus route. Maybe they have a job to go to after school, and can't afford to lose an hour of their day getting on the bus and heading home simply to turn around and drive back to work. Certainly there are exceptions to the strident rule that alternative transportation exists for everyone. These students deserve a

**By Pete R. Hunt**



realistic chance at finding a parking spot.

The Emerald addresses this in their argument: "How about a permit system based on address, in which the students who live farthest away get permits first, and then the remaining permits are bestowed by lottery?" This proposal suffers from the same dubious thinking that the first one does, a poor excuse offered as a seemingly obvious solution. It would certainly be nice if a perfect system were put into place that could issue out permits based on merit of proximity to campus alone. But is this really feasible? It's very hard to verify someone's home address. If you ever try to get a library card from the Eugene Public Library, you'll see this to be true. The EPL insists upon a bank statement or property lease that verifies your real address. But getting this verification is no easy feat. I myself had to go in three times with three different forms of identification before they finally gave in and issued me a card. This sort of bureaucratic hoop jumping is totally inefficient. To begin with, it wouldn't be that hard to lie about your home address. Perhaps you've moved into a house somewhere on Kincaid, but you still have your mail sent to your parents' place out in Cottage Grove. Or maybe you just get the permit issued in someone else's name. Such an untested system would present a rather daunting challenge to a small institution like the DPS.

In fact, the DPS is really not the culprit to blame here. Although they weigh in on campus planning, their main job isn't to build parking spaces; it's simply to delegate the ones we have. There are currently 3200+ spaces available for parking, of which students may park in about 1500. This doesn't figure in the metered spaces available away from lots. By the end of the year, somewhere around 6000 students, faculty, and service vehicles will have applied for permits. Obviously there are more permits than spaces, which may seem a little odd, until you consider that generally not everyone is looking to park at the same time. It's rarely the case that a parking spot simply cannot be found, though drivers usually have to settle for something far away from campus. This marathon parking can grow tiresome, but it's a fairly self-equalizing system.

Some students seemed miffed by the amount of parking lots reserved for faculty only, especially the posh lot behind Johnson Hall. But can you really ask Dave Frohnmeyer to park in the

ghettos behind the Law School? Again, not really a reasonable request.

This all leads to one seemingly obvious solution: a parking garage. A parking garage would create a lot spaces while utilizing comparatively little space. As previously mentioned, the University did propose a parking garage way back in 1988, when Alf was in its first season and Britney Spears didn't even have a cup size. The proposed parking garage would have been placed near the School of Music. However, the \$170,000 that had been set aside for the parking garage was loaned to the Intercollegiate Athletic Department for the development of the Moshofsky Center. The interest-free loan was not paid back until it was discovered as outstanding in the 1995-1996 school year.

The University used a number of excuses at the time for not building the garage, arguments that are still used today. Number one, they didn't want to unduly aggravate their relationship with the residents living around the area. This argument is shaky at best. First, most of the "residents" living around 18th and Alder are students who move in and out every year. Not exactly a demographic that would have the gumption to complain to the City Council. Those residents who did live there full time would have reason to be upset about all the extra traffic coming in and out, but the traffic there in the morning is already steady. Many of these streets have public 2-hour parking already, so congestion is abundant. A parking garage may very well alleviate that parking spillover. Another complaint was that 18th, and Alder weren't ready to handle the traffic rush. Alder was and is a narrow one-way street and 18th isn't exactly an interstate. Logistically, a parking garage there might cause a lot of traffic flow problems. Is this reason enough to totally write off a parking garage? No. But other locations exist as well that might be better fit to handle the traffic. The lot on the corner of Franklin and Agate is certainly an appealing location, as is the parking lot adjacent to the Knight Library. Finding space for a garage is really a minor problem compared to the arduous task of finding the money to build one.

A parking garage comes with a rather hefty price tag. Building a two-story garage would cost upwards of \$12 million and may only provide 300-400 more parking spaces. You could up the garage to three or four stories,

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# Fire Power

**The ASUO terminated a Republican employee to “protect the fee,” and here is why they may just get burned for it.**

**T**he ASUO Executive has started a fire that may end up burning down their administration. That’s because they recently chose to fire an ASUO controller essentially for legally confirming information to the Oregon Commentator regarding illegal spending activities by student groups. Now the ASUO faces more than its average turmoil as the egregious firing has set off a powder keg that includes a planned grievance from the dismissed employee and the Student Senate president willing to testify on his behalf in the impending Constitution Court case.

By most accounts, Justin Sibley handled all of his official duties as well, if not better, than his coworkers and apparently had the best interpersonal skills. But on October 19, ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair abruptly fired him. Sibley was told that it was because he didn’t work well with the other controllers, that there had been complaints against him from student groups, and that he wasn’t protecting the student fee. After the two twice asked him to resign and he declined, they fired him.

Sibley claims that the executive’s stated reason for his dismissal is anything but true, however. Though the discussion had begun with the executive citing Sibley’s work quality and relationships with coworkers as their reasons for wanting his departure, and after the meeting had failed to produce the result Brooklyn and Nair wanted, a resignation from Sibley, Sibley said the two came out with their real concern as they fired him. “They asked me to resign at two different times during that meeting, and at both times I responded by informing them that I felt there was no reason for my resignation. And then at the very end when Nilda finally spoke she said ‘You’re not protecting the fee like we want, you need to leave.’”

Despite the fact that Sibley’s job doesn’t require protecting the student fee through covering up illegal student fee usage, Sibley’s decision to provide public, legal records of student group spending, which is under the authority and oversight of the state of Oregon, was the real factor that angered Brooklyn and Nair and led them to fire Sibley, according to several sources.

“I’ll testify that Joy told me after they fired him that

they just couldn’t have anyone slipping backdoor information to the Commentator,” Watts recently told a magazine staffer. That certainly seems like a more likely scenario than any that the executive has put forth to Sibley or those who questioned them with respect to this incident.

On October 19 Sibley arrived at the ASUO office for another regular day of work. “I went to work just like any other day. I was going about my business finishing up my benchmark research. I walked out of the office to grab a piece of licorice when Joy and Nilda asked me to go into the conference room with them. When we entered, the first thing Joy said was ‘You’re not holding up to your end of protecting the fee. From what we see this job does not seem to be working out for you, we would like you to resign.’”

But Sibley said there are different ways to view the issue of disseminating public information. “I feel that as elected officials Joy and Nilda should be representing the good of the students, and not the good of the students money. And I think that if the



students had more knowledge of what there money is used for the students would be able to make more informed voting decisions. But Joy and Nilda feel that as long as the student fee stays 100 percent student handled it doesn't matter who gets screwed over."

That belief by Brooklyn, Nair and long-time ASUO financial guru Jennifer Creighton (who said "I would hope that protecting the fee would be high on any exec's priority list,") that student group foul-ups should be handled as covertly as possible led to attempts this year to keep several fiscal abuses under wraps.

Two student groups were widely rumored to have grossly abused the public fees for personal — very personal — items. One of the Vietnamese Student Association directors was supposed to have purchased Nair hair removal cream. However, it was impossible to prove the incident because those in the ASUO with knowledge of the money paths hid as much detail as possible, while forwarding all other relevant materials to the Office of Student Conduct, which is then legally bound from disclosing that information when it's in an offending student's file.

But then another student group was found to have mishandled money in an egregious fashion, causing a shakeup with that organization. When the Oregon Commentator went looking for answers, and Sibley attempted to provide any help he could, that's when he said Brooklyn, Nair and Creighton became upset with him.

"My take on the reason that they fired me," he said, "was because of a situation that was occurring with MECHA. I had confirmed to (COMMENTATOR Publisher) Bret Jacobson that there had been problems, but I didn't really have any details to give to him anyway. My suggestion to Bret was that he go and interview David (Jaimes), who was the director of MECHA at the time.

"The material I gave out is not sensitive material," he says, "it is supposed to be in the public records, but it never quite made it there. It is not a confidentiality



**"Joy and Nilda feel that as long as the student fee stays 100% student handled it doesn't matter who gets screwed over."  
-Justin Silbey**

issue — things that I am involved in that are confidential are things like payroll, or any person receiving money. And I have never discussed those items to anyone outside of the controllers' office. And I knew they were not happy that I admitted there being a problem involved with MECHA, and it's probably going to be swept away pretty quickly, which I am allowed to say. But it goes against their plans of keeping the money in their control. And that is why they fired me."

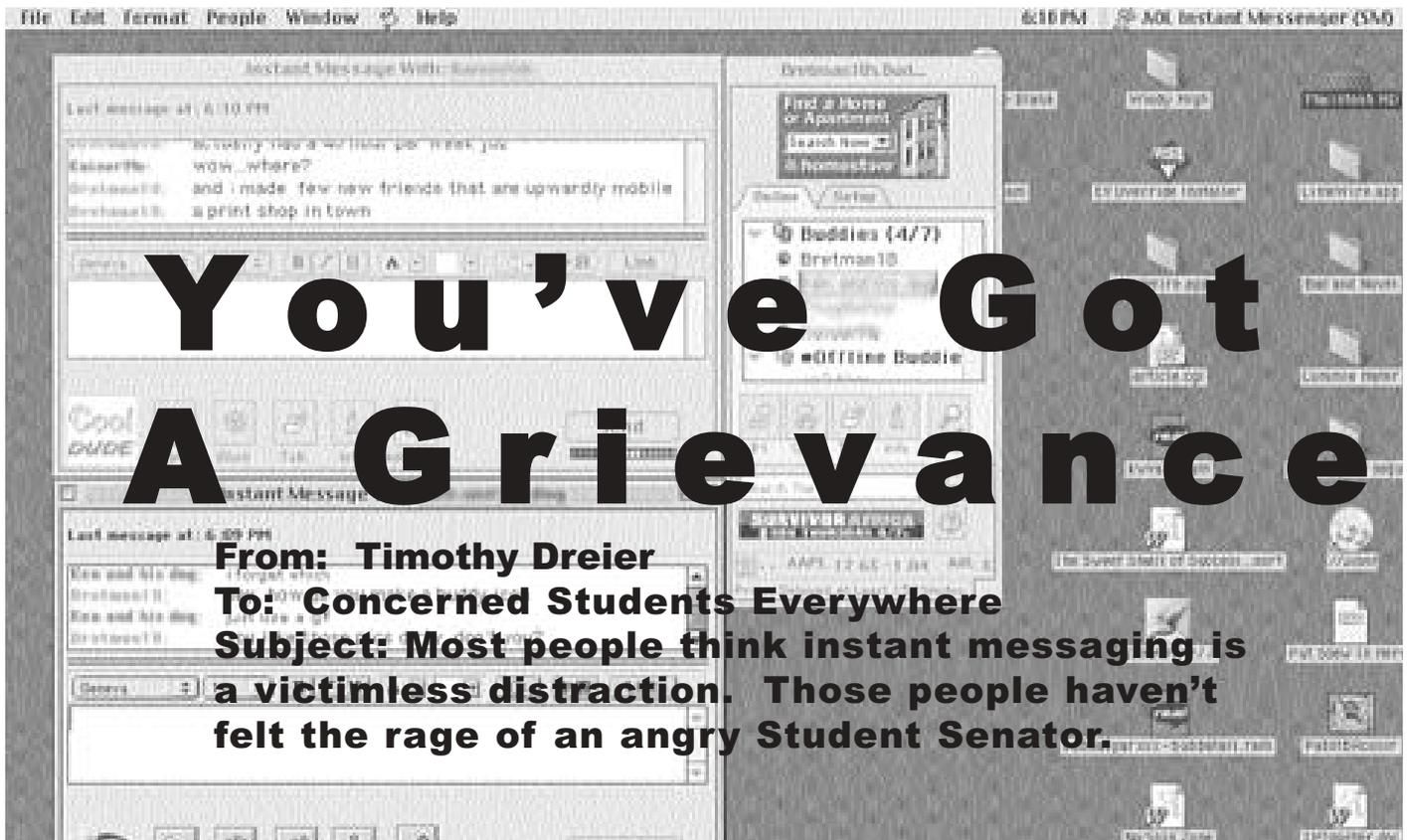
Nair said it was her understanding that there had already been conversations

between Creighton, Sibley's de facto direct supervisor, and the employee about problems that weren't being resolved in a fashion the executive approved of. Sibley has denied the truth of that statement and Creighton refused comment on all subjects relating to the firing of Sibley.

Claims that Sibley's work was inadequate seem unfounded. Sibley says the exec originally told him that his work quality was inadequate. "They told me I was slacking off and not doing my job," he said in a recent interview. He contends, however, that this was not in fact true at all. Rather, he said, "I was the only controller done with period numbers two and three reconciling," and that, "each controller was getting some benchmark research not due until November, but I finished mine [October 16] and I also helped finished another controller's research. And I feel that shows me pulling my weight."

Another factor Brooklyn and Nair claimed necessitated Sibley's premature departure, complaints from varying student groups about his interpersonal skills, is vehemently rebuffed by

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The Student Senate has taken a black eye recently with an embarrassing grievance filed against one of its senators. The senator in question, Dominique Beaumonte, caused a disturbance in the EMU Computer Lab on Thursday, October 11, when, according to lab employee John Holmstrom, Beaumonte caused a very large scene in the lab. “He was yelling, stopping us who had to deal with him from doing other work.”

The incident began at 4:30 p.m. when Beaumonte entered the EMU lab and talked to lab manager Amy McCoy about the lab’s no-chat policy. According to Beaumonte, McCoy said she was going to change the no-chat policy of the lab. At 6:45 PM Beaumonte returned to the lab and told employee Sarah Parish that McCoy had agreed to change the no-chat policy for the lab and asked to take down the no-chat signs. Parish said she would have to talk to McCoy, who had already gone home for the day, about any policy change and then deal with the signs accordingly. Beaumonte then crossed out the signs, a clear act of vandalism, and left the lab.

After Beaumonte departed, Parish told Holmstrom what had happened in the lab. At 8:15 PM, Beaumonte returned to the lab. Holmstrom told the senator that he was banned from the lab for vandalism until further notice. Beaumonte and Holmstrom then got into an argument. Beaumonte then proceeded to act in such a fashion as to cause serious concern for those in the lab. “[He was] yelling. To the point I was beginning to feel like he may act violently,” said Holmstrom.

After the argument, Beaumonte left the lab to get “proof” from the Green Tape Notebook that student incidental fees fund the EMU Lab and, therefore, he could have carte blanche on the computers. However, the EMU Lab is funded by student technical fees, which are controlled by the administration, not incidental fees which are controlled by the students.

At 8:30 p.m. Beaumonte returned to the lab without making any offer of proof regarding the use of student incidental fees. He then continued to yell and gesture at Holmstrom and Parish. Parish said that he should talk to McCoy, because Parish and Holmstrom don’t have the power to change the lab rules. Beaumonte reached across the counter, took a computing card and sat down at one of the computers to go about whatever business he had planned for himself. Holmstrom decided to call the Department of Public Safety because Beaumonte refused to leave the premises.

Upon the arrival of DPS officers, Beaumonte made a bigger scene by refusing to leave the lab. He shook his finger in the face of the officers. To DPS, he said that he wasn’t leaving because it was, “his right to use the lab.” DPS asked Beaumonte to leave repeatedly and then threatened to call EPD. Beaumonte said that he didn’t care if EPD is came, and that he was staying, regardless of the police. The EPD was called, and Beaumonte left before any EPD officers arrived on the scene.

The day after the incident, Parish filed a grievance against Beaumonte with the Student Senate. This grievance has

since been forwarded to the ASUO Constitution Court, which has yet to schedule a hearing on the incident or the grievance. The Con Court should schedule a hearing fairly soon.

According to Holmstrom, Beaumonte violated Student Conduct Code regulations. The brief list is intentional disruption, obstruction or interference with services usually provided or sponsored by the University; damage to University property (damaged the sign); unauthorized entry into a University facility; disorderly conduct in the form of causing unreasonable noise; and failure to comply with University employees in acting in the performance of their duties.

In addition to the Student Conduct violations above, Beaumonte also violated University Acceptable Use policy during the incident in the EMU Lab. According to the Acceptable Use Policy (available at [http://cc/policy/acceptable\\_use.html](http://cc/policy/acceptable_use.html)), "Activities related to the University's scholarly mission take precedence over computing pursuits of a more personal or recreational nature." The example given is that people working on research take precedence to those checking their personal email. Also, the no-chat policy is from the Computing Center and applies to all labs on campus not just the EMU Lab. So, the no-chat policy is in effect for the Klamath Lab and the Knight Library, as well as the EMU Lab.

Holmstrom, who is a student as well as an employee, said that Beaumonte's actions do not reflect well for a student leader. "If he can't act in a reasonable manner towards an employee or a fellow student (of which I am both) even when agitated, he should not be a representative of our student body," Holmstrom said via email. Holmstrom also said that he was undecided as to whether or not he would be filing his own grievance, but hoped the grievance filed by Parish had some effect, "I hope that they don't just blow Sarah off." Parish, who filed the grievance that has just been forwarded from the Senate to the Con Court, confirmed the entire preceding timeline, but declined further comment on the issue after repeated attempts to reach her via email.

*Timothy Dreier, who made the mistake of puking on Pete's floor, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR*

## In the Red

by Justin Silbey

Much like Sisyphus pushing the giant boulder up the hill, some ASUO student groups who have negative Fundraising Account balances find themselves pushing as hard as they can with no progress. This must be extremely frustrating to be a victim of red tape, or shall I say green-tape, rules that kick you while you're down. Presently, certain expenditures can only be paid for from a group's fundraising accounts. Unfortunately for the groups, if a previous director made poor budgeting decisions and left them with a large deficit in those accounts, these events can not take place due to lack of funding. In previous years, groups were allowed to use other line item accounts to fundraise and thus recover their deficit and be able to act within their mission of providing "cultural and physical development of students".

Under the new rule, as of last year, groups cannot deposit funds raised from events paid for by other line item accounts into Fundraising Accounts. The money raised through these activities must be deposited into the line item from which the expenditures for the event were charged. This rule in and of itself makes perfect sense, but that doesn't help the groups solve their fundraising issues. Unless the group members can come up with the money out of their own pockets or from outside donors, they are doomed to continuously roll over a negative balance. Unfortunately, after a discretionary period of time deemed appropriate by the group's ASUO Controller in cooperation with the ASUO Accounting Coordinator, all accounts for the group become frozen. (Note. Historically this has been a considerable amount of time spanning several months.) This action renders the group almost stagnate in their ability to function. The affected groups have been somewhat caught off guard as this is the first year that this rule has been strictly enforced.

If we want to continue to have our campus enriched by a variety of cultural events, something must be done to help these groups overcome their financial set back. Here are some ideas.

1. Find another group that has a large Fundraising Account surplus and ask them to transfer the money to your account with arrangements to pay it back after your fundraising event.
2. Have a group member's mom knit a few ski masks and rob a liquor store.
3. Beg for donations on the corner of 13th and Kincaid.
4. Sell joke books.
5. Wander down Greek row on Saturday and Sunday morning collecting empty beer cans. Just ignore the blue roofie residue. They can't help it. After all, they are frat guys.

*Justin Silbey, who won't stop bitching till he get's his dumb umbrella back, is a freelancer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR*



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but that also dramatically ups the cost. Then there's the matter of city building permits, which might not allow such a large structure to begin with. All in all, a bureaucratic nightmare.

Back to the \$170,000 lost and found by the Athletic Department. The money eventually was used to purchase LTD bus passes for students and faculty, and thankfully to generate 700 new parking spaces, most of which occupy the current Bean parking lot. However, at least 200 of these spaces were lost when the Knight Law School was built. Other construction projects robbed more of the spaces away from students. But still, 500 spaces for \$170,000 is better than 350 for \$12 million. At least an attempt was made to cater to the needs of drivers.

Another problem is the amount of year-round parking required by residents of the dorms. Students with vehicles in the dorms require not only day parking passes, but also night passes. The DPS only issues out some 400 overnight parking passes during the course of the year, and there are currently 3227 students living in the residence halls. It's unreasonable for that many students to all have their cars parked here at once. 400 spaces seems like a reasonable middle ground.

What's the real solution to campus parking problems? I'm afraid there isn't a tangle one available. From the student's perspective, finding parking on or around campus is an absolute nightmare. From the University's perspective, finding the money to accommodate all student-parking needs is totally

From the University's perspective, finding the money to accommodate all student-parking needs is totally

unfathomable. But that doesn't mean we should throw in the towel and all buy Huffys. Rather, the University needs to be constantly reminded of the predicament that many students face. The parking crisis is a real problem, and the Emerald's dismissal of it is insulting at best. The University of Oregon is a land-locked university with limited space to work with, but progress can still be made with creative solutions. The meters on 18th by

Hayward Field are a good example of this. The University pays a set dollar amount to the city for the meters, and the city allows students with parking passes to park there all day for free, increasing the amount to non-metered parking available. The new Breeze bus system is a

nice addition as well, but it's really nothing more than a Band-aid. Likewise, park-and-ride bus routes are nice but not always practical. If parking was placed on the same priority level as minority recruitment something might be done. But on this campus, parking is considered a luxury, and an environmentally unfriendly one at that.

Final Thoughts: Don't hold your breath on a parking garage or a cornucopia of parking spaces, but don't let a bunch of pavement haters tell you that you don't deserve to park here.



*Pete R. Hunt, earner of five parking tickets this year alone, is Editor in Chief of the Oregon Commentator*



no social contract obligation to protect the citizens of other countries. Because the government is obligated to its citizens and not to the citizens of other countries, it has a duty to neutralize threats to the people who live here. Therefore, the civilian casualties that will happen as the result of a war in Afghanistan are of less concern to the United States than what has already happened to the civilian citizens of this country. While wanton slaughter should be of concern, a few peripheral casualties are inevitable in any war and are not as important to the United States as neutralizing a threat to its citizens.

The six points above give clear insight as to why a war with the terrorists in Afghanistan and perhaps the Taliban itself is prudent. And, because the very nature of war itself, prudence is the only standard in measuring whether or not any country should be involved in a war. Wars are unavoidable, they simply will happen. No matter what, one large group of people or nation will find a reason to go to war with another large group of people. The issue of whether this is right or wrong therefore becomes a moot point. War is thereby, amoral and must be looked at from the point of view of prudence. This war is prudent, it is in the best interest of the United States and its people, and is therefore a task we should undertake.



Timothy Dreier, one angry SOB, is a Staff Writer for the Oregon Commentator

those contacted about his work performance and manner.

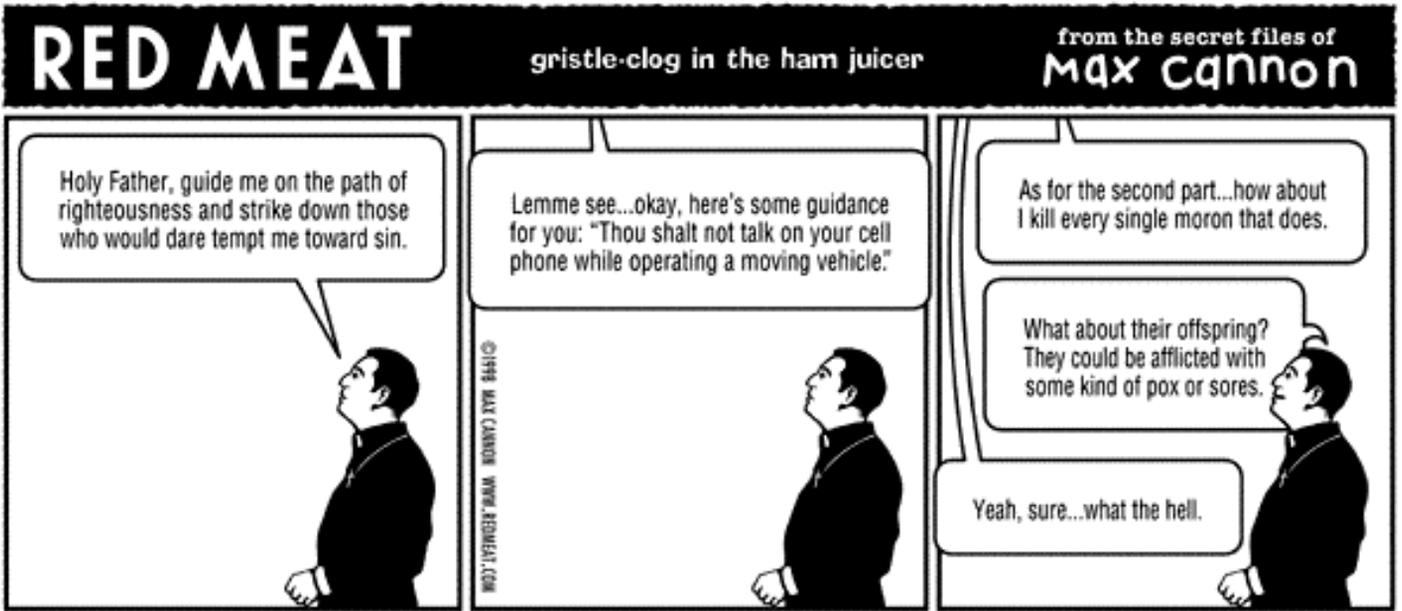
"We've probably had better contact and a more positive experience with him than with any other controller," said KWVA General Manager Charlotte Nisser.

Black Student Union Director Kawezya Hutchinson went even further in her praise. "Justin was one of our favorite controllers. He 's always helped out the BSU, even though he wasn't assigned to us."

It would not seem altogether unreasonable to believe that there would be questionable hiring and firing practices in the current ASUO office this year. Already Creighton has hired as her personal assistant David Jaimes of MECHA money mishandling fame. There were questions raised at the time of that hiring, since he came from a scandal-racked student group and he is engaged to the head ASUO controller.

Regardless of all the claims and counterclaims, the fact still remains that one good man was fired. "I'm really going to miss having Justin around here," said Watts.

Once the ConCourt rules on Sibley's grievance, it will be seen if there's anyone to say they'll miss Brooklyn and Nair.



# YOU KNOW HOW WE DO IN PDX

## DISENCHANTED WITH EUGENE, OC PUBLISHER OPINES: PORTLAND, SUBURBS ONLY PLACE TO BE CAUGHT ALIVE IN OREGON

I spent my first 18 or so years living a peaceful, satisfied life in the only place in the state of Oregon that really matters. Hell, for as long as I remember I figured it was just a rumor that people would actually choose or be forced by some twisted fate to live outside PDX and its subsidy. And to this day, having seen many of the one-gas-station-towns of this less-than-prodigious state, I can say with full confidence that Portland, including its suburbs, is a lonely beacon of hope in an otherwise unremarkable land.

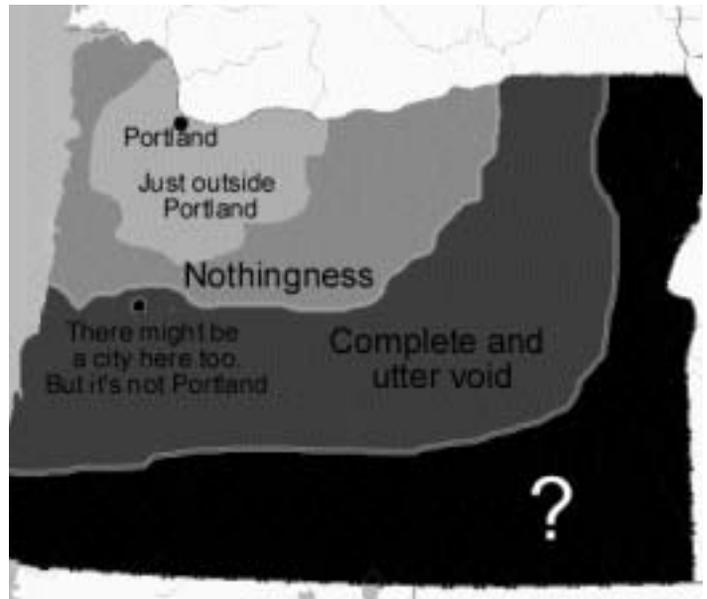
Because I am arrogant, and we needed to fill space in this issue, it fell to me to explain the attitude of all Portlanders with respect to their view of Oregon. There are many who make the misleading claim that there are worthwhile spots here; I will rebuke this perspective with extreme prejudice. Hence I speak for an entire people, the Portland People.

Exiting the Seattle's Best Coffee shop near the Pioneer Courthouse Square, a PDX native surveys all around him to gaze at buildings that exceed two stories and are actually as attractive as they are practical, brick in the ground and in walls, lively storefronts, panhandlers with finesse, jazz and comedy clubs and real-life, coke-addicted -athletes. There's even a cost-effective public transit system. There are too many nice restaurants to count and too many watering holes to hide in. Travel ten minutes away from downtown and you can find neatly built suburbs with teen-hangout malls, each replete with yet another Starbucks, a Jamba Juice and all the department stores you could possibly traverse in one Christmas season.

In contrast to the rest of the state, which I can only assume shares but one gene for the untold thousands of Mongol wretches, we have full electricity, highways and byways, J. Crew and Saks stores and the corporate offices of Nike and adidas.

With respect to the quality of talent put forth from PDX compared to the rest of the state, one of the examples closest to home I can use would be the historical leadership of this very magazine. An overwhelming majority has come from the Portland area. I hale first from Hillsboro and then Beaverton. The previous Editor-in-Chief, William Beutler, hales from Portland proper. Owen Brennan Rounds originated from Hillsboro. Ed Carson — PDX, baby.

There are, of course, the occasional years when talent is so hard to come by that the magazine is forced into accepting those who hale from the hinterlands. Current Editor-in-Chief Pete R. "Ethan Montana" Hunt is from Tiller, OR. (So is anal anthrax, but public health officials testify that's just a coincidence.) Former publisher Jonathan Collegio was from Bend, or



Roseburg, or Grants Pass — I can't quite recall now because they're really all the same to me.

I must admit that this year has been one of diversity and growth for me, however, as I've met plenty of interesting and borderline-acceptable people from outside my own province of pleasure. I have a friend from some place called Redmond — it must be quite dissimilar to Redmond, WA, I assure you — and, of course, Pete Hunt comes from Tiller. (Tiller, for God's sake! It only has one fire hydrant and one dog to deface it.) I've even met a girl who admits to being from Ashland, where the code of life lists high school football just above of Jesus and civil rights in terms of societal priority.

Some also try to make economic or social arguments for inclusion of other towns into the society of polite Oregon. There is the state capital, but from where we Portland People come from, we're fairly sure that the attempt to make Salem the state capital was an early oversight and will be corrected when we finally get a reasonable governor in office. Then there are some who boastfully point to Eugene, this hellish black hole that neither permits logic, true dissent or personal hygiene products, as a critical part of the state. We needn't even deal with that small bit of absurdity.

There is a lot of land in this state, but there's only one place to live. The rest of you can go to hell — oh wait, you've been there for years.



*Bret Jacobson, who hasn't ever ventured outside of the 503 area code, is the publisher of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*

OREGON COMMENTATOR

# THE OREGON COMMENTATOR'S

## “KEEP AMERICA ROLLING” OFFER 0% Financing!



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# Seeking the Middle

Do the far left and far right seem far out to you? You're not alone.

By Olly Ruff

In the absence of any topical events involving motorcycles, this is the first column proper. Other things being equal, I'm going to be occupying these pages for the rest of the year. I wish I had a manifesto, but I can already tell that this isn't going to be one; I doubt that I'm actually going to accomplish anything. Nor is it, I hope, a statement of intent, because by March I'll have run out of five-syllable words and will be reduced to shopping lists and paid commercial announcements - which is hardly something you'd advertise ahead of time, discounting the fact that I just did. There is no vision thing, then. To be honest, I want to keep to a strict minimum these self-reflexive moments where I write about the fact that I'm writing a column. But here I am in a magazine that endorses culture troll David Horowitz in its editorials, so I feel pretty much obliged to break cover and write in the first person every once in a while. Here goes.

The estimable sex columnist Dan Savage has described sexual orientation - at least, sexual orientation reduced to a binary gay/straight distinction - as being something that you choose, rather than vice versa. You pick the label that you feel most comfortable with, and hope it's the one that coincides most nearly with what your hormones have you doing - with the obvious proviso: delude yourself as you may, your preferred choice of label will inevitably fail to dictate your id-driven actions. Eventually, no matter what you choose to call yourself, the question becomes something more relevant, even fundamental: what are you actually doing? Which label fits best, though, remains your decision, misguided though it may eventually turn out to be.

Party political affiliations work the same way, I submit, and "liberal" is my label. I'm already defensive about this, and I'm getting more so every time I read the letters page of the Eugene Weekly. Just as people who self-identify as conservative have to feel a little embarrassed about the John Birch Society and - you'd think so, anyway - David Horowitz, it's nigh-on impossible to consider yourself a leftist without forever being confronted with people who first make you want to stop defending the ACLU, then make you want to declare yourself wholly uninterested in politics, and after three paragraphs make you want to elope to an armed compound in Wyoming and never have a conversation with anyone in the world again, ever, even if they were a blood relative and willing to have you pre-script their remarks.

I don't feel so bad about Horowitz or George Will or Free Republic. No matter how far they stray from Earth orbit, they are not my responsibility. They're scary - particularly the latter group, whose message board isn't quite at the God Hates Fags level but still reads as though from a parallel universe where

Pat Robertson won the 1988 Republican nomination and is now threatening to secede from the US - but I don't feel implicated in their particular psychoses. However, I can't seem to quite put into words the creeping mortification I undergo when reading Znet or Indymedia or - hey! - the Insurgent. This probably counts against me, and the responses I've got from people indicate that I could be entirely on my own here, but there's something that gets to me about no-holds-barred, logic-free partisan argument, the really tiresome kind, coming from folk with whom I still have a lot of genetic material in common. This is a conversational mode we've all grown to love, throughout all forms of media, wherever angry people gather to spray spittle at the moon.

One aspect of this is attitudinal. Dogmatism is annoying. So is the ad hominem insistence that anyone who disagrees with you is guilty of whatever charge you care to throw back at them, or necessarily holds a diametrically opposed view to yours. Nobody thinks pollution is cuddly, or that multinational corporations should be legally unaccountable, or that reparations-for-slavery is a sensible idea, or that Communism worked. It's stupid to characterize conservatives as bigots, or liberals as dreamy idiots. And accusing - to pick an example at random from the Emerald archives - the Commentator of racism, misogyny, homophobia, or God knows what else, isn't just groundless and hysterical; it also detracts from anything else that might be said. Even when there's an argument hidden somewhere under all the froth, it gets increasingly hard to care once someone has roundly damned their opponents for being agents of (a figurative or literal) Satan. So, on the right, with Horowitz. He certainly doesn't appear to be a racist, and the treatment he has received since publishing his infamous anti-reparations ad is more than a little troubling, but his insistence on seizing the low ground in any given conversation makes you wonder if this isn't exactly the response he's looking for. He feints toward unacceptability, waits for the wave of vilification, and then surfs it. I'm sure that, Constitutionally speaking, this is valid behavior, but it's neither dignified nor commanding of respect. God knows, one can forgive a lot if there are laughs to be had, but we're a long way from P.J. O'Rourke here.

The other principal source of my heartburn is a bit harder to isolate, but I think it comes down to the anti-capitalist rhetoric deployed by, say, the Insurgent. I know we're not supposed to take the Insurgent seriously, but it's still incredibly frustrating being on the same side of the compass as these people. If the mainstream Left is ever reduced to flat-out arguing against capitalism - and I don't believe it ever will - then we'll really have gone over to the dark side, folks. Chic though it is to rail against the evils of consumerism, and despite the Jack In The

The views expressed in this column are those of Olly Ruff, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Box ads having unarguably fallen off a bit in recent months, to formalize this would be to argue on pure aesthetics - which is fine as far as it goes, but aesthetics and economics don't tend to mix that well.

As a fan of theory, I completely understand the desire to axiomatize a whole society. That's the appeal of, for instance, Marx, whose attempt to impose a theoretical structure on history itself is really about as socially ambitious as it gets. Marx is by no means the only person to have had a crack at that programme, but his theory - or one that bears his name, at any rate - has repeatedly and disastrously been hauled into the arena of actual governance, so he's stuck with being the canonical reference. And here is where things go messily wrong, because once you start talking about empirical things - no pun on "empire" intended, by the way - a theory is simply invalid if it fails to describe the things it purports to describe. That's a brutal criterion, and Marxism-as-implemented-in-the-world is hammered flat by it. The only way to ensure the hypotheses of Marxism are satisfied is to spend inordinate amounts of time and energy on making sure people behave in whatever way is required of them - to bend a population to fit a theory. This is not an easy task, no matter what you're prepared to do to those who dissent, and the depressing ends certainly don't seem to justify the inhuman means.

On the other hand, there's a pretty good chance of people behaving in a, for want of a better word, capitalistic fashion; because the theory is one that doesn't flatly contradict the way in which people behave. That this reads somewhat like a tautology should be pleasing, although my willingness to accept it as such means I'm clearly not given to thinking deep thoughts about these things. That the system will actually run without coercion means that a liberal democracy is pretty much bound to the free market. And that, ultimately, means that I'm bound to it too.

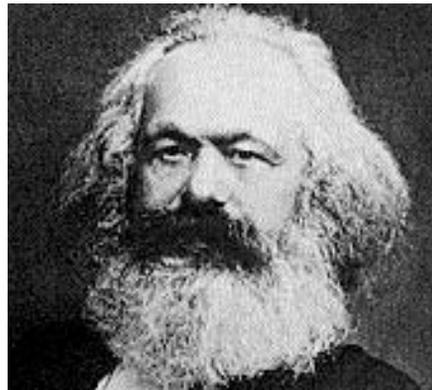
This is not to say that laissez-faire is

## David Horowitz: Far Right



the smart way to go. Capitalism may be omnipresent, polymorphous, it may describe human behavior pretty well, but we don't allow human behavior to roam unchecked either. Still, once we get past the evils-of-capitalism bromides, it's easier to talk specifics. Given that the system will run without the threat of violence, you can profitably argue about how to make it run better - what checks and balances are necessary, how they should be provided, what checks and balances should be placed upon the checks and balances. Here is fertile ground for labor unionism, health care reform, energy conservation, and suchlike - strategies that work from within the system, and work a lot better for doing so. For all the flak the Eugene leftists get (and invite) there are decent things getting done quietly on a local level, above and beyond even the Genesis Juice Collective. Maybe that's why it's so frustrating to hear the same tired old catchphrases - hegemony, dominant paradigm, neo-colonialism, cultural imperialism, fascism - endlessly recycled and often used without even a specific meaning in mind, just as generic, vindictive Weltschmerz. It'd be a shame to see all that social responsibility marginalize itself entirely in a fit of pique.

## Karl Marx: Far Left



By this point in the tirade, there's usually one guy willing to call me a crypto-fascist. That's OK. The point of my Dan Savage metaphor is that I can't be thrown out of the club, no matter how much I rail against some of its affiliates. This is how moderates are made, after all: uncomfortably compressed between people who think execution is the moral equivalent of murder, and people who think taxation is the moral equivalent of theft. And if I'm doomed to be a moderate, I want at least to find some way of being an extremist about it. The Insurgent and Noam Chomsky, Free Republic and the Westboro County Baptists - there's no earthly reason why these folks should get to have all the fun.

## P.J. O'Rourke: Far side of bar stool



Olly Ruff, cortizon to Tony Blair, is the AP columnist for the OREGON COMMENTATOR



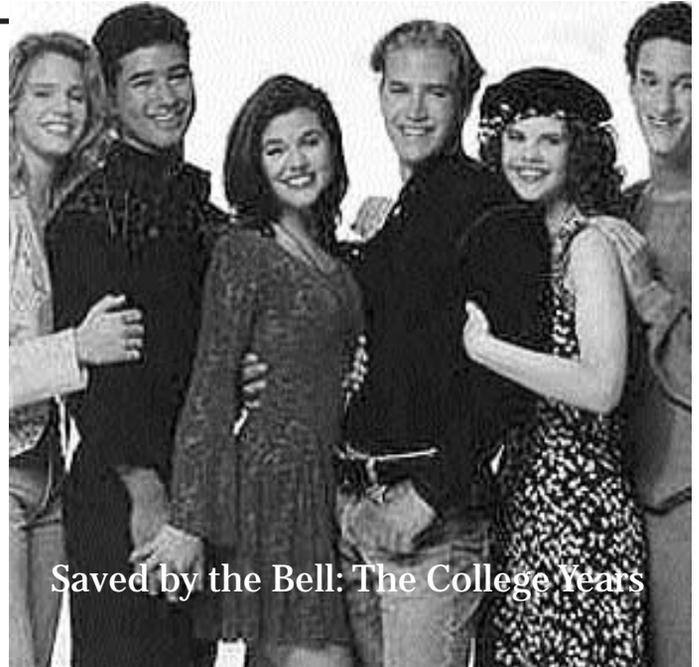
## ON *BOOTY CALL*

I just had a kid, can you tell?

—*Alleged remarks of a call girl from a local escort service as she lay naked and spread eagle on a living room floor. It was hard to tell at first, but after careful focusing, a critical clue was the umbilical cord scraping the floor.*

Can you go out in my car and get my cowboy hat and tassles? They're right behind the baby seat.

—*Alleged call girl again. Sadly, two of those three items were used in the sex show. The baby seat was one of them.*



Saved by the Bell: The College Years

## ON *AND JUICE*

A few years ago I got a letter offering to let me join the AARP. I thought, 'Well, if I can save on gin, why not?'

—*J-school Prof Duncan McDonald. It's nice to know that being an alcoholic will get you farther in the journalism world than just the OC's board of directors.*

I think there are so many other forces that combine alcohol and sex that advertising is relatively minimal.

—*J-School Prof Charles Frazier. Hey buddy, you're telling us! See also: Booty Call.*



SeaQuest DSV

## ON *SLACKERS*

There's Peter Jacobsen down on the field, freeloading again.

—*Broadcast legend Keith Jackson during the Stanford game. It was true, Jacobsen was leaving with all those little shampoos and pillow mints that Autzen Stadium is known for. No word on whether the golfer hi-jacked any free Nikes.*

I find it amazing that Mayor Torrey, in all of his rotundness, could find his way to New York City to march in their Columbus Day Parade.

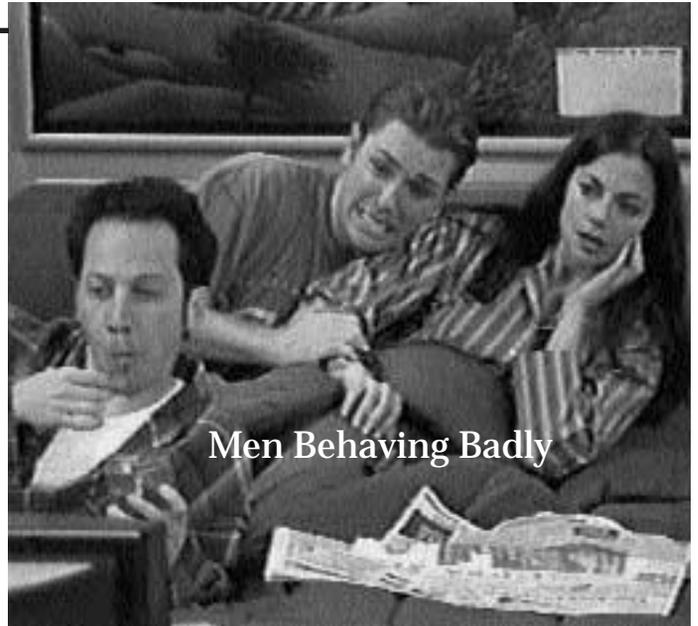
—*Sociology professor Chuck Hunt. Ahh, there's that constant of liberal ideology, tolerance for those who look different than you. Chuck, you're a beacon of integrity and kindness that we can all learn from.*

## ON **JIHAD**

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Hey bin Laden, you can kiss my royal Irish ass.  
—New York firefighter during “The Concert for New York City” on VH-1. No word on any plans for bin Laden to accept the invitation.

To me, every fundamentalist Muslim, no matter how peaceable in his own behavior, is part of a murderous movement and is thus, in some fashion, a foot soldier in the war that bin Laden has launched against civilization.  
—Daniel Pipes, columnist at the New York Post. So tell us how you really feel Daniel.



Men Behaving Badly



The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

## ON **DOPE AND DOPES**

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If you looked at enough Beatles albums and smoked enough dope you would have believed that Paul McCartney was dead.  
—Prof. Charles Frazier in Principles of Advertising. Of course, if you’d seen him on “The Concert for New York City,” you’d still leave with the same impression.

Beer!

—Frat guys response to three separate questions in ELDA 407 leadership class. Aghh... the greek system. Where would be on the grade curve without them?

## ON **MARTIAL ARTS**

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But a well thought out protest is as rare as a kickboxing Quaker.

—Bill O’reilly, in his Worldnetdaily column. We don’t know Bill, our sources tell us George Fox was extensively trained in Muay Thai.



# Personals

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with another real human being.  
God you're PATHETIC.  
Nobody will blame you  
for choosing SUICIDE.

## women seeking men

### I Want a Man Hung Like A Horse

Seeking male of no specific age, height, build. Simply need genitalia to be comparable to large, land-based mammal. Kids? Job? Neither important. Don't waste my time shaving to make it look bigger. #8482

### Girl in Coma seeks Man to Bear Child

I'm writing this on behalf of my beautiful daughter Kelly, who's been in a coma since the first Bush administration. As I've grown older and the chances of Kelly waking diminish, I've realized that I desperately still want grandchildren. Hence, I'd like someone to spare an hour out of their day and "visit" my daughter on the fifth floor of Mercy. The doctors say she won't even notice. #4672

### Vegetarian Seeking Meat

Me: 32, attractive, feminist, vegetarian. Likes works of Angela Dworkin, vaginal poetry, organic coffee, dry humor. You: 20-40, funny, gentle, leftist thinking, ample male ready to skewer me like a shisk-a-bob. # 3128

## men seeking women

SWM, 42, 5'8", 450+ lbs. Can't tie own shoes. Unable to leave living room since 1993.

Desperately need human contact. Looking for someone with nursing experience, able to sponge bathe me, shave my back, cook my meals. Love me! #6363

### I want A Hot Mama

Girl, if you'll be my apple pie I'll be the vanilla ice cream melting all over your steaming wet body. Looking for voluptuous sexual goddess, 17-23, thin, blond hair, medium to large breasts, ass I can eat off. #2727

### I'm a work in progress

Alcoholic, former pain killer addict, father of 5 children by 3 women, legally still married in Nevada, single swinging guy! 38, 5'8", No job yet, most of money invested in pyramid scheme. I guess I'm still a dreamer, and I hope you are too. #6483

### Umm.. Maybe we could go out some time

Hi, I know if it's okay with you, and if it's not that's fine... but if you want to get together some time and have some coffee or something. I know you probably don't but I just thought I'd ask. I'm sorry, I'll just go home now. #2552

### Young Man Seeking Much Older Women

Seeking sensible female, 70+ years, YOU: looking to share love, romance, weekly sex, extremely large bank account. ME: Young sexual stallion, need to see bank records, property deeds, list of all assets. #2435

## women seeking women

### Looking for Athletic type

Hi, I'm a SAF, 5'7", 130 lbs, very toned body, looking for single girl into working up a good sweat. Love: Water sports, ice rubbed down my naked body, lotions, tongue rings. I'm very ticklish, hope you are too. (Note: Actually posted by 45-year-old male dell owner.) #6378

## men seeking men

### Wrongly Convicted

SWM, 35, 6'2", 240, inmate at state penitentiary, looking for fresh meat to drop soap. If you haven't killed anybody yet, you might as well get used to being a bitch. #2879

### Let's Instant Message

You: forgiving, lonely, always waiting for my IM. Me: Senator w/ 10 fingers to type, one bad attitude, looking for hot man gravy. Can't meet in EMU Computer lab anymore. #3724

BIHM, looking for water sports and LTR. Must be Warhol-literate, gerbil friendly. Reach around appreciated. #5789

## isawyou

### Silver Dollar Club

I was wearing the plaid work shirt. You were wearing purple pasties with gold tassels. I threw you a dollar, you threw me a wink. God I wish the bouncer hadn't interrupted the table dance. Sometimes my hands just roam. #2424

### Serenity Lane

I was coming down off a three day ether binge. You looked wired out, probably speed or meth. Eyes had rolled back in your head, nose was bleeding, skin pale and dry. Love at first sight. Let's get together and dope up. #8543

### Oregon Daily Emerald Office

You were printing off your fantasy baseball team stats. I was photocopying my ass. You sneered at me in disgust. Hakuna-Matata?

### Police Station

You we're #3 in Saturday's EPD lineup. You tried not to make eye contact, but we both knew it was love when I fingered you in a dramatic role reversal. You bring the cuffs and I'll bring the baton. #2982

## alter-natives

Looking for adventurous women willing to tie me to chair, whip me with belt, urinate all over my face, kick me in the groin, put cigarettes out on my chest, leave me for dead in basement, revive me in two days and then make sweet love. #4957

### Girls Scouts

SWM, looking for girl scouts 14-15 religiously exempt from age of consent laws. I'm willing to buy as many mint swirl cookies as necessary, so long as you get mommy and daddy to sign a few legal forms. #8384

SWM looking for two SWF to spend weekend with. Fulfill my fantasy and yours, let's go camping in the woods and pretend we're back at summer camp. You're the two naive catholic girls, I'm the dominating counselor. #4673

### WILL PAY FOR SEX

Lonely law student/ student senate member. Tired of defending funds, let's spend em'. Age/ gender not important. We can have post-coital chain smoke session at Erb Essentials. #4747

### Bukkake- Me Today?

Low self-esteem, short on rent money. Wannabe actress seeks you and 4 friends to make a movie. Have \$173.59. Let's say action together! I promise, every shot is the money shot. #8928