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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 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



PAGE 10 Tyler Graf gives you the real secrets to successful Dumpster diving. Those *Insurgent* kids might tell you it's all good in the hood, they'd be wrong.

PAGE 8 The first installment of the COMMENTATOR's ongoing look into exactly what student groups do at their weekly meetings. This time around, Ben Brown, Tyler Graf and Sho Ikeda look at MEChA, the BSU and APASU, respectively.



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February 16, 2004

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my cunt is not represented here

The background of the page is a grayscale image showing numerous dollar bills falling from the top, creating a sense of money being lost or scattered. The bills are of various denominations and are shown in motion, with some appearing to be caught in the air.

THE FEE

AND THE DAMAGE DONE

The ASUO Executive has finally started talking about fiscal responsibility. Apparently, Maddy Melton and Eddy Morales have had some sort of conversion experience; perhaps we have managed to make a persuasive case to this Executive. Maybe, just maybe, there will finally be some changes in the management of student fees. But where have Melton and Morales decided to make their stand? With which misuse of incidental fees have they taken umbrage? Is it OSPIRG? Is it the OSA? Is it USSA? No, friends, the Exec has gone after that terrible misuse of our fee money, the *Oregon Daily Emerald*.

For a long time, we've had a somewhat adversarial relationship with the *ODE*. But we can definitively say that the Executive has really jumped the shark with this. As reported in the *Ol' Dirty*, the Executive recommendation for the *ODE*'s budget was only \$106,503, a full \$12,000 decrease from last year's budget. It's important to note that this "subscription fee" only pays about 10 percent of the *Emerald*'s operating budget. Further, the *ODE* is widely available on campus and to every student, without added cost, every day.

If the *ODE* serves all the students every day, why did the Executive decide to cut its funding? Well, Melton claimed to be concerned about non-students picking up copies of the *Emerald*, saying that it's against "the spirit of what (incidental fees are) for -- for students." That argument, really, is akin to saying that because people from out of state can pass through the roads of Oregon, the state government should spend less on building and maintaining them. The *ODE*, primarily, provides a service to students and should be treated accordingly. As much as they sometimes screw up, and even bearing in mind those occasions when they print fake news, the *Emerald* is a relatively decent paper of record.

The Executive's recent behavior raises an interesting question: Why should the *Emerald* be held to such a high standard when there are many other groups whose money goes directly for non-campus action?

This magazine's long-time nemesis, OSPIRG, is only one example of the egregious misuses of the incidental fee that occur on campus. With a budget of more than \$100,000, OSPIRG sends all, literally all, of its funds to the State PIRG in Portland. Those funds are then dispersed to the individual PIRGs throughout the Oregon University System. The State PIRG uses the incidental fee money to pay its rent and for direct political action. The former is certainly against the spirit of the incidental fee, and the latter is a direct violation of law.

The same is true for the Oregon Student Association. It's a safe bet, however, that much of the student body is not aware exactly how much the OSA gets. Well, this year they're receiving \$92,971 in incidental fee money, but you won't find them listed in the Programs Manual. Why? Because OSA is one of the many line items in the ASUO Executive budget, and does not have to go through the Programs Finance Committee for funding on its own. OSA gets a pass on accountability because their money is hidden under the umbrella of the Executive. The practical upshot is that the OSA can, at the state level, undertake whatever direct political action it wishes without having to be held to account for using incidental fee money to do so. The Oregon Students of Color Coalition and the Oregon Statewide Student Equal Rights Alliance are both subsets of the OSA and perform direct political action in Salem. Regardless of the perspective, law prohibits using incidental fee money for lobbying. Further, the principle of using money that is from a tax on all students to support political speech is grotesquely unethical. In essence, this practice compels students to speak in a certain way by forcing them to pay dues to an organization that purportedly represents them all, yet performs direct lobbying action. Imagine incidental fee money going to the Oregon Citizens Alliance or Oregon Taxpayers United and the impropriety comes even more sharply into focus. The OCA or OTU should not receive public money with which to lobby, and the same is true of the OSA. But, because the OSA is part of the Executive budget students

have not had a chance to properly examine its funding.

The United States Student Association performs the same function as OSA but at the national level. That is, USSA operates even farther removed from campus life than the OSA office in Portland. USSA undertakes lobbying on behalf of students at the national level, and they requested more than \$20,000 of our money this year. Again, USSA is an example of horrible fiscal mismanagement. Compared with these examples, the *Emerald* being read by a few community members is not a problem. Furthermore, the fact that people off-campus may be reading the *Emerald* is not a direct and intentional consequence of its PFC funding.

Speaking of the PFC, it is equally guilty in this whole debacle. While they did, in the end, do the right thing in the *ODE* case, the PFC kids did nothing about clear abuse of the fee by off-campus groups. After debating the merits of OSPIRG simply sending its money to Portland, a fact that is hardly in dispute these days, the PFC decided to grant them \$115,265. What's worse is that PFC member Colin Andries, who had earlier moved to defund OSPIRG entirely, voted for their final budget. His defense that he was "supporting PFC," is foolish at best and a sad statement about the values of our student leaders at worst. More shocking was PFC's gift to USSA, a little more than \$7,000 of the \$20,000 that USSA requested. Again, it's common knowledge that USSA's money goes all the way to Washington, D.C. PFC managed to cave on every fiscal responsibility issue this year. Typical.

Andries may have been supporting PFC, but that's not really in his job description. The purpose of student government is to properly allocate the incidental fee, not to win friends and influence people. The PFC should not be a support group for lonely PPPM majors, even if that seems to be its current function. Supporting the group as a whole might make Andries feel good, but it's a severe disservice to students. Further, if he needs friends that badly, perhaps he should try bars or maybe the Frisbee team. By failing to make even a symbolic gesture of protest, Andries became complicit in rubber-stamping the abuse of our money that has gone on for far too long. Unfor-

tunately, he's not the first.

The ASUO Senate has been rubber-stamping all sorts of expenditures for as long as anyone can remember. Former Senate President Peter Watts, as far as this magazine can recall, never bothered making a symbolic vote against nonsensical special requests. Not even former Ombudsman Andy Elliott, a known and self-admitted conservative, bothered voting against motions he found distasteful. The conclusion seems to be that once something reaches the ASUO Senate, it might as well be given a pass.

This sort of malaise accomplishes nothing and, because of its completely irresponsible nature, encourages fiscal mismanagement on the part of other student groups. Many student unions have used funds for things like camping equipment, watches for staff members, compact discs and other such things that have no relation to their missions. Over the last few years, these sorts of abuses have gone nearly unchecked. The ASUO Controllers office has a high turnover rate, which means that at any time very few of its employees have any idea what proper behavior even is. Indeed, there are members of the COMMENTATOR staff who know both the Green Tape Notebook and ASUO accounting better than the entire Controller's office. Indeed, the only person in all of suite four with any real knowledge of the rules is ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert. Sure, she may have forgotten to multiply by three a couple of years ago, but on balance she's the most competent member of a nearly worthless staff.

Nowhere is their bungling more evident than in the Executive's recent veto of the *Emerald's* budget, presumably over the same issues of "fiscal responsibility." The ASUO continues to demonstrate that they are either wholly unqualified to manage the incidental fee or willfully ignorant of proper procedure. In going after a legitimate recipient of fees like the *Oregon Daily Emerald* while allowing abuse by OSPIRG and other off-campus entities, the Executive has shown itself not only untrustworthy, but also entirely without ethical principle or logical capability.



The money-grubbing hands of the ASUO reach upward, hopeful for another few fistfuls of student fees.



**ARE YOU 1000 FEET TALL AND MADE OF BRONZE?
ARE YOU CAPABLE OF STRIKING FEAR INTO THE
HEARTS OF EVEN THE MOST AGGRESSIVE ENEMIES?
NO WORRY, WE'RE NOT EITHER.**

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R.I.P. Buster's

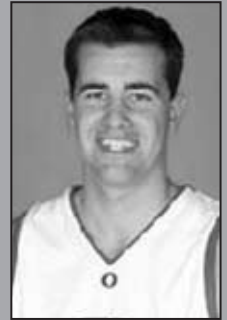
Buster's, we hardly knew ye. You cruised into our lives with the enigmatic demeanor of a mysterious stranger. We knew not from whence you came, the secrets hidden in your past, nor did we know that our two collective futures would soon become intrinsically entwined. You were a complete dark horse. But as our eyes first gazed upon your furtive sports bar façade, a sensation overwhelmed us; our hearts skipped a beat, a cold sweat developed above our brow and our knees trembled slightly, for we knew that somehow, someday, you would enter our lives.

But that day did not come soon. Nay, the feeling remained latent for many months. Perched atop Rennie's second level, we would watch with bemusement as this tiny bar opened to less-than-stellar business. We were naïve and young in those days – we repressed our desires. So we scoffed boisterously, chortling to ourselves about the charmless frat warren moving into town. How could this crude simulacrum of Joggers possibly compete with Taylor's, 13th's primary source of Greek nightlife? We knew the answer: it couldn't.

As the march of time progressed, the siren song of Buster's, coupled with the astronomical bar tabs at Rennie's, forced us through the door. What we witnessed was not El Dorado, for it was too plain to be described as anything but ordinary. But this superficial impression belied a bar that would put Shangri-la to shame. It was Heaven. But those times are gone now, into the abyss. Rest in Peace, Buster's, we will always remember.



Ian Crosswhite
HEIGHTWATCH
7'3"
DISCO BOOTS



OREGON VOICE NOT MORE **INTERESTING DRUNK**



Radical Left Attacks Slightly Less Radical Left

We at the COMMENTATOR first started noticing it a while ago: For quite a while, the wacky leftists have been causing a whole lot less trouble for us than usual. The self-righteous howls of indignation directed at conservatives -- along with the putrid stench of body odor that usually follows -- have been almost disturbingly absent. The insipid calls of "patriarchal" and "misogynistic" have not been applied to the vast right-wing conspiracy much lately.

However, it seems that this lull in the usual, mindless whining is caused not by a massive, collective drug-induced chemical comatose state, but rather a situation that is more than a little entertaining for bystanders: The left has decided to cannibalize itself.

In nature, it is only natural for some members of the herd to become weak and sickly. Now if it were us, the poor bastard would probably have been left to die in the bathroom of the strip club. Cruel? You betcha! But who needs a weakling limply clinging to your back, holding you back?

Lately, it seems, the crazy, whacko leftists have abandoned their fight against the conservatives and moderates on campus, instead turning their wrath upon their own. Mother Kali's, wounded by the increase in minimum wage, has become easy prey for the culling. Additionally, the Vagina Monologues, wracked with controversy over the lack of diversity among its cast, has already fallen prey to the vagitarian masses of angry, hairy womyn.

Now in pinko-land, who can complain? We certainly can't. As long as the activists, demonstrators and protesters pick each other off one by one, we'll be happy. Fuck 'em.

STUDENTS UNITED: AN INSIDE LOOK AT STUDENT UNIONS

By Sho Ikeda, Ben Brown and Tyler Graf

Here on the University of Oregon campus, there is no dearth of student groups. The sorts of groups that have been founded spread a wide range, from publications like this one to everyone's favorite endeavor: The Gaming Club. Counted among these groups is a large contingent of student unions.

Many students who are not members of any such group don't really have a clear picture of how they operate. The Commentator's goal, then, is to provide some insight into the typical functions of a student union. This installment focuses on three groups: The Asian Pacific American Student Union, the Black Student Union, and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano De Aztlán. We conducted a phone interview and sent reporters to the weekly meetings of two groups to find out exactly what goes on at a typical meeting, and how each union operates.

APASU — by Sho Ikeda

The Asian Pacific American Student Union is an organization catering to the needs and issues of Asian American students at the University of Oregon. Founded in 1972 by a group of Asian American students who were taking the same Asian American Experience class together, the student union seeks to suit the social and academic needs of Asian American students at the University.

APASU co-director Kit Myers said APASU's mission is to provide a safe and supportive community for Asian American students on campus. Another goal of the student union is to maintain and improve retention of Asian-American students and increase the number of Asian-American professors at the University. The group also works with and contributes to the Eugene/Springfield Asian-American community.

APASU has 45 active members of a total membership of about 80 students said Myers, in a phone interview. Myers, a junior majoring in ethnic studies and journalism, has been a member of APASU since his freshman year. A native of Canby, Ore., he said that most members of APASU are from the Portland metropolitan area, but some are from other states such as California and come from communities of all sizes.

"(The Asian American community in Eugene) is definitely larger than where I come from," Myers said.

Myers noted that Eugene's Asian-American population is fairly small compared to major Californian cities, which are

the hubs of America's Asian immigrant population, and can be frustrating for students used to living in larger communities. This is where APASU can help many incoming Asian American students.

"APASU is nice for those coming from large cities," Myers said. "It's a place for them to feel comfortable."

APASU holds weekly meetings that can include workshops intended to aid its members in issues as benign as relationships to as heated as dealing with negative Asian stereotypes (an upcoming workshop concerning Asian stereotypes is titled, "Eating Dog").

The group also plans events year round including a series of events during May, which is Asian Pacific American Heritage month. Last term, APASU hosted a reception for Asian-American students and faculty to meet each other and socialize. Members are planning to volunteer at the Oregon Asian Celebration at the Lane County Fairgrounds later this month, which will help fundraise about \$500 for the organization. APASU also cooperates with the Eugene/Springfield Asian-American Youth organization by attending a monthly meeting, mentoring Asian-American high school students and participating in discussions with the younger students.

Myers hopes to see the student union grow in the coming years and collaborate with other student unions in order to hold bigger events more often.

The student union can also act as a forum for Asian-American students to address concerns or raise issues. Myers said he thinks diversity and race issues are "very important" at the University and is one of the main reasons he's involved with APASU and is an ethnic studies major. Though Myers said he has not experienced any "overt" acts of racism at the University, he said that he is not unaware of "stares or muttered comments." Some members of APASU have experienced some forms of racism in the past, he said. However, Myers said many members of APASU are mainly concerned with racism that could be found within the institution of the University, such as low hiring rates of faculty of color.

Myers hopes to see the student union grow in the coming years and collaborate with other student unions in order to hold

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF IN-DEPTH REPORTS BY THE COMMENTATOR STAFF

bigger events more often. He also wants to see APASU become a greater presence on campus and in the community.

“This year we’re trying to get a little more involved with the community, and would like to bring in more discussions within our group about issues, controversial films, to create a greater forum,” Myers said.

MEChA — by Ben Brown

MEChA’s allotment for the 2004-05 fiscal year is \$20,272, a 7.6 percent increase over last year. MEChA’s Web site states that it exists to be the “official voice of Chicano/a students at the University of Oregon,” and that it hopes to provide a feeling of security and community for these students as well as work to recruit and retain Chicano/a students at the University and make sure that Chicano/a culture is represented.

MEChA’s standard events for the year include holding a Community Celebration, attending the MEChA statewide conference, attending the Chicano/a gay and lesbian panel discussion, holding a Cinco De Mayo celebration, attending the Indigenous Women’s Conference, and attending the MEChA national conference, and the MEChA graduation and awards ceremony.

Co-director LaTina Lewis reminded the assembled members to turn their applications in by April 7 in order to acquire a senior position within the BSU.

At the meeting held Feb. 4 members practiced for the caucuses that will be held during both MEChA’s statewide and national conferences. There are more than 300 MEChA affiliates in existence, more than 100 of which are in California.

At the same meeting members discussed the visit of Victor Davis Hanson, scheduled for Feb. 11. Hanson is a noted war historian; the subject on which Hanson was scheduled to speak was the evolution of war in the western world over the last 2500 years. Hanson is a professor of classics at California State University, Fresno.

Members, including University law professor Steve Bender, were angered by Hanson’s book “Mexifornia: A State of Becoming,” which they believe to be racist propaganda. Members were also angered to discover that there was no mention of this

book in the promotional material for Hanson’s speech. Bender proposed that members of MEChA attend the lecture holding photocopied pictures of the cover of “Mexifornia.”

In the book, Hanson describes the negative effects of immigration in California, including higher crime rates, increased poverty and social collapse.

Bender held his own speech on Feb. 12, a reading of his book “Greasers and Gringos.” The book is an examination of the evolution of Latin stereotypes in America.

Questions as to what else MEChA intends to do with the money allotted to them by the University were referred to MEChA Programs Director Jose Pena. At press time Pena had not returned any of the messages left for him.

BSU — by Tyler Graf

The Oak Room was rife with idle chatter and general niceties. The assembled members of the Black Student Union conversed and joked, creating an affable mood before commencing their weekly meeting.

The BSU Ball, an awards night, and the arrival of prominent and controversial author Victor Davis Hanson were the talking points for the Feb. 11 meeting of the BSU, an organization that exists to promote cultural awareness on campus and throughout the Eugene area while supporting its members in their educational goals. The organization meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the BSU room, Suite 25, before moving to a larger meeting area on the Mezzanine level of the EMU.

The discussion of important announcements pertaining to BSU events started the meeting. Co-director LaTina Lewis reminded the assembled members to turn their applications in by April 7 in order to acquire a senior position within the BSU. Senior positions within the BSU are paid.

The BSU Ball, which will be held on Feb. 20 at the Red Lion Inn, was discussed, including the need to “table” for the event. Tabling occurs when a student group sets up a table in the EMU for the purpose of handing out fliers and information about upcoming events.

Talk turned to ways to decorate the event. The room exploded in a mélange of hushed asides and vocal outbursts as members spoke over themselves suggesting colors and styles for the assortment of decorations for the ball.

Gold, yellow and purple were the popular

Jump To 11

HOBO LIVING, AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

TYLER GRAF UNCOVERS THE SECRET LIVES OF VAGABONDS, DRIFTERS AND NE'ER-DO-WELLS

Wherever there's a Dumpster, they'll be there: Dumpster divers. Like trash-eating ninjas, they live among the shadows of night, patient and determined to find the next bounty-rich Dumpster filled with edible offal.

For those who don't know, Dumpster diving (or simply "Dumpstering," as it is known to those who find it incurably hip to verb every noun that comes their way) is the act of rooting around in industrial-sized trash receptacles for garbage to ingest. The people who do this, however, are not bums; in most cases they are average college students (as average as a person who eats garbage can be).

The Dumpster-diving phenomenon has gained widespread acceptance in Eugene, which is hardly surprising given what barely edible products some people exchange money to eat (read: bean curd). The indie media outlets that plague Eugene like latent homosexual feelings among pro-wrestlers have published numerous articles about the practice of Dumpstering, often written in language generally reserved for overwrought coming-of-age stories about the author's burgeoning sexuality. In most cases, these articles are instructional and teach the fresh-from-Vermont trustafarian generation how hippies live in Oregon. There are even informative videos about Dumpstering, but these go for a ridiculous \$20 a pop (okay, so you're willing to shell out \$20 for a worthless video about Dumpster diving, but you aren't willing to spend \$4 on fresh produce?).

The information that currently exists on Dumpstering is noteworthy, but I think it lacks insight. Therefore, after a heavy weekend of irreparably damaging my liver, I have come up with my own instructional essay on the art of Dumpstering.

First and foremost, you must only go at night. Dumpstering is illegal in most states, so if you don't want to deal with the The Man™, try your best to keep out of sight. The scene of your legs comically dangling over the side of a filth-encrusted Dumpster, kicking and swaying to-and-fro while you are face down in a pile of feculence, may elicit a crowd of spectators.

You should never go alone. Bring at least two people with you. But make sure that you designate yourself the leader of your rag-tag operation and solidify your leadership role by giv-

ing your companions humorously degrading names like Farfal-Marmalade-One and Bestial-Pederast-Omega. This will instill a sense of camaraderie.

Be careful when sticking your hand into an unfamiliar Dumpster. One minute you're pulling out a slime-covered head of three-week-old cabbage, the next minute your arm has become a repository for all the smack needles in Eugene like some kind of pincushion from hell. Surprise, you've got the HIV! Creating a crude suit of protective armor out of corrugated cardboard and electrical tape can easily prevent this. It's up to you whether or not to place a metal coat hanger – curved part down – into the cardboard helmet in order to create that special extraterrestrial look that totally freaks out the schizophrenics who call these Dumpsters home, but I would recommend it.

Aside from the filthy bums who reside in Dumpsters, you may come across a dead hooker or two. If this happens, simply walk away. There's no need to feel sad for her. Just repeat to yourself: "She was probably already dead on the inside." This will help you through any sense of moral compunction that you might be feeling. Remember, there is probably a dead-hooker-free Dumpster with your name on it right around the corner. Of course, this is not true for the Whiteaker neighborhood, where dead hookers outnumber food in Dumpsters by a two-to-one ratio, so stay far away.

You should always bring a weapon when Dumpstering. A gun might be a little excessive, but a baseball bat will do the trick. The reason for this is to destroy the Dumpster diver's arch nemesis and primary competition, vermin. Dumpster rats can grow to cyclopean proportions. To a rat, Dumpsters are smorgasbords of tasty delicacies: malodorous carrion festering in a sea of its own diseased juices; overripe produce teeming with fruit flies; canned goods containing a concoction that is 20 percent food and 80 percent botulism. These rats are huge bastards, often the size of a human midget, so if you see a shadow, swing freely and swing often. If the shadowy figure turns out not to be a rat at all but is an actual midget, simply dump his corpse in one of the Whiteaker neighborhood Dumpsters. It's not like dead hookers have exclusive rights to the use of these Dumpsters.

Once you've found a Dumpster to your liking, send your two friends in opposite directions to watch for The Man™. He can be a wily son-of-a-bitch, his cunning surpassed only by his hauteur, making him a formidable opponent. When The Man™ drives by, your lookout friend should drop his pants down around his legs, grab his genitals and shake them with force, as if directing traffic with them. He should then amble in a random direction – his pants still crumpled around his ankles – while gesticulating wildly in random directions. His white ass will shine like a beacon in the night, leading The Man™ in a direction diametrically opposite to yours. Of course, your friend will be incarcerated for this little display, but there are worse things to get arrested for (ask Eddy Morales for an example).

Most likely everything will work out, and by the end of the evening you'll have a bag full of fetid non-edibles. Congratulations! You can now call yourself a Dumpster diver, which will allow you to look down your nose at all the wasteful plebes who *actually work for a Goddamn living to buy food at the supermarket*. Yes, dear Dumpster diver, you are far superior to these people, for you would rather eat the waste that others would never touch on a dare. Hold your head up high. And please don't forget to share the information that I have elucidated. In fact, cut this out and share it with your friends – especially the part about corrugated cardboard armor protecting you from needles. It works perfectly.

But this is the most important information that I can possibly share: If you decide to Dumpster around my place, don't! Yes, you will find fresh produce, but unless you want a mouthful of bleach, I wouldn't touch any of it. I know how you fuckers think.



Tyler Graf, whose last three meals have been from "reconstituted" sources, is Managing Editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

From 9

suggestions for the balloons, streamers and tablecloths that would adorn the ballroom, but Dominique Beaumonte struck the color scheme down.

"That's just going to make it look like a great big Lakers game," Beaumonte said, eliciting guffaws from the other members.

Talk soon turned to the imminent arrival of controversial author Victor Davis Hanson.

Lewis suggested boycotting the event alongside MEChA, which had been planning a demonstration since the event was announced. However, the speech had no relation to Hanson's views on immigration.

The discussion shifted to the BSU Award Night, an opportunity to commend community members for their contributions to African Americans in Eugene. Many BSU members were confused by who could be nominated and why.

"I don't want to give an award to someone just because he's black," said co-director Erica Tucker.

Beaumonte agreed, saying: "And you don't have to recognize just community members; it could be an organization. After school specials, for example, that haven't been advertised although the people who run them have."

Beaumonte also suggested inviting prominent African American faculty to the event, including basketball coach Ernie Kent and Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Gregory J. Vincent.

"We have to make this interesting for people," said Beaumonte. "There are like 10 black people in Eugene, so we can't just hand out the same awards every year or the same people will keep winning."



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HEY MISTER DJ!

RYAN EARLEY WON'T BE PLAYING A SONG FOR YOU AGAIN ANY TIME SOON. KWVA, HOWEVER, KEEPS PLODDING ALONG AT THE SPEED OF SUCK.

In my mind, college radio was a land of opportunity. Being a radio disc jockey seemed like a pretty good way to spend a couple of hours every week: You get to kick back and relax to some songs, occasionally speak to a local audience and find some new music you probably never heard before. When I signed up as a freshman to work for KWVA I largely got what I expected from the experience, along with an unhealthy sleeping schedule and a profound hatred for Modest Mouse, Pedro the Lion and Quasi. I stuck with it for about a year and a half before I stepped away from that scene for good. A man can only take so many 5:18 a.m. requests for a 20-minute Low song that literally goes nowhere before it breaks his spirit irreparably.

Having worked on the inside for a while, I feel somewhat guilty turning on 97.9 or The Hawk when I go for a drive. I should probably support my former (volunteer) employers by tuning in to the station, but sometimes it just hurts too much. The fact of the matter is many of the jockeys at KWVA have vastly differing taste; within a four-hour span, you can catch trance, math rock, death metal and folk. That makes KWVA a vibrant and malleable medium. That is also not what usually forces me away from listening.

What really gets to me about our college radio station is the rigidity of their musical standards. KWVA is indie to a fault. There seems to be an aristocratic air about the music played at the station. If it went gold, it has to be too mainstream to play. Never mind whether the music is good, whether the listeners would enjoy hearing it on the station. If it sold copies, it sold out. This paranoia of the mainstream manifested itself at one of the staff meetings. A station staffer heard Rage Against the Machine on the air, and he was livid. As he ranted about how we must stay true to the station's mission of providing the music no one would hear without us, the other indoctrinated staffers sternly nodded in complicit solidarity. I pondered whether they spoke directly to me or if there were others, feel-

ing equally uncomfortable, who let a cut from "Evil Empire" slip into rotation. It seemed perfectly logical to me at the time to play Rage on my show. Their politics fit the Eugene climate to a tee, and because I was spinning from 2 to 4 a.m. I could play songs with profanity without censoring the naughty bits. It was my civic duty to unleash "Killing in the Name" with all the f-bombs intact and let it fly in the face of the FCC censors who could not touch our liberated little non-profit broadcasts. The boss, however, told me I was wrong. I never received any specific reprimand from a station staff member, but I played it safe for a while, making sure to spin only the most obscure cuts from my personal collection. This climate of hostility toward anything that might be misconstrued as popular does more harm than good for the station by restricting the creativity of the jockeys and eliminating a lot of potentially audience broadening material from the playlist.

My other consistent gripe about our campus station is the bottomless void where the hip-hop section should be.

Yet, with all the restrictions on what qualifies as too popular to play, certain albums have slipped through with startlingly positive results. In April 2003, as the White Stripes dominated alternative commercial radio with "Seven Nation Army," some of the non-commercial radio tracks from "Elephant" found their way onto KWVA often enough to catapult the album to the top spot on the station's Top 30 and keep it there until September. AFI's "Sing the Sorrow" snuck into the station playlist over the summer, as did Radiohead's "Hail to the Thief," and both albums put in strong showings on the Top 30. Lately, the list bares a strong resemblance to the Rolling Stone Hot List and College Radio Top 10. Artists like The Shins, Air and Dizzee Rascal received healthy press from RS within the past



three months and now coincidentally sit at numbers one, two and five on the KWVA Top 30, respectively. Finally the station's music director seems to be taking these recent successes to heart and is opening the station's format into something delightfully more accessible and listenable than the station for which I toiled more than a year ago.

Of course, KWVA still suffers from a few of the plagues it might never shake. The first of those plagues is that of the local scene. Some of the disc jockeys at KWVA try hard to foster growth in the local scene by playing just about anything that comes through the door with a Eugene return address on the envelope, but often those that get played are rough and poorly produced. Ultimately, songs that are aurally unappealing should not receive airplay, but all too frequently bands receive airtime solely by virtue of their ZIP code. In a similar vein, nepotism rears its ugly head sometimes when a DJ's roommate's boyfriend's band just cut a demo in their dorm room and really, really needs to get it heard on the air, man. Hey, they live in Walton Complex, that's as local as it gets, right? Yet with all these shady garage atrocities and the many connections the KWVA jockeys have to the local music scene, it still seems like the only albums ever sitting on the local shelf are the Courtesy Clerks, Two Bucks Short and the Rock n' Roll Soldiers. I know for a fact there are other (better) bands in Eugene, I have seen them with my own eyes playing in front of KWVA banners at local bars and selling their albums at their merch tables, so why are those bands not heard on the station that sponsors their shows?

My other consistent gripe about our campus station is the bottomless void where the hip-hop section should be. KWVA is not an urban radio station, I get it. Eugene is not even a large enough market to warrant a true urban format station; if you

want Top 40 rap, you have to endure KDUK. Even with that caveat, our college radio station's collection of hip-hop was pitiful. If I wanted to drop a hip-hop cut into my set, it either came from the copy of "The Great Depression" by DMX that they had laying around the studio (mainstream, anyone?), or from my own CDs I brought with me. This has gotten better since I left the station, but the people who produce the hip-hop specialty shows on KWVA still play nearly exclusively from their own collections.

Granted, there are some other problems with KWVA, but those come with any volunteer-operated radio station. The DJs are not professional radio producers. Every once in awhile, they screw up and broadcast 15 seconds of dead air. I know I did on more than one occasion. My equipment training lasted 15 minutes, so a few mistakes were expected, and since KWVA has no advertisers to piss off, there were no long-term ramifications for the station anyway.

As far as ASUO funded programs go, KWVA is one of the most impressive. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week whether school is in session or not, and the Eugene Weekly named KWVA one of the three best radio stations in Eugene last year. With a little more fine-tuning to their playlists, KWVA might just be the best some day, but for now they make progress from the office that was once a women's bathroom.



The views expressed in this column are solely those of Ryan Earley and necessarily do not reflect the views of the OREGON COMMENTATOR, its staff, board of directors, or editors.

ON NIHILISM OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

The Philosophy Club was defunded because no one showed up to represent the group.

—ODE report. *Say what you will about the tenets of OSPIRG, Dude, at least it's an ethos.*

Eugene Bible Falls On The Road

—Headline in the Register-Guard. *Yes, they were actually talking about college basketball. No, we don't care.*



ON CHEAP SHOTS AND FREE MONEY

I don't think it's fiscally responsible [to provide non-students with copies of the Emerald].

—PFC member Michelle Rose. *It's also kind of a mean trick. Compared to the ensuing litany of scam artists, however...*

When you go off-campus and you go to a federal level, we as a board really need to make sure that the incidental fee is going to benefit students at the University of Oregon.

—PFC Chair Adrian Gilmore. *Right on, sir. You realize you're swimming against the tide, right?*

The USSA originally requested \$20,000 in student fees but agreed to let funding increase "gradually." The final executive recommendation was \$7,435, which could cover dues and student travel to conferences.

—ODE report. *What a fucking superb deployment of seven thousand dollars of our money, by the way.*

[OSPIRG's funds] just go to Portland, and they get to spend it as they please.

—PFC Senator Colin Andries. *Yes. Yes, they do.*

ON WHAT HATH SCIENCE WROUGHT?

Science has proven that our population is growing exponentially, and the mathematical diagrams derived by science show that this growth will continue until it peaks.

—Perhaps the worst sentence we have ever seen in print, anywhere, ever. Courtesy of the Emerald's Aimee Rudin.



ON THE SOUTH, RISING

You can take it from the biggest states' rights guy on campus, [gay marriage] should be a federal issue. It should all be the same.

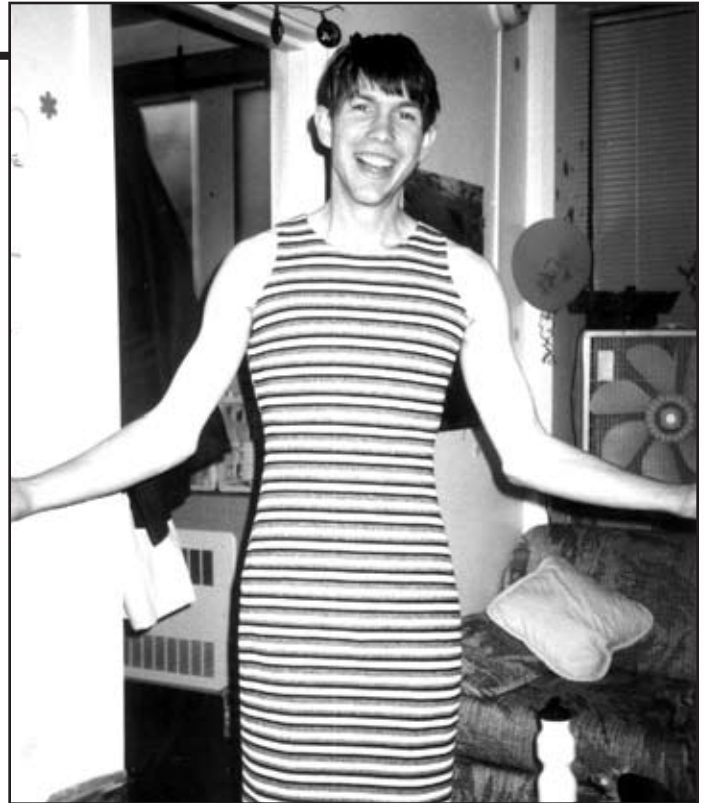
—College Republicans chair Jarrett White: *actually, the littlest states'-rights guy.*

...Jarrett White and those of his ilk who look back on the Confederacy as some beacon of light in a smoke-filled, poorly lit room at the seedy basement of a strip club...

—Wacko-about-town Scott Austin, *biting the hand that feeds him. (Unless he thinks regarding the Confederacy as a "beacon of light" is a good thing.)*

That being stated, we next move Dreier's assertion [sic] that Article IV's 'full faith and credit' application simply cannot be construed as to require States to recognize other states' gay marriages. And on what do you base this supposition on? [sic]

—Austin takes us to task. *We base it on the Defense Of Marriage Act, Scott, you homophobic Constitution-amending dumbass.*



ON VAGITATORS



I would just like to call attention to the fact that this could have been a more diverse cast, but a safe and welcoming environment was not created for people that I consider to be "underrepresented."

—Protestor Nicole Barrett, *outraged by the Women's Center production of "The Vagina Monologues."*

I'm so sorry. I feel so guilty for not representing people and all the women. That's all I wanted to do is create a safe space for women.

—Assistant director Natalie Mays *tearfully apologizes, resisting the temptation to tell Barrett to piss off and stage her own production if she's not happy.*

At the demonstration Friday, Barrett said she chose not take part when she was originally asked to be in the show.

—The ODE *dryly points out that this was, in fact, the most ridiculous protest ever.*

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