

O R E G O N

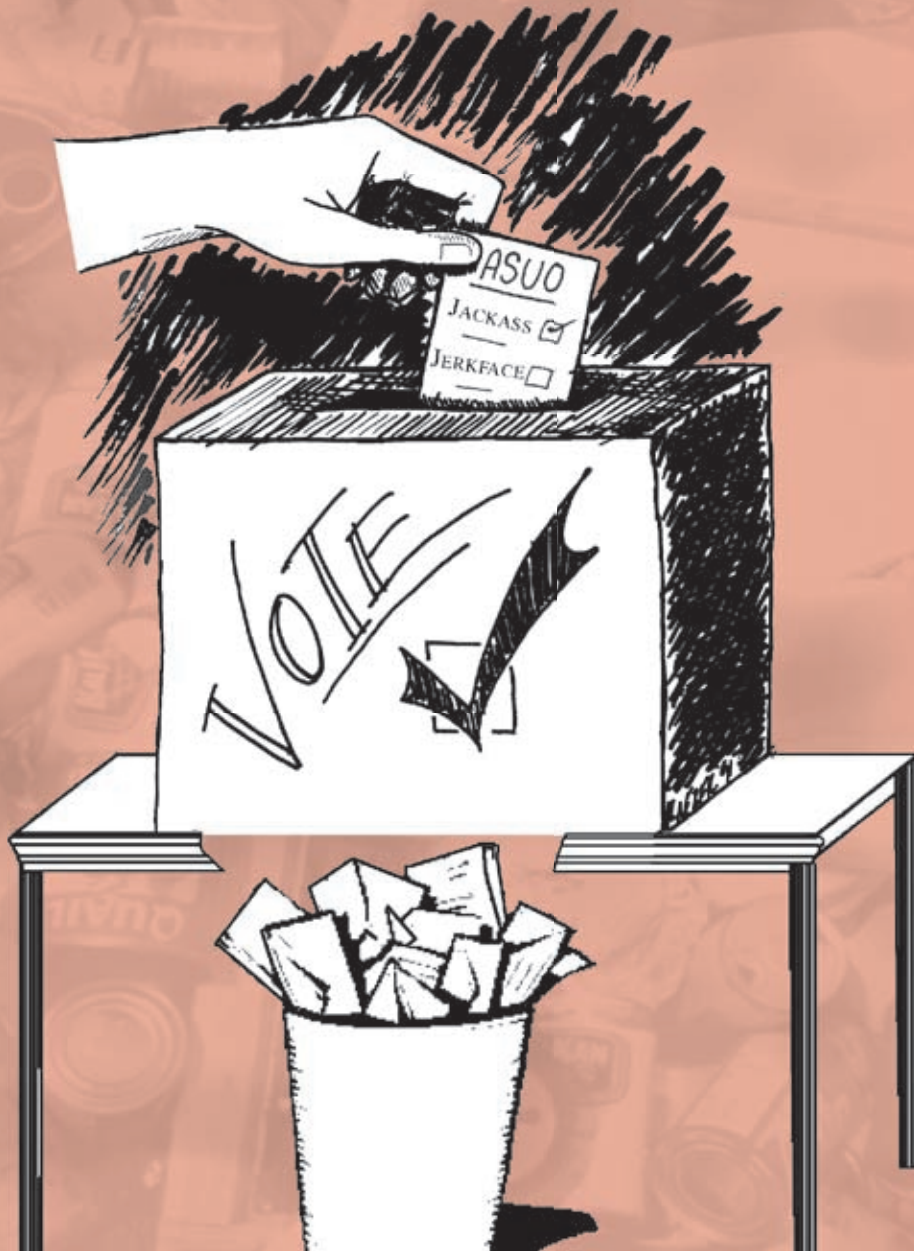
# COMMENTATOR

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# ELECTIONS 2004





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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

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April 10, 2004  
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I masturbate for science.

# STUDENTS OUT OF LUCK

*WITH THE EXECUTIVE'S ASSISTANCE, THE PROGRESSIVE SLATE STANDS POISED TO TAKE OVER THE ASUO. THEY MUST BE STOPPED. NOW. TODAY.*

We're Late, late, late for a date of minimal importance. With as much emphasis as the folks down in Suite Four place on the ASUO elections every winter or spring, one would think more of an effort would be made to ensure enough publicity for real student participation. Sadly, that is not the case. The elections are a fiasco every year, and this one has been no exception. The difference, however, is in the exact reason behind the newest chapter in the quite sad comedy of errors known as student governance.

The delays caused by the general incompetence of all parties involved are certainly well documented by this point. That doesn't really change from year to year. As of publication there were yet to be any grievances filed this cycle, but that will change. With only 12 days of campaigning, however, these sorts of things are likely to play a smaller role than they have in past years. The major worry this go-round is Progressive Students Starting Today or PSST. We're pretty sure that the PSST kids were really trying to play up the onomatopoeia because they think it's clever. Here's a hint, folks, it's not clever, it's dumb.

Aside from a silly name, and politics just slightly left of your average radical Marxist, the progressives are getting quite preferential treatment from the current ASUO. Each of the PSST candidates is supported by Melton and Morales. Further, Melton is reportedly involved in many of the PSST campaigns. This, quite obviously, sets a bad precedent for the ASUO. The PSST will, undoubtedly, vote for every ethic, environmental, and left-leaning piece of fee-allocation available. Their answers in the ODE vis a vis viewpoint neutrality have been, to be polite, less than adequate. This makes us wonder what exactly would happen to groups that the PSST campaigners did not like.

Viewpoint neutrality, not of groups but of the process by which they are funded, is vitally important to the legal administration of the incidental fee. If the PSST bloc gets elected, and with the low turnout there's a reasonable probability of that happening, groups with unpopular opinions could be in real trouble. The 11 PSST candidates would pose a large bloc of votes on Student Senate, PFC and the ADFC. With only 18 senators, and 10 PSST candidates, a simple majority would be quite easy to maintain. Even worse, the PSST would be only two senators away from a 2/3 vote...under the right circumstances two sena-

tors would be easy enough to persuade. If all of the PSST candidates are elected, they will be a nearly unstoppable bloc of power within the Student Senate. Further, the candidates who are under the PSST umbrella for PFC At-Large and ASPAC positions will give even more power to a rather narrow group of kids.

Control over Senate and PFC by the PSST would likely toss viewpoint neutrality out of the game completely. An even greater negative consequence is that the PSST would not likely represent the student body very well. Low turnout in ASUO elections is a constant problem, and the 10-15% of the student body that bothers voting is largely comprised of the same wonks who wish to hold office in the first place.

The average student goes to class, goes home, has a beer or ten on the weekend, and doesn't worry too terribly much about being "involved" in campus life. How is a student whose only goal is to graduate served by paying nearly \$600 a year for activities in which he or she has exactly zero interest? We can agree that some level of incidental fee collection is probably allowable, but the level to which the fee has risen at Oregon is really quite ridiculous. Electing a PSST senate will in no way help the pocketbook of the representative student.

That Melton and Morales, whose campaign last year swore to be about "ME Working 4 U," are sponsoring this sort of thing isn't really surprising, but it is certainly disappointing. The hypocrisy of that sort of campaigning is also commonplace, but equally obnoxious. While trying, most often ineffectually, to meet pie-in-the-sky goals, the Executive loses sight of action that ends up costing students money. A constantly increasing fee is just one more expense students must pay in order to attend the University. If the Executive actually cared about the average student, they wouldn't keep milking the student body for money via the fee.

The only recourse that we, as students have, is to say no more. The PSST must be stopped, and it is now that we must stand astride the woeful tide of history and yell stop. Vote against the PSST, make sure that one group of hard-left sympathizers is not allowed to seize control of the ASUO. The consequences for the rest of us would be far too grim.





**DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THIS GUY?**

*Join the Oregon Commentator!*

**NOW HIRING: WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, LAY-  
OUT FOLKS AND PEOPLE WITH HOUSES**

# Parking Meters Enforce Hurtful Patriarchal Stereotypes

Dear AD,

I sometimes lend my car to my brother and this week I received a letter from the city saying that I have several parking violations. I have never received a parking ticket myself, so my brother is surely the culprit. The thing is, he doesn't do well with confrontation so I'm not sure how to approach him. What do you think?

Sincerely,  
Afraid in Adelaide

Dear Fearful Tool Of The Patriarchy,

Parking meters are a construct designed to subtly reinforce the patterns of patriarchal violence in our culture and it is commendable that your brother refuses to violate them with that phallic atrocity, the quarter. That society punishes men who fail to penetrate is the reason that the cycle of female subordination and violence continues. Your brother is brave to shed the falsely constructed mantle of maleness that you seem to wear so mindlessly. Stop collaborating in the heterosexist crimes of our culture and pay his fines.

—AD

Dear Ms. Dworkin,

I always engage in safe sex but I've been experiencing a painful burning sensation when I urinate. What do you think the problem could be?

Sincerely,  
Ouch

## Ask Andrea Dworkin



Dear Getting-What-His-Rape-Mind Deserves,  
Safe for whom, exactly? Consider your petty penile burning a hint of the suffering that your acculturated sexual aggression causes to the women whom you humiliate and debase with your pathetic, war-like, external genitalia. If you are violating women through intercourse then you are complicit in the system of humiliation that keeps women powerless. And that burns far more hotly than your disgusting,

diseased member.

—AD

## IN BRIEF

DRAG SHOW DOMINATED BY  
COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

ASUO APPROPRIATES \$10K FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BRUCE MILLER DOLL WITH KUNG-FU GRIP

NO ONE WILL EVER LOVE YOU

OC STUDY FINDS TOO MUCH ROCK-STAR™ WILL TURN ONE'S URINE NEON YELLOW.

OC EDITOR DIES OF KIDNEY FAILURE.

## CORRECTION

The OREGON COMMENTATOR would like to correct an error from the elections issue last year. We, by mistake, endorsed Chris "Crittner" Sittner for Senate Seat #3. We don't know what the hell we were thinking. The Commentator regrets the error.

Ian Crosswhite  
HEIGHTWATCH

13'7"

STANDING ON LUKE JACKSON'S SHOULDERS



## Commentator Issues...Eaten?

While other students were in Cancun vomiting copiously into filth-blackened bath tubs after attempting limp, drunken copulation with coked-up, STD-laden Mexican whores with missing teeth and open body sores that were mistaken – while in the throes of frenzied, dangerously violent penetration – for sexual orifices, a group of disgruntled University students decided that it would be a total fucking blast to dump issues of the Oregon Commentator... again.

This is not the first time this has happened, and we don't believe it will be the last. There are a number of people out there – let's call these people pedophiles – who do not like the Commentator very much. These pedophiles would rather dump our boxes than allow our brilliant words to circulate around campus. Often, we know why these pedophiles dump our boxes. We'll print something offensive, and we'll say to ourselves, "Gee, people might take offense at that", and sure enough they do.

However, the March 10 issue of the OC was as inoffensive

a piece of work as our sleep-deprived minds could muster, and we were certain it would please everyone. The only article that could possibly have struck a nerve was a tongue and cheek piece on losing weight entitled "Feel Bad About Your Appearance?" which suggested bulimia as a viable weight loss option (thankfully we edited out the paragraph extolling suicide as the penultimate weight loss regiment).

This leads us to believe that the boxes were dumped by some human whales (read: fatties). This strikes us as incongruent with the fat-fuck lifestyle of wallowing in slovenly filth and avoiding direct sunlight. Are we to believe seriously that these piggies got up off their unctuous posteriors and braved the cruel elements merely for the pedophilic delight of dumping issues of a student publication? Not even a fat, box-dumping pedophile is that stupid! No, we believe that a fatty would need some sort of incentive, namely food. Yes, we believe that our issues were eaten – eaten by fat pedophiles.

This led to an eventual re-dumping of the issues at a later, hitherto unknown date.

## Have You Seen This Man? We have his vacation photos.





The Oregon Commentator Online  
[www.oregoncommentator.com](http://www.oregoncommentator.com)

And you don't have to call her in the morning.

# ASUO Elections

## 2004

(Year)



*Four years ago, had my editor asked me to write the introduction to the elections issue, I would have crapped down both legs in young, freshman enthusiasm. I would have done research to find out as much as I could about Hell, I might have even gone to the trouble to put on pants before writing it. But that was four, horrible, soul-crushing years ago. Now ...well I'm gazing into the black, black abyss.*

*If I hadn't already been jaded to the all the cock-ups that come from the bumbling fools that have the nerve to call themselves student leaders, the recent elections debacle would quickly pushed me over. For those that weren't paying attention to elections news (most people) this issue should have happened nearly a month ago. For God's sake, the ASUO has two and only two jobs on this campus: 1. Piss away money like the Hilton Twins. 2. Hold an election. And, yet again, they have proven they can't even manage these two fairly simple tasks.*

*But really it doesn't matter. The same plebes will get elected, and the ASUO will reproduce like some kind of flatworm...or like an inbred mountain family. So to save future generations time and effort in this futile exercise every year, I present the Oregon Commentator's generic elections introduction. Guaranteed to be accurate until a very large asteroid blows these puny nit-wits off the face of the earth.*

Nick Popenuk and Joseph Giannetti are/is this year's losers on the incompetence ticket under the guise of a platform of radically changing the ASUO. He/She/They have never dealt with the ASUO, never been to a senate meeting, never worked at trying to organize a budget, and believe that the ASUO office is "somewhere near that one place with Dance Dance Revolution." This, of course, makes Nick Popenuk and Joseph Giannetti qualified to run student government. Don't bother asking these people anything specific about the issues, as they will inevitably stare at you for several minutes before saying something about being "outsiders" and walking away, defeated. Please feel free to laugh at them

Adrian Gilmore is/are the only beacon of hope that someone might take the regions and make some well thought out, much needed changes. He/She/They is/are the village healer that has found the secrets to life and happiness, and the ASUO and the student body will burn down his/her/their house and hang him/her/them for being a witch. Adrian Gilmore will not be elected, although he/she/they deserve it.

Ben Strawn and Diana Aguilar are this year's seamless continuation of the two turds that floated in the ASUO for twelve months. They will dance around in stupid outfits. They will cloth legions of dumb, soulless, sycophants in shirts with the Ben Strawn and Diana Aguilar logo blazed on the front and back. When they are elected, and they will be, they will disappear and continue doing the same ungodly stupid things as before.

Adam Petkun and Mena Ravasipour are this year's -for lack of a better word- alternative to the ASUO. They will ultimately promise a bunch of things that couldn't be done if Christ himself accomplish if he suddenly appeared in the amphetheater and asked nicely. They will put up a fight, but fail. Of course, if they actually got elected, Adam Petkun and Mena Ravasipour could be easily indocrinated to carry on the ASUO's particular brand of grab-ass. Those are your choices...your only choices. The good news is, if you ignore them, they will go away.

**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*The executive is pretty much in command of this pretty massive budget of incidental fees. The ASUO members get about 10 million dollars for the entire year, and that just is a lot of money. And frankly, I mean, I think I'm like, I think I speak for most of the student body when you don't see anywhere how that money is being spent. You don't get to pay your student incidental fees every term, but you don't see any of that money coming back to you. I think now that there is just a ridiculously amount of spending. I would have to look at the budget to which clubs are getting what and how much, but I mean it's a lot of money being spent, and if it's being spent wisely, that's great, but the students need to at least know that. And they need to see that the money is being spent wisely. And if it's not being spent wisely and it's being wasted. If there are better ways to spend the money to benefit the greatest number of students, then that needs to be done. Also the executive could start by leading by example.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPIRG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*Like we've been saying that we're not from within the ASUO, so we haven't seen the budget, we don't know how much the incidental fees go toward OSPIRG or other organizations. But definitely, I think that, in theory, the incidental fee should be going to help out students. And that's the money they are paying for that's what our job is, to help out student groups on campus. And so giving money to organizations that exist outside of the campus, that help out world-wide, global causes or something like that. We're not a fund-raising organization for them.*

**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*That's our entire campaign. We're not the insiders; we're not from within the ASUO. We haven't gone to their meetings or anything like that. That's essentially how we are marketing ourselves, as the average students here. We're trying to get a higher turnout for this election and let people know that we're here to be their voice, the voice of the students: the people's president. And that way, if we can get a high enough turnout, we can break in. Instead of this long chain of just ASUO elitists that every year get elected and their subordinates run next year and everything like that. Hopefully we can break that chain and get some fresh air into the ASUO.*

*We think that there are better ways than spending money on hiring DJs, like the ASUO doing now to raise their votership from...they called it 15% last year, but I think it was lower than that. And they want it to be 25%. They are hiring DJs and handing out t-shirts and donuts. There are better ways just to get the students to care what the ASUO is about.*

**NICK POPENUK**  
*Sophomore, PPPM*  
**JOE GIANNETTI**  
*Junior, History*

**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*I think it is hypocritical. I think that the amount of tuition that students have to pay and the increases in that have gone up tremendously over the past several years. I'm not sure how high the incidental fees are or how much they have been raised in the past years, but it certainly seems that it's an extremely large budget we are dealing with. Right now, I don't know if it's being spent wisely or not, but the students are not getting any information on how that money is being spent. And so, it's only reasonable to assume that's being wasted. And if that's the case then it can change, it can be spent wisely, and the students need to know that, and they need to have faith in the ASUO and they are spending their money for a good cause.*

**THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RETICENT WITH THE PRESS, TO SAY THE LEAST. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*We love talking to news organizations, we got absolutely no problem with that. The ASUO looks better the more information that's out about it. And so if someone comes to us with a question or problem or a concern, we have no problem at all talking with the newspapers and telling our side of the story and or whatever is going on and giving them as much information as possible. I think it is very important for the student body to hear what their executives are saying. It's really important to get out there and have a relationship with on-campus news so people are well informed about what we are doing.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPIRG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*Yes, these groups have been wearing shirts and stealing our money for years and I will no longer tolerate it. When I am elected I will see to it personally that these groups are defunded and then my shirtless army will sweep through their offices and homes, looting and burning and drive them from their comfortable positions of power into the shirted wastes beyond our borders to suffer and starve.*

**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*I would require that all meetings between student groups and funding bodies be performed shirtless. Shirtlessness promotes honesty and openness with fellow human beings and makes it much harder to lie.*

**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*I think all students are tired of being forced to wear shirts. As a single-issue candidate, I think that a shirts-optional campus is the sort of issue that all people, regardless of politics, can get behind.*

## BEN BROWN

Senior, Journalism

*"A shirts-optional campus."*

**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*No, I think it is hypocritical to force the flabby, the hairy and those with skin diseases to wear shirts in public while those who exercise and are relatively blemish free are allowed to roam shirtless without censure. That is what I am worried about and that sort of thinking is what I am campaigning against.*

**THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RETICENT WITH THE PRESS, TO SAY THE LEAST. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*For starters I would eliminate the public relations officer from my staff. There is no need to have an insulating body of PR personnel between the press and my shirtless body. I would also require that all staff interactions with the media be done shirtless. Nothing is more open and trustworthy than a half naked person.*



**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*I'm sorry, do you mind if I take my pants off? It's a little warm in here, and that's a pretty tough question, and I tend to think better with my dick in my hand. You don't mind do you? I mean, this is what I'm all about. This is how I'm going to run government next year, you know. My junk will be hanging there, dangling like a pendulum, and I believe this will create a lot of openness. When I do not like an issue or idea, my junk will stay a flaccid lump of flesh, but when I like an issue – such as de-funding OSPIRG and using the money to throw a campus-wide coke fest – my member will turn into turgid example of erectile function.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPIRG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*Hmmm... I have a secret plan, but I'm not sure if I should divulge it yet. (long pause) Okay, okay... Um, I guess if it will help me get elected I'll tell you what it is. I'm just going to walk into OSPIRG's office wearing those tear-away basketball pants, right? Then, when I've gotten their attention by yelling "hey, cock-suckers!" and they turn around, I'll rip the pants off and a blinding light will emanate from my loins like, KA-BLAMO!, and they'll be all like, AAAAARRRGHGH, and they'll turn away, right? But it will be too late, and their faces will dissolve and melt like those Nazis who stared into the Arc of the Covenant. I'll repeat the process with the USSA and OSA and that will be that. End of story. I'm telling you, don't underestimate my junk. And do not underestimate the power of optional pants.*



**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*I think a lot of students care about jobs, and I intend to create some high-paying campus jobs. I plan on taking a section of the basement of the EMU – the part that used to be a bowling alley before it was converted into a coffee shop – and turn it into strip club. Of course, at my strip club, the tops stay on. I mean, what do I look like, some kind of degenerate pervert?*

**TYLER GRAF**  
*Senior, Journalism*



**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*I think a young poet named Scarface said it best when he sang: "Motherfuck the bitches, I want money and power. Money and the power, money and the power; bitches on my dick 'cause I got the money and the power." Truer words have never been spoken of the ASUO.*



**THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RETICENT WITH THE PRESS, TO SAY THE LEAST. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*I would do something very simple: I would do away with the ASUO public relations position, which is currently held by spokeswoman Taraneh Foster, and replace it with the ASUO geisha position, forcing Foster to shut her fucking mouth so she can please my every depraved whim.*

**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*I think with the executive, their role should be to really explain to the groups what's going on. A lot of the problems start because a lot of the groups, either they don't understand what they are doing sometimes and problems come up; that's one set, then there are the people who are abusing the system. And I think through rules and regulations we have to let them know, by the exec setting an example, because you can't be doing something in office that you're going to turn around and tell a group that they can't be doing that. So that you let them know that these are the rules and that you actually...there are rules in place, just enforce them. Like if you're breaking these rules, your account's suspended, or you can't do something for this amount of time. And so just actually enforcing the rules. Because the rules are there, they just need to be applied.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPERG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*I think that problem, being on the PFC, I kinda examined it; I think the campus as a whole or the student government as a whole has to decide what they want to do. If you have an exec that wants to go one way and a senate that wants to go another, and PFC that wants to go another, I think you're not going to come up with a cohesive solution, and basically what's going to happen, the group is just going to walk with the money. I think the standards need to be raised, as to what are you doing to bring stuff back to the community. At the same time, you can't raise the burden of proof for one group and not raise it for the rest.*

**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*I want to work with the Career Center, to actually get top firms to come here from whatever kind of business you want to go into. If you want to be an environmentalist, or you want to lobby, there are top people that do that, if you want to be an accountant, there are top firms that do that, and have those companies come to recruit here in Oregon. What I hear from a lot of students is that they can't find jobs, and I think we're past the era where people come to the University to get educated and talk about philosophy and all that; they want jobs. I think working for the Career Center trying to get more companies of diverse kinds to come here so that people don't go to a career fair and say the best they saw was Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Because that's not going to work; that's not what people went to school for. You could have started at Enterprise as an assistant manager right out of high school. And worked your way up into that position. And unfortunately, those people that took those jobs after graduating here are probably working for someone that was a high school grad that spent the four years working their way up.*

**ADRIAN  
GILMORE**  
*Second Year Law*

**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*It's not quite that type of drive. I do understand, being on PFC this year, some people might say, the fee: it's going to go up. I think that the incidental fee, you have to separate it out from the tuition and say, this is something that we are doing to benefit students, and that we have to control it, but if it goes up, we kind of see more of that, than when tuition goes up. Because, tuition goes up, students deal with it, whether they got any more services or whatever. But the incidental fee goes up, and groups have extra programming, you did kinda actually get more and you can see it; even though the ASUO has to do a better job at making sure that rules and regulations are being followed.*

**WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*I think that's the easiest question to answer thus far. I think the ASUO office should be some place for public record. Most of the documents in that office fall into public record, if it's public, and I think that through PFC that no one in the media has felt that you come and ask me for something that I was more than happy to give it to you. And I think as long as that is the approach, that the media should be welcome to come in and say, "Hey I think this is going on, can I see this, can I see that." Because, if you're doing something you're not supposed to, people are going to find out. You can't hide it. It looks better if you say, we're going along, we're doing things, and if something does go wrong, as inevitably it does, then say "hey, we made a mistake." We own up to it, we try to fix it. We provide open access to the media always.*



**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*I think that the most important thing for the executive to deal with that is to be a comfortable place for all the different groups to come to. Right now all the people are kind of intimidated when they come in there, and the job of the executive is to make sure people feel like they are welcome. Also it's the job of the executive and the vice president to know the rules and be able to explain them clearly.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPIRG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*I'm not sure if I know exactly what you mean. Right now, legally, it's the students, the PFC decide that an allocation which results in money going off campus materially benefits the University then it's A-OK, and I think, right now, with the Emerald for example, funding papers that go off campus, I think you can see a benefit that there is in the community knowing what's going on. Also students that live over in Ducks Village or take the bus around town, having an Emerald available there. I think there's evidence those things are of benefit to students. With OSPIRG, their textbook campaign is really gaining traction right now. They have been working with departments to work on making sure that textbooks are more affordable, and they are actually seeing success. USSA, they have lobbied for successfully a \$500 increase in programs. OSA, of which I was a member of the board of directors last year, we had several victories for students. I think those are all examples of things that those groups do that benefit students on campus.*

**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*First, I don't consider myself an insider right now. I worked in the ASUO in the past; I'm not an employee right now. I have relationships with many people in the ASUO, but at the same time Mena and I are not the office candidate. I think that people have already seen what we plan on doing. For starters, it's kind of ludicrous, but we have a giant house walking around talking about housing standards. We had someone wearing a giant foam dollar sign. These things, they are laughable in one sense, but in the same sense, it's getting out the message. People know now that housing standards is something that their student government is going to work for. It's something that the ASUO has been working on for a while, but not many people know about it because it's hard to tell 20,000 people what's going on. If you just hand them a piece of paper and look at the ground, they are not going to listen for you. If you talk to them, they should listen. And furthermore, I take a lot of pride in trying to reach out to every single student. I feel like I can connect to most of them, as can Mena, and it's important to me not to just go through the usual avenues of going to group meetings, which are very important to go to, but also canvassing, making phone calls, talking to everyone we can find and telling them why it's important to vote. Because I think as people think about it, and if learn what's going on, they will find that it is important to vote.*

**ADAM PETKUN**  
*Junior, Poli-Sci and Econ*  
**MENA RAVASSIPOUR**  
*Junior, General Science*

*"We're working for concrete victories for students in areas such as health and safety, cost; making this a better place to be."*

**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*I think if the ASUO were to advocate for a substantially higher fee, that would be hypocritical. I think, right now, what we are advocating for isn't a higher fee, but more services from that fee. Whether it be a recreation center, which if you think about it, you're saving money by being a member of the recreation center or the Lane Transit District and also saving money by having free entertainment, with things that can encourage the growth rate on campus for free. Whereas when we're lobbying the legislature, when we're asking for both quality and access, this shouldn't be a choice, it should be something we need to do.*

**THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RETICENT WITH THE PRESS, TO SAY THE LEAST. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*I think it comes from a couple things, it should go without saying, but just being around and being friendly. Mena and I are both very approachable people, were not going to tell someone that were going to somewhere and not be there, we answer our phone and check our email. We're there for people. Then, on another level, it going along with being approachable, also making sure that our PR coordinator is very approachable, making sure that people know that they can talk to us and not just the PR coordinator. It's important to have a strong message, and that's where the PR coordinator comes in. But at the same time, I want people to be able to talk to me and I feel that, right now, they can.*

**HOW SHOULD STUDENT GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING? HOW CAN THE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY?**

*Student groups should be held responsible by the PFC through clearly outlined and articulated standards rather than year to year fluctuations in precedent. These standards should be contained in the PFC bylaws, and in Executive recommendations, and they should be comprehensively presented to programs well before the beginning of the hearings process. The Executive administration should encourage fiscal responsibility by following through on their recommendations, but more importantly by setting an example for other programs to follow. Additionally, the Executive should work with the programs to bolster the success of current programming, and also to find new, innovative means to generate revenues.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS LIP SERVICE PAID TO KEEPING THE INCIDENTAL FEE ON CAMPUS, BUT EVERY YEAR OSPIRG, OSA AND USSA GET THEIR MONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PLANS TO CHANGE THAT?**

*We can guarantee that the lip service will stop. We think we have to acknowledge that OSPIRG, OSA and other off campus entities are fundable. We can't debate the fundamentals year after year. What we should focus on is getting those budgets to comply with our terms and processes. Departments such as the Career Center and RecCenter provide great models of how to fund large entities with budgets that are necessarily dissimilar from the average student group's. If we look to decisions such as those for guidance I think we can find a reasonable way to fund the off campus groups.*

**BEN STRAWN**  
*Economics*

**DIANA AGUILAR**  
*Political Science*

*"Breaking the issues down into concrete, tangible improvements with direct and local benefits."*

**HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THINGS THE AVERAGE STUDENT MIGHT CARE ABOUT?**

*We don't think insider success is necessarily guaranteed, but campaign experience will quickly teach you that it is much easier to convince someone to vote for you than it is to first convince them to vote at all, and subsequently to vote for you. The Executive administration should take on the responsibility of increasing awareness of student government, and its opportunities and initiatives. The best way to accomplish this is to engage people with tangible, local improvements to our campus. Becoming involved in academic and campus life by expanding library and recreation center hours, getting a more comprehensive and relevant professor/GTF evaluation system, impacting student and administration controlled costs before moving on to tackle tuition, affecting our community by convincing the EPD to protect and serve students's rights as much as anyone else's. Those are the issues U of O students had on the top of their minds when we spoke with them, and that means those are the things U of O student leaders should focus their administrations on. When students see that their leaders can have a direct impact on their own campus, then they will be engaged enough to vote and influence the system from outside the ASUO office.*

**DO YOU THINK IT'S HYPOCRITICAL FOR THE ASUO TO CONSTANTLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE TAKING ACTION THAT CAUSES THE ALREADY HIGH INCIDENTAL FEE TO RISE?**

*I think if the ASUO were to advocate for a substantially higher fee, that would be hypocritical. I think, right now, what we are advocating for isn't a higher fee, but more services from that fee. Whether it be a recreation center, which if you think about it, your saving money by being a member of the recreation center or the Lane Transit District and also saving money by having free entertainment, with things that can encourage the growth rate on campus for free. Where as when we're lobbying the legislature, when were asking for both quality and access, this shouldn't be a choice, it should be something we need to do.*

**THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RETICENT WITH THE PRESS, TO SAY THE LEAST. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MAKING THE EXEC MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO STUDENT MEDIA?**

*We think the first step is to have more direct lines of communication. Specific questions demand answers from the staff specialists in the respective fields. More general questions might be able to be answered by a PR intermediary, but that position should focus more on educating staff on the "how to's" of PR rather than doing it all individually. Second, student government officers need to proactively ensure that members of the press are well informed on the issues they cover. Instead of relying on a reporter to have the necessary knowledge of rules, policies and the like, student leaders should take it upon themselves to ensure accurate and informed reporting.*

# CAMPAIGN DIARY: THE OC YEARS

By A. Sho Ikeda



The Oregon Commentator has a proud history of ASUO Executive candidates: some of them dead serious; some of them dead funny; others, possibly dead. Staff members of the Commentator have run for the highly coveted office since time immemorial, all the while pointing at the folly and insipidness that is student elections at the University of Oregon.

No one on the current staff of the Commentator can recall who began the tradition of running as an Executive candidate in the ASUO elections. The first to throw his or her hat in the election ring has probably long since found a job, gotten hitched, and is raising a kid or two and only has enough time to smile and shake his or her head in memory at the college years. This intrepid reporter could have gone down to the Oregon Daily Emerald newsroom and asked to browse through their archives, but he was too lazy to get up from the Commentator couch to walk down the hall. Additionally, this reporter doesn't care about who ran for office more than a decade ago. Also, you, the reader, probably care as much as you care about this year's ASUO elections, which is very little.

This all leads to the fact that despite the diversity of platforms Commentator candidates have stood for each year, they all have had a common message. The message was that the elections were nothing more than an annual dog-and-pony parade that 85 percent of the student body either viewed as a nuisance, something to laugh at, or a complete waste of time.

Each year among the resume padders and student government wonks are the Commentator candidates: the few young men and women who decide to throw the odds to the four winds and make complete fools of themselves.

One of the most creative candidates to come out of the Commentator was eventual Editor-in-Chief Ed Madrid and his computer running-mate SAL 2000 during the 1997 ASUO elec-

tions. While the ASUO did not officially recognize the Macintosh and place it on the ballot, the Emerald conducted an interview with both members of the ticket.

"SAL 2000 brings an unprecedented level of rational thinking," Madrid, a freshman at the time, said in an April 11 interview with the Emerald. "She'll balance my tendency to look at issues from the heart and will bring a degree of concrete thinking."

While SAL 2000 used a voice emulator to express its thoughts during the candidate debate, it also posted to the ASUO Usenet newsgroup. "I am the voice of a generation, excited by the wakes and turns of a technological revolution which has served as the foundation of my very existence. I am SAL. I am SAL 2000," SAL said in a posting.

Madrid won an impressive (for a joke candidate) 6 percent of the votes that primary election.

Though a serious Executive candidate hasn't come out of the Commentator bunker in years, there were three of them the next year, in 1998. OC Associate Editor Mark Hemingway and Publisher Farrah Bostic ran together and promoted the idea of offering credits instead of stipends for many ASUO positions. They were quoted in the April 15 issue of the Commentator stating that students had a right from God to be apathetic and stupid, also noting that most students probably were, well, apathetic and stupid. A quote: "There was a time when we might have offered up helpful suggestions, but to be frank, we're tired of being right."

Tamir Kriegel, officially listed as "The Official Tamir" on the OC masthead and non-OC member Greg Labavitch ran a serious campaign platform and even gained an endorsement from the Emerald editorial board. Their campaign centered on getting the Executive to focus on student groups rather than on the per-

sonal agendas of the president and vice president. One idea they promoted was to use the ASUO fund-raising coordinator to help raise money for needy programs rather than for the well-funded Executive. Kriegel and Labavitch also came up with a memorable campaign slogan: “Tamir and Greg Rhymes With Beer and Keg.”

The Tamir and Greg ticket won an amazing 409 out of 2,040 votes (20 percent) and landed in third place, the best finish of any Commentator ticket in recent memory.

Kriegel, as OC managing editor, ran again in 1999 on a much less serious platform of instant “retirement” from the Executive if elected. Kriegel was already planning on graduating by the end of spring term that year.

“If I am elected, I am going to retire the day I am elected and leave it as one big, vacant nothingness,” Kriegel told the Emerald in an April 6 interview. “If anything, I am going to be the only one who follows through with what I promised to get done because I am not going to do anything. I am going to leave; I am going to be graduating. It will be a big farce. But I will appoint a vice-president before I leave, and then that person will be president.”

Also running that year were OC Associate Editor William Beutler and Contributor Brandon Hartley. Hartley at one point was excused from the candidate debates, but chained himself to a desk in silent protest. Both candidates were removed from the ballot later when ASUO elections coordinators discovered Hartley was absent from an earlier mandatory candidates meeting and Beutler showed up and claimed to be the former. Beutler also claimed that someone else may have signed his name on the attendance list.

Beutler told an Emerald reporter that he was “under the control of the Christian Coalition” to explain why he claimed he was Hartley.

OC Another Perspective columnist Michael Atkinson ran on a platform promoting the construction of a large clock tower on campus. Tired of the “canned chimes” that resound through campus every six hours, Atkinson wanted something that had real bells in it.

“I want big bells for the clock tower. I mean big bells,” Atkinson told the Emerald in an April 9 interview. “I want to put some bells in this tower – I don’t know, about Big Ben-size. We could probably get a grant from Phil Knight. You know, I want a genuine hunchback, no machines; I want a real dude swinging from some ropes.”

OC Contributor Dan Atkinson, Michael’s younger brother, ran in 2000 for the ASUO Executive on a total “leftist” platform. An avowed left-hander, he campaigned on a left-handed student rights platform, which included demands for more left-handed desks and left-friendly computers. The younger Atkinson won 4.2 percent of the total primary vote.

Madrid ran again that year, applying to place his name on

the ballot as “All these people are idiots.” Unfortunately, he was dropped from the ballot by the ASUO elections coordinator before a single vote was cast.

Spring of 2001 saw the entrance of my campaign, where I ran on behalf of the Church of Wazeth, an obscure religion to which most of the world’s population unknowingly belongs, unless they pay a \$5 excommunication fee.

I advocated, among many things, the legalization of owning a dolphin (for riding, hugging and sandwich-making purposes), more women with bigger breasts on campus (a campaign theme that Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair picked up, according to former OC contributor Aaron K. Breniman), and the nuclear extermination of any bickering student groups on campus. I also spoke through a sock puppet named Mr. Billy at the candidate debate. What the hell was I thinking? My girlfriend recently told me that she considered not befriending me because of some of my controversial statements, which were deemed “sexist” by then-ASUO

Executive President Jay Breslow (he forgot my “kill whitey” comment, so he should have added “racist” to the list of accusations). However, that was all before she got to know the adorable and wonderful person I truly am.

Ahem. Anyway, let us continue.

I would discuss ex-OC members Brian Boone and Eric Qualheim’s campaign that year, but because they received less votes than I did and later quit the OC to restart the Oregon Voice – and because I’m sick of writing – I’ll leave them out. What? Go do your own research.

The next year, current Editor-in-Chief Timothy Dreier ran on an anti-Communist platform, vowing to rid the

campus of the “Red menace.”

“My platform consists of a few major components,” Dreier told the Emerald in a Feb. 15 interview. “First of all, eliminating the Red threat to our American way of life. And secondly, ferreting out Communists and other subversives in the ASUO through the establishment of an ASUO Un-American Activities Committee. Thirdly, using our resources in conjunction with other student leadership around the nation to fight Communism on a national and even global level.”

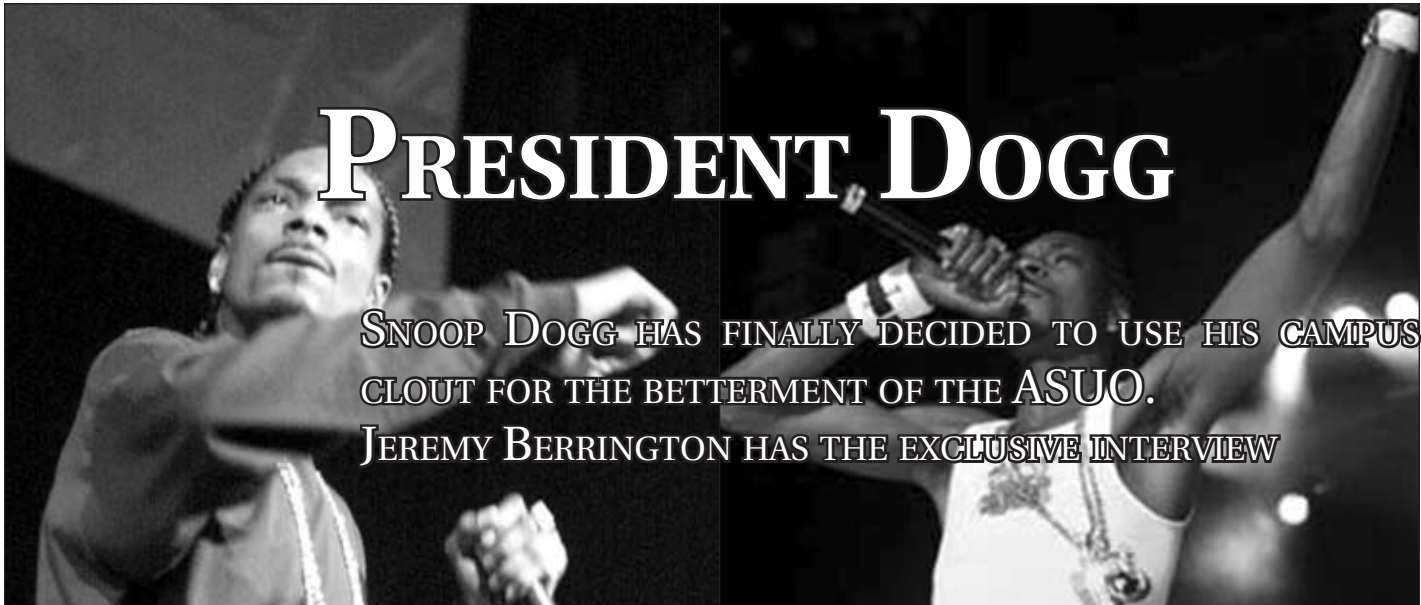
“Lastly, I plan to replace the pioneer father statue on 13th (Avenue) with a statue of patriot Joe McCarthy. All subversives who pass beneath this monument to our greatest hero will tremble in fear and know they will be black-listed,” Dreier said.

Some students were genuinely offended by Dreier’s campaign and wrote letters to the Emerald expressing their anger. One student claimed Dreier’s message was creating a “hostile and racist environment” on campus.

“Dreier says he wants to eliminate subversives, which would include students from [countries such as Russia, China and Vietnam]. International students are an asset to the University no matter what country they come from,” said Shun Yanagishita, a junior in biology.

*“I WANT BIG BELLS FOR THE CLOCK TOWER. I MEAN BIG BELLS,” ATKINSON TOLD THE EMERALD IN AN APRIL 9 INTERVIEW. “I WANT TO PUT SOME BELLS IN THIS TOWER – I DON’T KNOW, ABOUT BIG BEN-SIZE. WE COULD PROBABLY GET A GRANT FROM PHIL KNIGHT. YOU KNOW, I WANT A GENUINE HUNCHBACK, NO MACHINES; I WANT A REAL DUDE SWINGING FROM SOME ROPES.”*

*Continued On 27*



# PRESIDENT DOGG

SNOOP DOGG HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO USE HIS CAMPUS CLOUT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ASUO.

JEREMY BERRINGTON HAS THE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Popular UO senior Snoop Doggy Dogg announced his intention to run for ASUO President yesterday morning. Mr. Dogg and running mate Norah Jones are running on the platform of “Bitches and Hos for U of O”. Mr. Dogg is an Urban Politics major with a special focus on Big Pimpin’ and a Communications minor. Ms. Jones is a Music major. Today Mr. Dogg held his first press conference with the University of Oregon media outside of the EMU. As usual, Snoop was more than generous with the press. This reporter was able to get an exclusive interview after the three-hour press conference.

The following is an OREGON COMMENTATOR Elections Issue Interview with Snoop Doggy Dogg:

JB: Mr. Dogg, the student population has many questions to ask potential presidential candidates.

Snoop: Shoot away son.

JB: Mr. Dogg,

Snoop: Don’t call me Mr. Dogg, cracker! My father’s Mr. Dogg. Call me Snoop Dizzle; it’s my political name, bitch.

JB: Sorry Snoop Dizzle... Well, my first question deals with the issue of campus diversity. What are you going to do to promote a multicultural environment at the UO? Are there going to be any new multicultural clubs? Will there be new events, celebrations, seminars or symposiums on racial diversity? Do you think that you are qualified to represent the wide range of students on this campus?

Snoop: Man, I’ll be the first black ASUO Prizzle ever in this white-bread honky land. I’m the most qualified person in the election to talk about diversity. I’m going to put the double G back into diversity, bitch. As far as new festivals are concerned, I have two words for you: barbeque, bitch! We gonna have diversity barbeques because all races love drinkin’ and grillin’. Snoop

Dizzle for ASUO Prizzle, bitch.

JB: Well put. My next question concerns campus drinking. As you know, the University of Oregon is trying to stay sober this year. Our frat houses are dry; our liquor control organization (the OLCC) is comprised of a bunch of retarded rent-a-cops run amok; and you can’t buy booze during the hours you are most likely to drink it. What are you going to do to regulate the drinking on campus?

Snoop: Yo dog, you’re addressing a serious problem. I do need to regulate the drinking on campus. Shit, I might just need to regulate. No drinking in Frat houses? What kind of bullshit is that? Fuck MIP and distribution tickets that cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Fuck the OLCC. They need to stop hatin’ and start participatin’. So listen up. My lawyers and I have figured out a way to convert the OLCC into the OFCC if I get into office.

JB: What’s the OFCC?

Snoop: It’s the Oregon Forty Chugging Club, bitch. And if Snoop Dizzle becomes ASUO Prizzle the OLCC will be gone forever and this might be a second rate party school again. You might even get laid, cracker.

JB: Very clever. I’m not quite sure how that’s going to work, but I bet you have a better lawyer than I do.

Snoop: Word.

JB: Fiscal policy is another major debate topic, Snoop. How will you spend the ASUO’s seemingly inexhaustible mountains of money?

Snoop: Mostly, it’ll be spent the same. I’m not going to lie to you. But you will notice improved spending on Planned Parenthood, that’s a promise. We gonna be handing out some crazy-ass condoms. We gonna include some other freaky ass shit too, but

uh, I don't know if you want to print it.

JB: We'll talk afterwards.

Snoop: Cool.

JB: That brings us to Women's Rights and Campus Sex Issues. Do you have any policy statement for the UO campus about these?

Snoop: Yeah, I plan to treat the UO females with the respect they deserve. I promise I'll be better than that Junior Siavii punk-ass bitch. I sure as hell won't be hittin' no females outside campus bars. I got respect, yo. I think that the UO female population deserves the right to everything, except playa-hatin', and I'm going to make sure they get everything they want. Whatever the cost, bitches.

JB: Your dedication is touching.

Snoop: Thanks, cracker.

JB: Is there anything else that you think the UO population should know about you and your policies as ASUO President?

Snoop: Yeah, I plan to be the most hard-working, dedicated and effective ASUO Prizzle ever.

JB: That's excellent Snoop.

Snoop: Whatever dude, I'm just going to sit on my ass and smoke blunts like all the other ASUO Presidents. The job's a fucking joke dude!



*Jeremy Berrington, who's voting for NaS fo' sho', is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*

## OFFICIAL OC EXECUTIVE ENDORSEMENT

After examining the candidates and taking a look at the tickets there is only one conclusion: We're screwed. This year's Executive race features not one, but two of the typical liberal ASUO-insider tickets. Strawn/Aguilar and Petkun/Ravissipour both fall into this category. And, while Petkun may not consider himself an ASUO insider, he has worked in the office in the past and has relationships extending well out into suite four. There is a certain amount of qualification that comes along with having worked in student-governance, however there is also an attitude that ignores the average student in favor of the standard ASUO doctrine.

The answers that Petkun and Strawn provided to our questions were, to say the least, dissatisfactory. Strawn, at least, sees the inherent hypocrisy in causing the incidental fee to rise while at the same time complaining about the cost of education. Petkun feels that it would only be hypocritical if the ASUO were directly advocating for a higher fee. Meaning that, to him, causing the fee to rise is not at all like a tuition increase even though both are required to attend the University.

Both of the office tickets have the typical pie-in-the-sky goals that help make the ASUO so completely ineffectual. Further, neither seem to think about the consequences of things

like a housing code nor realize that renters are generally already protected by landlord/tenant law. Strawn and Petkun are too focused on state issues, and the big picture, which has caused their campaigns to lose sight of issues closer to campus.

That brings us around to the only decent ticket in this year's Executive race, Adrian Gilmore. First of all, he's a law student, which gives him a different perspective than the standard ASUO candidates. Secondly, he has enough experience to be familiar with ASUO rules and procedures, but he still has a perspective different from the usual suspects. Gilmore also has the most concrete ideas for ways to improve campus life for students. His ideas regarding working with the Career Center to get top-level firms interested in recruiting at Oregon is one of the best things we've heard from a member of student government in quite a long time. Further, Gilmore appears to be a real stickler for the rules regarding fee allocation. He wants all groups to be accountable to the same set of requirements, and as a part of that he feels that the ASUO office should be easily open and accessible to student media. Overall, Adrian Gilmore is the best-qualified ASUO candidate and deserves the support of everyone. Adrian, consider yourself endorsed.

# DECONSTRUCTING MADDY (& EDDY)

BY TYLER GRAF AND MARLA TRAWEEK

*THIS YEAR'S ASUO EXECUTIVE HAS DONE LITTLE AND ACCOMPLISHED LESS. THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH THE PRESS AND THEIR CONTEMPT FOR STUDENTS MAKE THEM SOME OF THE WORST EXECs IN RECENT MEMORY.*

This year's ASUO Exec has been a sad example of what can occur when petty children are elected to offices of authority. Maddy and Eddy were elected under dubious circumstances and continue to promote speculation as to the ethicality of their agenda, their competence, and responsibility to the students they supposedly represent. Of course, there are complaints about the Exec every year, and granted there is only so much one can do when elected to an office that is a pathetic joke in the first place; however, the caustic nature of this particular administration has been especially hard to swallow.

From the beginning of their campaign Maddy and Eddy have been, to say the least, shady in their dealings with the process of student government. Two of their staffers, in what can only be explained as blatant stupidity or petty theft, but most likely both, allegedly stole copies of campaign materials from a local Kinko's. Emails alleging the theft were sent to various student publications including the Oregon Commentator and the Emerald, however the Commentator was the only publication to bring the allegations to light. Absence of the Emerald's response might be attributed to then-Editor-in-Chief Michael Kleckner's glowing endorsement of the Maddy and Eddy ticket.

Further problems arose for the Executive when, in May 2003, the Emerald reported that the ASUO Elections board found an \$803.18 discrepancy between the amount of money that Maddy and Eddy raised for their campaign (\$1,768.87) versus the amount of money they spent (\$965.69). Candidates are required to submit weekly donation/expenditure reports, which Maddy and Eddy had neglected to do as of 10 days after the deadline. Melton attempted to explain some of the missing funds by saying that \$529.87 was donated to the campaign in supplies and was therefore not recorded as an expenditure, and that the ASUO counted a donation of \$100 from her mother twice. Taking these new facts into consideration, that left \$173.31 for something that

Melton was "90 percent sure it's a missing printing receipt." Perhaps it was the amount of money owed to Kinko's after their staffer's midnight raid. Whatever the reason, Maddy and Eddy should have been disqualified, as election guidelines stipulate.

One of the issues that Maddy and Eddy specifically outlined during their campaign was making the ASUO and their office "accessible" to those that they would represent. Their spotty record with student media seems to illustrate a much different perspective, though.

Maddy and Eddy's fear of the media became evident during last year's campaign, when they refused the COMMENTATOR's request for an interview. At first, we believed that Maddy and Eddy — whose personal politics are diametrically opposed to our own — refused the request because of a perceived antagonism between our editorial board and their campaign. This belief only exacerbated when they took office.

In October 2003, the OREGON COMMENTATOR attempted to reach Maddy for comment in response to the Office of Civil Rights' (OCR) pronouncement that Project SafeRide, the University's female-only shuttle program, was in violation of Title IX. The request was necessary because Maddy had worked alongside the administration in its doomed attempt to keep SafeRide a campus fixture. ASUO spokeswoman Taraneh Foster, who told our reporters that she would act as a temporary intermediary until an undetermined future date, rebuffed these requests. She claimed that the decision was due to restructuring in the office resulting from the hiring of new employees who were not yet completely comfortable with their duties. Because the COMMENTATOR has never been able to access the Exec, it is reasonable to assume that the restructuring has gone on for the entire administration.

Later, Foster admitted that Maddy and Eddy were apprehensive of the COMMENTATOR, stating that our reporters had misquot-

ed the Executive in the past. When asked to cite an example, she couldn't. It took near-superhuman strength not to turn crimson and scream: "How the hell could we have misquoted Maddy and Eddy when they have never – not once – spoken to us?" But after a series of deep breathing exercises, coupled with heavy meditation, we calmed ourselves, and headed to Rennie's in order to regain our fast disappearing composure.

We soon discovered, however, that we were not the only publication upset with the Executive's reticence. The Ol' Dirty Emerald was having problems of its own.

In a November 21, 2003 article entitled "Access to ASUO deemed deficient", which reported that Maddy, Eddy and Foster were "unavailable for office hours 75 percent of the time". In a move that should have surprised few, Foster was the only person within the ASUO willing to speak to the Emerald.

After the Emerald extensively covered Eddy Morales' alleged October 2003 assault of a woman outside of Taylor's bar, the Exec seemed to become unnecessarily adversarial towards the paper, even going so far as to veto the Emerald's 2004-2005 budget.

The Executive used an internal readership survey (the type of survey that publications use to set ad rates) to provide a "more concrete funding formula". To Maddy and Eddy, the Emerald was being "fiscally irresponsible" by sending copies of the Emerald off campus. Never mind the fact that the survey was not scientifically conducted, and never mind that it is unethical to take a survey conducted for one specific purpose and use it for another specific purpose; Maddy and Eddy had convinced themselves that it was necessary to cast themselves into a fray that they were woefully ill-equipped to handle. They did this for their own personal and political benefit. The Student Senate, in a moment of clarity, saw the light and struck down the veto. Maddy and Eddy were looking for something more concrete, and what they got was something entirely pliable.

In another egregious squandering of student trust, Maddy reneged on a primary position of her election platform.

When she was running for office, she claimed that she would open the University up to international, ethnic and female students. However, after ascending to ASUO Executive, Maddy admitted to violating an ASUO Executive rule requiring her to publicize open positions with a host of student groups, including several ethnic and women's groups, in order to comply with

affirmative action. It would be unfair to claim that Maddy was willfully obfuscating the information; more likely, Maddy and cohort Eddy were too preoccupied strong-arming the press to pay attention to the needs of the student body, especially those who had probably voted for them.

One of the most blatant disregards for the rules of the office and the students they represent occurred when the Emerald reported on a little-known rule that enables all incidental fee paying students to obtain free tickets for admission to any event held by a student group that receives incidental fee money. According to the article, "ASUO President Maddy Melton said she doesn't think many students know about the rule, and she said she will not do anything to educate them because she wants to see the rule changed." To be fair, ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn, one of this year's candidates for ASUO Exec, articulated the fact that that the rule is one put forth by the Senate, and therefore "neither the Executive nor the Student Senate has the responsibility of educating the student body about the rule." If this is indeed the case, then that means that neither branch of government is willing to be responsible for educating the students it represents about their given rights at the University, simply because they disagree with a rule that was clearly put in place by a previous majority student vote. This administration's complete lack of respect for the intelligence and rights of the student body is appalling and utterly unforgivable behavior for an elected official. Imagine the uproar if the United States Senate and the President agreed not to inform the American people about one of their rights, simply because they "want to see the rule changed."

There have been numerous occasions when this year's Exec should have been at the least reprimanded for their behavior, if not removed from office outright. Incompetence and disregard for the rules of the position they were elected to and what can be construed as general contempt for student media have made Maddy and Eddy one of the weakest and most detestable administrations in a long while.



*Much like the Invisible Man, this year's Executive has managed to avoid being seen by the press.*

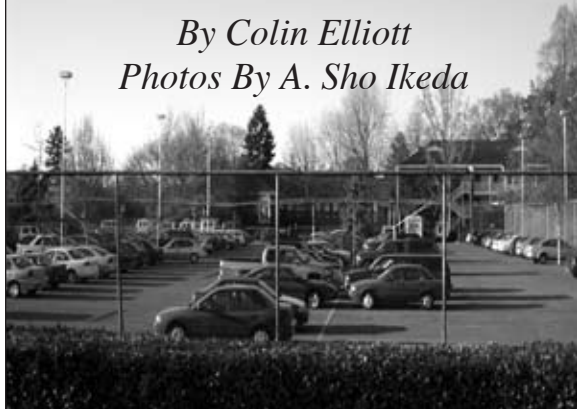
*Tyler Graf, a senior majoring in Journalism, is Managing Editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR. Marla Traweek, also a senior majoring in Journalism, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*



# Campus Parking: What A Damn Mess.

By Colin Elliott

Photos By A. Sho Ikeda



I'm not sure which is worse: waiting for hours in breadlines under communist rule or looking for a parking spot at this University. Seriously, if I wanted to write an analogy between the two, I could take up this entire magazine. Fortunately, instead of writing *that* article (and pissing you off) I have written one that tells you how to best manipulate the system to your advantage (send chocolate-chip cookies to me c/o: THE OREGON COMMENTATOR).

There are three main locations to park on campus – behind the bookstore, south of the Education building and over by the dorms and law school. There is a fourth spot, in unexplored territory by the Art school but I have never felt safe there since I affixed my “Nuke Berkley” sticker on the back of my rear window. The point is, if you read this magazine you probably shouldn't go there. For now, let's deal with the places where your only threat is getting your stereo and/or car stolen (it's much better than parking anywhere close to the Art School, trust me).

## Behind the Bookstore

The basic rule of thumb with any campus parking lot is this: arrive early... really early... like, 7:30 AM early. No other place is this more true than the small amount of space behind the bookstore. Being a history/business student, I find myself desiring a place here above all others as McKenzie and Lillis are right across the street from this lot. Also, if one is so inclined, Rennie's is now a perfectly legitimate “on the way” stop – getting a pint can now be just as routine as picking up a copy of *The Emerald* on the way to class (and throwing it in the recycling before you get there, of course).

Where was I? Yes, if you don't get there early, you are pretty much screwed. I have found that during a ten minute stretch between 11:15 and 11:25 in the morning, there are usually one or two spots available. Don't waste this valuable opportunity! If one does not arrive early or in the special ten-minute-only time, parking at that lot is not available until after 4PM.

## By the Education Building

This lot is the most contested lot on campus. The size of it as well as two entry points makes it an easy location for parking vultures (to be described later) to feast on your slow, fat ass. However, before 9AM one can usually find a spot, as well as after 2PM. There is a possibility to find a spot here in between these times, but again, competition here is high.

The other problem with this site is that it is a bit farther away from most of campus (but not as bad as the lot by the law school and dorm courts). Education majors will love this place, but most everybody else won't.

## By the Dorms and Behind the Law School

This lot is always my last resort – it's far away, in the middle of Dormsville and at the opposite end of everywhere I need to be on campus. However, beggars can't be choosers and this lot may be your last hope if you come to class between the hours of 9AM to 2PM. There is almost always a spot here during that time, and there is no competition. The problem is that a lot of kids park their cars here for a whole term, and so the lot cannot be measured by the amount of spots it has, as half of them are always going to be full.

Don't let this be a dissuasion. Sometimes one can find a spot close to the basketball courts, saving a decent amount of walking distance. Even if parking all the way in the back is the only option, it still keeps one from playing cat and mouse with the Eugene Parking Nazis (damn them!).

## Etiquette:

Since, as I already mentioned, campus parking is akin to the squabbles over basic necessities in communist countries, there are some key things to keep in mind to ensure that you get yours first:

**Reserving:** This is the safest and most effective way to get a spot. It involves a little communication, even some that borders

on harassment, but that has never daunted me. Find a good spot and wait – when anything that moves comes into the parking lot, ask “are you going to a car?” If the response is in the affirmative, then follow up with, “may I have your spot?” Most of the time, this will work. All that now needs to be done is to follow the person to their car. Vultures my try to strike at this point – be wary. The weaker ones can be driven off by a simple gesture of possession or warning. The more vehement ones though, may require direct aggression including blocking their path completely or (this sometimes doesn’t work) getting out of your car and working out a deal with the person leaving, saying they won’t leave their spot until the vulture backs off. Personally, I do the “reserving” part for people when I leave the lot, pointing to the closest car and telling them “you’re it,” and not moving unless they are ensured to get the spots. I once had to mediate between three very angry women over who had the rights to my spot when I didn’t take this precaution.

Parking Vultures: These guys are the worst. I hate them. They swarm around the lot, endlessly circling, maneuvering, waiting, watching for the right moment to steal a spot right from under your nose. There is no sure way to defeat them though – not only are they everything-proof, they have no sense of respect for your claim to a spot. I have never been bested by one myself, but I have been challenged. I “reserved” (see above) with a girl in the bookstore lot and closely followed her to her spot. I saw a vulture circle around the back end of the lot and try to beat me to the spot from the other side, she was only seconds late. After I had turned off my engine she had the audacity to approach my car and say, “I’ve been driving around for 20 minutes looking for a spot.” I said, “whelp, looks like I got this one, huh?” In hindsight I realize what I should have said: “one day a real rain’s gonna come and wash all the garbage off the street.”

The Rest: To my surprise, most people seem rather apathetic about getting a spot, they drive around a little, wait a little, and eventually settle for two hour parking and being fifteen minutes late to their class. Fine by me, more spots for myself. There are yet others who drive around a lot without even looking where they are going – I have already had one such incident (fortunately the person was very nice, and had a great insurance plan). Despite the existence of such wonderful people, I cannot say it enough: watch where you are going. People will just drive into you, especially since the University, in trying to pack as many cars into a lot as possible, has made most of the lanes a car and a half-wide, leaving no room for error when searching for a spot.

In essence, be alert, be aggressive, but also be respectful. Just as capitalism will always triumph over collectivism, you, by heeding this information, will overcome the horrible experience that is parking on the University of Oregon campus.



*Colin Elliott, whose road-rage makes him uninsurable in 47 states, is Associate Editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR. A. Sho Ikeda, whose fear of Colin’s driving keeps him out of three states, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*



# PIRG-atory

By Tyler Graf

*FOR OVER 30 YEARS THE UO HAS ALLOWED OSPIRG TO PROSPER DESPITE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ETHICAL FAILINGS. IT'S TIME FOR STUDENTS TO SAY THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.*

**T**hirty-five years ago, a man once known as Ralph Nader – now known simply as “The Saint” – gave a series of talks outlining his vision for a state-by-state Public Interest Research Group (the PIRG system), an ambitious organization that would serve as a watchdog for the public good. It would conduct research into environmental concerns, protect consumers from fraud and lobby on behalf of the public interest, among other grandiose schemes. It would be a costly endeavor, but Nader was undeterred; he had a plan, and it was brilliant in its duplicitousness: He would get college students to split the bill. This was almost too easy.

As Nader toured University campuses, espousing his vision of a brighter future, his supporters came out in droves (they were called the Nader Raiders). And so emboldened were they by Nader’s fiery rhetoric that they sometimes formed ad hoc groups comprised of student activists. Thanks to Nader and New York-based lawyer Donald K. Ross, these ad hoc groups became much more mobilized. This mobilization facilitated the accumulation of revenue for the PIRG system, and before long their trickle of funds had become an outright downpour.

In 1971 OSPIRG came to the University of Oregon, where it has stayed – in one form or another – ever since. For over thirty years, the University of Oregon has had to endure a bloated beast of an organization whose sole purpose is to feast rapaciously on the Incidental Fee. From day one, OSPIRG’s activities have been controversial, but like an acquaintance overstaying his welcome, student and administrative leaders lack the intestinal fortitude to rectify the situation because it would create a modicum of tension.

However, due to OSPIRG’s incessant and historical misuse of student funds, which I will enumerate later, something needs to happen, and it’s up to the students to initiate it. Students need the ability to decide whether or not OSPIRG speaks for them. Lord knows we cannot rely on the ASUO.

In fact, it must be soul crushing to be a member of student government, knowing that despite your own personal convictions you cannot effect tangible improvements to the University or its students. These are elected officials who are, ostensibly, in charge of the dispersal of Incidental Fee monies. But when you get right down to it, a monkey holding a rubber stamp reading “FUND” could just as easily do their job.

Any student involved in campus activities can testify that the funding process is always the same. You enter a room in which the student senators are situated around a table. You present your case in a clear, lucid and wholly professional manner, punctuating your key points with figures established in your budget proposal. You always make sure to imply that without your student organization the very foundation upon which this hallowed institution of higher education is built would collapse, leaving nothing but ruin and anarchy. Famines would rage, fire and brimstone would rain from the heavens, and the earth would tremble and crumble under the stampeding feet of the riotous masses. Then, after completing your proposal, the senators will debate its merits, punctuating their key points by misusing the terms “ad hoc” and “post hoc” and generally making a very dark joke out of the legislative process. This can go on for a very long time, leaving you tired and hungry and in need of a shave. In the end, however, despite how long the senate deliberates, you will receive your funding. It’s all very pointless. I wonder how the senators themselves feel about it, if they ever resent the fact that they are spending a perfectly good evening – an evening that they could be spending drinking, having unprotected sex or shooting heroin between the webbing of their toes – partaking in such futile exercises.

And nowhere is this more evident than with OSPIRG. The ASUO knows that OSPIRG is corrupt, but it is unwilling to take a hard stance.

For the past ten years, the OREGON COMMENTATOR has been

the only voice criticizing OSPIRG for its lack of budgetary transparency. At this point, we could write a Bible on the organization. But, for the sake of brevity, here is a rehashing of our primary contentions:

Whereas every other student group must present a budget to the PFC which itemizes the expenses they expect to accrue during the school year, OSPIRG simply has one line item entitled “miscellaneous expenses”. That, in all its vague glory, is the entire budget — a budget that generally hovers well over \$100,000. OSPIRG then collects all of the money it has received from its student-run programs and sends it up to Portland where it is used to pay for expensive office space shared with its professional, non-student counterpart, which conveniently shares the same acronym, OSPIRG (Oregon State Interest Research Group).

Additionally, OSPIRG uses student money to pay its professional staff and to lobby on behalf of causes that they — not you — find important. They also use your money on programs and initiatives that make absolutely no demonstrable impact on your life as a student, such as cleaning the Willamette River and saving old growth forests. By compelling students to spend money on a so-called student program, which in actuality funds a professional lobbying organization, the University is not only complicit in the laundering of money, it is also usurping your freedom of association.

There are two solutions to the OSPIRG problem. Either the ASUO can stop funding OSPIRG outright, which occurred in 1998 thanks to a ballot initiative spearheaded by the OREGON COMMENTATOR (OSPIRG was later re-instated thanks to an unadvertised “special election”), or the ASUO can institute a vol-

untary funding scheme for OSPIRG, wherein students would be given the choice whether or not they would like to fund the program. The ASUO has proven that they are far too weak-kneed to give the boot to OSPIRG, thereby negating the first possibility. Thus, enacting a voluntary funding system would act as a considerable first step.

But I can hear it now: Why pick on OSPIRG? If OSPIRG is funded voluntarily, then what would prevent other student groups from facing the same fate?

Those are good points, but they can be circumvented rather easily by putting OSPIRG’s activities into an historical context.

First, one must understand that the University administration initially considered an opt-in/opt-out funding system for students, according to OSPIRG documents from 1971. The administration’s position stemmed, primarily, from OSPIRG’s own willingness to submit itself to a refund process. According to Accountability for Funds Allocated to OSPIRG, dated March 29, 1971: “[T]here is no longer any basis for a student refund as proposed by OSPIRG,

although opportunity for a student refund was an aspect of the OSPIRG proposal on the basis of which student signatures were secured on the OSPIRG petitions.” More than 50,000 Oregon students petitioned the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to form OSPIRG, which constituted a majority.

Even as late as Oct. 25, 1971 OSPIRG maintained that “voluntary support would sustain any organization which justifies itself and its cause to students”.

Huzzah! We could not have said it better. If this statement was true then,

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*NOT ONLY IS THE ASUO FILLED WITH MEALY-MOUTHED SYCOPHANTS AND ETHICS-DEPRIVED POLITICAL MOLLYCODDLES, BUT ALSO THE UO ADMINISTRATION IS A VERITABLE ROGUES' GALLERY OF LEADERSHIP-LACKING ADMINISTRATIVE DERELICTS.*

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*Continued Next Page*

and it most certainly was, then it is true today. But one should not hold his breath. As is the case with all the equivocations that OSPIRG bandies about in order to validate its existence, this statement was merely a bluff. The administration, however, was too spineless to call it.

A collection of OSPIRG memos and correspondence from that same year gives further insight into how OSPIRG eventually argued against voluntary fee collection. First – and this gives me an incontinence-inducing guffaw every time I read it – OSPIRG believed that enacting a voluntary fee system, involving a number of printed forms, would have levied economic burden on the University and its students. That is simply too funny. Here is an organization that would just as soon suck the money straight out of your pockets using an industrial-sized vacuum like a crazy, mustache-twirling, wild-eyed villain in a Chuck Jones cartoon, and they are preaching the virtues of fiscal temperance.

Second – and this is equally dubious – OSPIRG believed that because they had been given a “mandate” from Oregon students that they had the authority to ignore the concerns of the minority.

These arguments are seriously outdated. Instituting an opt-out system for OSPIRG would hardly make a ripple in the University’s cash flow because nothing would be printed; it would be electronic instead. Thus, the environmentalists at OSPIRG would not be able to complain about the environmental effects of printing thousands of opt-out forms. A University student would simply log on to DuckWeb and click a couple of buttons. The only thing this system would use is bandwidth, and even OSPIRG and its PR hucksters could never convince people that bandwidth is tantamount to electronic trees.

Moreover, the so-called “mandate” from students is a spurious claim to make now, 30 years after the fact. When OSPIRG lobbied to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, it claimed that it would be an educational tool for University students. However, in 1971 OSPIRG also claimed that “The purpose of OSPIRG shall be to articulate and pursue through the courts, the media, the institutions of government and other legal means, the concerns of the students of the state of Oregon on issues of general public interest, in such areas as environmental preservation and consumer protection.” So, one might ask: Are lawsuits and press releases edifying to students? If one reads between the lines, this statement is implying that OSPIRG’s main goals are lobbying lawmakers and inundating the media

with press statements. That is not the work of an educational entity, but rather the work of a politically active lobbying group. Simply stated, they misled the poor students who mindlessly signed their petition.

Although many people are afraid that voluntary funding would set a precedent for further incidental fee cuts, they must understand that OSPIRG does not fit the description of your average, run-of-the-mill student group. Because its funds leave campus, and because it makes no demonstrable impact on campus, and because it partakes in political activities (no matter how “non-partisan” they claim these activities are), the free-rider problem does not apply. Now, if we claimed that the Student Insurgent – the requisite Marxist publication – deserved to be de-funded, we would simply be engaging in a petty exercise in political scorched earth. This is a different case because the Insurgent actually spends its money on campus. Despite how we feel about their political viewpoints, we feel that they have a right to print them. Thus, we are not haranguing OSPIRG for its mission statement, which is so innocuous that it covers pro-

earth, pro-consumer, pro-humanity, pro-rainbow and pro-puppy concerns. Instead, we take umbrage at its arrogance and fiscal chicanery.

Moreover, the precedent for an opt-out/opt-in funding system has already been set on other campuses, and, no, the sky

didn’t fall from the sky as a result. Maybe these universities, which are called anomalies by OSPIRG, have seen the light, recognizing the PIRG system as the disingenuous lobbying organization that it is.

Since 1971 OSPIRG’s primary missions have been lobbying and politicking. In fact, in the 1970s OSPIRG used much of its money on costly litigation. This was later found to be in violation of the student code of conduct, and OSPIRG was asked to desist from further litigious activities. Additionally, in 1975, after OSPIRG was accused of publishing a slanted study about pharmacists, the Oregon Government Ethics Committee and Attorney General Lee Johnson concluded that OSPIRG volunteers and paid employees were not employed by the state, which would have made them exempt from registering as lobbyists under ORS 171.735(2). This ruling effectively circumscribed the lobbying work in which OSPIRG participated and nullified the tax exempt status OSPIRG enjoyed under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This would have forced OSPIRG to create a companion entity under Section 501 (c) (4)

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*NOW, IMAGINE A CORRUPT POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR REELECTION, CLAIMING TO HAVE A MANDATE FROM HIS CONSTITUENTS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS ELECTED INTO OFFICE FOUR YEARS AGO; THIS IS EXACTLY THE SAME TYPE OF SITUATION. THE ASUO SHOULD GIVE STUDENTS THE POWER TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS CONCERNING OSPIRG, WHICH COULD, IN THE END, ACT AS A TOURNIQUET ON OSPIRG’S FUNDING.*

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of the tax code had President Ford not signed the Tax Code of 1976 into law.

Now, imagine a corrupt politician running for reelection, claiming to have a mandate from his constituents simply because he was elected into office four years ago; this is exactly the same type of situation. The ASUO should give students the power to make their own decisions concerning OSPIRG, which could, in the end, act as a tourniquet on OSPIRG's funding.

OSPIRG doesn't discuss voluntary fee-collection much anymore, and with good reason. They have set an enviable precedent on campus, having successfully collected mandatory fees for over thirty years. It has no reason to believe that anything will change in the foreseeable future. Not only is the ASUO filled with mealy-mouthed sycophants and ethics-deprived political mollicoddles, but also the UO administration is a veritable rogues' gallery of leadership-lacking administrative derelicts. Case in point: In 1985, when UO President Dave Frohnmeyer was a hot-shot Attorney General successfully arguing cases before the federal Supreme Court, he stated that "We have no difficulty concluding that student participation in activities that lead them to take positions on election matters, on

legislation, or in matters in dispute in a courtroom, can benefit the students 'culturally.'"

With individuals like former politician Frohnmeyer espousing the ideality of institutionally prescribed indoctrination, not to mention fiscal impropriety -- in the form of mandatory OSPIRG participation -- students at the University of Oregon should consider how much student money OSPIRG spent lobbying on behalf of its own existence. History has taught us that it must have been exorbitant.

It is time to get serious about OSPIRG. As much as it whines about "the public good", and as much as it will claim that mandatory funding is completely legal under Southworth, students should know that OSPIRG is as slippery as a venomous snake and just as dangerous. Students should have the power to save their money and their dignity; it's time we had the chance to think for ourselves and vote no on OSPIRG.



*Tyler Graf, a senior majoring in Journalism, is Managing Editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*

## Continued From 17

Junior English major Nathan Edwards couldn't figure out if Dreier's campaign was satire or not.

"I don't often take an interest in campus politics, but the article about Tim Dreier in the Emerald caught my eye and left me with a question -- is this a joke?" Edwards wrote.

Edwards continued: "I could barely believe that someone would actually make statements like these, and to be running for a student government office. Tim Dreier's statements and policies are the kind of paranoid ignorance that we can only pray can be healed."

The criticisms of people not familiar with satire didn't keep Dreier from continuing his act at the candidate debates.

Holding up a copy of the University student phone directory at the debates, Dreier proclaimed, "I have here a list of Communist subversives at the University of Oregon." (Incidentally, Dreier crossed out his own entry in the directory, just in case.)

Dreier, fed up with the other candidates consistently dodging questions, took a serious note with the audience.

"They all say the same thing. They use vague language, and I am wondering if they are going to answer these questions or not," he said. "At least I know I am a joke."

Dreier received 4.2 percent of the primary vote and managed to come seven votes behind the serious campaign of Eric Bailey and Charlotte Nisser.

Last year, OC Production Manager Jeremy Jones entered the fray with his "Emperor of Destiny, Hope of Mankind" campaign. Citing that the University is not officially part of the State of Oregon and vowing to expand our "borders," Jones ran a popular campaign featuring anti-hippie propaganda and instructing followers to "bring out the virgins to wash [his] loins." It was even reported that dorm residents were producing bootleg t-shirts of his (in)famous campaign posters. Jones, to his credit, won 5.5 percent of the vote and actually finished in front of serious Executive candidates Jarrett White and Greg McNeil in the primary elections.

Continuing the Commentator tradition this year are long-time OC Contributor Ben Brown and Managing Editor Tyler Graf who are running separately on the "No Shirts" and "No Pants" campaigns, respectively. Where they will finish in this race is anyone's guess. What is fairly certain, however, is that next year, and the year after that, there will be another Commentator candidate ready to show the students of this campus what a farce the ASUO elections truly are. History, indubitably, repeats itself.



*A. Sho Ikeda, a former candidate for ASUO Executive, is the official Sho at the OREGON COMMENTATOR.*

# BROKEN ARROW

by Ryan Earley

USE OF FIRE TO COMMIT A FELONY; DESTRUCTION OF VEHICLES USED IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE BY MEANS OF FORCE; INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCE BY VIOLENCE; USE OF AN INCENDIARY DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE DURING AND IN RELATION TO A CRIME OF VIOLENCE

Once thought of as a peaceful tree-sitting, ledge-perching hobbyist, Michael Scarpitti, a.k.a. "Tre Arrow," is now under arrest by the FBI and awaits trial for charges stemming from damages to logging vehicles and other terror acts.



Date of Photo Unknown



Photo taken April 7, 2000



Photo taken in 2000

## MICHAEL SCARPITTI

Aliases: "Tre Arrow," Matthew Hill, John Pierce, "Ridge"

**T**hey finally found him. That's too bad.

When word finally reached me that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had caught up with Michael Scarpitti, I felt nothing but sadness for the man and worry for the journey he would soon face. Assuming federal prison is as bad as the movies portray, he will not have an easy time.

I met him as a young idealist myself, sympathetic to his message and enamored with his charming image. He had renounced his birth name in those days; everyone knew him as Tre Arrow, that guy who lived on a ledge downtown for a while. He eventually came down from the ledge to the tune of thousands of dollars in fines but bathed in the limelight of local television news crews.

Our meeting was a matter of pure happenstance. Summer was in full swing, and 2000's season was a particularly beautiful one. High school was a recent memory and the dorms loomed in my immediate future, so I was trying to live my days to their absolute fullest before I faced the challenges of the University. A good friend's younger brother, Joe, spent a number of days downtown that summer, and eager to see what the media hype surrounded, he stopped by the Forestry Service building on whose ledge Tre balanced so precariously for eleven consecutive days. The publicity train would arrive for their five-o'clock sound bites from time to time, but during the down times, Tre would talk with passers by and discuss with them the reasons for his protest. Joe

got along swimmingly with Arrow, so when the protestor finally dismounted, they kept closely in touch.

Before his foray in downtown Portland, Arrow was a tree-sitter with the Cascadia Forest Alliance. They protested logging efforts by living in tree houses throughout the forest so that loggers could not remove trees safely without endangering the lives of the protestors. As such, Arrow had no real home beyond living in the forest and no possessions beyond what he could carry with him. When Tre needed a place to stay and await his court date for the trespassing citations relating to his ledge-sitting hobby, Joe and his friends found a place for Tre to stay.

Joe had planned all summer to hold a free concert in a local park, and his chosen date just happened to fall several days after he met Tre. To repay Joe and his friends for their hospitable gesture of putting him up for a few nights, Arrow offered to play a set at Joe's concert. This is where I met Tre. He played a long, sweetly toned set of solo acoustic songs replete with social commentary interjected between each song, informing his audience of how much the forest meant to him as a tree dweller and why he selected the songs he chose to play. It was very VH1 "Storytellers," but he was a proficient guitar player with a smooth but high singing voice.

After his set, he stayed around for an hour meeting and talking with the few remaining audience members. He had a weak handshake along with an air of calm enthusiasm indicated by

body gestures and a warm smile. Continuing to tell us about his political leanings, he informed us that he planned to run for political office in the next round of city council and state house of representative elections, despite everyone (including himself) knowing he would not win. Such is idealism.

The crown jewel of Tre's performances over those following weeks was his appearance at the Nader for President rally at the Portland Memorial Coliseum in which he delivered an impassioned speech on behalf of the Cascadia Forest Alliance before Nader took over at the microphone and very nearly paralyzed the entire audience with his appallingly flat rendition of his own 20 point campaign program. I last saw Tre as he exited the stage that day. I heard tell of a benefit dinner within the week trying to raise money so Tre could post bail and pay off his fines to the city. The next time I heard anything about him was in national headlines.

*Rolling Stone* splashed a dramatic declaration across its cover about an eco-terrorist on the lam over a year ago. Since I tend to enjoy the serious journalism that runs amidst the teen-driven drivel, I flipped the magazine open to greet a surprising and familiar face. Tre, looking haggard and unwashed stared back off the page as the reporter recounted Tre's crimes of conscience. He stood accused of torching several logging vehicles, along with a number of other acts of eco-terror. Frankly, the allegations staggered me. He never seemed like someone who would commit a violent act in protest. He lived in the trees; he did not spike them. He set up shop on the ledge of a forestry service building; he did not bomb it. It appeared the Tre I had met must have lost his innocence.

Tre evaded capture until last month, thanks in part to his newfound alliance with the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). This group of radical eco-terrorists has claimed responsibility for hundreds of defiant and destructive acts against those who the ELF perceives as a threat to the planet's environmental health.

The FBI lists stopping the ELF as the single greatest domestically based priority in stopping terrorism. Possessing a national network of operatives and supporters, the ELF has notoriously hidden eco-terrorist fugitives in the past, and while Tre was only loosely affiliated with the ELF, it would not be surprising if his orchestration and commission of environmentally minded crimes

bought him help from the Front.

Ultimately, one of Tre's collaborators sold him out. In a 2001 bombing of logging trucks in Estacada, authorities tracked down three suspects after one of them bragged of his exploits to his girlfriend whose father was state fire marshal, and one of those suspects immediately cracked under interrogation. He named Tre Arrow as his mentor in eco-terrorism and the primary instigator of the bombing effort, and with that, the hunt ensued.

Now, after two years of running from the law, Tre Arrow, Michael Scarpitti, will likely face federal trial for arson, conspiracy, and committing acts of terrorism. By all rights, he will probably do time for his transgressions, and, assuming he took part in the bombings, will likely receive what he deserves for committing those crimes. It saddens me to admit it, but Tre turned into a

criminal, and a federally felonious one at that. When last I saw him, he seemed a peace-loving hippy with a passionate connection to the forests on which he relied for shelter. Now the FBI makes him out to be a heinous criminal hell-bent on avenging the old growth. These days, reality probably lies somewhere in the middle, and that means he has obviously lost his sense of what sensible and constructive protesting means in modern America. By no means do Tre's actions further the environmentalist cause; on the contrary, they undermine the credibility for which environmental advocacy groups and lobbies have fought valiantly. The only things Tre accomplished were adding another item to the laundry list of ELF related crimes and landing himself in a penitentiary. If corrections facility was less of a cruel misnomer, I might hold some faith that Tre would use his time in the yard to re-evaluate his place on this earth and realize that the peaceful actions in which he once participated are the better way of dealing with enemies of the environment. Unfortunately,

prison tends to harden the heart and anger the spirit more than anything else, so I suspect, and indeed fear, that Tre will return to the outside world with more drastic and destructive plans than before. In the meantime, I will hope to see that peaceful idealist again some day.

## Michael Scarpitti spent eleven days perched on a ledge of the Forestry Service building in downtown Portland in April, 2000



# ON THE EMPIRE STRIKES SHAKRA

There was something before this. This boy is sitting on the shore wondering what it was he came here for. He's not really sure. He's never been more unsure and is growing forward and backward at the same time.

—*Hey, it's Aaron Shakra! Weren't you supposed to be out taking this to the streets?*

The world is violent. Nature is dying. Governments keep lying. And no laws can keep in check a culture of death. Laws exist to substitute the vacuousness of our value system.

—*In other words, he was recently cited for vagrancy.*

Clocks and capitalism stand unmoved, like phallic monuments constructed in the name of progress and condemning the unprivileged to death. This is nothing but slavocracy in modern day disguise.

—*"Slavocracy" would mean, would it not, that... the slaves were in charge? Oh, never mind. Welcome back, DJ Serpentine. We missed ya.*



# ON MARKETPLACE OF BAD IDEAS

The only way to support our government is to give our voters as many choices as possible. The more choices the better. And this doesn't even include write-in votes. Why aren't people criticizing Cathy Gordon Brown, the Tennessee native who somehow pulled in 1,606 votes in 2000?"

—*ODE editorial. Um, we don't know. Sounds like our department, though. Goddamn that Cathy Gordon Brown.*



# ON GOD HELP THE PFC

If I was elected - I actually don't have priorities at this point."

—*Eden Cortez, PFC candidate, feels the truth serum kicking in.*

(Project) Saferide is used by a lot of women on campus and is valuable to them. So, I would definitely support a program like that.

—*Leslie Ankney, PFC candidate, keeps up on current affairs. Uh, do you want to tell her, or shall we?*

Understand that when the tuition increases it costs the students a lot of money in general.

—*Khanh Le, PFC candidate, plays his cards close to his chest.*

## ON SHIP OF THE STATE

The administration is going to hear what we have to say, and we're going to make that change.

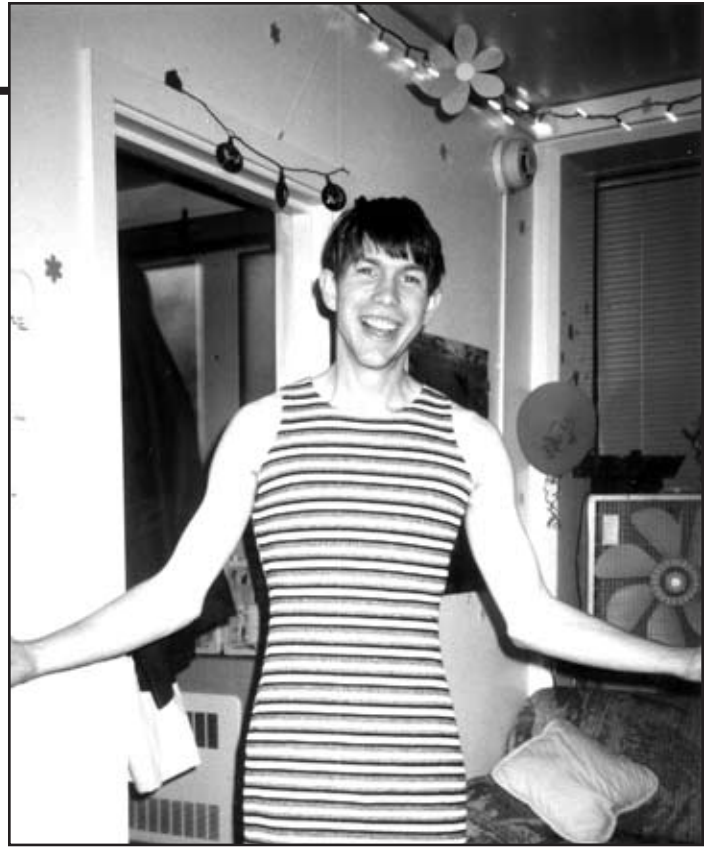
—Exec candidate Adam Petkun. *Aw. He's adorable.*

### ADAM AND MENA FOR ASOU EXEC

—Poster for the Adam and Mena campaign. *You're running for who in the what now?*

Donald Trump doesn't care whether they're white, black, female, male -- it's about who's producing and who's getting the job done, and then excuses don't fly.

—Exec candidate Adrian Gilmore. *Yet another reason why you'll never see Donald Trump in Suite 4. (Although not really the most prominent, to be fair.)*



## ON VENUS ENVY



On Saturday and Sunday, there were four hour-long sessions each day with multiple workshops. Saturday's workshops touched on issues about oppression, men's role in sexual violence prevention, transgender issues and sexual pleasure. It also included improv theater."

—ODE report on the recent Venus festival. *Whose line is it, anyway?*

Most people have sex because it feels good.

—Workshop presenter Shelagh Johnson. *The question that remains is: why do they perform improv theater?*



**WHERE'S SCOTTO?**