

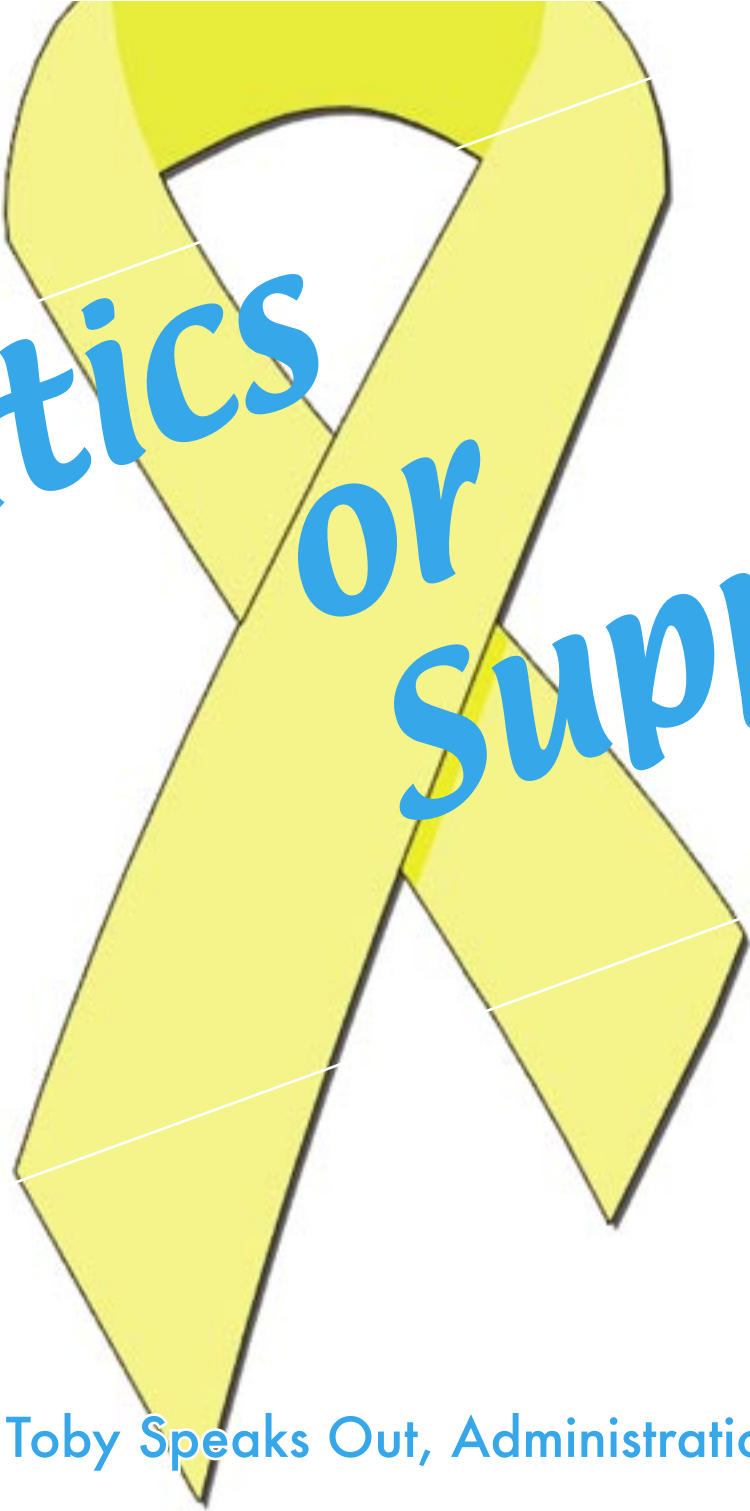
O R E G O N

COMMENTATOR

FEB 15, 2005

VOLUME XXII ISSUE V

A JOURNAL OF OPINION



Politics or Support

Plus: Hayek, Toby Speaks Out, Administration Gets Fisked



FOUNDED SEPT. 27, 1983 • MEMBER COLLEGIATE NETWORK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tyler Graf

PUBLISHER

Dan Atkinson

MANAGING EDITOR

MELISSA HANKS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

OLLY RUFF

CONTRIBUTORS

Jeremy Berrington, Ben Brown., Erin Flood, Ben Hartley, Dave Kirk,
Matt Misley, Derek Payne, Ian Spencer, Michael J. Waymire Seth
Wiggins

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tyler Graf, Chairman
Dan Atkinson, Director, Ollly Ruff, Director

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Thomas Mann '88, Charles H. Deister '92
R.S.D Wederquist '92, Scott Camp '94
Ed Carson '94, Owen Brennan Rounds '95
Mark Hemingway '98, Andrew Oberriiter '98
William Beutler '02

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Burr, Dane Claussen
Robert Davis

The OREGON COMMENTATOR is a conservative journal of opinion. All signed essays and commentaries herein represent the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of this magazine or its staff. The COMMENTATOR is an independent publication and the Oregon Commentator Publishing Co., Inc. is an independent corporation; neither are affiliated with the University of Oregon nor its School of Journalism. And, contrary to popular, paranoid opinion, we are in no way affiliated with the CIA, FBI, or the Council on Foreign Relations.

The OREGON COMMENTATOR accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at the University of Oregon, or anyone else for that matter. Letters and commentaries may be submitted personally to Room 205 EMU; placed in our mailbox in Suite 4 EMU; or e-mailed to editor@oregoncommentator.com. The OREGON COMMENTATOR can be found on the world wide web at <http://www.oregoncommentator.com>.

We reserve the right to edit material we find obscene, libelous, inappropriate or lengthy. We are not obliged to print anything that does not suit us. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submission constitutes testimony as to the accuracy.

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



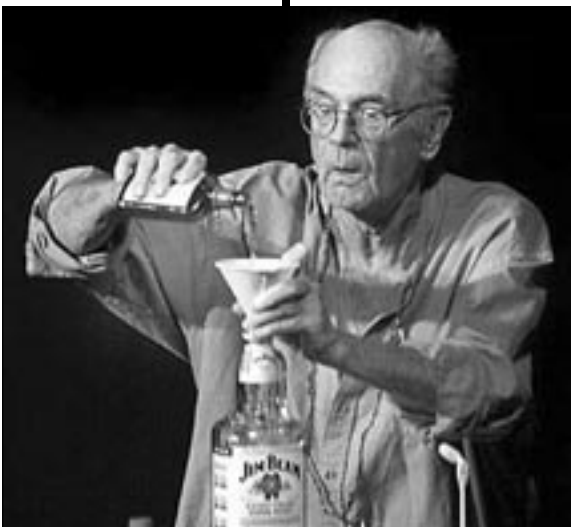
NO SUPPORT HERE: Melissa Hanks and Tyler Graf look at the yellow ribbon controversy and what it means for political neutrality on campus

Page 8.



YOU GOT FISKED: Dan Atkinson serves up a hot dish of fisk! Target: The administration

Page 11



THE ROAD WELL TRAVELED: Olly Ruff discusses the lasting importance and relevance of Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*

Page 10

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL	4
NOBODY ASKED US, BUT...	7
ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE	13
SPEW	14
February 15, 2005	
Copyright ©2005 Oregon Commentator Publishing Co, Inc.	

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Do you trust the leadership ability of the administration? You damn well shouldn't.



You may believe that the administration at the University is chock full of smart people (it's hard to argue with President Frohnmayer's Supreme Court victories), but to call these people "leaders" would require a serious re-definition of the word.

Leadership means taking responsibility for those you are leading. Leadership means making decisions, especially tough decisions. Leadership means taking action. At the University of Oregon, however, we have no leaders.

Anne Leavitt, Director of Student Affairs, is not a leader. She's a bonafide mollifier. She's so malleable that you half expect to see the Tupperware logo burned into her head like the mark of the Beast.

Gregory J. Vincent, Vice Provost of Institutional Equity and Diversity, is not a leader. As the puppet master behind the PFC's recent decision to reject our mission statement, Vincent fed student leaders – including Toby Hill-Meyer – bogus information about the PFC's ability to de-fund this publication. He is as much to blame for this mess, including the tenuous state of student government, as Mason Quiroz and Dan Keiffer. And as a lawyer, he doesn't seem to have much respect for the law. At a recent leadership symposium, Vincent told the audience that a great leader needs to "break the law". What a wonderful sentiment. And people wonder where the PFC got the arrogant idea that they could strong-arm a student publication. Vincent is the worst kind of administrative leader, the kind who sits in the shadows, making decisions in secret without allowing students to participate in the process.

Dave Frohnmayer, President of the University, is not a leader. He may be a great lawyer, and we at the Commentator have the utmost respect for his legal credentials, but over and over again he has been on the wrong side of decisions. There was the infamous WRC fiasco in 2000, when Frohnmayer dropped the diplomatic ball. Then, in 2002, he attempted to force all student groups to carry the University's ubiquitous "O", despite outcries from just about everyone. Thus, Frohnmayer has proven that unlike a true leader – someone who is unfettered from pressures

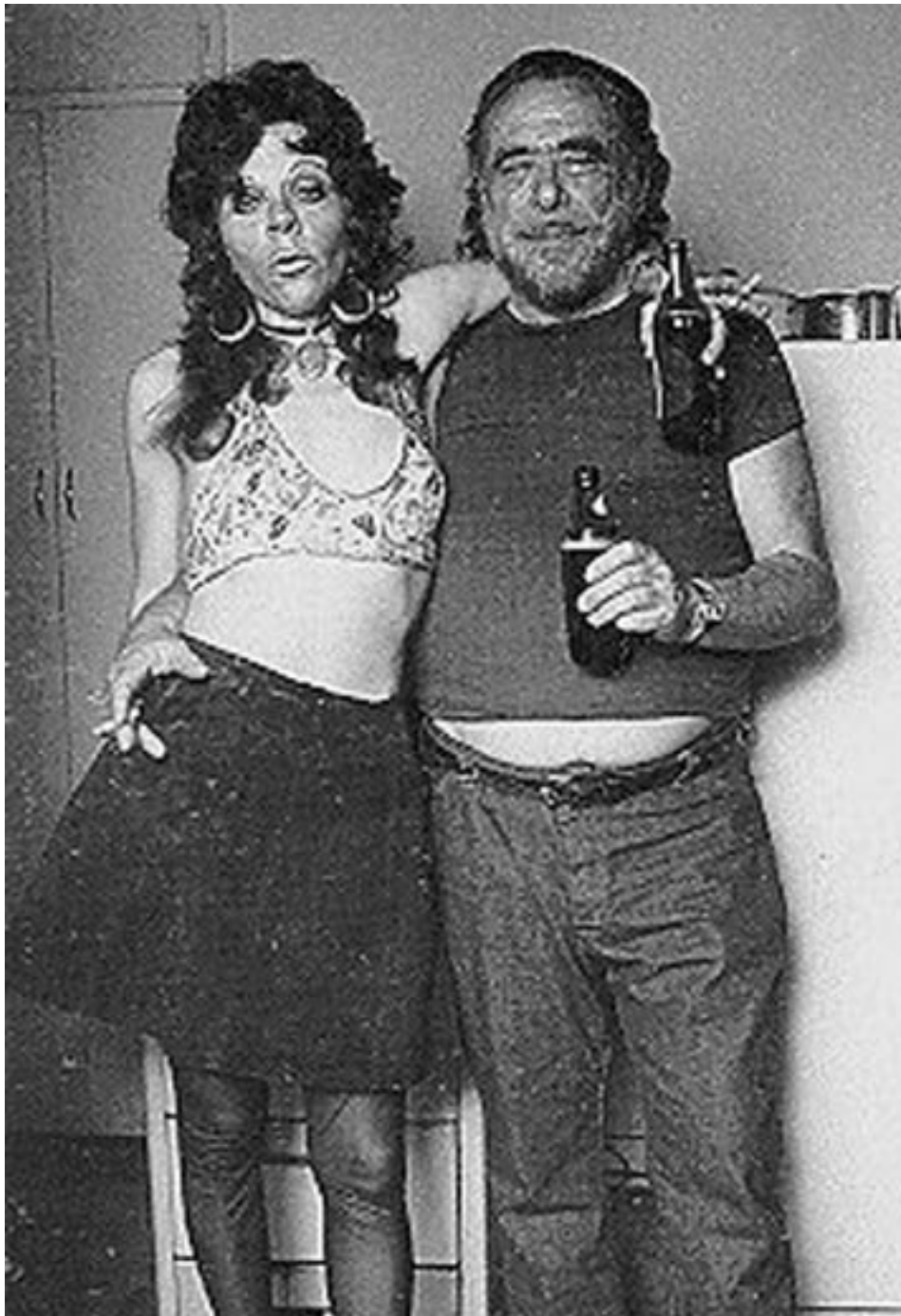
from within and without – he is a lackey, an underling. He has no immediate power.

Marketing, branding and kowtowing to political correctness – these are the virtues that the UO administrators hold close to their hearts. They have no time for students, their needs or their concerns. They have no time to explain their hasty decisions, because their decisions are based on whim not reason.

This has become evident twice this year. When the PFC discussed the grievances filed against the Commentator with the administration, the administration gave incorrect information so the administration wouldn't have to get involved. That's not leadership. And when someone complained that a yellow support our troops sticker was "political speech", the administration quickly sprang into action, hoping the media wouldn't latch onto the story. If there's one thing the administration hates, it's dialogue and publicity in the media. That's not leadership either. If the administration had a shred of integrity, and if they actually believed in the hallow terms "diversity", "marketplace of ideas" and "campus environment" then they would welcome student input and, dare I say, criticism.

People wonder why there's a dearth of leadership within the ASUO. Look no further than Johnson Hall.

There's a future for you...



Join the Oregon Commentator

Writers|Photographers|Layout Artists

R o o m 3 1 9 , E M U

Tree Huggers' Heaven

By Michael J. Waymire

Tree huggers now have a new venue to honor the trees that they love so dearly (1). It's called the Legacy Tree Program, started and run by the Eugene Tree Foundation with the hope of raising awareness for the "unique natural and cultural history" of trees in Eugene. You've got to hand it to the special interest groups of this town, they sure do know how to give the hippies exactly what they want, even if no one else cares. I mean, who really cares about the history of what will someday be my pencil, my firewood or my pirate-inspired peg leg?

The program asks people to nominate trees that are of great size, great age, rarity or that have historical value (2). The tree can be on private or public ground, but if the tree is on private ground then the Legacy Tree Program must receive permission from the property owner in order to put a small plaque by the tree that has the tree's botanical and common name; all of the Legacy Trees will then be placed on a special map. Anyone can nominate a tree, but the Legacy Tree committee must review the qualifications of each tree (3). Of course, this committee is composed of the best and brightest the 5th Street Market has to offer: one Eugene Tree Foundation representative, one member of the Parks and Open Space staff, one local arborist (4), and at least one "at large" member, who could be anyone from the community, from your everyday, run-of-the-mill hippie to the more elusive and possibly rabid hobo from Glenwood.

When a tree becomes a Legacy Tree, however (4), it is not protected from the wrath of the chainsaw. The tree can still be removed from its surroundings. Thus, the Legacy Tree moniker creates no assurance that the tree will be protected for future generations. It simply means that the tree has been found exemplary in the field of being a tree. Either way you slice it,

1) I mean, who hasn't seen a Douglas Fir in the morning light and just wanted to mount it and ride it until the bark broke off to expose that smooth inner wood?

2) What? Is this for tree ring research or something?

3) Just wait until the trees start complaining about the lack of "meritocracy".

4) Also known as "tree pedophiles" for their unnerving fascination with saplings



A harrowing look at things to come.

whether a tree is a Legacy Tree or not, its days are numbered; I need more paper, more sawdust and someday I will need that peg leg. Until trees evolve and thereby become sentient beings with the ability to learn a martial art in order to kick humanity's ass, we will keep chopping them down and turning them into baseball bats and gun butts, which can then be used to finally cut down on the squirrel population at this school (5). There is simply nothing OSPiRG or other like-minded free spirits can do about this.

Sure, the world needs trees to have good soil, breathable air, and other "mother nature" type things, but the sun is going to blow up one of these days anyway, so we might as well have fun with our resources while we can.

Thus, this boring waste of funds and time will be gone in a couple of years (6). So all you filthy

hippies out in Eugene, there's really no need to get too excited; it's simply another attempt by the liberals of Eugene to look humane, caring and loving of all of Goddesses' creations, and it will probably be replaced by another ridiculous program in two years – something like the "send a hackee sack to Africa for a malnourished child program" (7). Do we really need to honor trees by giving them a plaque? Does that make a difference at all? Or should we instead honor trees by cutting them down, grinding them up and turning them into an enjoyable picaresque novel. I'd much rather read Don Quixote than stare at a tree (8).



Michael J. Waymire, freshman already on the path to hating hippies, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR

5) Before you anti gun nuts rip my balls off, let me explain. I wouldn't shoot the squirrels, I would simply crush them.

6) So predicts the Magnificent Criswell.

7) That sounds stupid, but it could seriously happen.

8) That's logical, isn't it?

From the Mail Bag

This last week my ethics professor assigned a paper covering the topic of the first Amendment and the business with the Commentator and the PFC. Personally being a senior I have never even heard of the COMMENTATOR (here I open myself to criticism of not being well-read or literate), but since forcing this assignment on us I read the first issue of 04/05. I liked it. Now this may not be surprising to you because you were hired to be good writers but I am a liberal and have a liking toward the nature/hippie kids I hang around with, along with the environmentally concerned, peace marchers and the like. The humor in your publication is entertaining, and as much as I would probably deny the fact that I think it is funny around other people, I laughed out-loud like it was an episode of South Park. Crude, disgusting, honest and horribly realistic; your articles show a lot of what is going on at this university and all the crap people try to cover up. And so I will write my paper in support of your publication stating that we all should have an opinion whether offensive or not because that is what is so great about this goddamn country. If we know about all the idiots on this campus and what they think it will give us a better chance to make up our minds about the truth and who we think knows it.

In closing I thank you all for writing the terrible things that you do because it only makes this university more freakish than I ever could imagine...and I love it!

Sincerely,
An admiring, disgusted student

Don't expect a good grade, pal. Thanks for the shoutout, though.
Ed.

**Do you hate us?
Love us?
Drop us a line...**

ocomment@darkwing.uoregon.edu

THE ASKS

What Would You Do To Fix Social Security?



Robocop

I'd shoot it in the penis.



Bobby Knight

I'd do to it what I did to Kansas. What did I do to Kansas? I put my foot in its fuckin' ass.



Johnny the Abortion

Like it matters.



Penis

Jesus, guys, let's give up on the genital mutilation already...



Nandu Savindi

Hello. I heard about your GOD FEARING country several years back. I can offer you \$300,000 from my personal fortune of more than \$250 billion, which is in an Angelese bank. All I need is your account number. Thank you, and GOD BLESS.



Charles Ponzi

And I was told there were going to be residuals, Nandu. For shame.



Paul Krugman

It's all a lie, man. What is life? What is love, man? What is economic solvency? It's all bullshit! It don't matter one iota, man! One of these days, man, we're all gonna be dead. It makes you think. Buy my book!!!

NO SUPPORT HERE

All Pete Baker wanted to do was show his support for the troops with a yellow ribbon decal, but the administration made it political

By Melissa Hanks & Tyler Graf

The University of Oregon has a profound fear of anything that smells of a potential lawsuit. For an example of this, one must look no further than the current problems facing this magazine. As we have seen, the UO is all too willing to acquiesce to those who have taken offense, despite how innocuous the perceived offense is.

But this is not another long, tired diatribe against the myriad injustices leveled upon this fine rag. No, this is a long, tired diatribe against the level of partisanship masquerading as political neutrality that has afflicted this University, which has come to a head with the banishment of all “support our troops” stickers on state vehicles.

The issue has gotten a fair amount of media attention, much more than the funding hassles facing this publication. Michelle Malkin, for example, discussed the subject on her blog. Little Green Footballs, another conservative blog, tackled the issue as well. And Glenn Reynolds, of Instapundit fame, talked about it on Hugh Hewitt’s radio show. For a moment, it became the *raison d’être* of right-wing pundits.

But before we allow the Malkins of the world to dictate the direction of this debate from afar, let’s take a look at the issue. According to the KEZI report, a University employee complained about a yellow Support Our Troops sticker that was placed on a state-owned delivery truck. The driver of the truck, Pete Baker, was quoted as saying, “I don’t know how they think these are political. I think they’re patriotic.”

The hydra-headed administration at the University of Oregon, however, ordered Baker to remove the sticker. They did this despite admitting that they were unclear whether or not the yellow decals are a violation of state law, which prohibits the use of state-owned vehicles for political purposes. Like any secret cabal, they’ve been working behind the scenes, reticent on the subject and unwilling to make demonstrable statements, defend their decision or show a shred of leadership, which is par for the course with this motley bunch.

The University of Oregon betrays its hypocrisy by allowing student government to get away with blatant abuse of power and

content discrimination while they, the untouchable administration, claim to be eternally patriotic... but viewpoint neutral at the same time. UO administrators are sneaky and calculated. They sit back and turn a blind eye while some members of the Programs Finance Committee act in an admittedly non-neutral way toward this publication.

The administration also recently made a statement endorsing the actions of former PFC member Dan Kieffer. This brave man among students referred to the First Amendment as an “unjust law” that needs to be broken in order to make us rascals at the COMMENTATOR responsible for our hate. How can the community trust a university administration that endorses violating the First Amendment? How are we supposed to believe that this administration is “viewpoint neutral” when they sic their student government hounds on student publications they don’t like?

Students and faculty enjoy freedom of speech because they contribute to the “marketplace of ideas.” Classified staff, however, get the shaft when it comes to expressing opinions. What message does it send to the community, both on and off campus, when a student places a sign proclaiming “Fuck Bush” in a residence hall window and it is allowed to stay? The student is protected under the First Amendment. The University of Oregon is justified in asking the employee to remove decals from the vehicle; however, they must enforce this with all employees who drive state vehicles on all decals. Even the decals they agree with. Unless everyone researches everything they hear, this apparent double standard simply doesn’t make sense. It seems unfair.

The university appears to favor one political viewpoint over another. This is exactly the problem several students have with the University of Oregon; it claims to have no official political affiliations, but plainly leans left. Professors admit that it leans left. Administrators themselves admit that the UO leans left, and if they don’t admit it, they are in denial. Their silence is the best defense they have against bad publicity, and they clearly want to avoid bad publicity.

Too late.

Thus, by acting rashly without even subjecting their decision

to review, the UO administration has demonstrated itself to be far from neutral. They are equating a completely harmless and nearly impossible-to-debate show of support for our troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan with a political policy evaluation. It's not. Supporting our troops is not tantamount to supporting war.

By interpreting state law in such a way, the administration -- not Pete Baker -- is politicizing the volunteer actions of our troops. However, it has been argued that during a controversial war, a statement such as "support our troops" takes on greater political gravitas. That's silly, not to mention slightly offensive. If there is ever a time to support our troops, it's when the war is controversial and morale is low. They sacrifice their lives in the name of this very nation that allows the great maws of protestors to voice their dissent without fear of immediate death.

Hundreds of complaints from the community at large show what this action says about the University of Oregon. These complaints can't be passed off with a flippant comment that the action was based on state law, not preference for one viewpoint. The UO has thus far earned truckloads of bad press on blogs, on the radio and in print. This isn't just one little campus anymore. An entire nation is now aware of the political bias on this campus.

This "Support Our Troops" decal was not instantly removed upon sticking to the vehicle in question. According to Pete Baker it was on the truck for months, and was only noticed and removed when another employee complained about it on the grounds that it was of a political nature. Had that employee not complained, none of this would be of national concern. The decal itself on a state vehicle is not of concern. It is the fact that an employee didn't like the message of the decal and, in a feverish self-righteous spree, chose to waste time finding a way to get rid of that gosh-darn sticker he/she didn't agree with.

Well, nameless individual, I hope you're satisfied. One more person different than you is silenced on campus. Had the decal's message been to your liking, none of this would be feeding the fires of bias. I think you should be fired. In addition to removing Pete Baker's decal, the administration should call for you, the complaining employee, to be terminated from employment. You clearly don't get along with your co-workers, you aren't committed to diversity of ideas, and you waste university time when you should be working. If I were the administration, I'd be damn angry with you. Unfortunately, our administration has no common sense.



Melissa Hanks, a senior majoring in anthropology, is managing editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Tyler Graf, a senior majoring in journalism, is editor-in-chief of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Thus, by acting rashly without even subjecting their decision to review, the UO administration has demonstrated itself to be far from neutral. They are equating a completely harmless and nearly impossible-to-debate show of support to our troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan with a political policy evaluation. It's not. Supporting our troops is not tantamount to supporting war

The Road Well Traveled

He warned of the dangers of state control, totalitarianism and collectivism in his seminal work, *The Road to Serfdom*. But most people – even those proclaiming allegiance to Hayek’s “classical liberal” outlook – are unfamiliar with his most famous and thought provoking book. **Olly Ruff** gives us a primer on what we have missed.

Political books are for the most part annoying, and have probably always been that way. In any self-respecting airport up and down the length of this great country, alongside the display of inane pamphlets from the *Chicken Soup For The 401(k)* series, you will find great stacks of shouty polemic from the likes of Michael Moore, Ted Rall, Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter, and sundry other assholes. These books are aimed at people who already agree with their authors’ theses, advance no points that could not be made more effectively in thirty seconds with a bullhorn, and eventually disappear like so many farts in a Jacuzzi, having no effect other than temporary catharsis. It’s all a bit depressing.

So, the purpose of this article, other than occupying two pages of otherwise pristine whitespace, is to briefly discuss a political book of the other, all too rare variety: Austrian economist Friedrich Hayek’s *The Road to Serfdom*. I’m not going to approach it as a political scientist, nor as an economist, because I’m not qualified to do so. Instead, I’m interested in books like this as rallying points for lay readers from all political backgrounds – sober explications of ground principles. This being the OC, I’m picking a text that has been a principal inspiration for the entirety of modern conservative (or “conservative”) philosophy, but I’d be interested in seeing something similar from the left-hand side too.

Hayek, writing in 1944, is coming from a different epoch in more ways than one. Apart from being in position to be at the forefront of the ever-popular movement to compare your political opponents to Hitler, he was writing in opposition to a political idea that now strikes us as a chimera: the centrally planned, socialist economy. (The words “liberal” and “socialist”, to name but two,



He also has an attractive cousin named Salma

assume their 1944 meanings in what follows. The second one may not have changed that much, but the first one is now barely recognizable.) The book is refreshingly humble in tone. It does not hector. It is a reaffirmation of classic 19th century English liberal themes, marshaled in slight dismay at then-fashionable ideas concerning collectivism: including the notion that socialism is actually more efficient than capitalism by virtue of having a single, central stock of information to fall back on. (This argument is now, mercifully, behind us, unless you happen to write for the *Insurgent*. Hayek himself lived just long enough to see the Soviet bloc implode.)

Another uniting theme of the book, uncontroversial at the present time, is horror at unchecked authoritarianism no matter the source. (Hitler’s government was democratically elected, yadda yadda yadda.) Here Hayek has something

that should hopefully please everybody:

“We have no intention, however, of making a fetish of democracy. It may well be true that our generation talks and thinks too much of democracy and too little of the values it serves...There is no justification for the belief that, so long as power is conferred by democratic procedure, it cannot be arbitrary; the contrast suggested by this statement is altogether false: it is not the source but the limitation of power which prevents it from becoming arbitrary... If democracy resolves on a task which necessarily involves the use of power which cannot be guided by fixed rules, it must become arbitrary power.”

But *Serfdom* is not purely of historical interest; after all, those who fail to learn the lessons of history are probably also failing political science.

JUMP TO 12

You Got Fisked

The administration thought they was all 'bout it 'bout it. That was before **Dan Atkinson** brought in da noise and da funk. Dayum!



On February 9th, 2005, the administration drafted a statement concerning the recent content questions raised by the PFC. Reprinted below is the statement in its entirety, with some choice words for the Johnson Hall denizens who drafted it

Statement re Oregon Commentator and ASUO Program Finance Committee by Dr. Anne Leavitt and Dr. Greg Vincent

The UO student community is engaged in difficult and controversial discussions around the content of recent editions of the Oregon Commentator, and the ASUO Program Finance Committee's budget recommendation for that publication. Some focus on the offensive and objectionable nature of material that they feel targeted an individual student leader and the community the student represents. Others focus on principles of protection for speech that may be offensive and hurtful but is not illegal.

We write to recognize the significance of these discussions to the quality of life in our campus community. There are individuals who feel less welcome, less respected, and less safe because of these dialogues.

Yes, Mason Quiroz has been physically intimidating our student group; thanks for noticing! Oh, wait, you're not talking about that?

There are individuals who find some material in the journal, and the Commentator staff's convictions that they are entitled to publish speech that may be offensive, almost unbearable.

We write at this time to acknowledge how hurtful biased speech can be to our community.

Pull over. Look at how vague that statement is. ALL speech is biased, and all political speech is failing in its essential purpose if it doesn't "hurt." What you mean to say here is "bigoted speech," so say so. (Of course, to do so invites a vigorous and truthful response from us: We are none of us bigots.) Otherwise you come across sounding like a lilly-livered enemy of free speech. I'm sure you'd hate to give that impression.

We have as a campus community committed to a culture of respect that honors the rights, safety, dignity, and worth of

every individual. We have affirmed that respect for the rights and well-being of all members is essential to promoting the diversity of opinions, ideas, and backgrounds that is the lifeblood of the university. We have recognized, as a core value, our commitment to cultural diversity, and we have recently affirmed the protections we afford gender identity in the UO's non-discrimination statement.

This community must preserve the freedom of thought and expression of all its members. It is important at the same time to speak out, forcefully and directly, when members of our community feel targeted by speech that is racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise biased, whether in words or in images.

Sure, it is important that someone speak out. Community members engaging in the marketplace of ideas, most preferably. Excoriate the Commentator in print. Vilify us all night on the radio. Rally and march down 13th howling for our blood. We welcome the challenge!

Just don't try to defund us. Do not turn the engines of government against our content and try to silence us. That is illegal.

And please, speaking now directly to Drs. Leavitt and Vincent: don't encourage students to violate the Constitution by trying to defund us. We don't appreciate it. At the very least, shoot us an email first.

We applaud the leaders of the ASUO for supporting a vigorous dialogue, for recognizing that the Commentator's subject matter has deeply concerned a number of students, and for encouraging PFC members to preserve our right to speech and to properly fund the Commentator.

Nice of you to acknowledge the Constitution, finally.

We support student leaders who have expressed their concerns about this subject matter, and its chilling impact on our campus climate.

You know, the phrase "chilling impact" is usually...oh, never mind.

We support students, both from

FROM 11

the Commentator and others, who have reminded us of important protections to free speech, even as we react to speech that offends us.

Our offices are supporting a number of individual students and student groups participating in these difficult dialogues.

One “student group,” however, has received exactly zero “support,” or even a word of communication, while “participating” in these difficult dialogues. Can you guess which one?

The Bias Response Team has provided educational programs on civility and free speech, and offers “QAC: Queer Ally Coalition” training.

We propose that the University’s Bias Response Team, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, Student Affairs, ASUO, and the Program Finance Committee, sponsor a forum or town meeting, later this term, so we can come together to discuss how bias incidents and hate speech can divide our community.

Far out. Don’t forget to forget to invite us. Will there also be discussion of how censorship incidents can divide our community? And why is the PFC invited? I’m pretty sure this is

about four miles outside their bailiwick.

We will work with student leaders to design a meeting with structure to ensure inclusive, respectful and productive dialogue.

In the interim, we urge all participants in these student government discussions to recognize the importance of a safe community that is respectful and protective of diverse points of view and life style.

You might have also urged all participants to obey federal law. They, like you, need those kinds of reminders.

Dr. Anne Leavitt, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Greg Vincent, Vice Provost Institutional Equity and Diversity

February 9, 2005



Dan Atkinson, a second year law student, is publisher of the OREGON COMMENTATOR

FROM 10

of individualism versus collectivism and planning:

“The subtle change in meaning to which the word ‘freedom’ was subjected in order that this [socialist] argument should sound plausible is important. To the great apostles of political freedom the word had meant freedom from coercion, freedom from the arbitrary power of other men, release from the ties which left the individual no choice but obedience to the orders of a superior to whom he was attached. The new freedom promised, however, was to be freedom

from necessity, release from the compulsion of the circumstances which inevitably limit the range of choice of all of us, although for some very much more than for others. Before man could truly be free, the ‘despotism of physical want’ had to be broken, the ‘restraints of the economic system’ relaxed.”

Populists of all stripes have clung to the latter definition. If it’s not gigantic evil corporations ruining the country with their sinister profits, it’s hordes of lousy immigrants streaming over the borders and taking all the jobs. It isn’t fair! *Aux barricades!* Hayek diligently points out the distinction between individual and state power, the problems of “fairness” as a guiding principle, and between the two meanings of socialism – on the one hand a pleasant-sounding set of goals, and on the other a particular and invariably sinister method of attaining them. It’s also worth pointing out that Hayek is not a capital-L Libertarian, nor is he a dogmatic laissez-faire capitalist. Within a system of free enterprise and limited government, there are still areas in which the government should intervene to maximize the ability of individuals to make decisions for themselves. What they are, and what form the intervention should take, is what mostly concerns

us now. Hayek’s tendency to work in as much generality as possible keeps him from saying anything dated here:

“The liberal argument is in favor of making the best possible use of the forces of competition as a means of co-ordinating human efforts, not an argument for leaving things just as they are. It is based on the conviction that, *where effective competition can be created*, it is a better way of guiding individual efforts than any other. [Emphasis added]”

Most day-to-day political argument in the US should begin with the italicized text above, although it does so all too infrequently. Meanwhile, *The Road to Serfdom* is invaluable both as an ever-applicable remedy for certain horrific economic ideas, and as a primer on some of the philosophy and economics that have done more to improve the welfare and increase the liberty of more people than any other political system or ideology in history. It would be easy, if dangerous, to disregard them:

“[Liberalism] came to be regarded as a ‘negative’ creed because it could offer to particular individuals little more than a share in the common progress – a progress which came to be taken more and more for granted and was no longer recognized as the result of the policy of freedom. It might even be said that the very success of liberalism became the cause of its decline. Because of the success already achieved, man became increasingly unwilling to tolerate the evils still with him which now appeared both unbearable and unnecessary.”



Olly Ruff, a senior at Marist High School, is working on his senior project. He also likes to read “books”

TOBY'S CHOICE

For the first time in the pages of the OREGON COMMENTATOR, Toby Hill-Meyer discusses his decision to go to the PFC

Just after my 21st birthday, someone told me that as a transperson, I have over a 50% chance of dying in the next 9 years as a direct or indirect result of discrimination. That also means that half of my friends will be dead by the time that we turn 30. Think about that for a moment. Imagine that you were told that at least half your friends would be dead within the next decade because of some factor that you have in common. How would you feel?

Being a victim of discrimination often has serious consequences. Transpeople get kicked out of their houses because landlords don't want to live with "freaks." Many are fired from their jobs because their bosses can't cope. Discrimination can be fatal. Transpeople have died when medical personnel have found that their patients were trans and stopped providing medical care. In the last year, 21 violent murders of transpeople were recorded, with 32 and 34 in the previous two years.

Often a transperson's gender is seen as illegitimate by others. This causes isolation and a poor self image which can cut them off from resources that could save their lives.

With this societal background in our country, what the COMMENTATOR said is much more dehumanizing and threatening than many people would realize. I was particularly disturbed by the description of my genitals being violently removed and being given the "ze can go fuck himself" award. Even though they weren't calling for violence against me, their description of such violence created a threatening atmosphere.

The COMMENTATOR later clarified that their intent was to satirically prove that using gender neutral pronouns is silly and meaningless. However, language has always been a powerful tool of discrimination. Transpeople and genderqueers, like other groups who are discriminated against, feel that it's important to have some control over how they're referred to, such as the pronouns that are used for them.

When I read about myself in the COMMENTATOR, I wanted to talk to the editors to clear up the misinformation. However, I had seen people ridiculed when they tried to discuss their concerns with the COMMENTATOR. With what I know now, I wish I had talked with them, but at the time I didn't feel safe approaching them for a discussion.

I looked to the University for some way of dealing with this. I was bounced from administrator to administrator and between University Offices. No one seemed to be able to find a good solution. I was sent to the ASUO and the budget process. I was

presented with the PFC process as the only way to address this issue. There were only two options given to me: do nothing or defund. I *hated* that choice. I had hoped for a resolution that included things like education around gender identity, sanctions, a promise not to do it again, and an examination of what the rest of the campus was doing with regards to these issues. These options didn't exist then. Doing nothing was not an option for me. Backed into a corner, I pushed on. Even so, I continued to hope for other options. It wasn't until the night of the hearing that I actually called for defunding.

The PFC hearing was incredibly hostile. There wasn't time to fully discuss things. The situation did not invite honest dialog. Tempers flared, resentment escalated, and two days later I was informed about a death threat made against me.

We have to find a better way to deal with issues like this. The oppositional structure of the hearing made it difficult to discuss the real issues and made compromise impossible. This is not helpful for anyone. There needs to be an enforceable process on this campus which allows discussion of discrimination in a way that promotes understanding, listening, leads to a resolution—and is in a setting that makes all sides feel as safe and comfortable as possible.

As painful as that process was, some good things came out of it. It brought the issue of campus climate to the administration's attention. The day after the hearing, the ASUO exec and several administrators started looking into several changes and alternatives. A consolidated complaint process is being formed. We are becoming experts on the details of campus free speech. The university and the student body has begun to address this as a campus wide issue.

It was in this context that I was finally able to sit down with people from the COMMENTATOR and learn about their perspective and intentions. They had no desire to be hateful or cause this much harm. Unfortunately, this is one of the ways that discrimination works: people do not see that something that they believe is minor is actually very damaging to another person.

As with many forms of discrimination, there's still more to discuss, more to resolve, and more to figure out. Yet the fact that I'm writing this article in the COMMENTATOR gives me optimism that those involved with this issue will continue to put in the energy to work it out.

ON JOHN STUART MILL — NEVER SAW THIS COMING

[T]he one thing all “liberals” can agree on is that we want to see change. These two articles, sent in to us by readers, illustrate well the range of thought contained within “liberalism”.

--The Insurgent. At last, a voice of moderation. Let's see what the liberals are up to:

All the ingredients are there. All that's needed is a spark to set off the explosion. The freeways of LA encircle its downtown and cross over the center in a four-level X-shaped interchange. One well-placed bomb could knock out all of its supports...

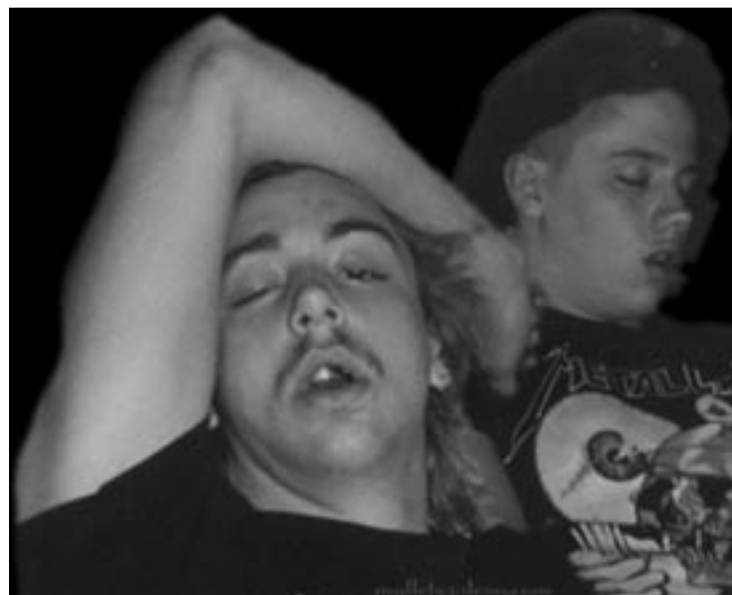
--Wait. Hang on a second.

Now suppose that at the same time this was occurring, a mass of angry rioters ran to the downtown, broke into those expensive tall buildings, and did as much damage as they could. Even one demolition expert could bring down one or two tall downtown buildings, or at least damage them.

--Jesus. If this is their idea of a liberal, we can't wait to see what their extremists are advocating.



— ON CHOOSE LIFE



We need to make a choice. Now, this is no easy choice like deciding between Coke and Pepsi. We need to choose whether this way of life, this culture, is worth saving

--Those zany Insurgents, again. With all the nonsense they print, you'd think they'd be all for indulging campus media, but you'd be wrong.

And true American heroes

ON SCREW YOU, PIRA

[P]eople have been complaining for years about the way the COMMENTATOR reinforces oppression, it's just that there hasn't been a coherent attempt to deal with it before now. honestly, I'm not sure why people are complaining that it's happening now rather than asking why nothing was done before.

--Insurgent member Pira Kelly on the Portland Indymedia website, calling for our defunding.



I am beyond disappointed in ["progressives" on campus]. I am downright appalled that you are unable, or unwilling, to see the error of trying to silence a publication for content you don't like. I am appalled to see you throw around the serious charge of "hate speech" for something so obviously innocuous.

--The ODE's David Jagernauth. Meanwhile, the Insurgent is getting \$17,882 next year, approximately fifty cents of which will be spent on layout

ON MISCEGNATION

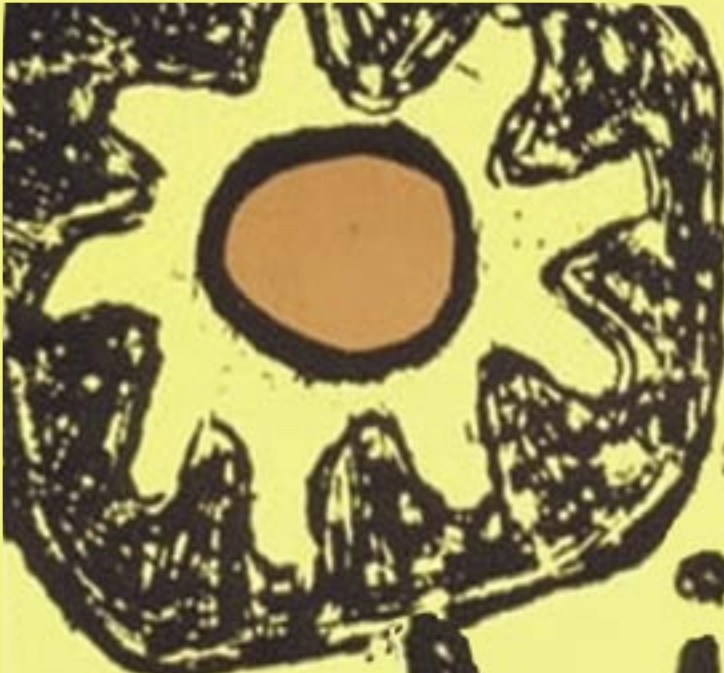


I just want to publicly state that I don't support this part of the branch of student government anymore. I think it's obvious that our money is going to hateful speech ... I don't care, I don't care. Kick me out. I resign from my position right now. You guys are sleeping with the devil.

--Conclusion of an epic, lunatic rant by erstwhile PFC member Mason Quiroz at the OC's budget hearing, addressed to the room at large. Two guesses which student group was being described as "the devil"

Sleeping with the devil

--First entry under "Interests" on Adam Petkun's Facebook page. So it's true! We feel so... dirty



free
speech
is not
healthy

for
and children
other

living
things