

COMMENTATOR

MAY 1, 2005

VOLUME XXII ISSUES VIII & IX

A JOURNAL OF OPINION

Paging John Hinkley

ELECTIONS 2005

Plus: ASUO Year in Review - Stipends - Dworkin



FOUNDED SEPT. 27, 1983 • MEMBER COLLEGIATE NETWORK

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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 twenty-two 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.

ASUO Elections 2005

This year's election may have been a bore, but at least it had a good end result, the election of ASUO outsiders Adam Walsh and Kyla Coy. Walsh discusses what he wants to do with student government next year.

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The New Stipend Model

After going over benchmark, the Programs Finance Committee had to cut something, so they cut stipends. **Ian Spencer** explains that the new system is merely a flawed improvement.

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Dworkin's Legacy

Controversial feminist icon Andrea Dworkin may be dead, but her legacy lives on. **Olly Ruff** gives a moving tribute to a woman whose rhetoric united social conservatives and neo-feminists while alienating almost everyone else, including - *duh* - other feminists.

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State of the Ass

Jeremy Berrington wonders why the College Democrats are losing members while the College Republicans are booming.

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Never, ever watch Pluto Nash!



Exercising the “Nuclear Option”

Self-Proclaimed “Underdogs” Adam Walsh and Kyla Coy won the executive election by a healthy margin. Now they need to use their mandate to clean up the ASUO.

“That is a fucking landslide.” Adam Walsh, commenting on his and running mate Kyla Coy’s victory over Jael Anker-Lagos and Ashley Rees for ASUO executive.

Dropping an f-bomb to a reporter after winning an important political campaign may seem a tad agrestic, but given Walsh and Coy’s circumstances during the election, we feel that it was an apt exclamation. Excuse us ... a *fucking* apt exclamation.

No one expected that Walsh and Coy would win. They were ASUO neophytes who spoke harsh truths about everything from freezing tuition (impossible) to maintaining integrity within the ASUO (fire or publicly chastise the offenders).

That, more than anything else, made this year’s elections different. But there were other reasons as well. First, there was a lack of trust among the core-voting block: people who belong to fee-funded student groups. It’s no secret that many student leaders felt disgusted and betrayed by the PFC’s actions, due primarily to the cuts in stipends. Among the greater student body, however (i.e. those who don’t normally vote), the constant barrage of bad press heaped upon the ASUO by the *Oregon Daily Emerald* and the OREGON COMMENTATOR created interest and loathing. Students finally realized that perhaps reforms needed to be made, and the best way to accomplish that was by *not* electing an individual who had been privy to nearly every odious ASUO scandal of the year. That person being Jael Anker-Lagos.

Of course, Anker-Lagos was not instrumental in any of the scandals, but guilt by association, especially in politics, can be a very important factor. It was not a factor that she or her running mate seemed to recognize, and that made the two seem arrogant. Instead of actually discussing real issues, Anker-Lagos and running mate Ashley Rees resorted to the tired, tried-and-tested standby: freezing tuition.

Yawn. We’ve heard it before. In fact, we hear it every year.

It’s become more of a cliché than the movie villain who divulges his evil plan to the protagonist instead of simply killing him. When will student leaders realize that freezing tuition is not feasible?

Now that Walsh and Coy are poised to take over the executive, they must start thinking about how they’re going to clean house. Leadership within the ASUO next year cannot be laissez faire. The new executives must exercise the Nuclear Option of student government.

The ASUO needs reforms – not simply structural reforms but reforms to leadership. Walsh and Coy demonstrated their willingness to move away from the ASUO party line during the election, so now it’s time for them to prove that they can do that.

Walsh has already made the goodwill gesture of trying to get to know student leaders, and his candidness and openness is refreshing. He has already created dialogues with various student groups on campus, and he takes their opinions seriously. But this may not be enough to control a bloated student government in which backstabbing, immaturity and chicanery flourish. If two people are going to make a difference – in this case, Walsh and Coy – they need to work in sharp contrast to the poisonous elements of the ASUO. That means full accountability, firing staffers, filing grievances against senators and PFC members for dereliction of duties and not playing favorites.

These ideas may seem like no brainers, but within the ASUO they’re not. Walsh and Coy won the election because they were a breath of fresh air. They stand poised on the precipice of greatness; now all they have to do is exercise the Nuclear Option. That is, they need to force the ASUO to grow some f-ing balls. People are expecting this from Walsh and Coy.



The OREGON COMMENTATOR Cares



- If a woman is burning, roll her into a giant blunt.
- If a boy is drowning, strip him naked, hoist him aloft and shake him violently.

- If you encounter a blind man, lead him into a busy intersection.



- Be careful when sharpening a pencil with a straight razor ... likewise for jamming a sharpened pencil into your nostril.
- If a young boy is horribly crushed by a speeding car, stare and point ... remain in the middle of the street yourself.

If you care about others as much as we do, then please stop by our office, 319 EMU

The OC is looking for

REPORTERS, SAFETY EXPERTS, LAYOUT ARTISTS, FEDERAL FUNDING, COLUMNISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ... STIGGS

Emerald Watch

Wacky Columnists Edition



I took a poo in the Amazon rainforest to cure AIDS

Jennifer McBride

Are you a sophomore girl who has outgrown that awkward phase in your life when you wrote bad poetry and posted it to your poorly designed Geocities website? Then you should join the Ol' Dirty as a columnist. It's clearly what Jennifer McBride did.

To wit, this opening volley from McBride's March 30 column ("All Hearts Are Created Equal"): "When the hearts that beat inside us are weighed and valued, treated like any other consumer good, do our characteristics make them any less priceless?"

Wait a second, aren't all hearts "priceless"? Can hearts ever be treated like "consumer goods" (hot dog meat notwithstanding)? That may sound like a pedantic nit-pick, but if you read McBride's columns you'll notice that she has a penchant for the odd, flowery turn of phrase: incomprehensible metaphors, inapt comparisons and strange jumps in logic.

In any case, that lede is from a column concerning the FDA's policy of banning homosexuals from donating blood. She infuses her piece with information culled from what must have been an extensive half-hour Google search:

"The blood ban was placed in the United States around 1977, when HIV was spreading through the homosexual (as well as heterosexual) community like wildfire and there was a notable danger of contamination."

There is a column to be written here, but this is certainly not it. She neglects to report certain facts that are extremely important to understanding the issue. For example, the FDA will not allow me to donate blood either because I have spent more than a year living abroad in Germany. In fact, there are several extremely restrictive policies targeting Europeans living in the States, based solely on their nationalities.

Further, McBride makes several incorrect statements: "Prostitutes, promiscuous heterosexuals and intravenous drug users are only deferred from donating, not banned, despite the fact that their lifestyle choices may be more threatening to public peace and lives." According to the Red Cross' website, however, intravenous drug users and prostitutes cannot give blood either. Hell, if you suffer from the nebulously defined terror known as "night sweats" you cannot give blood.

Toward the end of her piece, McBride pulls out a rhetorical

bazooka.

"[The] ban perpetuates the myth that homosexuals are somehow sick and should be kept separated – *an apartheid of organs.*" (italics mine)

Indeed. Think about the last part of that sentence for a second. An apartheid of organs? Seriously, does that make any sense at all? *Any?* Does McBride know what apartheid is? Yes, apartheid is the Afrikaans word for apartness, but why couldn't she have simply said separation instead of drawing parallels between South African segregation policies and the policies of the Red Cross? Are those two things even remotely similar? This ain't exactly Godwin's Law at work but it's close.

Flowery, unpersuasive, nonfactual prose may swing it in Writing 121, but it has no place in the paper of record.

Gabe Bradley

I've learned one thing from Gabe Bradley's column: he's married. That's about it. There ain't much to Mr. Bradley's columns.

A typical line: "Putting a condom on a banana is nothing at all like putting a condom on one's self." Speak for yourself, Gabe.



C'mon, I'm not still a virgin

Bradley writes in an annoying conversational style that makes him sound a lot dumber than I'm sure he really is. This may seem like a welcome respite from, for example, Travis Willse, whose sentences would be peppered with phrases like "prima facie" and would last four subordinate clauses too long, but there must be a healthy medium.

It should be noted that Bradley took the controversial position of stating that the "Vagina Monologues" sucked balls. If only the other columnists could pull their heads out of their politically correct asses and stop taking on the easy targets like those bad 'ol Republicans or those SUV drivin' yuppies. Yawn, we've heard it all before, because we read the same papers the columnists do and from which they steal their ideas.

However, as the sole conservative on the commentary page, Bradley should be having fun blasting the myriad sacred cows: hippies, naive technophobes and environmentalists. Thus far, sadly, his contrarian views have been tempered. There's always the future.

Chuck Slothower



I hate jocks ... and myself

While Chuck Slothower has yet to write a piece for the *Emerald* that has even approached a close approximation of reality, one has to admire his chutzpah. Not many columnists are bold enough to quote “The Communist Manifesto” when attacking an Oregon dairy farmer. But there Slothower is, citing Marx and Engels’ hilarious masterpiece in his denunciation of attempts to freeze the minimum wage for tip-earning workers. Slothower rages against the machine (i.e. Republican state legislators) for

attempting to freeze the second-highest minimum wage in the USA, writing that State Representative and dairy farmer George Gilman is “submitting to the bidding of the latest industry to whine about the cost of doing business.” Slothower concludes that the proposal will “shift the cost of paying waitstaff [sic] from employers to consumers” because service industry workers’ wages will remain constant. Does Slothower actually believe that consumers don’t already pay restaurants (and, in turn, employees) for the food and service that they receive? The magical source of the “ruling class” restaurateur’s income must be the same one that kept Soviet citizens universally well-fed, well-clothed, and supplied with the latest technological gadgets.

Ailee Slater



Duuuuuuuuuuuh!

In Ailee Slater’s first column as Commentary Editor she attempts to extend her limited purview in order to write about gun violence. Her column is a response to the terrible school shooting that occurred at the Red Lake Indian Reservation. In her first paragraph, Slater lists the possible culprits for this heinous act before coming to the conclusion that you “could blame it on the two factors that truly resulted in the

deaths of six high school students and four adults: a loaded gun and a violent kid.”

Perhaps you could do that, but Slater doesn’t. Much of her column is a barely structured rant against U.S. foreign policy in Iraq. “The United States cannot simultaneously promote and decry violence,” writes Slater. She fleshes her argument out with a dose of insanity:

“Remember that the United States attacked Iraq not because of an action taken by the Iraqi nation, but because of the threat of violence from them toward ourselves. Kind of like a school yard [sic] drama in which the nerds feel threatened by the jocks, and suddenly a kid has a pistol (or army, if you will) resting at someone’s forehead.”

Huh? Jocks and nerds? That’s your brilliant take on the Iraq conflict, Slater? Paging Ted Rall, you have finally met your match.

If you took all the obtuse, faux-enlightened ramblings that David Brooks has written for the *New York Times*, pureed them

into a fine concentrate, added water, fermented and then decanted that drivel through a crazy person’s mind, then you would get Ms. Slater’s column. Actually, if we’re going to compare Slater to a *New York Times* columnist we should try to make the comparison apt. If Slater resembles anyone at the *Times*, she resembles Maureen Dowd.

Slater should go back to writing fluffy, phoned-in columns about Facebook, marriage laws in Louisiana and/or Arizona, or dildos. Or she could write another hilariously misguided column about the University’s grading system. (The original was so terrible that it was posted to Fark.com, which elicited a number of unkind responses from posters, most of which focused on Ms. Slater’s appearance. The Internet can be so cruel.)

Slater’s material works best when a) it’s about something no one cares about or has any interest in (marriage laws in Arizona and/or Louisiana, for example) or b) it’s so off-the-mark that it doubles as a humor column.

Annemarie Knepper



I want me Lucky Charms

The newspaper equivalent to Andy Rooney, AnneMarie Knepper is a quitesential befuddled *Emerald* columnist who tackles issues that no one besides her could possibly care about.

Knepper has taken tough stances on issues such as the food pyramid (“Americans have the tools to be successful.”), online threats against bunny rabbits (“the whole thing is really just a scam to sell cheesy apparel”), fat men on television (“I feel sorry for middle-class white guys.”), personal

blogs (“blogging seems to have permeated our lives in a profound way.” Way to state the obvious), and store clerks referring to customers by their last name (“Trying to create that feel by pretending that the store clerks actually know each individual customer is an exercise in futility, not to mention somewhat demeaning to the customer’s actual value as a human who deserves to be known.”). In her online profile, Knepper says that she “wishes she were French” and has studied abroad in Angers, France. This makes sense, as her hometown of Tualatin is often considered the Paris of Oregon, in part due to its superb 18-and-over strip club, Jiggles. One can only hope that the next French institution Knepper joins is a bit closer to home.

Ugghhh. Blink. Maaah. Twitch.

Editor's Note: This will be the last of the long-running "Ask Terri" column.

Sincerely,
Insecure in Indiana

Dear TS,

I've been reading your column for the past 15 years, and I find your advice refreshing and honest. I'm writing to you today because I, like you, have been having husband problems. Sure, they may not be as severe as yours, but I still think they're pretty serious. You see, last December my hubby of 10 years hired a new secretary for his law office, and she's breathtaking. I'm talking Bo Derek in "10" breathtaking! Now I'm afraid he's having an affair. Maybe it's just my insecurity (I'm 38 and the mother of two. I'm no spring chicken!), but I have started to notice certain changes in his behavior: He works longer hours; he won't pick up his cell phone when I call; and now it seems like he's too tired for sex, or even a peck on the cheek!

What should I do, TS? You're my only hope. Am I driving myself crazy imagining things that aren't there? Should I confront my husband, and how should I do it?

Thanks, and God bless. Hope you get well soon!

Ask Terri Schiavo



Nuurr durrgh,

Blink. Blink Nuurrr. Duuuuur, duh! Twitch! Maahaha gurgle. Ugh ugh, blah; mumble twitch, blink: blech!

--TS

Dear TS,

I'd like to thank you for the wonderful advice you gave to "Depressed in Des Moines". Depression isn't anything to feel self conscious about; it's a disease, like an eating disorder or alcoholism. Depression does not make us weak people, but it can make us stronger.

You're so wise, TS.

Sincerely,

Impressed in Indiana

Nuurr durrgh,

Duuuugh, bleach blink blink. Durrgh durrgh gurgle, belch blech . Twitch twitch!

-- TS

BREAKING NEWS

EMERALD COLUMNIST AILEE SLATER MANAGES TO USE "HETEROSEXIST SOCIETY" IN A SENTENCE. DRINK!

ADAM PETKUN REUNITED WITH LONG-LOST OOMPA LOOMPA PARENTS.

EXPERTS DISAGREE: WERE THE ASUO ELECTIONS DOMINATED BY THE PATHETIC, OR THE REALLY PATHETIC?

PAPAL CONCLAVE ELECTS MICHAEL JACKSON AS NEXT POPE.

FROG FOUND DEAD. DEMISE DECLARED "FUNNIEST DEATH YOU'VE EVER SEEN!"

The 10 things We Learned from This Year's ASUO Election

- 10: Don't piss off Adrian Gilmore.
- 9: There is nothing funnier than watching Vice President Mena Ravassipour cry.
- 8: The vice president's tears are filled with bacon fat.
- 7: There's still some justice in the world.
- 6: That student senator shouldn't have written that note at Sunriver.
- 5: Don't piss off the OC.
- 4: Anthropomorphic light bulbs can be so vulgar, given the proper venue.
- 3: On second thought, go ahead, piss off the OC.
- 2: In Adam Petkun's case, if political influence were height then ... wait a second, maybe we're onto something here.
- 1: Jesus, get me out of this place.

Adam Walsh Orders Executions of Failed Executive Tickets Takes Ashley and Jael as Concubines

President elect Adam Walsh has made a shocking early executive order to execute all of his former political opponents who vied against him during the executive election with the exception of Ashley Rees and Jael Anker-Lagos, whom he will take as concubines.

The decision has created an uproar in student government.

"This is a gross violation of the Green Tape Notebook and election bylaws," said election coordinator Kelly Cheeseman.

Walsh's decision to add Rees and Anker-Lagos to his harem has created rancor within the Women's Center.

"This is what happens when you put a man in charge of student government. Walsh is going to make me yearn for the days of Adam Petkun," said Erin O'Brien, director of the Women's Center.

But Walsh defended his actions as "necessary procedures" and "completely in keeping with ASUO policies." Walsh claimed that it was, in fact, Anker-Lagos' idea to submit herself to a year of humiliation and debasement.

"She was pretty upset after losing. Cordial, but upset," said Walsh. "She basically told me that she still wanted to take some kind of position that would degrade her and cause untold emotional scars. That's when I hit upon the idea of her giving me a sponge bath at the amphitheater while Don Goldman, wearing nothing but a thong, ranted about tuition hikes."

Rees and Anker-Lagos will start their new positions over the summer.

The failed candidates -- all of whom supported Walsh and Coy during the general election -- will be purged in a special ceremony in front of EMU Suite 4.

Call Ticket Master for more information.

Sudsy Says

Listen, kiddies, I don't know how that stripper died. Honestly. I couldn't tell you. But one thing is for sure: She didn't die of alcohol poisoning. Now help me dispose of the corpse.



THE ASKS:

BLAH BLAH MICHAEL JACKSON BLAH?



Robocop

Hey, why does Michael Jackson like 28 year olds?



Bobby Knight

Because there are 20 of them. No rimshot, but I can throw this chair.



Ann Coulter

Why do liberals have sex with eight year olds? Because they're evil, and they have sex with children. Get it? Buy my book!



Janene Garafalo

Hey, where's my *Time* magazine cover? I'm insane, too.



R. Kelly

Listen guys, I thought it was a drug test. Seriously.



Adam Walsh

I thought it was a drug test, too. Fortunately, in the ASUO it's only a two game suspension. Juice 'em up!



Pope Benedict XVI

I was just following orders. It was compulsory at the time.

ORSON WELLES CITIZEN SUDSY



Beloved OREGON COMMENTATOR mascot and tri-city media mogal Sudsy has gone missing. Thankfully intrepid investigative reporter **Jayson Glass** is on the case, working only from a scratchy audio recording. Will Glass be able to unravel the mystery?

On April 10, beloved OREGON COMMENTATOR mascot Sudsy mysteriously disappeared after receiving zero votes (plus or minus three percent) for his ASUO executive campaign. The only lead was a voicemail message left at the office. The message was crackly and indistinct, and consisted of two words: “Ho’s bud”.

Police were nonplussed, citing their usual issues of Sudsy’s existence or lack thereof. But I was intrigued by the message, and engaged the help of University audio experts in an attempt to decipher it. Perhaps answering these questions could help me unearth the real Sudsy, who just happened to be one of the most powerful media moguls the tri-county area had ever known. This realization made me excited. My heart began to palpitate, my hands began to sweat, my vision blurred and my head reeled. Either my investigative senses were tingling or I was having a stroke. As it turned out, I was having a stroke.

After I got out of the hospital, I hopped a bus and headed for Las Vegas. I was hoping to catch up with one of Sudsy’s old friends, Rock Strongo, a former journalist who had worked at a Sudsy-owned publication before being forced into retirement following a freak accident that broke his typing finger. Currently he works at the Banana Spitz Male Revue Showcase.

“Yeah, Sudsy and I, we used to be the best of friends,” Strongo said, lighting a cigarette. “But then something strange happened. We were both working for a paper he was running – the *Weekly Shopper*, I think it was called – down in Valencia, and all of a sudden he packed up and moved.”

“Did you ask him why he was moving?” I asked.

“Sure. He said, ‘Well, if I stayed here with you, things just

couldn’t be the same.’ Then he stared deeply into my eyes, like his mind was feeding from my sweet, sweet aqueous humor, and he said, ‘I’m as free as a bird now, And this bird you’ll never change. And this bird you *cannot* change. Lord knows, I can’t change. Lord help me, I can’t change.’”

“Did you find it at all odd that Sudsy was reciting Lynrd Skynrd lyrics?” I asked.

Strongo took a drag from his cigarette. “Of course not. One of the best editorials he ever published on City Council abuses consisted entirely of the lyrics to “That Smell.” Suddenly, he was overtaken by emotion, and began to weep into his leopard print costume. “You’ve never heard a man sing an editorial so beautifully.”

I was taken aback by this hulking, half naked, fully oiled man who was sobbing uncontrollably. But I knew what my next question had to be:

“Do you think you could spare a cigarette?”

Strongo lifted his head, a look of perplexity crossing his face. “Sure. I guess.”

He handed me one of his Lucky’s. I took it reluctantly. I hate Lucky’s.

“So what do you know about ‘Ho’s Bud?’” I asked.

Strongo suddenly stopped sobbing, then started again, then stopped for a few seconds, then sniffled a bit, and stopped abruptly for a third time. “I don’t know anything about ‘Ho’s Bud’. Nothing concrete, at least. There were always rumors about what it meant, but nobody knew for sure. Why do you want to know, short stuff?”

“I think it may be the key to his disappearance,” I said

ominously, trying my damndest to heighten the suspense.

This brought Strongo up short. “Well, there is the obvious interpretation,” he said, tentatively, “You know, that it has something to do with, well, you know, the ‘little man in the boat’.”

I had heard all I needed to hear, and left Strongo with my thanks.

A thick fog hung over the docks of Las Vegas. These were not very extensive docks, since the fledgling Vegas shipping industry depends entirely upon the integrity of a narrow canal running between Caesar’s Palace and the Pacific Ocean. I turned up the collar of my overcoat and lit up another purloined Lucky as I cast my eyes about the quay for anyone who might lead me to the boats where I might find this mysterious “little man”.

Unfortunately, there were only two warehouses, and one of them turned out to be a bar. After a few drinks, I headed across the street to where I saw light in a ground-floor window. I sidled up and caught a momentary glimpse inside – aisles of thongs receding into the distance. But then I heard a footstep behind me, and everything went black.

By the time I regained my senses we were past Sacramento. I was kept in shackles until we reached the open sea, which gave me enough time to learn that I had been shanghaied by a crew of Norwegian crab-poachers. My lot for the remainder of the voyage was to work brutal twelve-hour shifts in the lower hold among the clanking vats, stoking the coals so that by the time we reached Australia the crabs would be nicely poached and ready for market.

To cut a long story short, we never made it to Australia. As with approximately one in three ships attempting the hazardous trans-Pacific voyage, we were beset by pirates and swiftly overrun, not that any of us in the lower hold cared that much one way or the other. For the next few years we rampaged to and fro across the shipping lanes, taking the cargoes of less fortunate vessels by main force. Those of us below decks had a predictably unpleasant time, but I was lucky enough to have trade value and was eventually swapped for a new cook on an unidentifiable island archipelago. As the exchange was about to be made, I was lined up on the deck as the pirates and the islanders they were dealing with haggled. The captain stood slightly aside on the foredeck, and surveyed the proceedings. This was presumably my last chance to get anything constructive out of the pirates.

“Ho’s bud!” I called, in desperation. Even though my words were distorted by the wind, their effect on the captain was unmistakable. He seemed to regard me as a person for the first

time. For a moment, we shared this common humanity. “Xanadu,” he called back, and winked. Then they threw me overboard.

I will not outline the details of how I came to win back my freedom and make my way back to the great state of Oregon, except to say that it was very time-consuming. Safely ensconced back in the derelict building in Whiteaker where I had been squatting, I set to watching the movie *Xanadu* over and over again, looking for clues and reflecting upon how much easier it would have been to set out to write a parody of *Xanadu*, as opposed to *Citizen Kane*, which it is well-nigh impossible to write a parody of. Not only did I become thoroughly conversant with Olivia Newton-John’s roller-skating moves, I also devoured the critical literature on this epochal cinematic work, and am now halfway towards an M.A. built along similar lines. Nothing related to Sudsy could be found, alas. I began to think this might just be one of your unsolved mysteries – but I was wrong.



At first I had my doubts about the importance of the movie *Xanadu*. Would this really unravel the mystery of Sudsy’s disappearance? No. But it did have Gene Kelly roller-skating.

Six months or so later, I came up with an alternative theory while leafing through my address book. “Xanadu” could also be interpreted – more plausibly in this context, a critic might point out – as the name of Sudsy’s vacation shack in Creswell. An epiphanic thrill passed through me. However, given the number of years that had elapsed since the beginning of my quest to understand the cryptic message our muse had left me with, I felt entirely justified in not setting out until the following day.

Upon my arrival at Xanadu lights were on. I hardly dared to hope as I tried to remember the secret knock. Sure enough, the door swung back to reveal Sudsy, unchanged by the years save for an implausible moustache.

“It has been many years,” said Sudsy. “You are late.”

“I was investigating your disappearance and probable death,” I pointed out, hanging my head in shame. “All I had to go on was the enigmatic message ‘Ho’s bud’. I did the best I could.”

“Foolish mortal,” Sudsy chided me gently. “First of all, I didn’t disappear; I’ve been right here most of the time. Secondly, I wasn’t saying ‘ho’s bud’ – I was saying ‘*Pope’s blood*’! And let me tell you, son: the aphrodisiac properties were no mere rumor.” The rest of the evening’s events were entirely predictable.

ASUO Elections 2005

Abandon All Hope, ye who enter here.



ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON
Your Student
Government

*When ye have entered within, take care
to wash away these wounds.*

Having “experience” and a slogan like “Ignite student government” (despite having a mascot that is an unignitable lightbulb) doesn’t help when the student government you’re a part of has practically been in flames all year. It also didn’t help that there were multiple grievances filed against both the Rees-Anker-Lagos campaign and the ASUO Election Board, delaying the release of the election results and further tarring their ticket as part of the unaccountable student government establishment.

With the 2005 ASUO elections now over, the pungent odor of politics will soon be out of the air. While some may miss being hassled by aspiring politicians, seeing arrays of brightly-colored t-shirts with lame slogans and hearing would-be executives talk about fixing things they will have no control over, we at *THE COMMENTATOR* welcome its passing.

In a year when student government was particularly intrusive and counter-productive, these elections may have been the first in a long time that were actually significant. The ASUO was under attack from nearly all comers for most of the year, and justly so. The drunken, stoned antics at the Sunriver finance retreat, the PFC’s attack on *THE COMMENTATOR*, and the bungled allocation of incidental fees all were clear indications of serious problems within student government. What made these elections significant, however, was the fact that it appears the student body (or at least 10% of it) actually reacted to the problems.

Ashley Rees and Jael Anker-Lagos were the first to announce their candidacy for president and vice president. While they were undeniably favored to win thanks to their wide base of support amongst student union members and their aggressive campaigning efforts, Rees and Anker-Lagos were painted by their opponents as ASUO “insiders.” These brush strokes were ultimately effective. The pair easily came out on top against a divided field of candidates in the primaries, but their competition solidified once only Adam Walsh and Kyla Coy’s ticket was left. Indeed, the Rees-Anker-Lagos ticket ended up having fewer votes in the general election (857) than in the primaries (907), despite a narrowed field. The two losing tickets with the most votes in the primaries ended up supporting Walsh and Coy, giving them a strong bloc of fraternity and sorority voters.

So why didn’t Rees and Anker-Lagos garner more support? After all, the Student Action League bloc (which appears to have had the same base of support as the Rees-Anker-Lagos ticket) was wildly successful, with every single one of their candidates winning a position. The answer is simple: The insider label they were given was accurate. Having “experience” and a slogan like “Ignite student government” (despite their mascot being an unignitable lightbulb) doesn’t help when the student government you’re a part of has practically been in flames all year. It also didn’t help that there were multiple grievances filed against both the Rees-Anker-Lagos campaign and the ASUO Election Board, delaying the release of the election results and further tarring

their ticket as part of the unaccountable student government establishment.

Further, throughout the election the Rees-Anker-Lagos campaign conducted itself arrogantly. Clearly, they believed that their “insider” status meant that the executive seat was theirs for the taking, and thus they could act as childishly as they wanted. To wit: When your mascot decides that it’s appropriate to scream “bullshit” at your opponents during an outdoor debate, you’re pretty much in the throes of a death spiral. No one is going to take you seriously after that.

But Rees and Anker-Lagos cannot be entirely blamed for their dismal showing. They were simply trying to imitate the winners from the past. How many times, for example, have ASUO candidates promised us students a “tuition freeze”? And how many times have these candidates won? Only NASA can do the calculation. They might as well have promised ending world hunger, curing AIDS or flying a balsa wood rocket ship to Saturn. Making that promise the cornerstone of your campaign is an act of political suicide because people can see right through it, especially since students have become so disenfranchised by student government that they are unwilling to blindly accept the promises of two people who are intrinsically connected to an organization that keeps none. As we’ve seen this year, students are not likely to give the ASUO the benefit of the doubt anymore.

But let’s say Anker-Lagos had gotten elected and thus gotten her chance to freeze tuition. Based on her experiences with the PFC this year, she probably would have screwed it up, sending tuition skyrocketing to a mid-six-figure-a-year level. Students probably feared that outcome as well.

So the final result was a win for Adam Walsh and Kyla Coy. They are both unknowns, but their comments have us at *THE OREGON COMMENTATOR* optimistic that next year’s ASUO will at least be better than this year’s. After all, the bar is set pretty low.

Adam Walsh In His Own Words

Tyler Graf sits down with President elect Adam Walsh to discuss the inherent problems in student government and the reforms his administration will make

Incoming ASUO President Adam Walsh and Vice President Kyla Coy were underdogs going into the the elections. But after their second-place finish in the primaries, Walsh and Coy received strong support from many of their freshly-defeated primary opponents. Despite the fact that the Ashley Rees-Jael Anker-Lagos ticket had received more than double the number of votes than Walsh/Coy in the initial round, Walsh and Coy were able to handily win the general election.

Both Walsh and Coy had previous experience in politics before running for office. Coy told the *Oregon Daily Emerald* that she has worked on various campaigns and held political internships in the past. Walsh's political experience has been more widely reported. He ran against Bonny Bettman for City Council Ward 1 last year and was notably the only City Council contender to sign a pledge to limit his own fundraising for the campaign. He is also a precinct committee member of the Democratic Party of Lane County and on the board of the West University Neighbors Association.

Fresh off of his victory, incoming ASUO President Adam Walsh agreed to an interview with COMMENTATOR Editor-in-chief Tyler Graf in order to talk about his reflections on the past year and his plans for the future.

What do you plan on doing over the summer to ensure a smooth transition?

Right now we're just going through the jumps, figuring out who to hire (Tyler points at himself) and starting connections at the Chamber of Commerce and within the community and neighborhood associations because quite a few students live off campus. Not a lot of students are going to be around during the summer, so it will be a good time to organize and create connections. So that's definitely the first step. Then we'll probably talk to people involved in student senate and the PFC to get their impressions.

This year's student government? Good luck...

Also from years past. They might be able to give us an idea of what to watch for, you know, how to avoid budget problems.

What did this year's election say? What was the message? I

mean you guys were clearly underdogs. Obviously you guys ran because you thought you would win, but did you think you were going to win by as much as you did?

The one thing these results showed: the kids who vote will vote. By that I mean the kids who cared in high school will come to the University and continue caring about student government. And there were plenty of things to care about this year. I was surprised that we had such a big switch between the primary election and the general. The race for second place was close, so I was surprised that we picked up something like 700 votes. We knew that we were going to pick up more votes but it was just a question of how many. And [when you're running] you want to get more students involved, but you can't force that. Ideally we want to be more inclusive so more kids benefit.

A lot of student groups have been unhappy with student government this year. How are you going to regain their trust?

We want to make sure that with the advocates we have, like the non-traditional students who weren't happy, we want to make sure that the liaisons are doing their jobs, that they're taking groups into consideration, whether you're the *Emerald* or the COMMENTATOR or the College Republicans. We don't want to simply pay lip service. And hopefully these people will feel comfortable, and not simply because we have liaisons. We don't want to make it appear that because we have liaisons that we're distancing ourselves from taking initiative. That's not the case. We just want people to feel comfortable voicing concerns or giving us input. Whether they supported us or not, we're here for them.

How are you going to prevent the problems that student government had this year (i.e. lyin', cheatin' & stealin')?

In the past, the ASUO has always been about maintaining the status quo. As long as no one can tell that there's a problem and it can be covered up, the executive or somebody else would just let it slide. This next year, we want to make sure that we don't allow people to half-ass things. Of course, if that happens ... well, we'll put a structure in place to deal with those instances. Inevitably all of this will rest on my and Kyla's shoulders. That

means meeting with advocates and discussing things with them, but not necessarily telling them what to do. Also we'd like to go to student groups and listen to their concerns. We want to make this all about accountability, creating a sandwich structure. There will be no room in our administration for less than what you're there to do. The job descriptions are pretty straightforward.

Not to be overly negative, but what have been the two biggest problems you've seen in student government this year? What would you like to reform.

I'd like to reform the budget process, so we have a more fair process. I want to do that not only to save students money but also to make sure that student groups receive the money they need to make the public forum at the UO what it is. I mean, it takes all kinds of opinions. Also, we'd like to make a better stipend model, so there will be consistency within that model but at the same time have money set aside for student leaders so there's money for them to do what they need to do. Another thing we'd like to have is a more visible executive. It's something we haven't lacked completely this year, but the year before, with Maddy and Eddy, it just wasn't apparent. That's a way to ensure accountability. I mean, as far as accountability goes within the ASUO you can't just say that you have integrity. There's no real system that you can put in place to ensure that your student leaders are going to do what's right, but what you can have is a highly visible executive. For example, when something like Sunriver happens, instead of waiting for the *Emerald* to call, go to the *Emerald* and explain the situation, or write a guest column. There was talk after the Sunriver retreat that student leaders wouldn't have to pay for the retreat because some learning had taken place. But when you encounter a situation like that you need to have a leader take a stand and say, "You know, the only way we can restore the integrity of what we have here is by paying back that money as a show of good faith."

I'm just curious, but what do you believe your qualifications are?

As far as on campus goes, I work at the Rec. Center and we have the most students coming in and out of there day in and day out and we have one of the highest budgets. I wouldn't necessarily say that's relevant to the job. As far as on-campus and inside the ASUO, I don't have experience. The knowledge I do have of the ASUO has come from my independent research – going through the Green Tape Notebook on my own, going through old *Emeralds*, staying up-to-date on current *Emeralds*. Kyla and I have both come to understand what the current stipend model is and how the current budget process works [ed. Note: Terribly!]. Outside of campus, though, I ran for City Council last May. I am a precinct committee person for the Democratic party of Lane County, and I'm on the board for the West University Neighborhood Association, which is crucial in bridging the gap to the community. This ties back into our platform.

Walsh and Coy's Initiatives

Bridge the gap between the city and the University

Create a partnership between the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the UO career center

-Create a "one stop shop for businesses and students"

Reform the incidental fee and budgetary process

-"Increase fiscal responsibility within student groups"

Reform the current stipend model

Act as a voice for students in the dorms

-"Rollover system for meal points; students should get to keep what they pay for"

Foster a more visible executive

-"we need [a more visible executive] to ensure accountability"

Increase voter turnout in the ASUO elections

Acquire and use knowledge of the inner workings of the ASUO

Get students more involved with community service in their neighborhoods

Increase the Greek system's presence on campus



By Tyler Graf

The reins of student government will soon be passed on to the next generation of student leaders, despite the fact that the horse has been dead for the past 25 years. Lord help us, but we sincerely believe that next year's student government will do a better job. How could they not? If this year's ASUO were a football team, they'd be the '76 Buccaneers, but instead of Steve Spurrier they'd have Adam Petkun. But come to think of it, the '77 Buccaneers sucked, too. So it's anybody's guess what the next year holds in store. Perhaps it will be more of the same.

At this point, however, we shouldn't worry or fret. The school year is winding down and many of us won't even be here next year. This should be a time to crack open a cold one or nine and reflect on what happened over the past year.

Fall Term.

Before classes even began, the ASUO became embroiled in controversy when the OI' Dirty Emerald discovered that ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jen Creighton-Neiwert had helped her husband receive two contracts from the ASUO, totaling nearly \$900. This was nepotism at its most blatant. But EMU Director Dusty Miller -- the chain-smoking, tassel-shoed Svengali behind student government -- claimed that Neiwert had done nothing wrong, thus she should not be punished.

This shouldn't be surprising. The ASUO has always been an insular haven where friends hire friends, and where cover-ups are commonplace. However, when there is dissent, that's when stories like this break. It shouldn't strike anyone as surprising that the tipsters for the Creighton-Neiwert stories were ASUO insiders who had grudges against her.

But sometimes the ASUO leaves a smoking gun that the media can latch onto. That's what happened in October at Sunriver.

From Oct. 8-10, representatives of the ASUO Executive, Student Senate, Con Court, ASUO Controllors Office, Athletic

Department Finance Committee and the Programs Finance Committee attended a retreat at a Sunriver resort. While at the retreat, which cost students \$3,200, many leaders drank alcohol and smoked marijuana while frolicking in hot tubs. Far be it for us to take the moral high ground. A large number of the students at the retreat were of age, which makes the drinking inconsequential. If students wish to drink on their own time, so be it. If students wish to smoke a bit of the ganj, it shouldn't matter. Hell, if students wish to inject massive amounts of crystal meth straight into their reproductive organs and then have the type of no-holds-barred orgy that would make Caligula blush, there should be no problem. But why must they do it on my dime? Why must they travel to a resort outfitted with luxurious amenities in order to do it? Why, we must all ask ourselves, must they act so arrogantly?

You see, this trip wouldn't have been such a problem had one as-yet unnamed student senator not written an immature note. It was the smoking gun.

"Do you pay the incidental fees at the Univ. of Oregon?" the note asks innocently enough. "If so, your money just paid for six people to sleep here for two nights. We got drunk, played taboo, and learned about the finance system, all on your dime. We are some cocky smooth motherfuckers."

What's strange about the note is its candidness. I mean, Taboo? They got drunk and played Taboo? Are these people 13 years old?

Not everyone was up in arms about the story.

"Every hour our student representatives spend trying to mollify the bloodlust of the *Emerald* is taking away from the execution of their offices," wrote David Watson, an environmental science major, in a letter to the *Emerald*.

I hope Mr. Watson paid close attention to the bang-up job student government did throughout the rest of the year, after the Sunriver scandal dwindled and was replaced. Clearly, Mr. Watson doesn't understand that one of the primary "job duties" for members of the ASUO is -- *ahem* -- acting responsibly and

being forthright to the press. If student leaders did not want the press questioning serious fiscal improprieties or ethical problems, then maybe they shouldn't have run for office.

But the leaders of the ASUO don't have to worry about accountability. Although everyone within student government knew who wrote the note, no one tattled. Instead, there were several closed-door meetings.

"We felt it was in the best interests of the group, the mood of the group, to have the press not involved so that they would feel basically taking responsibility for their actions," said Senate President James George. Nathan Strauss, ASUO Public Relations Director and snappy dresser, reiterated the point, claiming that no names would be divulged because these were "conduct issues."

Well, of course they were conduct issues – conduct issues concerning an elected official. Like I said before, the ASUO will always protect its own.

Winter Term

Early in winter term, members of the OREGON COMMENTATOR – including myself, associate editor Olly Ruff and former editor-in-chief Pete Hunt – met with Persis Pohowalla and Mason Quiroz, chair and vice chair of the PFC respectively, in order to determine why the PFC did not approve our mission statement. The experience was eye opening. I expected roundabout equivocations delivered with a fair amount of intelligence. What I got were a series of lies. Really, really bad lies.

"We don't think that your magazine benefits the entire campus," Quiroz claimed.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Well, it says in your mission statement that you're a conservative publication."

"Yeah," I responded, slowly, understanding the headache-inducing logic that would follow.

"Well, I don't think that's right. I think that's discriminatory."

"You understand that the *Southworth* case is on our side, don't you?" Olly asked. "We can have a point of view."

"Sure, but would you guys allow a liberal to write for your publication?" Quiroz responded, clearly not understanding the dark, troubled waters into which he was wading.

I slowly – very slowly, talking-to-a-retarded-child slowly -- explained that it was our duty to outline our perspective in our mission statement. Imagine that. This allows future writers, who are all volunteers, to understand the nature of the publication. Would we allow a self-described liberal to write for our publication? Of course we would, and have. Many of our best writers have been "liberal" by self-designation. But their work must fall within the guidelines of the mission statement, or else I will not publish it. That's what editors do. They make decisions on what goes into their magazines. The mission statement, as an extension of the magazine's political outlook, aids the editor.

Of course, Quiroz didn't understand any of this. Pohowalla

sat there uncomfortably, possibly thinking up lies. Then Olly asked the most important question: "So, if you're against publications declaring a point of view, which is perfectly legal, did you not approve the *Insurgent's* mission statement?"

There was a split second of palpable tension. Quiroz and Pohowalla's eyes darted. The room grew quiet, and it became noticeable that every coke-dulled synapse in Quiroz's brain was frying itself.

"Of course we did," Pohowalla said, lying.

Quiroz agreed. Clearly, these members of PFC thought it was perfectly acceptable to lie to student groups, which isn't surprising given the fact that they are so mentally bankrupt that they cannot defend their own decisions.

Throughout the meeting, Pohowalla and Quiroz insisted that they could not talk about what went on during the meeting. This led me to ask about the tape of the meeting, and this is where the story becomes interesting.

"I think we still have it, but it's difficult to obtain," Pohowalla said.

Indeed. After an exhausting 10-minute wait, I was able to obtain the tape from Vice President Mena Ravissapour. It was quite the ordeal.

On the tape, PFC member Khan Le calls a recess before the COMMENTATOR's mission and goals can be read. According to Pohowalla, the recess was called and the tape turned off so members of the PFC could discuss their decision unabated. During this break, members of the PFC looked through issues of the COMMENTATOR using a lap top computer, according to Pohowalla. When the tape is turned back on, the PFC has already moved on to the *Oregon Voice*. The OREGON COMMENTATOR is skipped completely. It isn't until the very end of the tape that the OREGON COMMENTATOR's mission and goals are discussed, albeit briefly, and the PFC votes.

This wouldn't be an issue if the written minutes were accurate (taped meetings are not required by law but are meant to help in the writing of the minutes). There are two points in the written minutes when it's obvious that comments have been deleted. For example, on the tape a voice clearly says, "next on the agenda, OREGON COMMENTATOR." In the written minutes, this has been deleted to make it look as if the next program on the docket had actually been the *Oregon Voice*. Further, no one made a motion to skip the COMMENTATOR and move immediately to the *Oregon Voice*.

When the PFC finally decides to discuss the COMMENTATOR, at the very end of the tape, the premeditation of the vote can almost be felt.

"[Since] we're not going to be approving it, I think there should be some discussion on it for the record to defend ourselves later on," Pohowalla says.

"I think that what they state in their mission and goals not only is hinting at supporting a right-wing Republican point of view, but also they have presented evidence in several of their issues that have placed student safety here on campus in jeopardy," Quiroz says.

Aren't they cute when they're conspiring to illegally de-fund

If the PFC's goal was to turn student media against it, then mission accomplished. By going after the two most important publications on campus, the PFC was backing itself into a corner. Somebody should have told the PFC that the press is a little like a sleeping bear: you don't want to prod it. You'll lose that fight.

a student group?

What the PFC did was, to be blunt, unethical and illegal. But would you expect anything less from a student government entity chaired and vice chaired by a habitual liar and criminal respectively?

The lunacy didn't stop there. Further confounding everyone who pays attention to student government (for the record, the number is nine), the PFC tried to cut the *Oregon Daily Emerald's* budget. Again. Students should remember that in 2004, then Executive Maddy Melton attempted to cut the *Emerald's* budget because the paper distributed issues off campus.

This year, the PFC attempted to cut nearly \$10,000 from the ODE's budget. Members of the PFC used an out-dated, unscientific readership survey for justification. This was the same technique used in 2004 by Melton, then Vice President Eddy Morales and Morales' sycophantic poolboy-cum-lackey Mike Martell. It didn't work then, so why should it have worked this year? One is left wondering: What were these people thinking? When Quiroz walked into the *Emerald's* PFC hearing carrying a stack of issues that he had stolen from one of the distribution centers, did he ever think to himself: "Golly, maybe this isn't a battle I can win"?

If the PFC's goal was to turn student media against it, then mission accomplished. By going after the two most important publications on campus, the PFC was backing itself into a corner. Somebody should have told the PFC that the press is a little like a sleeping bear: you don't want to prod it. You'll lose that fight.

The PFC had an opportunity to improve its image, but it instead decided to stay the course. At the OREGON COMMENTATOR's February 1 hearing – a two-hour debacle featuring protesters on both sides, armed guards and near fisticuffs -- a grand standing Quiroz, apparently high on his own fleeting sense of self worth, mounted a foolhardy campaign to de-fund the COMMENTATOR. However, when the PFC couldn't reach the required consensus needed to de-fund a student group, the remainder of the meeting was postponed. It was at this point that Quiroz stormed out of the room like a coke-addled lizard, verbally resigned and flipped the bird to a COMMENTATOR supporter. The entire room exploded into a raucous round of applause. Pohowalla and fellow PFC committee member Jael Anker-Lagos were left in tears. Petkun looked as if he was close to suicide. It was the happiest moment of my life.

Oh, but things would get much better. Not only did the *Emerald* get its money; not only did the OREGON COMMENTATOR eventually receive its money; not only did the PFC get the worst publicity it has received in recent memory, but three of its members, Dan Keiffer, Eden Cortez and Quiroz were kicked off the committee. This came after OREGON COMMENTATOR publisher

Dan Atkinson filed several grievances with the Constitution Court. Because the PFC couldn't make quorum, new members had to be hired. Thus, the PFC hired bespectled uber geek Mike "The Dominator" Sherman, an ASUO stalwart, and the improbably named "Jared Axelrod".

Spring Term

Spring term thus far has been dominated by two events: The ASUO election and the fight over stipends.

Both of these issues have been discussed extensively in this issue already, but I have so much space to fill that I might as well give it a shot ...

This year's election was not a total disaster. That's the best thing I say about it. However, I doubt this was by design, as this year's Election Board gave less notice for the election than last year's Election Board, leaving the media in the lurch.

Although this created some problems, at least it circumvented the problem that has arisen during the last two election cycles. That is, scheduling elections during law school finals week.

This year's election was dominated by the Ashley Rees /Jael Anker-Lagos and Adam Walsh/Kyla Coy tickets. There were other candidates, but they're not worth mentioning. They were the Lyndon LaRouches of the ASUO election.

After a fierce primary battle, during which a number of grievances were filed against Rees and Anker-Lagos for apparently violating election rules, the two favored tickets advanced to the next stage: the caged death match.

Well, not quite, but Rees/Anker-Lagos and Walsh/Coy did advance to the general election. Later Walsh and Coy would win the general election after performing behind-the-scenes politicking. They were able to shore up support among the failed primary candidates after convincing them that Rees and Jael Anker-Lagos were common enemies. Thus, these loser candidates and their supporters campaigned on Walsh and Coy's behalf.

Surprise, Rees and Anker-Lagos, you lose. Game over, man.

At the same time the election was happening the PFC was having problems coming up with a stipend model that would please everyone (which, to be honest, would have been impossible). The necessity for a new stipend model was born of the PFC's own ineptitude, as the PFC, in an act that should have surprised no one, went over benchmark

Finally, for news unrelated to the ASUO but apparently important to most students, in early March, campus figure Hatoon died after a car struck her on Franklin Blvd. This was tragic news. Deaths are never pleasant, especially when you've interacted with the deceased, in one way or another, for years. However, the

level of hubbub reached a crescendo when community members held a vigil and erected a memorial. There was an outpouring of support the likes of which I had never seen: crying, hugging, soul searching and memorializing.

It was an amazing scene. I say that because Hatoon – and I know that this is going to make a lot of people very upset – added very little to the campus. She was a crazy woman. Yes, that’s sad. Yes, that doesn’t mean she’s any less of a person. But pretending that she was some kind of idiot savant or independent free spirit reduces the severity of her mental illness. Why didn’t anybody help this woman, if they cared so much?

Placing a poor, crazy woman on a busy street corner and then looking on in condescending self-satisfaction as drunken college students engage her in sarcasm-laced banter is not help, but it is incredibly patronizing. I find it incredible, not to mention absurd, that people actually took Hatoon’s schizophrenic ramblings seriously

Here’s an example, taken from the ODE’s message board, of the level of silliness that Hatoon’s death elicited: “No one in this vast vicinity was-and-is so firmly grounded in as many various and colorful realities... with an intensity best gleamed in her technisparkle eyes and the hue of her lips as she uttered a profound and ancient rune... dance your dance, Hatoon.”

Another poster shared her theories concerning the creation of Hatoon’s name: “I heard a rumor that she was told by the clouds that her new name would be two sounds: “Ha” and “toon”.

This post is followed shortly by a message by Eugene resident Bob, who was friends with Hatoon’s son in the early ‘70s. According to Bob, “Hatoon was cruel, inattentive, subject to screaming fits, and endless threats to her son, and myself.” He continues by saying that Hatoon never provided her son with food, clothes or love.

Finally, someone who actually knew Hatoon, who knew the depths of her sad mental illness, who understood that it affected other people.

The woman was crazy. One time she dumped boxes of the OREGON COMMENTATOR and claimed that all the kids of the world were being born with cartoon eyes, or something along those lines. Hatoon’s greatest legacy is that she reminded us, on a daily basis, that mental illness is very real and very sad.

The Future

No one knows for sure what the future will hold in store. Will we all be better off? Will justice be brought to the world? Will we all be happy, smiling people with no

May 1, 2005

cares or worries? Or will we simply all die in a fiery explosion? I have no idea. But based on certain trends I have noticed, I can prognosticate some events from the future.

Dan Williams will retire. Cloned Dan Williams will take his position and exclaim, “Ha ha ha, I’ll never leave, assholes.”

The Ducks football team will play S. Carolina. ASUO will promise to draft “solidarity pledge” for oppressed Gamecocks.

The Sociology Department will be replaced with ... *thinking* ... actual pile of shit.

Sociology professor Chuck Hunt will return to the United States to protest urinal dominance.

Roland Emmerich’s big budget “The Vagina Monologues” will become the top-grossing film in bizarro world. Anne Leavitt stars.



If one reads Nostradamus’ papers closely, one will realize that he predicted almost everything that occurred this year. Can Tyler Graf do the same for next year? Answer: No!

The philosophy Department will be renamed the Department of Nihilistic Studies. “Why do we even bother,” sighs the department head.

Popemobile will be featured on MTV’s “Pimp my Ride”.

Tom Delay will be named faculty advisor for the PFC.

A feeding tube will be inserted into Anne Coulter.

Al Franken will make first “humorous” statement in over eight years.

Michael Jackson will be acquitted. The stock in Vaseline Jelly will skyrocket.

It remains to be seen whether or not the ASUO will reform itself next year. It probably will rectify the problems that have plagued it this year, but new, unforeseen problems and scandals will inevitably arise. If there is one thing we can be certain of, it’s that uncertainty rules at the UO.

Tyler Graf, jockin’ the bitches, slappin’ the ho’s; went to the park to get the scoop... and he is editor-in-chief of THE COMMENTATOR.



The New Stipend Model:

It's an improvement, but not by much.



by Ian Spencer

The controversial incidental fee funding process has finally come to a close, leaving nearly every party on campus unhappy with the results. This should come as no surprise to anyone who's paid attention to campus news over the past five months - the Programs Finance Committee (PFC) has been plagued with problems for the entire year. To briefly summarize:

1. The PFC first attempted to cut funding for the *Emerald* based on the fact that some of the Ol' Dirty's issues are technically distributed off-campus. This decision was soon reversed.
2. The PFC then attempted to completely de-fund THE COMMENTATOR based on an issue with a controversial "OC Asks". This decision was eventually reversed.
3. As a result of attempting to de-fund The COMMENTATOR using illegal methods, two PFC members were removed and another member voluntarily quit. They were soon replaced by two additional members, enabling the committee to reach quorum.
4. The PFC then continued the incidental fee funding process, but went over its yearly limit on funding increases. This led to the initial stipend cuts, which affected nearly every fee-funded group.
5. These initial stipend cuts were struck down by the ASUO Senate, so a new compromise had to be made. The new model rolls back a number of the cuts but still ends up removing many stipends from a number of groups. This model was finally approved by the Senate in a vote of 11-2-2.

PFC chair Persis Pohowalla says that the new model was implemented because the stipends "were pretty inconsistent across all groups," and getting out of hand. While the existing model was certainly inconsistent, the new model was not implemented because of an altruistic desire to see stipends distributed equitably. Instead, it was implemented because the PFC initially increased its total group funding by 8.9% rather than its benchmark of 7%. In other words, the new stipend model was born out of necessity.

The controversy that has bloomed out of the stipend cuts is rooted in the fact that some on campus believed the cuts to be unfair or inequitable. Multi-Cultural Center (MCC) Co-Director

Maria Hwang was quoted in the *Daily Emerald* as saying that the new stipend model would bring about a "gentrification of the (student) unions," and "disproportionately affects disadvantaged students."

This newest model assigns paid positions to groups based on their total budget:

- \$3,000-\$5,999 1 stipend max
- \$6,000-\$9,999 2 stipends max
- \$10,000-\$19,999 3 stipends max
- \$20,000+ 4 stipends max

Additionally, the amount disbursed per month for each position was modified to be more uniform. Whereas before the per-month total was based in part on hours worked per week, the new model creates three uniform levels based on a position's importance. Top-level positions will receive \$175/month, mid-level positions \$150/month, and low-level positions \$125/month.

If these limits were set in stone the model would be both fair and sensible. Unfortunately, however, there are a number of exceptions:

- The Student Senate, with a \$25,749 allotment and 18 stipend positions, and the ASUO Executive, with a whopping \$305,250 allotment and 23 stipend positions, suffered only minor stipend cuts. The ASUO President and Vice-President positions are also exceptions. They will receive \$400/month rather than the standard \$175/month.
- The Women's Center kept all nine stipend positions within its \$145,765 allotment.
- The MCC kept all five of its stipend positions. It will have a total incidental fee allotment of \$98,973.
- KWVA, our \$90,197/year radio station, will continue to have eleven stipend positions, including a web designer and newsletter editor who will be paid \$125/month. The KWVA webpage still has a copyright of 2003, has had its news page updated once this entire school year, and does not have a newsletter available. Meanwhile, the General Manager position (which entails being on call 24 hours a day) will now receive \$125/month rather than

the previous stipend of \$550/month.

- A number of groups with sub-\$3,000 allotments, including the Pit Crew and Students for Choice, were also exempted from the model. They each received one stipend position.
- Some groups with large allotments received fewer stipends than the model promises. Assault Prevention Services now has an \$87,064 allotment and two \$125/month stipend positions. The Community Internship Program, which “helps students find places to volunteer while earning upper-division college credit for their experiences,” now has just a Director position and a total allotment of \$15,213.

ASUO President Adam Petkun, told THE COMMENTATOR that his “initial reaction was that I had serious concerns about the impact [stipend cuts] would have on every single student’s ability to hold office,” and that the cuts have “the potential to have that unintended consequence” of excluding some students from leadership positions.

These exceptions confirm that the new model, while a good idea, is implemented in an inconsistent manner. Meet the new model, just as bad as the old model.

But the problems with the new implementation don’t end with these exceptions. As Hwang’s hyperbolic “gentrification” comment shows, many seem to believe that the ability of students to serve in student unions will be impaired by having fewer and smaller stipends. ASUO President Adam Petkun, told THE COMMENTATOR that his “initial reaction was that [he] had serious concerns about the impact [stipend cuts] would have on every single student’s ability to hold office,” and that the cuts have “the potential to have that unintended consequence” of excluding some students from leadership positions. Petkun’s own position, which he says requires an average of about 40 hours a week of work, would have its stipend reduced from \$700/month to \$400/month. If incoming ASUO President Adam Walsh dedicates the same amount of time to his job as Petkun claims to have, Walsh would be paid about \$2.50/hour for his work.

While \$2.50/hour sounds like very little, consider what the purpose of holding a student leadership position is. Is it to obtain a paycheck? Of course not. Ask Petkun if he ran for ASUO President because he wanted a \$4.38/hour paycheck. The

JUMP TO 25

By the Numbers: Stipends

Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association	\$1,125
Asian Pacific American Student Union	\$3,375
APS	\$2,250
Athletic Department Finance Committee	\$2,200
Black Student Union	\$2,250
Black Women of Achievement	\$1,125
Chinese Student Association	\$1,125
Chinese Students and Scholars Association	\$1,125
Coalition Against Environmental Racism	\$2,250
Community Internship Program	\$1,125
Constitution Court	\$6,075
Crisis Center	\$625
DDS	\$2,250
Ecological Design Center	\$3,375
Executive	\$27,350
Hawaii Club	\$2,250
Interfraternity Council	\$1,125
International Students Association	\$3,375
Jewish Student Union	\$1,125
KWVA	\$12,500
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Queer Transgender Alliance	\$2,250
MeCHA	\$2,250
Minority Law Student Association	\$3,375
Multicultural Center	\$6,000
Native American Student Union	\$3,375
Non-Traditional Student Union	\$1,125
Oregon Future Lawyers Association	\$1,125
Oregon Marine Students Association	\$1,125
Oregon Voice	\$2,250
Outlaws	\$1,125
Panhellenic Council	\$1,125
Pit Crew	\$625
Programs Finance Committee	\$5,875
Student Bar Association	\$2,250
Student Insurgent	\$3,375
Students of the Indian Subcontinent	\$1,125
Student Senate	\$21,150
Students for Choice	\$1,125
Survival Center	\$4,125
Vietnamese Students Association	\$2,250
Westmoreland Tenents’ Council	\$0
Women’s Center	\$10,125
Women’s Law Forum	\$1,125
YWCA	\$1,125

Total Expenditures:

\$156,525.00



Dworkin's Legacy

By Olly Ruff

The iconoclastic radical feminist Andrea Dworkin is dead – before her time, and of undisclosed causes - and I've just taken a commemorative stroll through her mostly interchangeable books in the hopes of finding something nice to say about her. I must admit at the outset that I may not succeed.

Most obituaries of Dworkin begin by mentioning her vocal opposition to sexual abuse of women; her major achievement in this regard was to dilute the notion of “sexual abuse” by declaring basically everything that has ever happened throughout history to be an instance of the same. (Especially pornography, but we'll get to that in a minute.) Her philosophy verges on the nihilistic: women are victims, society is a gulag and everything is going to hell in a hand basket. Dworkin denied being anti-(hetero) -sex as such, claiming only to oppose the use of force in sex – but she gives “force” a far broader definition than the word will bear. Thus the famous metaphor in the book “Intercourse”:

“The political meaning of intercourse for women is the fundamental question of feminism and freedom: can an occupied people--physically occupied inside, internally invaded--be free; can those with a metaphysically compromised privacy have self-determination; can those without a biologically based physical integrity have self-respect?”

It need hardly be said that if you take issue with this nonsensical statement, you are at best a collaborator and at worst, well,

tantamount to a rapist.

Rape is bad. Sexual abuse is bad. Our cherished right to self-determination absolutely, unambiguously encompasses the right to decline sex, regardless of whether our privacy has been “metaphysically compromised”. So far, we are all in agreement. Unfortunately, few theoretical edifices stop at the second storey,

One amusing irony often pointed out by opponents of the MacDworkinite tendency is the uneasy alliance between, on the one hand, this wing of the women's movement and, on the other, the kind of social conservative who thinks Robert Mapplethorpe should have done federal time.

and atop what might have been a charming townhouse Dworkin and friends have erected a rampant academic Trump Tower. What's worse, this throbbing, tumescent body of work has repeatedly been wielded in an attempt to roughly penetrate the fabric of civil discourse in this country, with somewhat mixed results. Dworkin's ultimate and very sad legacy has been to conflate rape, prostitution, consensual

heterosexual sex, and pornography, and to treat her demented assault on the latter as a serious attempt to deal with the horrors of the former. The damage this has done – in infantilizing women, in criminalizing vast numbers of innocent people, in alienating countless potential allies - can scarcely be overstated.

America's traditionally robust speech protections have held up respectably, however. Along with the lawyer Catherine MacKinnon, Dworkin drafted a law declaring pornography to be a de facto violation of women's civil rights. Perhaps surprisingly, it was briefly enshrined in 1983 as an ordinance in Indianapolis until someone who had previously read the Constitution noticed. Unbowed, the duo

JUMP TO 25

VICED the VAMPIRE

by DAVID KERR



State of the Ass

By Jeremy Berrington

Where the hell have the
College Democrats been?
This is, after all, Eugene.

It is a sorry time for partisan politics at the UO. The last time I saw the College Republicans they were holding up a sign telling me that I hated America because I protested against the war in Iraq. The last time I saw the College Democrats.... wait a second, when was the last time I saw the College Democrats?

There's the problem: nobody has seen the College Democrats lately. This phenomenon mirrors the wider world of national politics lately. The Republicans are becoming more powerful by the day and the Democrats are non-existent. If they do appear at all, they look like a fractured group of whiners and malcontents. The few pictures that we get of the Democrats leave them looking confused and impotent against the massive Republican monolith.

In reporting this article, I contacted a source close to the College Democrats who volunteered information under strict conditions of anonymity. This source had some bleak news about the current state of the ass.

My source stated that the College Democrats are suffering from a combination of disorganization, apathy and bickering within their own party. He/she categorized the relationships within the College Democrats as, "a series of cliques and subgroups, some of which are not on speaking terms with other members of the Party." I asked the source if this was perhaps due to the understandable post-election let down following the Kerry loss. "Absolutely not," the source replied, "It is due to the clear lack of leadership within the party. We used to have up to 30-40 people attending our weekly meetings, now there are six or seven, three of whom are executive members of the Party. The attendance of OSPIRG meetings is much larger than ours, and we have much more to offer students in the way of internships, job opportunities, etc. Even the College Republicans [not the most sentimental of groups] say that 'they miss debating with us because there is nobody in the office anymore.'"

This sounded pretty bad to me, so I figured I would have a first-hand look at the party headquarters. I had been to the College Democrats' office earlier several times earlier in the week to work on a related story and nobody had been around. I was hoping that this time would be different. I ended up stopping by their office multiple times with no luck. Apparently, that bit about not being in the office might have a ring of truth to it.

What if I wanted to join this lot? I thought to myself. *I'd have*

better luck finding someone to talk with at the CIA.

I ended up crashing the College Democrats' weekly meeting in the EMU's River Room. Just as my source had said, there were six people in attendance. I stayed for the meeting, upping their membership by about 15%. After the meeting I was granted interviews with Kevin Curtin and Kristina Edmunson, a couple of the Democrats' execs. I asked them why membership was so low in a city that overwhelmingly voted for John Kerry. Curtin replied, "I think people are suffering from post-election disenchantment and that a lot of people feel pretty depressed." I decided not to bring up my source's contradiction of that answer. Curtin continued, "We get it done when it counts. We had the second highest campus for voting in the nation here at the U of O. Kerry won our State hands down and a lot of votes came out of Eugene. We also attracted Howard Dean, John Edwards and Teresa Heinz-Kerry to speak here. I think it's unfair to say that we aren't doing our job."

"The College Republicans, actually have an easier job than we do," Edmunson said. "It's easy to be a minority group on a College Campus. People go for the underdog. Here in Eugene, most people are liberals and moderates, it's understandable that the more extreme, conservative voices on campus feel underrepresented and are looking to compensate. The College Republicans provide a very good outlet for that." Both directors denied that there was any dissention within the group itself. "We're not all best friends," replied Curtin, "but it'd be pretty strange if we were." Both Curtin and Edmunson conceded that the attendance numbers were a bit low for their liking and that they would try to do better in the future. Whether the College Democrats are truly "racked by dissention" or are merely in a post-election lull has yet to be determined. It is easy to understand why the Democrats would not be too enthusiastic about their situation right now- it is pretty unenviable. Yet, there are many at the U O who are looking to the College Democrats for leadership right now during this time of Republican domination of the country. So far the College Democrats have not stepped up to the plate. Without some real leadership right now we can probably expect some more pain from the ass in the future.



Jeremy Berrington, a senior majoring in Political Science, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR

FROM 21

primary reasons people become student leaders are to gain valuable organizational experience, to add a nice line to their resume, and (often) to promote a cause they believe in. For student leaders, the benefits of these leadership positions outweigh the benefits of a real job.

There is a legitimate question to be asked about if the stipend reductions will prevent low-income students from participating in student groups and government. Many students have jobs in addition to their classes, and it's hard to imagine that someone could be an effective ASUO President, a good student, and a dedicated employee all at the same time. But life is about making trade-offs. Are the benefits of leadership experience worth the cost of increased student loans? In most cases, absolutely. And hell, maybe if student leaders had more debt they would respect student's own incidental fee contributions more.

Perhaps a compromise could be made. While it would be ideal to see the removal of stipends altogether, it isn't likely to happen anytime soon. One suggestion would be cutting the \$120,074 of incidental fee spending that goes to OSPIRG every year, then giving \$100,000 of it back to students in the form of an incidental fee reduction. The rest could go into a new, truly equitable stipend model which would set the number of stipends per group according to a uniformed model. This would cause an increase in individual stipend amounts (allowing more low-income students to participate) and a decrease in exceptions. If we must have stipends, they should at least be disbursed fairly.



Ian Spencer, a junior majoring in Political Science, knows that everything's fine, but he's still in a New York state of mind.



FROM 22

managed to pass a similar law in Canada, which led to the amusing spectacle of Dworkin's own books running afoul of her obscenity standard and being destroyed at the border. These legal shenanigans are covered excellently in ACLU president Nadine Strossen's book "Defending Pornography", in which she coins the term "MacDworkinites" to describe her antagonists.

It doesn't have to be this way. The women's movement, inevitably diffuse though it is, has never been short of people willing to stand up to nutjobs like, say, MacKinnon, ranging from Strossen's ACLU to the individualists at ifeminists.com. They just don't make as many headlines. One amusing irony often pointed out by opponents of the MacDworkinite tendency is the uneasy alliance between, on the one hand, this wing of the women's movement and, on the other, the kind of social conservative who thinks Robert Mapplethorpe should have done federal time. Pornography, and licentiousness in society in general, unites these natural foes – the MacDworkinites on the grounds that sex is inherently degrading to women, and the decency brigade because we're all going to go to hell if we don't stop doing that and put our pants back on. Some conservatives have even figured out that any time you can construe a political issue as "violence against women," you're a winner; my favorite recent example of this was the blogger at the Independent Women's Foundation referring to female soldiers being wounded in combat in Iraq as "state-sanctioned violence against women." This is not what the suffragettes were talking about, people.

Framed thus, the issue is liberty. Dworkin was (and MacKinnon remains) as staunchly opposed to women making "unsuitable" choices as a Jerry Falwell or a Pat Robertson. In fact, Dworkin generally had trouble writing about women as individuals; her own heartbreaking sexual neuroses are projected onto any available surface throughout her work. ("Entry is the first acceptance in her body that she is generic, not individual; that she is one of a many that is antagonistic to the individual interpretation she might have of her own worth, purpose, or intention," and so on.) Her views are about as far from the mainstream as it is possible

to be, but they gained a great deal of currency in their time. This can be partly attributed to their extremity, but also to their deeply reactionary nature. – yet another variation on the theme of "sex is bad." (To lighten the palate after an encounter with Dworkin's stupefying "Pornography: Men Possessing Women", I highly recommend Wendy McElroy's 1995 book "XXX: A Woman's Right To Pornography", now available in its entirety online at <http://www.zetetics.com/mac/xxx/index.html>.)

From without, a political movement is judged by the worst people who can conceivably be lumped in with it. If I want to score points against the right, a few minutes' Googling will find as many lunatic bloggers as my heart desires, and if I want ammunition against the left I can just pick up the *Insurgent*. Dworkin, for her part, played the role of Rush Limbaugh's ideal "feminazi" to perfection. It's hard not to absolve her, personally, on the grounds of diminished responsibility - but she was an integral part of a much larger branch of feminist thought, most of whose proponents do not have this excuse. Dworkin's work does a profound disservice to the women's movement, to women generally, and indeed to anyone who has ever read more than about five pages of it.

Among the welter of polite obituaries for Dworkin, a few voices stand out. Writing on the libertarian magazine *Reason*'s blog, Cathy Young (who in clarity, wit, and intellect represents some kind of anti-Dworkin) called out a passel of Dworkin revisionists, all of whom were understandably looking for something nice to say about her and probably doing a better job than I have here. One of her targets was the still-very-much-alive MacKinnon, who in a New York Times op-ed recently complained that Dworkin's ideas had been "marginalized." "Clearly," Young dryly observed, "they haven't been marginalized enough." Make no mistake: the closer to the margins Andrea Dworkin gets, the better off we will all be.



Olly Ruff, who packs more nuts than Delta Airlines, is a senior at Marist Highschool

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS | not

Interview By Melissa Hanks

AN OXYMORON

The College Republicans are one of the oldest and largest campus groups in the United States. They boast 120,000 members on 1,148 campuses nationwide. Sifting through highly visible campus organizations like OSPRIG, the ASUO Women's Center, and the MCC can be a trying experience, and rarely do they return any valuable post-college experience. The College Republicans, however, have two good reasons to exist for the students on this campus: they aren't funded by the incidental-fee and they provide off-campus experience working with the Leadership Institute and the GOP.

We sat down with Laura Jenkins, Chairwoman of the College Republicans for the 2004-2005 academic year, 2003-2004 Chairman Chair Jarrett White and 2005-2006 Chairman Anthony Warren to ask them about the year in review and current issues both on the UO campus and nationally.

Melissa Hanks: How was last year? What were your major projects?

Laura Jenkins: Well, mostly the election. We did phone banking and picked up ballots.

Jarrett White: We collected nearly 100 ballots, even though I wouldn't just give my ballot to some guy. We also registered 500 plus students for Bush. We came in top 10 in the nation [for registration].

MH: Have you run into any problem on campus this past election year as College Republicans?

Anthony Warren: The UO is a liberal dominated campus...

LJ: We had some minor problems during the election, but it wasn't so much the election as it was the Anti-War demonstrations.

JW: We get the usual problems ... harassment on campus. They get the [EMU Amphitheatre] and that ramp, and we get placed out in the boonies on the third floor...

LJ: Where no one will see us. They had their demonstrations, and we had our "Peace Through Superior Firepower" slogan on our table up above them.

JW: We just set up on the ramp, and...

AW: It was on the cover of the *Emerald*.

MH: How about Inauguration Day?

JW: Oh, the Counter-Inauguration March. Downtown or on

campus?

MH: On campus.

JW: We had a debate with one of the "Campus Fascists for Bush" guys before the demonstration.

AW: He didn't even know what "fascist" meant. We asked him.

JW: Then it shows up on the sign... I saw so many people with their eyes down, their faces just blank, not smiling. They lost. That's democracy...

AW: They [the UO protestors] are really protesting democracy.

MH: This question is for Laura. How many women have chaired the College Republicans?

JW: I think she's the first. Yeah, she is. We've never had a Chairwoman before Laura.

AW: That's the difference between liberals and us... we treat everyone as a person, not especially as women.

MH: Have you faced any problems from others on campus for being Chairwoman?

LJ: I've had people come up the table and say things like... "oh, honey, how can you support this man [Ol' Dubya]? He hates women!"

JW: You've had a run in with the Women's Center...

LJ: I focus on the support from the Republican women.

AW: The Women's Center doesn't stand for anyone. They don't know what they're doing.

MH: How do the College Republicans feel about the filibuster debate?

JW: Uh oh...

LJ: We voted to keep it the way it was. It was close...

AW: As Republicans, we really don't like to change the status quo.

JW: Why do anything that changes the status quo?

LJ: We shouldn't do anything to the Democrats. It wouldn't be fair.

JW: I don't think we should change anything just because we're in power.

MH: Do you think that the government will get anything done

Ian Spencer: Have you debated the Schiavo thing?

Laura Jenkins: It was pretty lopsided.

Anthony Warren: I don't think we voted. We're pro-life, respect life, keep her alive.

Jarrett White: I can't stand these Neo-Cons. They come in and say they believe in states' rights, and then call in the federal government because "we don't like what the state said!" Why should the feds come and put the tube back in?

if the vote to end the filibuster stays at 60?

AW: I think we should do everything we can to push through conservative judges...we're conservative.

LJ: Not just to push through conservative judges; I think that the judges deserve an up or down vote and the majority should win to get things done.

AW: They're [liberals] stopping the government. Shutting it down.

JW: We did the same thing to Clinton, which was good. They're doing it to us now; it's called politics -- if we can't win at the game, then we don't deserve to be out there. As conservatives in principle, we should not change the rules because the liberals are "playing bad." We should beat 'em. If we can't beat 'em, we aren't good politicians

MH: Who would you like to see the GOP run in the 2008 Presidential election?

JW: I heard a report that maybe it would be Newt [Gingrich]. I like Newt. He's becoming more popular.

LJ: I like Condi.

MH: I love Condi!

AW: Here we go... women of the world unite!

MH: So, if it came down to putting someone against Hillary Clinton, who would be the ideal candidate?

LJ, AW, JW: Condi.

LJ: We've traditionally sent governors in the past...if they can run a senator, we can run a governor.

Ian Spencer: Would you vote for Rudy Giuliani if he ran?

AW: It depends... if he were running against Hillary, then yeah.

LJ: In the primaries, I wouldn't vote for him. But I'd vote for anybody over Hillary.

Olly Ruff: Do you think McCain has a chance?

LJ: Not after McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform. I can't stand him now. He doesn't have a chance.

IS: Have you debated the Schiavo thing?

LJ: It was pretty lopsided.

AW: I don't think we voted. We're pro-life, respect life, keep

her alive.

JW: I can't stand these Neo-Cons. They come in and say they believe in states' rights, and then call in the federal government because "we don't like what the state said!" Why should the feds come and put the tube back in?

MH: What role does the Leadership Institute play in post-graduation skills? Who goes, what do you do, what kinds of connections do you make as a CR member?

LJ: College Republicans helps with post-graduation skills because members learn to think of their feet, defend their opinions and think on their own, along with all the connections and networking possibilities. We continually let our members know about internships, both in DC and Salem, and there are always opportunities to work on campaigns.

MH: Which speakers do you have lined up or are trying to get?

LJ: We will be bringing Dan Flynn to campus on May 17th (in the evening). He is the author of the book "Why the Left Hates America" and "Intellectual Morons". He is also currently the director of the Campus Leadership Program at the Leadership Institute. (Which, by the way, the LI is bringing their conference out to UO on the 14th-15th if any of you are interested!).

MH: how many members do the CRs have right now?

LJ: Technically I think we have around 440. But about 40 show up at each weekly mtg.

MH: How can potential members get involved?

LJ: People can get involved by coming to meetings on Tuesday nights at 7, usually in the Ben Linder Room. Also, there is usually always someone in our office in the EMU. People can stop by, talk to some members, and we can add you to our email list. Even if you can't make meetings, we can keep you posted on when our events are.



Melissa Hanks, who's got rhymes like a basehead bic flicks, is managing editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR

Absolutely no trees
were destroyed to
make our website...



Read it anyway.

www.oregoncommentator.com

A Pill Popper's Guide to Spring Term

The rainy Eugene winter is over and the sun is finally out. The pills you took to overcome your bout with Seasonal Affective Disorder are becoming outdated. Read on to learn what the new spring fashions are.

Freshmen, I'm sure that you've probably noticed the prescription drug cartel that operates in the University dorms. But, sadly, most freshmen have problems understanding the complicated procedure that is prescription drug abuse. Well no, more! The OREGON COMMENTATOR proudly presents our first ever (to my knowledge) guide to prescription drugs. Why? Because we care about our readers.



Week Six: Ecstasy--midterms are over! Bring on the heart attack!!!!



Week One: Viagra and birth control--because we all like to pretend we're going to get laid at the beginning of each term.



Week Seven: Vicodin-- to relieve the post-ecstasy hangover. You'll wake up the next day and realize that all those Ecstasy-induced love rubs have left your body bruised and as tender as a slab of veal. Oh, the pain!



Week Two: Valium--to alleviate the anxiety of not getting laid. Valium can also be used to bribe harried, highstrung GTFs.



Week Eight: Codeine Cough Syrup--you've undoubtedly been smoking a lot of cigarettes since you started that Valium, Xanax, Oxycontin, Adderall, Ecstasy and Vicodin run. Your throat is probably really sore, complete with smoker's cough. The University Health Center has your answer.



Week Three: Xanax- Valium is almost never enough. Combine the two for a mind-blowing experience. Seriously. It will blow your mind. You will die.



Week Nine: Ambien--you need some sleep. Of course, you'll be sleeping alone.



Week Four: Oxycontin- more fun than Valium and Xanax combined. Ask Rush Limbaugh. Or anybody from the south for that matter. They don't call it hillbilly heroin for nothin'.



Week Ten: Valtrex--don't ask. Seriously, people, just keep on moving. Nothing to see here.



Week Five: Adderall--it's time for midterms! Bring on the heart attack!!!!



Finals Week: Pick your poison. May we suggest something with a deep violet pyrope rim, with a rich nose and fruity brambles-over-underbrush bouquet? May we suggest hydrogen peroxide with Mr. Bubbles chaser?

ON SET TRIPPIN', ONE

Nothing goes to waste. It is beautiful. It is inspiring. It is incredible to see how in tune these people are with the environment; they are completely self-sufficient.

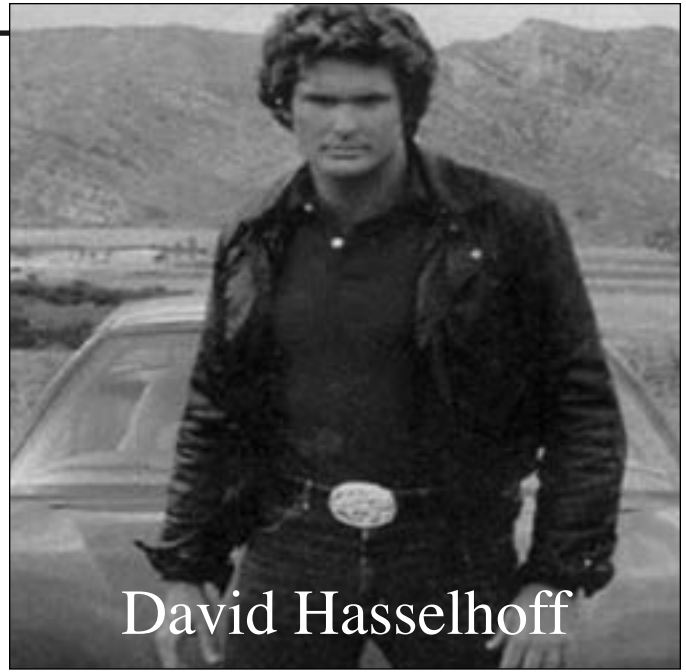
-- *Cameron Diaz on the new and staggeringly offensive MTV show Trippin', describing the brutal, dehumanizing poverty of Bhutan.*

My favorite thing about Bhutan is they measure their country's wealth, not based on dollar amount but on gross national happiness.

-- *Diaz continues. Life expectancy of 54, 103 infant deaths per 1000 live births, and aren't they adorable?*

Daily routines of the local citizenry are featured on the series, including pounding mud with large sticks for hours...

-- *CNSNews.com's Marc Morano manages to keep a straight face, confronted with Diaz and Drew Barrymore's eco-tourism.*



David Hasselhoff

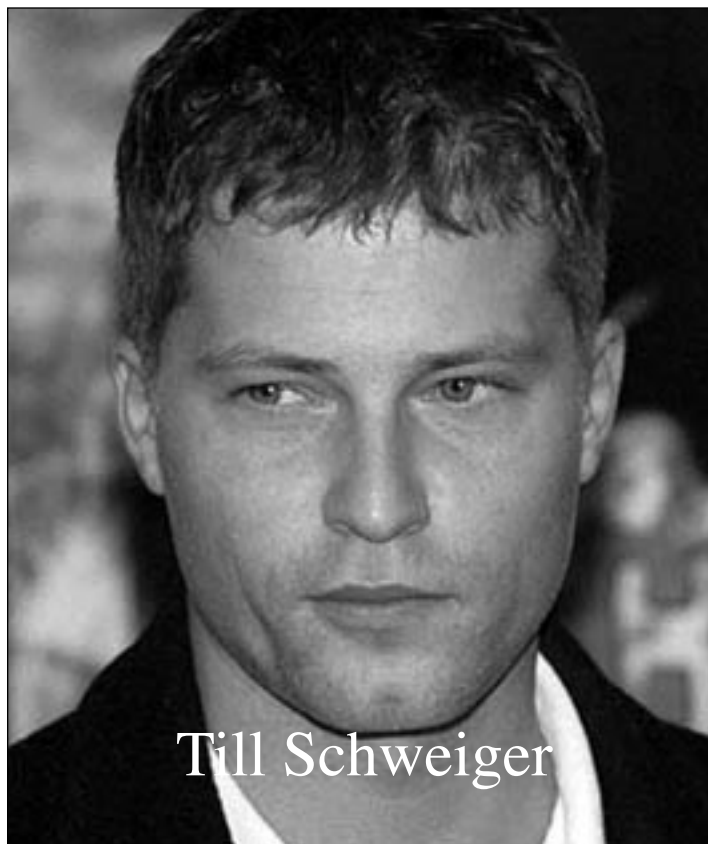
ON SET TRIPPIN', TWO

I took a poo in the woods hunched over like an animal. It was awesome.

-- *Barrymore. And then, by the sound of things, they put it on television. Congratulations.*

I am so jealous right now, I am going -- I am going to the woods tomorrow.

-- *Diaz. Sigh.*



Till Schweiger

ON EXEC YOURSELF BEFORE YOU WRECK YOURSELF

There is that bridge we've built with the community ... It's unfortunate that Adam [Walsh] doesn't see this bridge because he's never actually walked on it.

-- *Flailing VP condidate Jael Anker-Lagos resorts to the old "invisible bridge" homily in the ODE.*

The reality is that any ASUO Executive candidate who tells you they're going to get the tuition freeze for you is lying to you.

-- *Eventual surprise victor Walsh hits the ODE campaign trail. He went on to reduce many of his opponents to tears by claiming that there is no Santa Clause.*

Kyla, it's Adam ... I just wanted to know how it feels to be the vice president of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon."

-- *Walsh, quoted in the ODE.*

Jesus, Adam, shouldn't you simply be content with your own position?

**Germans who are not the
new pope**

ON EGGS BENEDICT

In terms of social politics, it is interesting that Benedict should be painted as standing back from a political edge, when last year Benedict spoke out against giving communion to pro-abortion politicians.

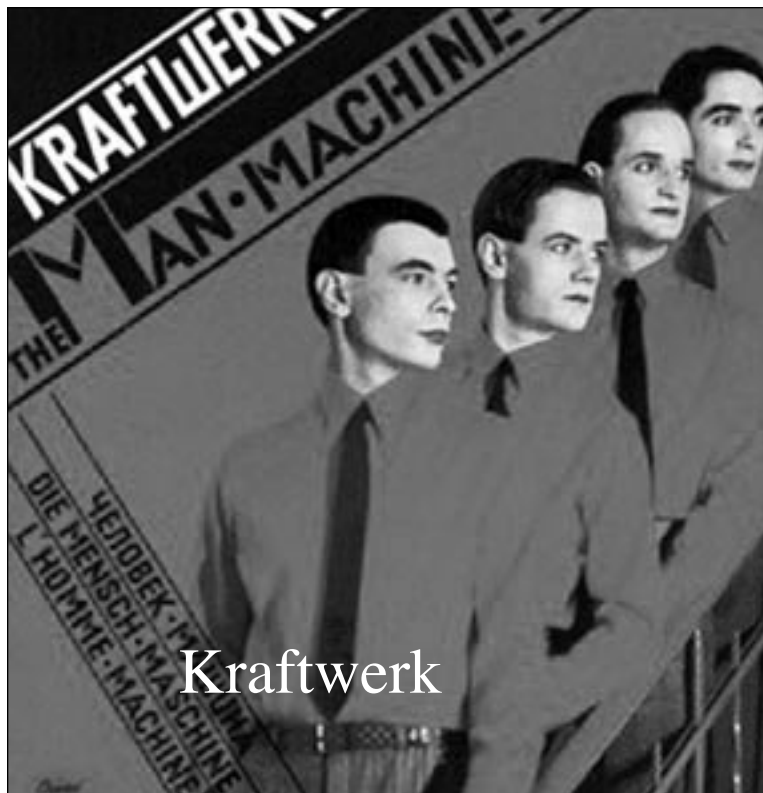
-- *ODE editorial. Wait: you mean the pope is Catholic? Who could have foreseen such a thing?*

It's just as easy to forget about God while dancing to an iPod as while marching in a Hitler Youth rally.

-- *Daniel Moloney in the National Review, pitching new slogans for Apple. Could this be because the music on the iPod is too loud, and he can't hear the words?*

It's a stern task, when you have to convince people that there is such a thing as reason before you can argue with them about what reason says.

-- *Joseph Bottum develops the theme in the Weekly Standard. Wait: not to pick on Catholicism, but since when has it been remotely reasonable? It makes less sense than Jean goddamn Baudrillard.*



ON NEW MEDIA

BE THE BEST IN BED WITH MINIMAL EFFORT


- *Headline from Jane magazine: speaking to the lazy romantic in all of us.*

KATHY GRIFFIN'S BIG GAY HOUSE

- *Headline from Out magazine. In a hilarious mix-up, the profile was actually submitted by a high-school student who disliked the house.*

RISE OF THE SMALL GAY CRUISE

- *Headline from The Out Traveller. Incidentally, this is probably as good a place as any to thank the kindhearted soul who has subscribed us to these fine publications.*



The inaptly named University of Oregon Men's Center (*UOMC*) marches on campus.

I don't know but I've been told



Hamilton p***y is mighty cold



Sound off ...