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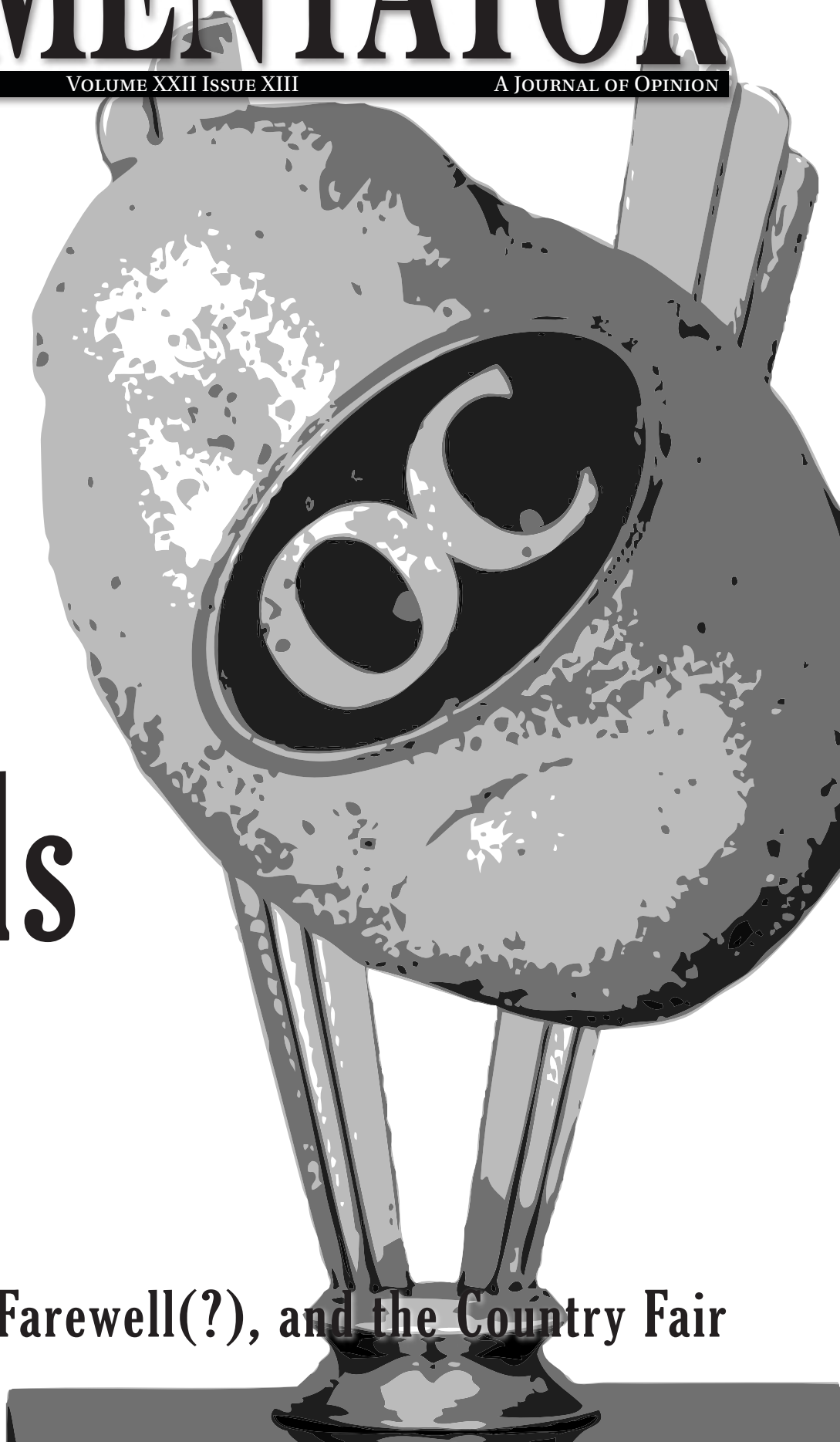
# COMMENTATOR

AUGUST 15, 2005

VOLUME XXII ISSUE XIII

A JOURNAL OF OPINION

# 2005 Tater Awards



Also: Diversity, Farewell(?), and the Country Fair



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.

# TATER 2005

**8. THE 2005 TATER AWARDS... LIKE THE GRAMMYS, BUT WITHOUT THE TERRIBLE MUSIC AND LOOSE CLEAVAGE.**



**11. ADRIAN GILMORE BIDS THE UO FAREWELL - LEAVING US ALL WITH SOME WORDS OF WISDOM.**



**12. OLLY RUFF DELVES INTO THE FOGGY THINKING OF THE FIVE YEAR DIVERSITY PLAN.**



**14. TYLER GRAF BIDS US ALL A FOND FAREWELL. AND YES, HE STILL MISSES BUSTER'S.**



**16. MICHAEL GUIDERO PERFORMS A LINE-BY-LINE EXAMINATION OF OREGON'S ABSURD GAS PUMPING LAWS.**



**18. IAN SPENCER TRAVELS TO THE COUNTRY FAIR, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THE DREAM IS DEAD... THANK GOD.**



VOLUME XXII, ISSUE XIII

# COMMENTATOR

Tater 2005

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Maureen Dowd. Oregon Basketball. Dreams can happen.

## SAME OL' SAME OLD

And so a new era at the OREGON COMMENTATOR begins... or not. Despite retirements and changes in titles, our editorial positions will stay the same and adherence to our mission statement remains the number one goal. Sure, we've changed some of the design elements and the page layout probably looks a bit different, but it's the same ol' COMMIE HATER that you've grown to love or hate: The commentaries are still aggressively libertarian, the pictures remain stolen, the copy is always minimally edited, most of the content of this issue is still written at the bar, and the editorial is still written by a tired and hung-over Editor-in-Chief. No surprises here.

The few changes you will notice are, for the most part, superficial: The tags are a different color, three-column layouts are now standard, Nobody uses shaded rounded-edge boxes, and our addiction to Adobe Illustrator's Live Trace tool has reached the level where an intervention may be necessary.

One notable change in this issue is the return of Not Worthy. Originally 'Not Worthy of 1200 Words,' this feature is now essentially a round-up of short news briefs and accompanying editorials. We can only hope that the Ghosts of COMMENTATOR Past are not angered by this change.

Alright, enough of this self-indulgent junk, let's talk about something of substance. Fiscal irresponsibility continues to pervade every level of American governance. The irresponsibility of the ASUO is the number one political issue on this campus. Last year's student government was abysmal both at restraining spending and holding members responsible for violations of the law. Current ASUO President Adam Walsh and Vice-President Kyla Coy ran, at least partly, on a platform of executive visibility and accountability, and so far at least they appear to be sticking to that. But actions speak louder than words, partic-

ularly as far as the Student Senate is concerned. Will Walsh and Coy press the Senate and PFC to reduce funding to student groups? Will they limit the Executive's own expenditures on needless equipment and materials? The question isn't so much if they will, but if they even can. The very nature of bureaucracy limits those who would wish to rein it in.

No clearer example of the power of the Leviathan exists than the US Congress, which has repeatedly increased spending in nearly every way imaginable. The Democrats had for years enriched both themselves and their backers by filling every bill that passed their way with pork-barrel projects and sky-high cost projections. When the Republicans finally gained a majority in the House in 1994, change was promised. Change was slow to come, however, as President Clinton vetoed or held up nearly every bill within the Contract with America. Once a Republican was in the White House, conservatives figured, fiscal responsibility would finally reign. This was not to be. Spending has continued at an even faster pace than under Clinton, with inflation-adjusted non-defense expenditures rivaling those of the Johnson administration. Socialist entitlement programs, corporate hand-outs, foreign aid, and federally-funded projects were once the tools of Democrats. Now they are the agenda of the Republican Party.

No current PFC or Senate members were elected on a platform of cutting expenditures, so why would we expect them to, for instance, cut funding to a parasite like OSPIRG? And why should Congressional incumbents change their wasteful habits when reelection rates are over 95% in the House and 80% in the Senate? Fiscal responsibility will not become a priority at any level of government until we the voters demand it to be.



# LEST WE FORGET



R.I.P. ADAM PETKUN  
ADMINISTRATION

CONSIDER OUR 40'S  
POURED, HOMIE.

# THE OREGON COMMENTATOR

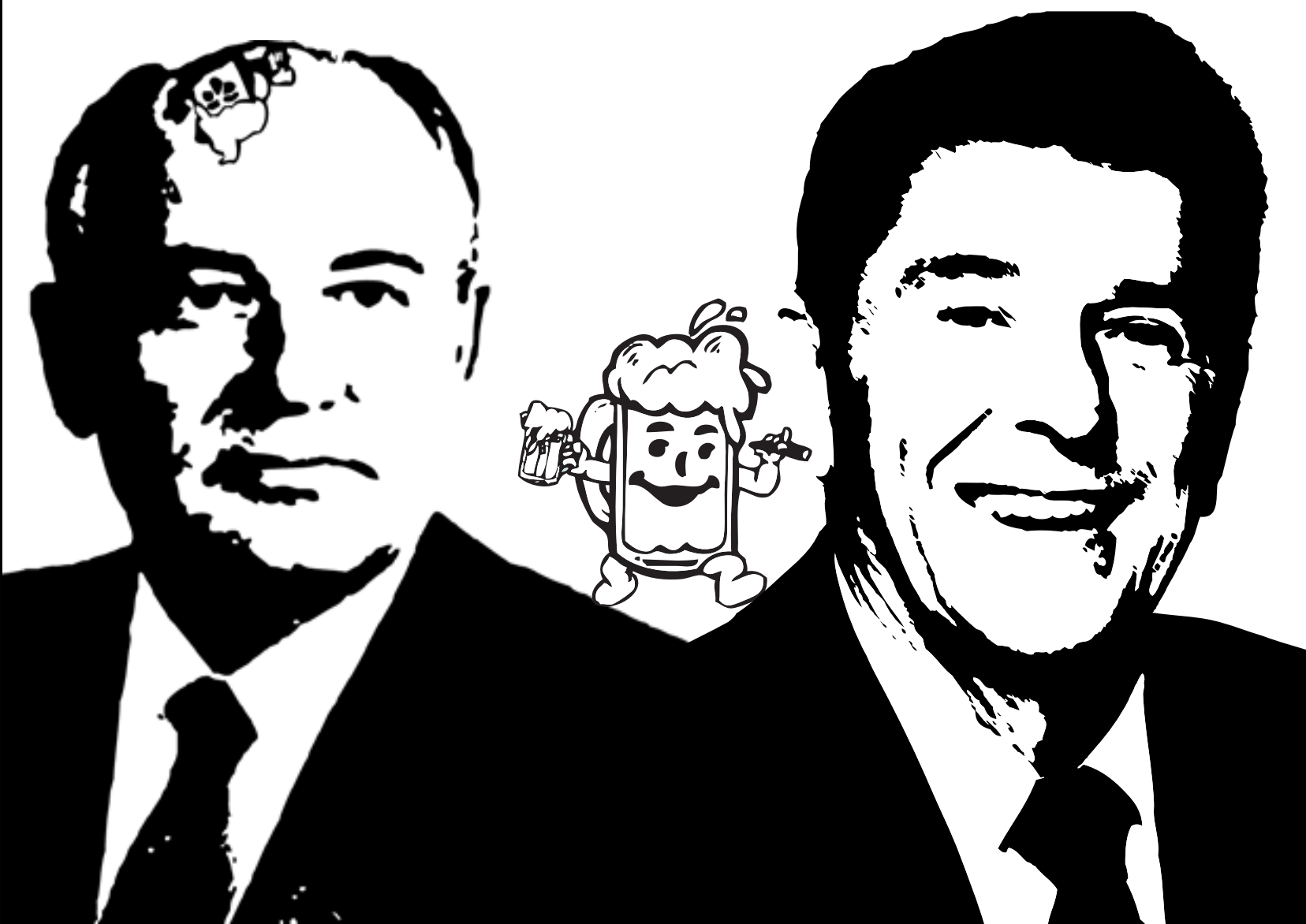
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**NEO-CONS  
STRIKE AGAIN**  
by Paul Krugman

The neo-cons are at it again.

First they started an illegal war in Afghanistan. Then they picked a fight with the ideological successors of George Washington in Iraq. And now they've decided to put Ian Spencer in charge of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Some may wonder why I take an interest in the OC – after all, I am ideologically opposed to nearly everything it contains – but the answer is obvious to those who know me well: I am an avid follower of the University of Oregon's student government. It was in 199? when I first heard of the ASUO's budgeting and fee allotment processes. It was brilliant, and I quickly realized that such a model could work at a national level.

But in order for this model to be recognized by those who hadn't written their own textbook, its critics and naysayers would have to be eliminated. And clearly, the biggest critic of the ASUO was the

COMMENTATOR, a magazine funded by the very same institution it criticized.

The COMMENTATOR's record stands in stark contrast to that of the ASUO, the very organization the magazine is supposed to watchdog. Rapid expenditure growth, budget imbalances, and wise investments in human capital all serve as signs of a healthy, growing student government.

Even worse, the COMMENTATOR printed more issues at less cost to students than publications such as the Oregon Voice and the Student Insurgent. Despite popular misconception, "more efficient" is actually less efficient. Right-wing Economic wingnuts, proclaiming that efficiency helps an economy, reveal their ignorance with such statements. Where do they suppose the extra money disappears to in an inefficient operation? Thin air?

In truth, spending more capital for less output is healthy, as the extra capital is irrevocably being put into the hands of incompetent workers and unions, the engines of any first-world economy. This is not speculation; this is fact. I wrote a textbook.

But back to this Spencer fellow. He was suspicious from the get-go. A quick check of his financial past confirmed my worst fears: he was a free-market economist and a beer drinker. Indeed, his bar tabs have been steadily going up since he turned 21. Between February and July 2005, his Rennies expenditures increased from \$23 to \$64 per month. This 296% increase was accompanied by a mysterious drop in tuition payments between June and July. The mystery, Spencer attests, is explained by summer term, a time for less classes and more drinking. Neo-con poppycock.

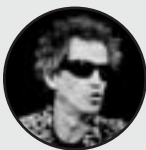
I first tried to address my concerns by contacting Publisher Dan Atkinson directly. I told him that Spencer would be a poor choice, basing my advice on his aforementioned financial and academic history. Atkinson demurred, telling me that the OC was a newspaper, not a television show. "And anyways," he said, "I also like beer." Unbelievable. "I wrote a textbook," I told him. "That means I'm right." But Atkinson would have none of it. I suppose denial and hard-headedness is a trait shared by all radical right-wingers. I ended the conversation by telling Atkinson to keep his hands off my uterus.

## THE OC ASTROLOGY PANEL

**WHAT DO THE STARS HOLD FOR THE NEXT MONTH? WE ASK OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS.**



**Frog** - Hey, whattaya call a guy with toes on his knees? Tony! Get it? Toe-knee, ha-ha! Yeah, I know that's not funny... and I realize it doesn't have the first thing to do with your horoscope. So what? I'm a remnant of the sixties, man-- come on, I'm not supposed to make sense! Who are you to expect relevance from me? Random utterances is what I'll give you, and you'll like it.



**Keith Richards** - You're all set for some serious partying, lads. Yeah, this month, every month, it's one solid holiday throughout. Screw health; it's a load o' bollocks, right? Do yourself a favor and let the trouser snake do your thinking for you. And what has healthy living ever done for anybody? Mr. Rogers, dead. John Denver, dead. Frank Sinatra, dead. Meanwhile, Iggy Pop and I are as healthy as fleas at Reggae on the River.



**Zachary Vishanoff** - I dunno, man, you guys are just, like... what have you really been doing, man? Who's pulling their weight around here? Who's using their clout, getting things done? What you need to start doing is connecting the dots... the dots, man.

## BREAKING NEWS

**Busta Kappa House Member Killed in Shootout with ATF**

**Kitty Piercy Attends Protest, Vows Support For Cause**

**Erin O'Brien's Mole Speaks Out Against Freckle-centric Dermatological Practices**

## MISTAKES WE KNEW WE WERE MAKING

Recent indications to the contrary notwithstanding, The OREGON COMMENTATOR does not, in fact, hate Joggers.

The OREGON COMMENTATOR does, in fact, do its drinking at the charming dive located on 7th and Willamette with a regularity that verges on devotion. Or addiction. Whatever.

Seriously: you have something better to do on a Tuesday than sip/pound \$2 mixed drinks on a downtown sidewalk where you can smoke? What have you got going on Wednesdays that compares to \$1 microbrews, pool, and gloriously cheesy eighties videos projected onto a wall? Don't kid yourself, pal— if you don't perceive the appeal in these simple joys then your priorities are so askew there might be no hope left for you.

Yes, the probability is high that you'll sight someone the next table over who actually works for a living. Relax. Enjoy an inexpensive libation and take some mental notes.

Sure, you can hang out where the cognoscenti are known to congregate... but you do realize that the trucker hat, the mullet hair, the rock tour t-shirt—virtually every sartorial fad that's enjoyed a moment of favor among the self-consciously hip or will enjoy such a moment five minutes from now—finds its inspiration in the attire of these self-same proletariat on whom you imagine yourself looking down, right? You call them rednecks; we call them the avant-garde.

## COMING NEXT MONTH:

**LANCE ARMSTRONG'S LOST TESTICLE  
ANSWERS READER MAIL.**

## THE ASKS:

### WHY DOES THE MAIN-STREAM NEWS MEDIA CARE ABOUT MISSING WHITE GIRLS SO MUCH?



**Greg Vincent**

I don't know, but I'm quite certain that my five year abduction diversity plan is the right solution for any interested news organization.



**Joey Harrington**

I wish someone would abduct me. Nobody likes me in Detroit. And it's cold, too.



**Nancy Grace**

Black chicks give me a 1.6, but white hoes give me 2.0's. Show me the money!



**Robocop**

When therefore we demand whether anything be the same or no, it refers always to something that existed such a time in such a place, which it was certain, at that instant, was the same with itself, and no other.



**Jon Benet Ramsey**

Media attention didn't help me. But hey, at least I made Larry Schiller a bit more cash.



**Ward Weaver**

I'll tell y'all what: you let me out of here, and I'll pinkie swear to abduct only girls of color in the future. Do we have a deal?



**Michael Jackson**

Who's missing white girls? Only thing I'm missing is the white boys. Wanna be starting something?

# The Taters

## PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

### Checklin Jonathan Vaifale

High school graduate Checklin Jonathan Vaifale was one of the up-and-coming stars of the Psychology department. He proudly carried his Human Neuropsychology class files in hand and was a part of a number of campus events, including LGBTQA Pride Week and Hawaii Club dances. The future looked bright for the 35-year old until it was revealed he had no education beyond high school, no credentials, and was not, in fact, a faculty member. While this may qualify him as a sociology or gender studies instructor, we would guess that his future lies in Scientology.

## MAN OF THE YEAR

### Sarah Wells

Sarah's like that guy from Wayne's World. She's nobody's friend. If Sarah were an ice cream flavor, she'd be pralines and dick. Did you ever see that "Twilight Zone" where the guy signed a contract and they cut out his tongue and put it in a jar and it wouldn't die, it just grew and pulsed and gave birth to baby tongues? OK, maybe not. But it was real cool, and Sarah does remind us of Rob Lowe. Party on, Swells!

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR

### Mason Quiroz

Mason earns Woman of the Year for his perfect embodiment of everything that is wrong with student government: a roiling blend of self-righteousness, schizoid unpredictability, ignorance, and drug addiction. It's highly likely that even if Mason Quiroz hadn't attempted to defund the

COMMENTATOR he would have still won this award. In a pre-election interview, Quiroz told the *Emerald* that he took the incidental fee "very seriously." He took the fee so seriously that he left OSPIRG's PFC hearing early and attempted to completely de-fund the *Ol' Dirty* for ridiculous reasons. But Quiroz's worst moment came at the COMMENTATOR's own hearings, where, after repeatedly violating viewpoint neutrality, he pompously declared the committee to be "sleeping with the Devil," resigned, and stormed out in a snippy huff. Mason, you break just like a little girl.

## RISING STAR

### Brian Bogart

Brian Bogart first came to our attention through a letter of his which appeared in the 7/1/2004 *Eugene Weekly*. It claimed that Carl Sagan (amongst others) was responsible for the end of the Cold War, Ronald Reagan had accomplished nothing, and Dick Cheney runs a "White House Gestapo." But while this initially slipped under our radars, our controllers at the Council on Foreign Relations were not so negligent. They were on the the red phone to us in a matter of hours, and we were ordered to immediately begin a campaign against the UO's first "Peace Studies" graduate. But while one might presume the study of peace would entail finding solutions for the causes of global conflict, it's instead been taken by Bogart as a license to bitch and moan about U.S. foreign policy while whitewashing all other international players and historical elements. None of his *Eugene Weekly* articles have denounced terrorism. Indeed, to Bogart terrorism is a reasonable "blowback"

from America's global power. It would be interesting to see if he remembers a famous quote by Martin Luther King, Jr., which states that "[i]f your opponent has a conscience, then follow Gandhi and nonviolence. But if your enemy has no conscience like Hitler, then follow Bonhoeffer." Try as many might to say otherwise, the vast majority of Americans do have consciences; we are not all Lyndie Englands or Mohammed Attas, the very presence of a peace movement proves as much. Now who's next on the list, Mr. Haass?

## COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

### Ailee Slater

The Oregon Daily Emerald has never been on the cutting edge of critical thinking. The opinion page is generally filled with a Rogue's Gallery of middlebrow columnists whose opinions have the amazing ability of being both trite and infuriating. Every once in a while, however, a columnist of awesome power will come along and shake things up. Remember Aaron Shakra? Remember Joseph Bechard? How about Pat Payne? These are the true heroes of the editorial page. But it's time to add one more name to the list, and with it another reason to continue reading the *Ol' Dirty's* page two: Ailee Slater.

Ailee Slater is a very, very bad columnist, as is made evident by her strange opinions: "Unfortunately, U.S. citizens still do not see or truly under-



## Another year, another batch of Tater Award winners.

stand the harms of a nation built upon the existence of a battle for the most material goods ('capitalism' if you will), ["Store-bought happiness"] Ailee Slater, proving once again that socialist sympathies are the bread and butter of any hack student columnist.

Because she is also the editorial page editor, she is also a bad editor. In an editorial published on June 30 – in the wake of the *Kelo* Supreme Court decision, which ruled that local governments have the authority to seize private property if the public will benefit from the seizure – Ailee Slater (we must presume) writes critically of the ruling. However, she's critical for exactly the wrong reasons:

"[T]earing down residential neighborhoods and replacing them with urban sprawl in the form of businesses is harmful to citizens in a number of ways. Land and home owners who retain the rights to their property will have economic developments springing up in their own backyards, where neighbors' houses used to be. A drop in the value of surrounding homes will likely result when businesses move into what was once private property."

Incredible. Seriously, words fail us. This is the best argument you can make against the government seizing

your private property, Ailee? In another editorial the ODE, once again with the help of page-two Svengali Ailee Slater, calls Ted Kulongoski "a politician we approve of." In 800 words, Slater explains.

But why, you may ask, the sudden vociferous approval of Kulongoski? Is it because of Oregon's crappy economy? Of course not, it's because Kulongoski signed, and thus tangentially supported, a couple of bills with which the ODE editorial board agreed. Slater describes the bills as "progressive." It takes a populist-in-training like Ailee Slater to write such a mellifluous mash letter to a tried-and-tested popularist politician who, as Ms. Slater unironically points out in her lead, has been involved in Oregon politics "for more than 30 years—in the House, the Senate, as Attorney General and as a judge on the Oregon Supreme Court." Sorry, but being a career politician is just sad, Ailee.

Whether writing insane columns about how frightful being a woman is ["The walls are closing in on women"] or explaining why our government should suddenly change after 200 years ["Praise for Parliament"] to being mocked at [www.fark.com](http://www.fark.com) for a column she wrote about the University's grading system ["Grading system gets and F,"] to which one Fark commenter stated, "She was not accepted at the University of I'd Hit It." ] Ailee Slater's opinions are laugh-out-loud hilarious.

## SCANDAL OF THE YEAR

### Sunriver Retreat

To be honest, too many words have been spilled about the Sunriver retreat by both the *Emerald* and the *COMMENTATOR*, so we promise to keep this short. But we probably won't.

You see, last August the ASUO thought it necessary to spend approximately \$3,200 on a finance retreat at Sunriver. At the retreat, many student leaders – gasp – drank alcoholic beverages and – shudder – inhaled smoke from marijuana cigarettes. Indeed, student government finally went through the proverbial looking glass, people: white was black, black was white, cats barked and dogs played poker...

Well, not quite. As much as we would like to be up in arms about what happened at the retreat, we cannot. Give us \$3,200 dollars, free of charge, and we'd blow it on a lavish excursion, too. There would be elephant rides and topless fire breathers traipsing around. The hot tubs would be filled with the finest sparkling boxed wine. We would dine on wild boar's head, lightly dusted with a variety of spices flown in from the Orient. Maybe, when all was said and done, we would eventually get around to discussing what a spreadsheet is. Then we would go home.

These people are only human, like you or me. Except they are insufferable bastards – one small difference I suppose. Giving these people thousands of dollars and then expecting them to spend it with our best interest at heart is like giving a 16-year-old male a fifth of whiskey, your virgin daughter and the keys to your car (and given what went on at the retreat, giving these people the keys to your car would be a terrible idea too.)

You see, it's not a big deal that they drank beer because, frankly, that's what any of us would have done. The larger question, which was never asked until recently, is: Why must they waste thousands of our dollars just so they can learn to do a job that they will inevitably do badly? The answer: Because it's not their money. This, sadly, is the way all governments work.

This should remain a big deal at the University, and things should change. Emphasis on should. However, the University has the institutional memory of a severely autistic Alzheimer's victim. As the ASUO goes on its finance retreat this year you should ask yourself: Is this necessary? And then remember the note, conveniently left in a Sunriver resort log book, that started the whole brouhaha: "We are some cocky smooth motherfuckers." No, sorry, you people are just sad, money grubbing bastards. But thanks for proving as much.



## OTHER AWARDS

### **THE MOST LIKELY TO HAVE HEAD EXPLODE AWARD**

Pira Kelly

### **THE SO MUCH OPPRESSION AWARD**

Tied Erin O'Brien & Maria  
Hwang

### **THE NOT CITY COUNCIL MATERIAL AWARD**

Adam Walsh

### **THE THANK GOD NANOBOTS CAN'T INFILTRATE TINFOIL**

#### **AWARD**

Zach Vishanoff

### **THE LIKE CHRIS "THE DANE" CHRISTOFFER- SON, BUT PROBABLY HIGH**

#### **AWARD**

Ian Crosswhite

### **THE CRICKETS AND TUMBLE- WEEDS AWARD**

UO College Democrats

### **THE IF ONLY PREMARITAL SEX WEREN'T SINFUL AWARD**

Laura Jenkins

Anthony Warren

### **THE "HEY, THEY BROUGHT BACK CATS!" AWARD**

Cast of Vagina Monologues

### **THE DUBIOUS ORGASM AWARD**

ANNE LEAVITT

### **THE "I DEMAND A RE- COUNT!" AWARD**

Michael Badnarik

### **THE ROBERT E. LEE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Jarrett White

### **THE JARRETT WHITE AWARD**

Dean Scrutton

### **THE ROBERT ALTMAN ME- MORIAL AWARD**

Neil Goldschmidt

# At Least Where I'm Going the Hate Mongers Carry Flags

by Adrian Gilmore

**T**hese two individuals have outsmarted the entire Democratic Party! How does that make you feel? Before you judge, think to yourself, do you hate these two men as much as you think they hate you? If the answer is yes you are just as guilty as you think they are. You are just as hateful as you think they are. And you are just as much a part of the problem as you think they are.

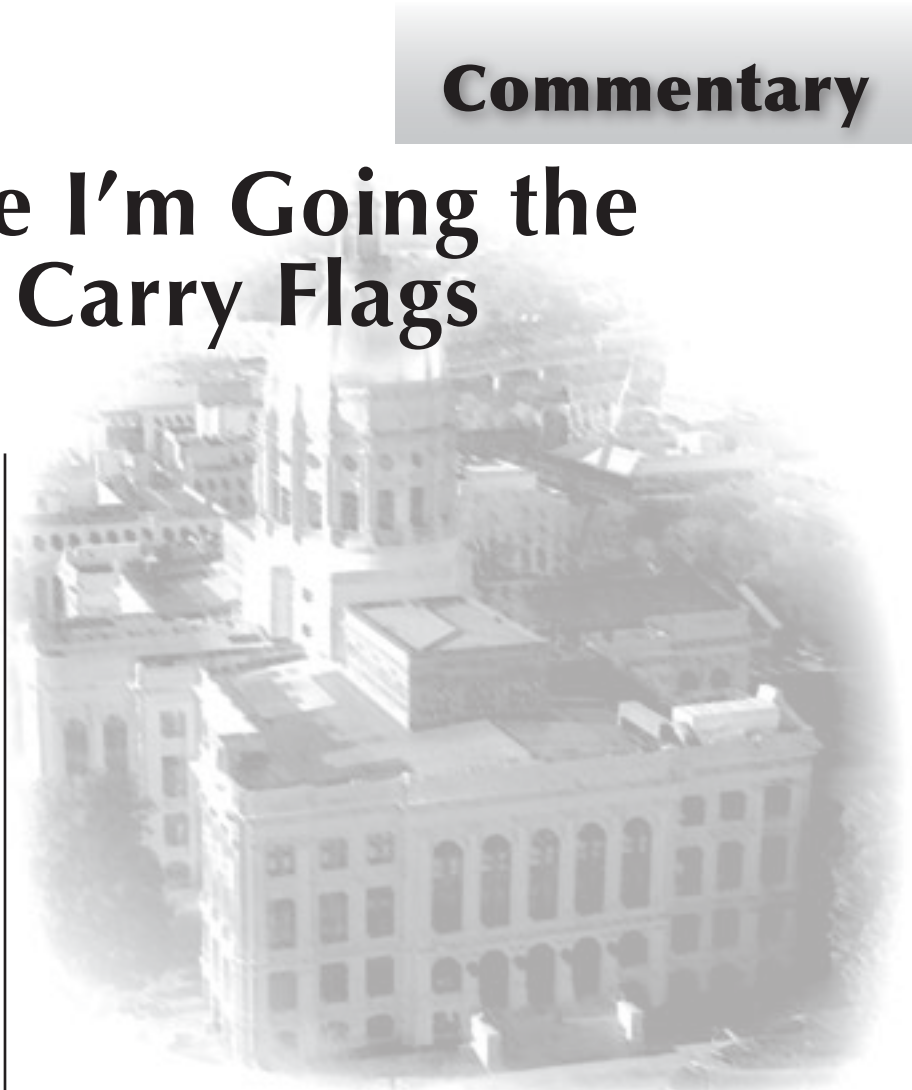
Think about this as you live in your liberal bubble where people are just as hateful to people who are different from them as the people you hate for being hateful. We're not talking about people different from the perceived norm, but people different from YOU. How about talking to someone before you judge them? How about finding out the true intentions of a person before you protest them? Please let go of your elitist thinking that your way is the only way. The liberals on this campus fight so much with each other that it is easy to see why these gentlemen outsmarted the entire Democratic Party.

My time here at the University of Oregon has seen only a campus where every organization or group fights with other groups over petty issues, leading to the decline of robust discourse on campus. Student leaders falsify PFC hearing tapes, lie to leaders of other groups, and break the law. Every conflict I saw at this University could have been discussed and handled with a simple open and honest chat. I have found, however, that treachery and deceit are the ways of the University of Oregon social collective.

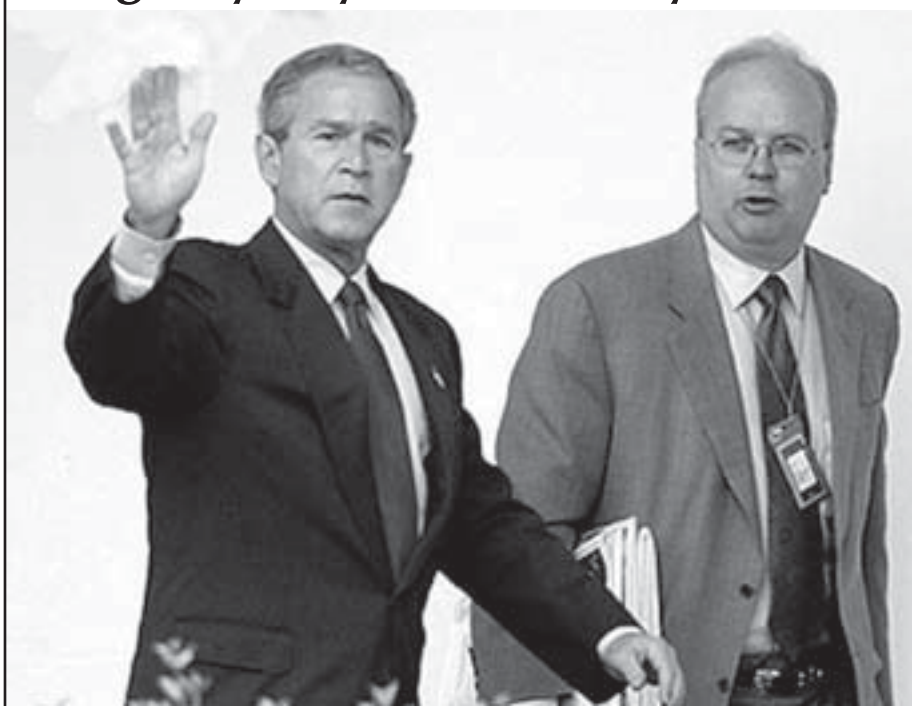
This place could be the greatest University in the country if people would just show a little respect to everyone at all times and try to solve their problems face to face instead of protesting everything. Everyone is guilty at one time or another, even the OREGON COMMENTATOR, so don't think I'm just talking to a select few. After a while, the protesting gets old and people stop listening to each other. Just respect each other, even when you disagree. Try it. It works!



Adrian Gilmore, who will soon be leaving this fair state for even warmer climes, is a contributor to the COMMENTATOR.



**Before you judge, think to yourself, do you hate these two men as much as you think they hate you? If the answer is yes you are just as guilty as you think they are.**





# The Five Year Diversity Plan: Next Time, Include a Glossary

by Olly Ruff

In May of this year, the UO's Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity issued a 22-page document entitled "Five Year Diversity Plan Draft", henceforth referred to as the "Plan". It turned out to be more of a big deal than may have been intended by the twenty-four members of the Diversity Work Group and fifty members of the accompanying Advisory Council – or at least the smaller number of people who had anything to do with actually writing it. Part of the response it provoked was an impassioned open letter to President Frohnmayer criticizing the Plan, signed by 25 faculty members and referred to in what follows as the "Letter". The resulting controversy has attracted as much media attention – from mainstream outlets like the Chronicle of Higher Education, to a large number of curious bloggers – as I've ever seen a UO story receive, and the general tone has been harshly critical of the Plan. What's more, the institutional response has been equivocal enough that we have a good chance of a similarly amusing controversy come next year. Hence this piece: a brief overview for those who are arriving at the party late.

My own sympathies on the matter are fairly predictable, lying more with the Letter than with the Plan. Also, as a matter of disclosure, it might be worth noting that most of the vocal opposition to the Plan has come from professors in the

Mathematics department, where I was a graduate student for the past five years. (Of course, since one of the consequences of the Plan would be that professors could be penalized for criticizing initiatives such as the Plan, it's actually quite impressive that there's been as much public discussion of it as there has been.) That said, given that everyone involved agrees that Racism is Bad, and Diversity is Good, what's the problem here?



The Plan shows every sign of having been written by committee – albeit a smaller committee than advertised – so to get to the juicy bits takes some work. It is a very worthy goulash full of sentences like this:

"Developing the cultural competence of individuals is essential to evolving the kind of community described in our vision statement and to improving quality [sic] of our educational experience thereby reducing disparities for all."

Which means, as PJ O'Rourke once put it, who knows what plus I doubt it. Variations on that sentence recur throughout, only with the words "cultural competence", "community", and "vision" occurring in a dif-



ferent order. However, eventually something concrete hoves into view. "Focusing on numbers only without making required system changes continues to distort the real issues of equity and encourages the pursuit of tokenism," note the authors of the Plan. This is the only mention of tokenism in the document, and to avoid it, then, we are to focus on the numbers and some other stuff besides. Here are some of the substantive demands:

"Require that all requests for new tenure-track searches include an explanation of how the new hire furthers the unit's long-term hiring plan (and therefore meets some aspect of the University's affirmative action, equity, or diversity goals.) If a unit believes that a particular hire, by its nature, cannot address these priorities, it needs to provide a rationale for such a claim."

"Revise 3rd year, tenure, and post-tenure evaluation criteria to assess ongoing skill building and demonstrable commitment to cultural competency."

"Tie evaluation of cultural competency to raises, promotions, etc."

And lots more in this vein. Stripped of the feelgood language, this is a stunningly audacious power grab on the part of the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. The three quotes above give the gist of things: they would like a say

in who gets hired, who gets tenured, and how much they get paid once they're here. What's more, the yardstick we are to use is that of "cultural competency".

As many critics have pointed out, the precise sense in which the Plan is using this suddenly-ubiquitous catchphrase is left unclear. What seems apparent, though, is that the OIED will be the ones to determine who is "culturally competent" and who is not. Taken in conjunction with the proposals concerning academic hiring, this amounts to the OIED demanding effective control over the entire academic business of the University.

You don't have to be a conservative, or opposed to "diversity", or a chronic misanthrope to find this sort of thing disturbing. As a research institution, the business of the University is to find the best scholars possible in their respective fields. Administrators are not competent to assess the scholarly work of potential professorial hires – if they were, they would have had to spend so much time studying the appropriate fields that they would probably no longer be very good administrators. This is not to say that departments should not be accountable to the administration – but then, they already are pre-Plan. Demanding that departments justify potential hires purely based on their ability to contribute to a head count carried out by the OIED directly countermands



the mission of the University.

The Letter covers these complaints and more. (URLs for both documents should be appended to this article, and I recommend reading them.) Ultimately, it makes two counterdemands of its own:

"Withdraw the 'Five Year Diversity Plan'.

Make all the information related to the diversity programs open and available to faculty members and the press. In particular, we want to know the budgets of all diversity programs on campus, including the moneys used for recruitment, scholarships, salaries, funded committees, new diversity administrators and sources of those moneys. This information is essential for an informed faculty discussion of future actions."

In other words: two can play at this game.

These demands follow an entertaining analysis of the situation. They point out that some of the putative cosignatories in the Diversity Advisory Council

had no idea what was being written in the Plan, deploy the ever-welcome adjective "Orwellian", and generally display an attitude that can be summed up in

math professor Boris Botvinnik's withering quote to the press: "Who do you think you are? You would like to tell us what to do" research in mathematics? We'd like to have a nice atmosphere of diversity on campus. We hire the best people available, and this is the only way to keep the level of the department high.



Are the critics of the Plan overreacting? (Comparisons with the Soviet Union are facile, perhaps, but it is hardly a good sign when those with first-hand experience of that regime begin to draw parallels, as has happened in recent *Emerald* coverage.)

One of the principal architects behind the Plan, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Gregory Vincent, announced his departure shortly after the Plan's debut for unrelated reasons, and his absence may slow the process down a bit. Responses from its drafters and from President Frohnmanyer have emphasized that the Plan is in its preliminary stages. A cynic might suggest, though, that the only reason we are not seeing the language of the Plan implemented is that some people did eventually get around to reading this document. At the very least, concerned academics – and the rest of us – need to pay more attention to these things as they develop.

For, after all, there seems little chance of a serious debate about what methods

**JUMP TO 20**

**"A cynic might suggest, though, that the only reason we are not seeing the language of the Plan implemented is that some people did eventually get around to reading this document."**



# SCREW IT, I'M OUT

FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TYLER GRAF TAKES A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE AND REMEMBERS A FEW CHESTNUTS FROM HIS PAST. BUT IS HE REALLY GONE? UM, NO.

After two years at the OREGON COMMENTATOR, I'm out. I retire. Consider my resignation tendered. I hereby relinquish my badge and gun. What's that? We aren't issued guns at the OC? And my badge says "Boob Inspector" on it? Well, I'll be damned. I guess I'll just have to keep these, thank you very much. But you're still welcome to my faux forget-me-nots, you ungrateful swine.

But I digress. I wish I had something meaningful to say – something along the lines of, "I have lived as a Philosopher and die as a Christian." But that would be wrong on both counts. Perhaps the last words of Chekhov would suit me better: "It's been a long time since I've had Boone's Farm." Indeed. Far too long. I'll miss the OREGON COMMENTATOR. As University institutions go (and, contrary to popular belief, it is a University institution), the OC is the most fun. I'll always have fond memories of the place. Here, in no particular order, are my six fondest memories of my time at the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

**6: Traveling to Chicago to participate in a "conservative journalism" conference with avowed alcoholic and former COMMENTATOR production manager Jeremy Jones.**

The conference itself was a strange affair, and I'm not saying that because I was drunk the entire time (thanks in part to an open bar). The appliqué patchwork of conservative journalists from across this majestic Republic was, to put it lightly, strange. Ranging from the fop-pish, John Derbyshire-esque dandies to the cackling, Ann Coulter-ish spittfires, they shared a singular, unswerving belief: Abraham Lincoln was our worst President.

Okay, that's hyperbole. Only about



**Yeah, that basically sums it up**

half of them felt this way. And half of these people were from such hotbeds of Confederate sympathies as ... Massachusetts! The South shall rise again indeed, and maybe it will feel like some good ol' fashioned crab cakes.

A conservative journalism conference wouldn't be a conservative journalism conference without bow ties. Bow ties as far as the eye could see. A veritable sea of bow-based neck-wear. I had never seen so many bow ties. Perhaps, on the east coast, in places like Greenwich Village and Martha's Vineyard, there is a Tucker Carlson Boutique for Insufferable Assholes mail order catalog.

At the conference, a number of impressive speakers shared their journalistic expertise – John Miller, R. Emmett Tyrell Jr., some white guy – through the tried and tested pedagogic technique of making fun of the French. Sadly, this is not the way you learn in your so-called "Schools of Mainstream Media." For shame, Tim

Gleason, for shame!

**5: Getting my first piece published in the magazine.**

I'll be quite honest, I didn't know what I was going to do at the OREGON COMMENTATOR when I first walked through the office door. I had no great ideas, or even mildly amusing ones. I had no stories to sell or even very much experience. But I knew, after meeting the management – Pete Hunt, editor; Bret Jacobson, publisher; Timothy Dreier, managing editor – that I was going to have a future, if not at the magazine then at the bar. But for some reason -- blind optimism I'm guessing -- they had faith in me. After I expressed interest in doing a little "straight" journalism, Bret gave me a story assignment. It involved the Athletic Department Finance Committee's incompetence. Keep in mind I had no idea what the ADFC did and only a threadbare concept of what the incidental fee was.

However, despite my lack of prior knowledge the piece turned out pretty good. It was even the cover story. I was ecstatic. Then I found out what the pay was. I was summarily put in the dumps. For some reason – blind misanthropy I'm guessing – I decided to stay at the magazine.

**4: Getting fired from my real job because of a piece I wrote for the COMMENTATOR.**

Shortly after the COMMENTATOR published my first story the magazine began work on the annual Hate Issue (Hate 2003). According to Pete, this would be the best Hate Issue ever: Glossy covers, striking art, a comic book theme ... everyone was excited. Well, I wasn't.

There were going to be extremely high standards, and I would have to churn out a masterful piece of apoplectic prose

if I wanted to keep up with the rest of the hate mongers. Could I stand up to the challenge? Perhaps. But in order to do so, I would have to look deep within my sputtering, tar-blackened heart and hate something. I'd have to be filled with more hate than a five percenter in a synagogue. Like all red-blooded, commie-hating Americans, I chose to hate my job.

At the time, I was working at the arcade at the Gateway Mall, Tilt. I won't rehash the gory details of what I witnessed during my year-and-a-half long stint handing out tokens and cheap trinkets to the Olfactory-impaired troglodytes of Springfield, but I will say that it profoundly shaped my outlook on the world. No place can be good that houses such evil.

After the Hate Issue came out I was as excited as a sociology professor in a brothel. Stupidly, I allowed my excitement to get the better of me. I took the Hate Issue to my work and showed it to my bosses. They laughed for a moment, before they reached the part about the arcade. Strangely, they were not terribly pleased by the picture I painted of their establishment: malnourished children scuttling about, trailed by lanky men in trench coats; pubescent prostitutes hawking their bodily wares in the electronic batting cage; feces carelessly forgotten by Tekken 3; etc.

The next day, I was fired.

### 3: Buster's: Best Bar Ever.

It lived fast, died young and left an alcohol-soaked shell of itself near the UO campus. But unlike Prefontaine, there are no plaques, no mourning obituaries, no mawkish movies – twenty years from now, when you receive your complimentary issue of the University's alumni magazine, you will not find any fond remembrances of Buster's. And that's a damn shame.

Once located below the GTFF office in a lot that, judging from the high number of failed businesses to previously occupy it, was built atop a massive Indian burial ground, Buster's was the Jogger's of 13th Avenue. Although that may not seem appealing to everyone reading this,

it was highly appealing to our piss poor staff.

To be honest, Buster's did not have the best location for a bar. Rennie's and Taylor's already had the campus bar scene by the nuts. Not even the gregarious staff, insanely low prices and wildly alcoholic drinks of Buster's could pry those nuts free. There just weren't enough nuts for Buster's to squeeze.

That is, unless you count our nuts. Oh, how Buster's squeezed our nuts! On one occasion, which will probably send

## As I look back on all the "good" times I had at Buster's, I think I'm having an epiphany: Perhaps Buster's didn't close down because of its bad location, or a disinterested campus clientèle; perhaps Buster's closed down because it kept killing its customers.

the OLCC into palsied fits of rage, the bartender, Ty, asked if we would like Mind Erasers -- pint glasses filled with a layered concoction of Vodka, Kahlua and Sprite. The idea is that you suck everything down at once, the Sprite giving some respite from the stomach-churning liquor you're amply consuming. Oh, and you're supposed to race your friends.

Most stories of this nature are modified by "it seemed like a good idea at the time," and this is no exception. For a measly two dollars (almost all the drinks at Buster's were two dollars, including Martinis) you could do much worse than a Mind Eraser. And because it was still early in the evening, we felt that our constitutions could hold their own against Ty's wrath.

Ty brought the drinks to the table, smiling like a jackal looming above his kill. We steadied ourselves. Then we began drinking. Nary ten seconds into the race, former editor Timothy Dreier turned shag-carpet green and lost his burger and fries all over the table. He also lost the race.

Tim was a sport about it, offering to clean up the contents of his spilled stomach. Ty was a sport about it too, offering

Tim another drink, possibly an Appletini. But, nay, Tim declined. I can't denigrate Tim for puking at Buster's; the place had that power. One night, when Olly Ruff and I were the only ones at the bar, Ty offered us two Cement Mixers – a vile concoction of asparagus-tinged urine and ground-up slugs, or so it seemed. We were already drunk, but we obliged the offer. I gulped mine down with a certain amount of trepidation, clutching my stool for support. But after feeling the viscous solution sliding down my throat, I knew it was going to come back up. And I wasn't about to make the same mistake as Tim.

I made a beeline for the bathroom, locked myself in and proceeded to vomit for 10 minutes straight. Olly began pounding on the door, and I crumpled from the toilet bowl to the floor, cowering in a fetal position. When I was steady enough to re-enter the bar, a drink was waiting for me.

"It's from Ty. It's free," Olly said.

"I can't drink anymore," I responded.

"What?" Olly glared at me. "You can't turn this down. This is a gift, Tyler. You can't turn down a gift at a bar."

And therein lay the problem. There were too many "gifts" at Buster's. Even Jeremy Jones vomited at Buster's, though it was one of the most surreptitious pukings anybody had ever seen: After taking a shot that didn't suit his stomach, Jeremy ducked under the table and let it out of his system. And nobody was the wiser. Even our AP writer, Ryan Earley, had to vomit into his backpack on a bus ride home from Buster's.

Later, Early would write a piece for the COMMENTATOR about riding the bus but failed to recount the backpack-vomit story, something we've never quite forgiven him for.

As I look back on all the "good" times I had at Buster's, I think I'm having an epiphany: Perhaps Buster's didn't close down because of its bad location, or a disinterested campus clientèle; perhaps Buster's closed down because it kept

**JUMP TO 20**

# Line-by-Line

WITH  
MICHAEL GUIDERO

Welcome freshmen and transfer students! Please enjoy your years at the University of Oregon, and while you are here, make your acquaintance with some of the stupid laws we have here in our fine state. For those of you bringing a car, please pay special attention: You cannot pump your own gasoline at the station. You could be fined up to \$500. Yes, it's true.

Those wonderful legislators in Salem have seen fit to make Oregon one of only two states where you are deemed too stupid to do what people do all the time in the other 48 states. ORS 480.315 is an attempt at justifying this. I will critique this fine law for you:

*The Legislative Assembly declares that, except as provided in ORS 480.345 to 480.385, it is in the public interest to maintain a prohibition on the self-service dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids at retail. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:*

The Legislative Assembly can't find its own ass sometimes. This declaration is proof.

*(1) The dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids by dispensers properly trained in appropriate safety procedures reduces fire hazards directly associated with the dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids;*

Evidently, when driving in other states, you can see that the sides of the roads are littered with burnt-down gas stations and cars that exploded because they were filled by customers untrained in the dispensation of Class 1 flammable liquids.

*(2) Appropriate safety standards often are unenforceable at retail self-service stations in other states because cashiers are often unable to maintain a clear view of and give undivided attention to the dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids by customers;*

Unless Big Brother is monitoring you, you are incapable of doing something as complicated as pumping your own gas.

*(3) Higher liability insurance rates charged to retail self-service stations reflect the dangers posed to customers when they leave their vehicles to dispense Class 1 flammable liquids, such as the increased risk of crime and the increased risk of personal injury resulting from slipping on slick surfaces;*

*(4) The dangers of crime and slick surfaces described in subsection (3) of this section are enhanced because Oregon's weather is uniquely adverse, causing wet pavement and reduced visibility;*

I'm sure that the good citizens of Washington would be interested in hearing that Oregon's weather is vastly different and somehow more uniquely adverse than theirs. I know that I've always believed that our winter rain is wetter and more slippery than theirs. I guess that's why they have self-serve gas and we don't.

*(5) The dangers described in subsection (3) of this section are heightened when the customer is a senior citizen or is disabled, especially if the customer uses a mobility aid, such as a wheelchair, walker, cane or crutches;*

*(6) Attempts by other states to require the providing of aid to senior citizens and the disabled in the self-service dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids at retail have failed, and therefore, senior citizens and the disabled must pay the higher costs of full service;*

I've been outside of Oregon more than once, and as much as I think California sucks, there was always a sticker at the self-serve pump saying that the station must provide full service to disabled and senior citizens at the self-serve price. Evidently our state legislators are not smart enough to think of this. I'm also very curious about our legislature's definition of "failed."

*(7) Exposure to toxic fumes represents a health hazard to customers dispensing Class 1 flammable liquids;*

*(8) The hazard described in subsection (7) of this section is heightened when the customer is pregnant;*

And this is vastly worse than all the other hazardous fumes people in Oregon voluntarily expose themselves to on a daily basis, such as those from Budweiser, hair spray, Axe, nail polish remover, Axe, and unwashed hippies. We have physician-assisted suicide in Oregon. Could we have some consistency, too?

*(9) The exposure to Class 1 flammable liquids through dispensing should, in general, be limited to as few individuals as possible, such as gasoline station owners and their employees or other trained and certified dispensers;*

Yes, limit exposure to minimum-wage gas station employees and their evil corporate bosses.

*(10) The typical practice of charging significantly higher prices for full-service fuel dispensing in states where self-service is permitted at retail:*

Or... they charge less for self-service gas, according to the "glass is half-full" point of view.

*(a) Discriminates against customers with lower incomes, who are under greater economic pressure to subject themselves to the inconvenience and hazards of self-service;*

I am a customer with a lower income. I've been to other states and never found it an "inconvenience" to pump my own gas. I've always thought it was inconvenient and insulting to have to wait for the dumb-ass running the pumps to come and do it for me. Maybe he can flush the toilet for me, too. If I bought my last meal on campus, that might be more hazardous than pumping gasoline.

*(b) Discriminates against customers who are elderly or handicapped who are unable to serve themselves and*

*so must pay the significantly higher prices; and ...*

Okay, I'm getting tired of seeing this kind of bullshit. Look at California and the multitude of other states that require by law that stations charge the self-serve rates for elderly and disabled customers who can't use self-service.

*(c) Increases self-service dispensing and thereby decreases maintenance checks by attendants, which results in neglect of maintenance, endangering both the customer and other motorists and resulting in unnecessary and costly repairs;*

Yeah, like they do maintenance checks anyway. Ever seen the maintenance checklist in a gas station bathroom? Whether it is marked or not, the bathroom still looks the same. Our legislators think the pumps will somehow be different?

*(11) The increased use of self-service at retail in other states has contributed to diminishing the availability of automotive repair facilities at gasoline stations;*

Um, what the hell? When was the last time you pulled into a Chevron, Shell, Arco, Mobile, Exxon, or any other gas station in Oregon and saw a mechanic? What fantasy-land are we living in here? In reality, you are lucky if they wash your window or even give you a receipt!

*(12) Self-service dispensing at retail in other states does not provide a sustained reduction in fuel prices charged to customers;*

That all depends on whether or not time is money. Half the gas stations in Oregon have one attendant in charge of half a dozen busy pumps, anyway. Usually, by the time the attendant gets to my car, I could have pumped my own gas, turned the car on, and let the engine idle until I needed another fill-up.

*(13) A general prohibition of self-service dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids by the general public promotes public welfare by providing increased safety and convenience without causing economic harm to the public in general;*

A general prohibition on anything without good reasons (none of these are good reasons) undermines liberty and flies in the face of the free market. Hell, why doesn't the state regulate everything? I remember hearing some guy name Marx was in favor of that...

*(14) Self-service dispensing at retail contributes to unemployment, particularly among young people;*

And fine jobs they are... minimum wage and perpetual op-

portunity for huffing the gas fumes. Give me a break. Many gas stations have only one person working anyway, especially at non-busy times. You'd still need an attendant at the gas station to watch the people who are allowed to operate a machine like a car, but too stupid to operate a gas pump without supervision.

*(15) Self-service dispensing at retail presents a health hazard and unreasonable discomfort to the handicapped, to elderly persons, small children and those susceptible to respiratory diseases;*

The bulk of this has been covered above but - wait a second - when was the last time you saw a small child fueling up their Hot Wheels collection?

*(16) The federal Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, requires that equal access be provided to disabled persons at retail gasoline stations; and*

This is starting to get redundant.

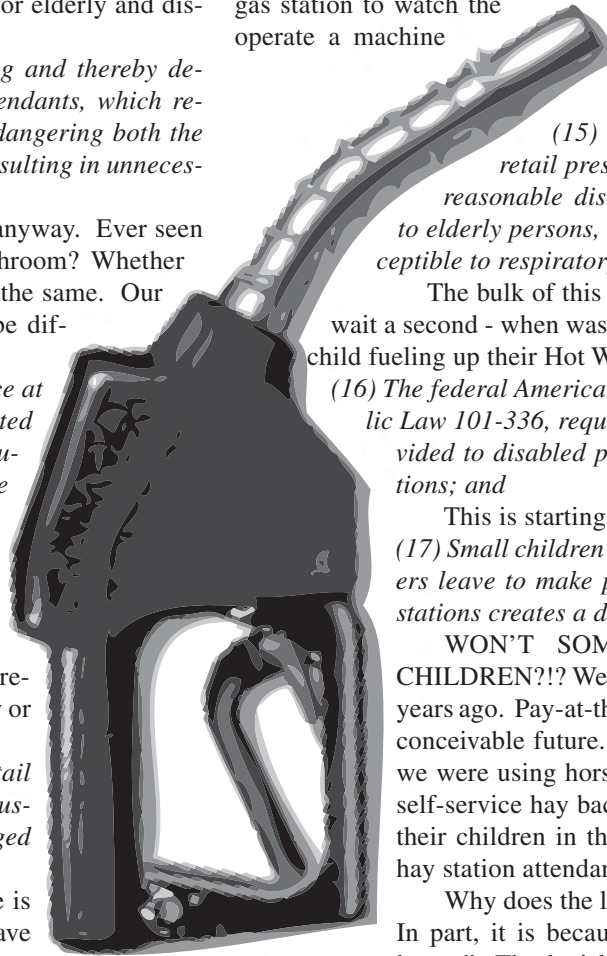
*(17) Small children left unattended when customers leave to make payment at retail self-service stations creates a dangerous situation.*

WON'T SOMEONE THINK OF THE CHILDREN?!? We just got the automobile a few years ago. Pay-at-the-pump will not arrive for the conceivable future. You should have seen when we were using horses back in the '90s. We had self-service hay back then. People were leaving their children in their saddlebags to go pay the hay station attendants, it was terrible!

Why does the legislature continue with this? In part, it is because we have a "citizen legislature." The legislature thinks that their fellow

citizens are too stupid to pump their own gas, and they ought to know. They are probably right, as voters in Oregon have consistently turned down self-serve gas at the ballot box.

Again, welcome to Oregon. Things are different here, as the old saying went. We're for dreamers, as the new saying goes... and I'm going to keep dreaming of a smarter Oregon. And, I'm going to dream of a day when we don't have an elitist, condescending legislature who believes that people are too stupid to operate a gas pump. If we can't get that, maybe we could at least get logical, convincing arguments that can't be immediately refuted by anyone who has taken a road trip outside of Oregon.



Michael Guidero, a Computer Science Major, would like to huff - er, pump - his own gasoline, thanks.

# THE COUNTRY FAIR 2005

BY IAN SPENCER



I forget what this booth was for.

Having been to the Oregon Country Fair before, I was fully aware of what I was getting into. When I had last been (perhaps six years earlier,) the rednecks and yuppies stood out like a third arm. Remembering this, I dressed in a t-shirt, shorts, and sandals as to not arouse suspicions and patchouli-fueled anger. More importantly, I brought a full flask of whiskey.

To a social conservative, the experience of the Fair must be akin to that of Hunter S. Thompson sitting in a Las Vegas anti-drug convention: the fear and loathing you feel for the people around you is only matched by the fear and loathing they feel for you. The Country Fair has everything that terrifies religious conservatives: open sexuality, bizarre pagan rituals, demonic drum circles, and widespread drug usage.

But that's not to say that the Fair welcomes all those who enjoy certain social and political freedoms. Despite being entirely outdoors, the anti-smoking zealots are ubiquitous and drunk with brazen self-righteousness. Smoking in line while waiting for the unisex bathroom? Why, that's practically a crime against humanity. And while I didn't try it, I'm quite sure that wearing a George W. Bush campaign t-shirt would get a person assaulted by an angry mob.

But despite this, the Country Fair serves as a humorous reminder of the power and ubiquity of capitalism to visiting economic conservatives. Hippy capitalism, much like hippy politics, is a hilarious distillation of the system purportedly being rebelled against. Exorbitantly priced jewelry, hippygarb, and food fill the Fair's booths. This bio-diesel-powered utopia does not require unconditional love, an open mind, or positive thinking. No, cold hard cash will do. And thank God for that, because at least they got something right.

The whiskey was obviously essential, but the sandals and t-shirt proved to be unnecessary. Indeed, I was surprised at how yuppified the crowds had become. While the unwashed and Visine-free horde was still around, their numbers were overcome by the omnipresent yuppies. I kept expecting to see someone selling North Face jackets or Whole Foods granola. It was wonderful. Maybe next year Starbucks will have its own booth.

Overall, the Fair was fun. My appetite for eccentric twits (and tits) was satiated, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that the revolution is over, the bums have indeed lost, and the Dude finally got a job, cleaned up, and now shops at Eddie Bauer.



Scene from a drum circle. Yes, I was well into the flask.





Count the SUV's!



This is what passes for political humor at the Country Fair.



All the cool kids are wearing pope hats and Mardi Gras masks these days.



More hot drum circle action!



The best sign I saw all day.



The Man at work.

## JUMP FROM 13

of increasing diversity on the campus of University of Oregon are appropriate for an institution with “University” in its name. The next iteration of the Plan seems likely to be an interesting story next year precisely because its authors are unlikely to follow the advice of blogger (and English professor) Margaret Soltan:

“[I]f your institution has produced a draft document that in its extremism has become a national scandal, maybe instead of appointing a committee to review the draft, which will merely delay diversity efforts... you could do what people often do with bad drafts. You could throw it away.”

### Diversity Plan Draft

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/>

[darsen045/diversity\\_plan\\_draft.pdf](http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ncp/Temp/Letter.html)

### Open Letter to President Frohnmayer

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ncp/Temp/Letter.html>



Olly Ruff, who will soon be in Australia complaining about anti-British discrimination, is Associate Editor for the COMMENTATOR.

## JUMP FROM 15

killing its customers.

### 2: Being put on double secret probation.

Sadly, one silly controversy consumed a large portion of my tenure as editor of this publication. That’s right ... using too many fonts in headlines. Oh, how that controversy consumed us. Night and day.

There was also another controversy of perhaps greater, though most assuredly lesser, significance:

Toby Hill-Meyer’s gendered pronoun controversy. Much ink has already been spilled recounting the controversy, thus I will try to keep this brief. Before Toby Hill-Meyer asked the PFC to de-fund the OREGON COMMENTATOR, Hill-Meyer went to the administration and received some of the worst advice imaginable (i.e. de-funding the OC would be wicked viable). Strangely, a few days after Hill-Meyer had his meeting with the administration, I was called into Anne Leavitt’s office. She wanted to have a little rap session, but she wouldn’t divulge what we would discuss.

Of course, I was a little concerned. Your average student doesn’t have meetings with the administration. If the administration knows who you are, and you’re not in student government, you’re screwed. I elicited the help of Dan Atkinson, the OREGON COMMENTATOR’s publisher and a second-year law student, to tag along.

The meeting with Leavitt was like a more benign meeting between Dean Wormer and the boys of Delta House.

She started by saying that she was the COMMENTATOR’s biggest fan (let us not forget that John Hinckley was also Jodie Foster’s biggest fan). She called us into the office to discuss “political speech issues,” as this was an election year. She gave us a handout concerning the level at which staff members and faculty can support political candidates. There were a number of stipulations, as this is a public institution and you can’t have taxpayer money going toward politically biased speech. Because none of this concerned our publication, which can support any political position it wishes, we were bewildered.

Then, surrealistically, talk turned to the OREGON COMMENTATOR, and the fake quote that we attributed to Hill-Meyer: “I got sick of my penis oppressing me.” This fake quote, a part of OC asks, was followed by a fake quote attributed to former ASUO President Maddy Melton saying, “I cut off Toby’s penis.”

“Don’t you think people will get the idea to cut off Toby’s penis?” Leavitt asked.

Dan and I looked at each other. “No, not really,” we said.

Again, Leavitt confirmed her Number One Fan status again, lest we forget, but she told us that certain “new administrators” (and how many of those were there this year? Here’s a hint: there’s one less now) felt that, maybe, we shouldn’t be on campus. Thus, the double secret probation began.

### 1: That time I punched Lou Dobbs right in his populist, immigrant-hating schnozz.

But then I woke up.

All in all, I had a great time at the OREGON COMMENTATOR. In twenty years, when I look back at my college years, I will think fondly of the magazine and the people whom I met through it. I feel blessed to have been a part of something so special and to have met so many truly intelligent, funny people. After a couple of years fighting to keep things afloat – being stabbed in the front and the back – I know that it was all worth it. I know that I’m leaving the magazine in capable hands. And I know that the magazine is stronger, more powerful than any of us. It may waver, but it will never break. And that is because it attracts the best – the best readers, the best contributors and the best alumni. You are the ones who make the magazine so special, thus you are the ones who have made it so special to me.

But before I get too sappy and start sounding like a forlorn sailor crying into his beer, I should mention that I’m not really going anyplace. I’ll still be around, you ungrateful swine. You’ll never really get rid of Tyler Graf. I’ll probably be at the bar, drink in hand. And if you see me, give me a nod and I might buy you a drink. You are, after all, one of the special ones

But most likely I’ll stiff you. Don’t take it personally, like I said, this job doesn’t pay shit.



Tyler Graf, who despite his grouching is rejoining as Editor Emeritus, is the former Editor-in-Chief of the COMMENTATOR.

## ERNIE KENT GETS CONTRACT EXTENSION

The UO recently extended its contract with Men's Basketball Coach Ernie Kent. In the months and weeks before and since the announcement The news was first announced in a press release on June 20. In the months and weeks before and since the announcement was first made public an a June 20 press release, rumors pertaining to Kent's private life have run rampant. On July 14th, the University repeated the extension announcement, this time accompanying it with a statement from Kent explaining that he and his family had been going through "difficult times" and asking for respect and privacy from the fans and news media. Meanwhile, esteemed assistant coach Fred Litzenberger retired from coaching at Oregon in late April, only to take another coaching job two months later.

**Our Take:** While the dubious factual basis of many of these rumors is, to be honest, no business of anyone outside the Kent household, the appearance of impropriety alone can hurt a program. What should matter to Oregon fans is whether any of this could affect recruiting and team chemistry. Instead of diffusing the situation by addressing the rumors head-on, Kent has unfortunately allowed them to fester and, in turn, gain credibility. Meanwhile, his most valuable assistant has left, troubled talent Ian Crosswhite has been kicked off the team, and the program appears to be in shambles despite having a cornucopia of talent. The key in the upcoming year for Kent will be motivating Duck guards Aaron Brooks, Malik Hairston, Bryce Taylor, and Chamberlain Oguchi to play up to their potential. And don't forget: nothing makes fans and recruits forget about a troubled offseason better than a birth in the NCAA Tournament.

## U.S. DEP. OF ED. BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF OMAS

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has informed former COMMENTATOR Managing Editor

Melissa Hanks that it is "proceeding with the complaint of race, color, and national origin discrimination [she] filed" against UO's Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMAS). While the complaint has been accepted, it "does not reflect an opinion by the OCR regarding the merits of the allegation." In other words, the complaint has been accepted and is being looked into.

**Our Take:** There's really nothing to say on the matter, as the OCR has obviously not decided anything. While Hanks filed the complaint independently of the COMMENTATOR, we strongly support her basic position: quotas based on race or skin color are simply wrong. Classes which require students to be "pre-authorized" and judged on the basis of the color of their skin is clearly a violation of Title VI, which states that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

It is also unclear why the problems OMAS classes are purported to address cannot be solved through alternative, legal means. For instance, a program coordinating registration amongst racial minorities for regular classes would create the same "critical mass" effect intended by the OMAS classes. And why not diversify the content of Writing 122 classes so that students could pick and choose between different types of subject matter. If "students of color" (which is a terribly superficial term, despite being liberal academia's current description of choice for American racial minorities) are experiencing blatant racial discrimination in classrooms, then that problem should be confronted directly and openly.

## ASUO EXECUTIVE STAFF PLANS RETREAT; FINANCE RETREAT CANCELED

ASUO President Adam Walsh and Finance Coordinator Nick Hudson have decided to not hold the annual Sun River

finance retreat - the same much-publicized event that proved the bane of last year's ASUO. Instead of a retreat, a series of meetings and seminars will be held on campus to assist controllers, finance senators, and PFC members in learning the accounting system and budgeting processes. According to Walsh, all meetings will be held twice to ensure that officials will be able to attend at least one session. This is a departure from the previous year, when the finance retreat was held at Sun River Resort.

Despite the finance retreat being canceled, the ASUO staff retreat to Triangle Lake is still set to take place. Walsh told the COMMENTATOR that "it's important that [the ASUO Executive] have more of a bonding experience because our whole staff is going to be working together all year. We want kids to get to know each other because only a few of us are in during the summer and it's going to be hard if no one knows each other until March, when we're almost done with our term."

**Our take:** The new structure for the finance meetings and the axing of the Sun River retreat are intelligent and responsible moves by Walsh and Hudson, even if the changes were prompted more by logistical difficulties than fiscal conservatism. With that being said, however, we have to wonder why a staff retreat to Triangle Lake is necessary for "team-building." It's effective leadership, not a couple of nights out in the woods, that builds good teams. Indeed, as last year's finance retreat proved, a poorly-executed outing can do far more harm than good to an organization.

While the cancellation of the Sun River Retreat is an encouraging sign, it's too early to tell if further fiscal conservatism will be exhibited by this administration. Much will depend on ASUO Vice-President and Ex-Officio Senate member Kyla Coy's political desire and capital in encouraging fiscal responsibility within the Student Senate.



# ON WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Within each woman on staff [at the Women's Center] this year, I found a piece of myself.

- *Siren editor Julia Carr reminisces.*

Pieces that I found sometimes through anger and frustration, and other times through laughter and relief.

- *Ibid.*



# ON PARANOIA

I'm not impressed by what the Patriot Act helps America do, because my friends and I know the statistics on how many women are victims of sexual assault, violent crime and domestic violence.

- *Ailee Slater in the ODE. We have ourselves been quite critical of the Patriot Act, but we must confess that this particular objection had not occurred to us.*

For the first part of our evening, my friends and I sat in the living room with all blinds closed, on account of the large hookah resting atop our coffee table... what if the federal government had reason to suspect one of us of terrorism?

- *An evening at the Slater residence. This goes some way toward resolving the question of whether she's high when she writes these things.*

After all, we are three very liberal college students who have signed more than one petition, with a valid name and address. If through an investigation someone came across our big blue hookah, we would be prosecuted in an instant.

- *Unless these were quite unusual petitions, this doesn't seem to have anything to do with the Patriot Act. (Incidentally, if you're worried about being hassled by the fascists, you might choose to omit references to your big blue hookah in subsequent newspaper columns.)*



# ON GUILT AND COCKTAILS

Consent is when... 'no one feels guilty, the two people say yes to each other and each feel safe in the situation.'

- *The Siren reports on the Sexual Wellness Awareness Team's latest efforts. Guilt obviates consent? Uh oh. And it gets worse, too:*

[Urva] Kuzma and [Stacy] Borke illustrated in a short skit that.. a person who has been drinking cannot give consent.

- *ODE report. This is terrible. We have been systematically sexually abused throughout our entire adult lives.*



## ON INTOXICATING SCENTS

The spring evening smelled like flowers and empowerment.

*- Emily Charrier's intermittently coherent account of a Take Back The Night march, also in our new favorite publication: the Siren. What is that, Calvin Klein?*

## ON GIVE WAR A CHANCE

As the UO's first graduate student in the transdisciplinary field of Peace Studies, it is my responsibility to explore the role of the military in society and those conditions that most promote peace and human welfare.

*- Opening to Brian Bogart's epic three-part Weekly rant on America and how it, like, sucks. The question is, how did we ever get by for so long without a graduate student in Peace Studies?*

Unfortunately, this task puts me in direct conflict with UO administrators, including President Dave Frohnmayer...

*- Alas, it seems that the fledgling discipline of Peace Studies faces some immediate obstacles.*

Money is the fuel for the permanent-war-policy engine, and those at the wheel are investors in warfighting. America was built for a people-based engine with people at the wheel investing in people.

*- Representative sample of Bogart's prose. Come on, even in Eugene, this has to be an elaborate hoax. Doesn't it?*



## ON SOYLENT YELLOW

Need human breast milk for first commercially available human cheese. Prefer raw vegan fed donors. Send info about your diet and potential output.

*- Classified ad in the Weekly. At long last, the local economy seems to be picking up. We'll be steering clear of the Pizza Research Institute for a while, though.*

Seen scrawled in chalk on a sidewalk afront Gerlinger Hall last week: **YOUR BODY IS NOT A COMMODITY.** Come again? Took us a whole day just to cipher out the meaning of that declaration, so near to a non-sequiter. But it got us thinking: given that our bodies are, in fact, commodities-- since practically everyone is jockeying to be an model, an actor, a pro athlete, or a Vegas callgirl (sorry, pronoun-hawks: callperson) these days, and since a viable anatomy is the single-most essential credential for such a career-- don't we all need some sort of guide by which a regular Joe or Jane might determine one's relative worth, so as to demand the appropriate wage?

With that in mind, we bring you:

# COMMODITY!

To play, begin with a base value of \$20,000. (We're all created equal.)

Next, determine which conditions you have and add or subtract from your total accordingly.

Once completed, write your net value in the space provided below and attach to resume.

**The Restless Mole**  
+\$1,000/mole  
*One spot is just too boring.*

**Hairlip**  
-\$1,500

**Superfluous Nipple**  
-\$500

**“Robin Williams Chest”**  
+\$1,000 w/ Cocaine  
-\$500 w/o Cocaine

**Large Breasts**  
+\$1,000 for women  
-\$1,000 for men  
+\$500 for Meatloaf  
*Adjust for firmness, hair.*

**Abs**  
+\$1,000 for a six-pack  
+\$500 for a half-rack  
+\$0 for a wine box  
-\$500 for a keg  
-\$1,000 for a kegerator

**Tail**  
-\$1,500  
*Adjust for trick-performing ability.*

**Love Handles**  
+\$250

**Lust Handles**  
+\$500

**Divorce Handles**  
-\$1,000/divorce

**The “Sheed Spot”**  
+\$500 w/ belt  
-\$500 w/o belt

**Roving Eye**  
-\$250

**Multiple Chins**  
-\$200 /chin  
*Adjust for beard coverage.*

**Goiter**  
-\$1,500

**COPIOUS BACK HAIR**  
-\$1,500 for women  
-\$1,000 for men  
*Adjust for density.*

**COMMENTATOR Liver**  
-\$1,000/liver  
*Gotta love the donor system.*

**An Outie**  
-\$100

**An Innie**  
-\$1,000

**“The Roadhouse”**  
+\$500

**“The Starter Home”**  
+\$500

**Funny Bone**  
\$0  
*Not very funny.*

**Club Feet**  
-\$250  
*Adjust for NFL kicking career.*

**TOTAL VALUE:** \_\_\_\_\_