

O R E G O N

COMMENTATOR

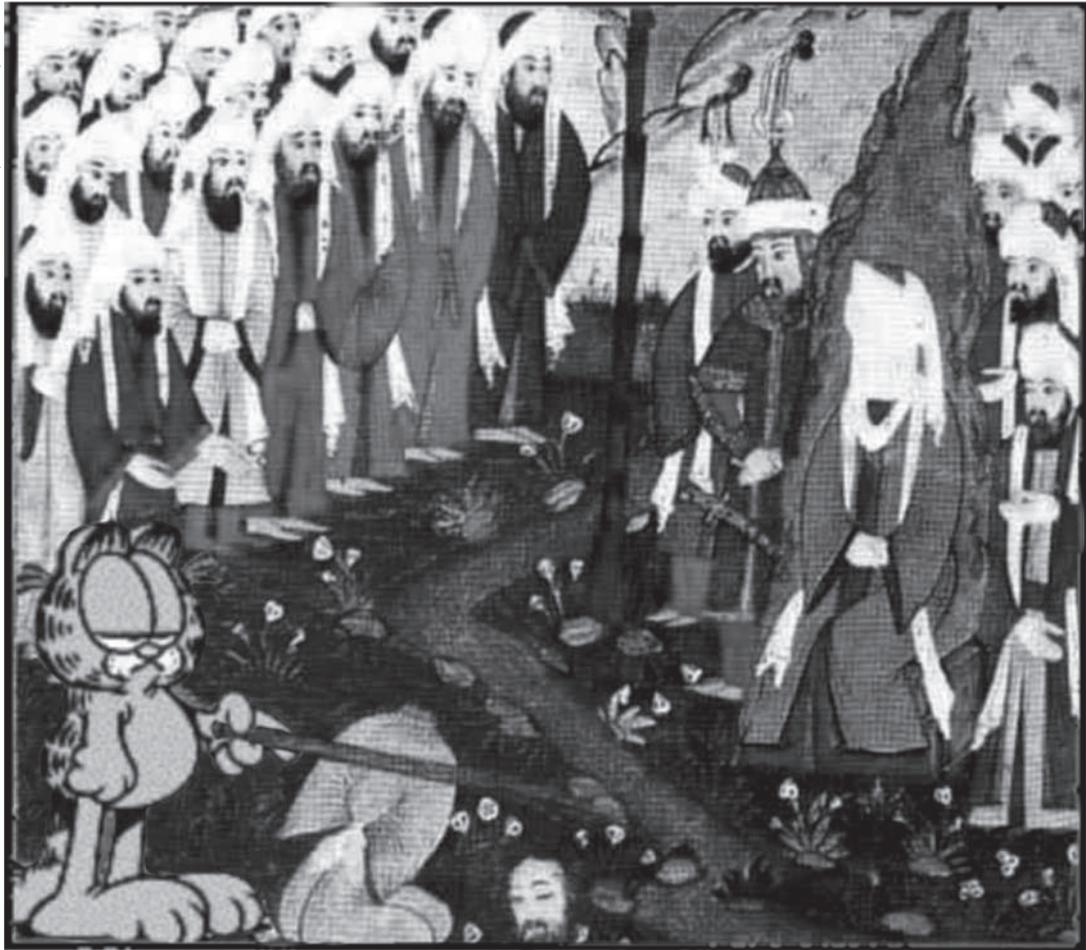
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A JOURNAL OF OPINION

Comics Kill!

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...but words still leading cause of hurt feelings.



FOUNDED SEPT. 27, 1983 • MEMBER COLLEGIATE NETWORK

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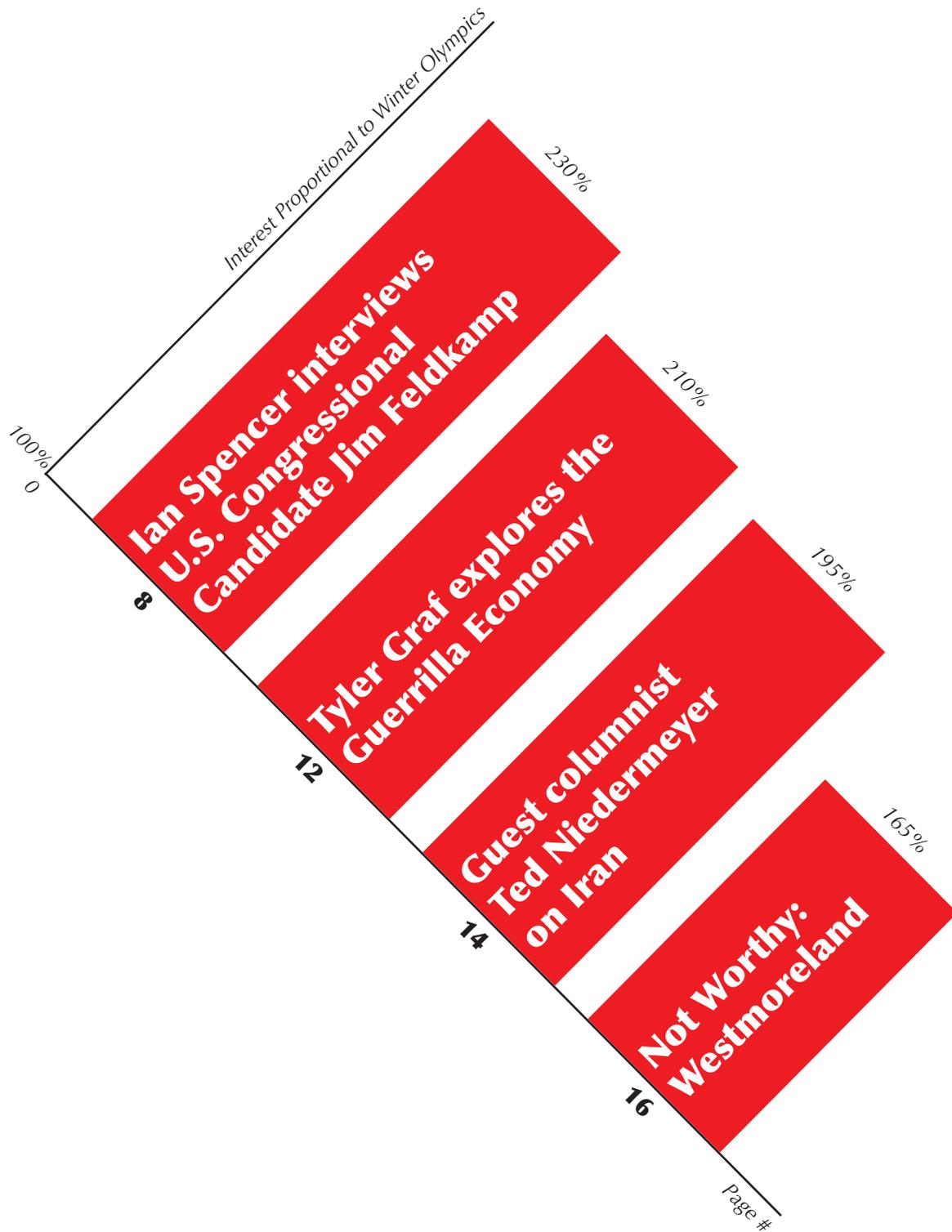
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MISSION STATEMENT

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.



VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE V

COMMENTATOR

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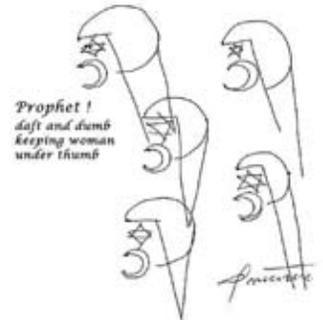
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Doesn't The Man in the Yellow Hat creep you out? What's he trying to hide with that hat?



Muhammedes ansigt



After giving the issue its due consideration we have come to regard it a foregone conclusion that, this whole business with cartoons having blown up in the first place, the OREGON COMMENTATOR was pretty much destined from the imbroglgio's inception to get in on the act.

To begin with, the publication you now hold in your hands is one designed to provoke-- that cat has long been out of the bag and is now feral, roaming the hillsides. Sometimes, perhaps regrettably, we have provoked for no other purpose than to stir anger among the eagerly sensitive and mirth among the caustically jaded. Here, though, we are in the unusual position of approach-

ing controversy with a certain unease: fully aware that the issues we address are rife with misunderstanding and charged emotion, that they touch upon the sensibilities of those whose religion most assuredly does deserve its respect, and that they point to larger controversies of global scope and grave import, we also know that if we don't do our part to clear away the clutter, no one will. This issue is, on one hand, about things ordinarily outside our domain: international politics, articles of faith, dubious notions of a "clash of civilizations"-- but it has now also become an issue of campus journalism and its future. It is crucial that we provoke in this instance-- but our in-



On the blackboard it says in Persian with Arabic letters that 'Jyllands-Posten's journalists are a bunch of reactionary provocateurs'



ROLIG VENNER, NÅR AF KØTTER TIL ALT BRDET SO BARE EN TEJNING LAVET AF EN VANTRO SPØNDERENDE... Relax folks it is just a sketch made by a Dane from the south-west Denmark.



The images on this page, along with the title of our editorial, appear as they first appeared in *Jyllands-Posten*. They were accessed, along with every other non-original image in this issue, from the excellent archive at zombietime.com.

tent is to provoke dialogue and a more comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand, as opposed to intolerance and violence. We are obligated to respond and we are also obligated to tell you why.

The situation is ugly. Since the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* first published the infamous cartoons last September in response to the complaint of a children's author that he could not locate an illustrator for his educational book on the life of Mohammed, a delegation of Danish imams has produced a booklet containing not only the twelve images in question but also a number of far more offensive, apocryphal inclusions of dubious origin, and then distributed said booklet exclusively in the Mideast to a populace that has been systematically sheltered from the larger context-- from the facts that Mohammed has long been a candidate for caricature in Western editorial cartoons, as have Jefferson, Jesus, Jehovah, and every other conceivable entity; that editorial cartoons are a fundamental aspect of public dialogue in Western culture and are almost always irreverent; and that there is in fact a centuries-old tradition of depicting the Prophet in Muslim art.

As a result the ill-informed masses have mobilized to burn flags and bomb embassies the world over. Over five hundred people have lost their lives. Blustering heads of state have condemned the cartoons' publication. The majority of news outlets in the West-- most egregiously, in The United States-- have balked at their duty to fully report the event. Two student editors of *The Daily Illini* at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have been suspended from their jobs after running the cartoons in their paper.

So we are running the *Jyllands-Posten* cartoons, along with some other images that help to put the controversy in context, right here in our pages. Yes, we do anticipate howling from certain corners. No, we do not intend any disrespect to Islam or its adherents. Yes, some of these images are straightforward depictions while others carry editorial connotations-- some of them rather derisive of something you the reader may hold very dear. To our readers of faith (if we have any): you may see something here that offends you. You are free to look away. Our interest in publishing these images is to play a role in educating the public about the full scope of a pertinent controversy of our time-- as well as to underline our deeply held belief that in campus journalism, as in all public discourse, the most immoral action that can be taken is to declare a given topic "off limits".

As Phil Knight once opined about UO President Dave Frohnmayer in the wake of an entirely different controversy, President Bush has "squandered a teachable moment" in his act of public hand-wringing before the Muslim world. If he or his speechwriters had put some thought about the true nature of democracy or the urgent need to establish a dialogue with potential terrorists into his remarks, he might have told them that in properly democratic societies there is absolutely, positively, no place for the State or any of its leaders to dictate the content of public



This grainy photo of Jacques Parrot in a French pig-squealing competition was distributed throughout the Middle East as an example of Western hatred of Muslims. News outlets including BBC World ran the image erroneously claiming it was one of the Jyllands-Posten cartoons depicting Mohammed-- without bothering to run the cartoons.

discourse. That would have been news to the majority of his intended audience (*Fox News* flag-wavers included), and it might even have made the West seem sort of appealing to its detractors. He might have informed them that here in the West we have our own notion of religious tolerance: whatever you believe, it is not only okay, but great; you are fully justified in choosing or not choosing to live according to your faith in whatever manner you see fit; there is no room for anyone to infringe on another's right to do likewise. He might have mentioned that the West exists in a dizzying array of information sources, that everywhere you look you can find something you disagree with along with an abundance of things that please you, so that you have to learn how to choose-- that this choice is ultimately the thing that makes the West so rewarding. He might also have touched on the fact that over the centuries our culture has engaged in an excruciating, ongoing struggle with itself (see: English Civil War; see also: *Gonzales v. O Centro Espirita Beneficente União de Vegetal*) to arrive at this place we call liberalism-- that it is from this vantage point that we empathize with their struggle to overcome sectarian strife and stifling leaders, and that we look for a way to help.

More recently, Stanley Fish opined in *The New York Times* that we in the West, whether Christian, Jew, atheist, or otherwise, all belong to a religion with tenets fundamentally opposed to those of Islam. Whereas Islam insists that those of differing viewpoints must be silenced through violence or the threat thereof, he argues, Westerners belong to the religion of "letting it all hang out", of taking a detached and bemused perspective toward all ideas, allowing none the privilege of being worth killing or dying for. Fish's article is a good one, but he neglects a couple points. Remember that scene in *Malcom X* in which Denzel describes his experience at the hajj in Mecca? The vision he relates is staggering in its beauty: a brotherhood of humankind in which all are welcome regardless of race or socio-economic class, humbly experiencing their humanity in one another's presence. Malcom dies at the hands of the less sensible, of course, but it is worth remembering that his Islam is as much a legacy of Mohammed as is the insensate violence that grabs the headlines-- and it is up for debate which Islam future historians will remember as the true one.

The other thing Fish forgets is that the tenet he ascribes to the Western religion of liberalism-- "the morality of a withdrawal from morality in any strong, insistent form"-- is not at all something we have taken up by accident. Yes, we believe in allowing others their own beliefs and opinions. Yes, we believe that the press has the right, if not the duty, to disseminate the ideas that are present in the culture-- in words, in pictures, and in editorial cartoons. This right is what enables our society to truly respect all perspectives and religions in that it allows everyone-- absolutely everyone-- their outlet of expression. It is a right for which we absolutely cannot afford to stop fighting.



The OC's Quick Government Fact Sheet

Note: state government left out for reasons of space and reader interest

	ASUO	Shadow ASUO	US Government	Shadow US Government
Run By	Adam Walsh, Kyla Coy, Stephanie Erickson, Jared Axelrod	The part of Dave Frohnmayer's brain that was cut out during the lobotomy	George W. Bush and Richard Cheney	Lynne Cheney
Source of Power	Hats, brazenly bare chests, green tape notebook	The State of Oregon, extensive campus-area landholdings, Phil	The electorate	The best damn manicurist in D.C.
Extent of Power	Incidental fee allotments, event themes, Iran	The Land of Frohnea extends from the McKenzie to the Amazon	Not as far as Hillary would like it to be, but bigger than God's own bathtub	Wherever the footing is good enough for a high-heel to tread
Bloated Budget Line-item of Choice	Food	Legal Fees	Military logistics	THE OREGON COMMENTATOR
Government Artwork of Choice	Generic Multicultural Cheese	Cubism	"Let the Eagle Soar"	Thomas Kinkaid
Mighty Bureaucrat	David Goward	John Moseley	Karl Rove	Oprah
Repressive Social Policy	No drinking in the EMU!	After 5:00, no pants allowed in Johnson Hall!	No gay marriage!	Mandatory partner swaps
Repressive Economic Policy	Incidental Fee	Parking fees	Taxes, subsidies, entitlement spending, etc. ...we could go on for awhile here	Cornering the market on blood pressure medication
Beef with the COMMENTATOR	Just about everything	Frohnmayer declared dead, put in corner	Just about everything	The Rennie's bill is a sonofabitch
Effect on students	Takes \$191/term, but otherwise negligible	Ever tried to park on campus?	The cause of many a loud-yet-lonely EMU amphitheater rant	Collected buying habits, encouraged use of pills, peed on tax forms

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER LACKS OWN CONTENT, SUBSTITUTES AP STORY - TWICE

Eugene, Oregon – College students at the University of Oregon were unsurprised on Friday upon discovering that the daily student newspaper was so lacking in content that it filled otherwise unused space in the paper with multiple copies of an Associated Press article.

The *Oregon Daily Emerald's* February 3rd issue contained two instances of an AP story about the election of Rep. John Boehner's election to House majority leader. The second appearance of the article was not credited to the Associated Press.

"I'm not terribly surprised," said Michael Guidero, Associate Editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR - a prominent com-

petitor of the *Emerald*. "They really don't like to go out and do the legwork for more news stories of their own. Why would they, when they've got the AP handing stories to them?"

Students have complained about the use of Associated Press material in the past. "I don't get it," said one student. "I mean it's a school paper and rather than fill the space with stuff about the university or even Eugene, they fill up the space with stuff they didn't even write. What are my student fees paying for, anyway?"

The *Emerald* is partially funded by the student body "incidental fee", with a current budget of \$125,000. It is one of a handful of student-run programs receiving over \$100,000 per year.

Neither the Associated Press nor representatives of the *Emerald* could be reached for comment.



THE ASKS: WHO DESERVED AN OSCAR THIS YEAR?



Dallas Brown

William Hurt - He brought such a human quality to the act of hunting down and attempting to kill the man who betrayed you.



Ailee Slater

Michelle Williams - Because we can all relate to the heartbreak of losing your man to another man.



Ann Coulter

Felicity Huffman - No reason... it was just a moving performance.



Dave Frohnmayer

Terrence Howard - My multicultural pick of the year... I respect how he spits hot fire. And since Luda didn't get a nod, this seems to be the right choice.



Robocop

Philip Seymour Hoffman - Watching him was like you were involved in the action and vaguely aware of it, but your focus is not on the commission but on the opportunity ahead. I'd liken it to a sense of reverie... the insulated state a great musician achieves in a great performance... not just mechanical, not only spiritual; something of both, on a different plane and a more remote one.



Adam Walsh

Heath Ledger - I respected the fact that he was willing to go against the Hollywood establishment and wear a hat on screen. Doors are being opened. The liberal anti-hat elite won't rule forever.



Steven Seagal

Jake Gyllenhaal - Because I respect any man who can make me cry.

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Jim Feldkamp

Coming off of a strong campaign against Democratic incumbent Peter DeFazio last campaign cycle, Republican U.S. Fourth District candidate Jim Feldkamp sat down with the COMMENTATOR to talk about his campaign, the War on Terrorism, federal policies and, of course, the Civil War

THE COMMENTATOR: How's your fund-raising going?

Jim Feldkamp: Good, good. You know, seven days a week, that's why I was running a little late here, I got a little worn out from that last night. Yeah, we're doing really well. We're reporting about 135 – 132, 133 thousand for this quarter and we have about another, we got about 10 or 20 thousand dollars cash on hand above that. So we're really closing the gap and people are very responsive to the fact [that] we have a viable campaign going, a huge campaign -- we already have 1,500 volunteers, but we also stuck around for dash two, because most people, if you run for congress, they do it once and say "yeah, this is just enough!" But then you raise your name, [your] ID and then you quit... I think that if you're a challenger you gotta do two shots, because you just gotta keep the word out there and keep the press on.

And going into that, are you doing anything differently this election cycle? Because you kinda seemed to shock DeFazio a bit last cycle with the amount that you were able to fund-raise, but he was still able to beat you handily, particularly in Lane County. Are you changing some tactics?

Well, yeah, we're changing some tactics, but three quarters – you might like it or you might not – but three quarters of campaigning is raising the money. When I came back [to Oregon] I had just resigned from the FBI because I wanted to change the system and I was pretty much an unknown. So we hustled really, really hard to raise that money but our campaign was basically six months long – from May to November. And DeFazio beat me handily, but he also spent a million dollars doing it. And Lane County with the presidential election, however exercised everybody was, Bush still almost won this county – or this district. He won it in 2000 and he almost won it in 2004. If Nader was on this ballot he would've won it. So this district's Republican, but for us it's hard to get the word out to the rural areas, to the conservative areas, because of money. And what we have to do is raise the money but [we've got a] string of volunteers who are already targeting who we need to talk to. And

we're just going to go after it. But we're a year out rather than six months out, so I think that's the key. If we can just grind it out and work as hard as [we] possibly can, [then things should] break [our] way.

So your concentration is mostly on the rural areas of the Fourth?

Well, I don't want to say that. The concentration is more or less on the voters that we think, when we talk to, will see it our way. Basically, independents. And they're all over the district, but we're targeting them. And we're also keeping to our base, keeping faithful to our base. And we wanna expand it. We had Senator John McCain send out a letter for us and I know that exercised some people in our base because they're pro-Bush, and that's fine... so am I. But you can't just stay within one party, you have to expand so that you've got, you know, support from every angle, from every wing of the Republican Party... and the independents too.

So if you were elected, which major committee do you feel you would best represent the district in?

To best represent the district? Well, approps, approps, approps, approps. Appropriations is a big deal. Forest or, uh, Resources would be a big deal too, but now we already have Walden on that, and Walden's really high up there. His post-fire recovery bill that's coming up -- I think it's a fabulous bill and I support it 100%. I also think [that] for our district we have a lot of maritime issues. I would like to be on Appropriations, maybe Homeland Security or DoJ. DoJ because I'm a [former] FBI agent. But also Homeland Security because we could utilize that extra juice to get the Port of Coos Bay up and running. Because we could put four or five cruisers in there and make it a central locale for the Coast Guard. And that would generate more families to come on in and more additional revenue to sort of get that port up and running. And I think there's a great opportunity there but nobody's taken advantage of it. And if we infuse the cash for Homeland Security to keep Fort Cutters

there, it also keeps them obligated to keep the channel dredged, so we have to take that off the table for appropriations so that's taken care of and then businesses will be able to come on in.

Gotcha. So you mentioned, you know, your work in the FBI. So when you were with the FBI, you said [on your website] that you worked in counter-terrorism, so you're probably familiar with some of the powers that the Patriot Act grants law enforcement agencies. How do you feel about the act in its current form, that is the form where it's just kinda being kick-started for another month, and if anything, what would you change about it?

Well, that's a very good question. I think the first thing you gotta look at is that everybody got exercised about this Patriot Act. But what it really did-- and I don't know how much time you got on your tape-- it just brought the law up to the level of technology that terrorists use. Now we have this talk about the library records; this is a classic example. Everybody got exercised about that -- we always were able to do that on the criminal side. So if somebody [were] slinging meth or something and we [were] building a case, [or] if they [were] going into kiddie porn, [we would ask], "What's he doing on the internet? What's he doing in the library?" Well we can get a grand jury subpoena to [look into] that. But the problem is, [with] terrorism you're trying to prevent an act before it occurs, so you're trying to prevent the crime. That falls into a different sphere of intelligence. And that's where everybody gets exercised because you bring up your first amendment rights -- freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and all that. But 15 of the 19 hijackers communicated using library computers. I like what Google did -- there's been a lot of talk about that -- Google denied giving permission to the Bush government to datamine, basically. And I approve of that. But that's what the law's for: it's for people to see how far they can take it and then step back. The Patriot Act has helped with eco-terrorists, just for the simple fact that it streamlined the ability for a federal judge here in Oregon to send out warrants for arrests to people in New York, where before you had to go to New York and get a federal warrant from a judge there. And that has kind of streamlined and kept everything close-knit, or I guess kept continuity of the investigation. I used it when I was chasing HAMAS for money laundering to find out how many bank accounts one guy had. It turned out that because [of] the Patriot Act I was able to ask the Treasury Department to send out an email to every financial institution in America and it came back and said "yeah, this guy's got it" or "this guy doesn't." Then I still have to go through the same process to get the grand jury subpoena to get these records. But the guy had 87 bank accounts all over the country. There's no way I would've been able to find this all out if I didn't have the use of the Patriot Act. And so I guess people gotta realize that you can't say "why didn't you connect the dots?" and then not give us the tools to connect the dots. You can't have it both ways.

Recently there's been a bit of an uproar about President Bush's, uh, executive authorization to do the NSA wire-tapping. That seems like something that sort of fits under "things granted to the executive during war," you know. People are willing to go back a little bit on the fringes of civil liberties in order to have security during a war. And I'm not saying that it overrides anything, but [it's] going back a little bit. But the thing is that during World War II and Vietnam and the Civil War, you knew exactly when the war was over and so those changes could be rolled back. What tangible benchmark can we use for the war on terror to know when we've got this one [won]? When don't we need these certain executive powers [anymore]?

Well, that's a good question. I guess the first benchmark is stability in Iraq. That's one because once you start having a democracy in a region of the Middle East that's never known it before, you'll create stability and you'll create a middle class. And what's going to happen is that all these dictatorships that have blamed Israel for the woes of their people are gonna have a hard time justifying why they're having these repressive regimes when Iraq is saying "hey, we've got a middle class! We're getting money. We're becoming rich." And you start seeing that in Egypt and Saudi Arabia where you have contested elections. It's not perfect by any means, but it's starting to work out there. I teach a class on terrorism down at Umpqua Community College; we're going to talk exactly about this week. It's a long-term war, because terrorism... it's always going to be there... it's always been there, since the first century in Judea, if you wanna go back in history. We've got eco-terrorists and we've got, you know, international terrorism. I think it's for the Congress to decide when the Executive branch is overstepping. Right now there's this big talk about the NSA. Well, it's the President's job to protect the country and after Congress granted him that power on September 14th, now everybody says "well I didn't mean it that way." Well here we go with Congress dodging the bullet. Either you step up to the plate or you don't. And what really incensed me was Senator Rockefeller from West Virginia, because Bush told the Chairman and ranking members of the Intelligence Committee what they were doing. And he says ok, now that it came out, Rockefeller's going "well I didn't have my staff with me, I was confused, I was uncomfortable." Hey, welcome to the big leagues. You can't tell [anybody] because the place leaks like a sieve. We had Osama bin Laden's cell number but then the press released it and then he stopped using it. So, going back to your question, I think the benchmark [is that] we gotta win and create stability in Iraq. I think Iran's a big problem -- they're a state sponsor of terrorism and they want a nuclear weapon. Okay, now we're talking some really dicey stuff. I think the President has the powers to direct the NSA as part of the Executive branch to do what they want as long as it's inside the law. Now if Congress comes back and says "ok, we feel that the war is over, and you are not allowed to use all means necessary including the use of

the NSA to [listen to] civilians” then if they pass that law and he signs it, then I think that would be a benchmark too. But Congress has got to step up to the plate and say what’s right and what’s wrong. Because right now in Congress what you have are a bunch of people bitching. DeFazio’s one of them, always talking about how bad things are and how they would do this. Well, two weeks ago, or three weeks ago, there was an editorial in the Register-Guard saying how unsafe we were because Bush didn’t implement all of the recommendations from the 9-11 panel. Well then a week later it came out that he was using the NSA to spy on these people that had contacts with Al-Qaeda in foreign countries and the whole world’s up in arms! You can’t have it both ways. And I think that’s one of the main reasons I wanted to run. Mr. DeFazio doesn’t provide a solution. All he does is provide problems, complaints, and pessimism. And I just don’t want to do that. And I think that’s a good question.

But Congress has got to step up to the plate and say what’s right and what’s wrong. Because right now in Congress what you have are a bunch of people bitching.

I think the benchmark [is undefined because] we’re going to have terrorism for a long time; it’s just how do we defeat them. Militarily we’re defeating terrorism in Iraq, and we’re going after them, we’re slaughtering them, and we’ve got to. But that’s just a part of the problem. We’ve gotta have a strategic plan. I think they’re building up a strategic plan and we’ll start winnowing down the military, upgrading the state department, and creating enough economic stability in these other countries [to the point that] it detracts from the sexiness of jihad.

Is the war on terror going to be won mostly by economic means or through military means?

Tactically, military means right now. Strategically, economic means. It’s gonna be a while. And everybody shouldn’t be kidding themselves, it’s been around for thirty years and it’s going to be around for a lot longer.

Now, moving on to social issues. How do you feel about the recent Gonzales v. Oregon Supreme Court decision?

Oh, I thought it was Ashcroft?

Originally, but it changed...

Ah, that’s right. I’m for state’s rights. I can’t be a conservative and say one thing and do another. But I don’t think the law’s really the greatest law in the world. But the people passed it and it’s the same with the marijuana use law. I think that’s a silly law, but the people of Oregon passed it and it’s [about] state’s rights.

And tied into that, do you agree with the legalization of gay marriage and if not, would you support a federal constitutional amendment prohibiting it if, for instance, Oregon eventually did pass such a law?

I do not support gay marriage. We talk about civil unions and transfer of wealth from one party to another, you know. That’s fine. But you still have that already with DNRs or wills or estate planning that I have done for my daughter. The legal mechanisms are there, [and] if they want to have civil unions that’s one thing. But I believe marriage is an institutional act or custom around a religion, and basically it’s for a man and a wife.

But you feel the same way, in that if Oregon ended up passing it at some point...

I would have to represent my district and say “I think it’s silly, I voted against it, but the law’s the law.”

If elected, what initiatives would you take in Congress to try and help Oregon’s struggling economy? Right now we have 1% higher [unemployment]...

Actually, it’s two percent in this district. Well the one thing is post-fire recovery. I’m a member of Communities for Healthy Forests, which is going into the forest and chopping down dead and dying timber from [catastrophic blowdowns?] to burned fire and all that. I shouldn’t say chopping, I should say harvesting because it’s a more politically correct term. We could balance the state budget by doing that. With the Biscuit fire, we burned up the size of the Umpqua national forest in Oregon in the last seven years. And something’s wrong when it takes longer to chop down a tree on the Biscuit fire than it does to rebuild the Pentagon after a terrorist attack. It’s silly. And what we have is this litigation and these environmentalists that have used the law – legally, and they’ve shanghaied it, to grind down the ability [of] the economy of this district, which is rural, which is agricultural, or resource-based, to provide family-wage jobs. We’re all complaining [about how] we need more money for education, we need family-wage jobs, all this good stuff. We’d have it! You’d have such a high standard of living if you could go back [to] the way we did because our timber community [has] lost 20,000 jobs in the district in 20 years. And our timber communities and businesses would be – skilled labor would be in such high demand if we could get into the forest that the people [who] knew how to scale logs, work in the mills and everything, their pay would go up because the businesses would be paying top dollar for this stuff. So everybody would win and we’d have a new revenue stream for education. But nobody sees it that way. Everybody in New York and LA and San Francisco thinks that Paul Bunyon out here is clear-cutting the entire forest. My favorite story was a girl at University of Oregon who was coming back and taking a biology class or something and she stood up and introduced herself and wanted to be an environmentalist. And the instructor goes “why?” And she goes, “well I was driving across Eastern Oregon, and did you know they cut down every tree in Eastern Oregon?” [Laughs] That’s the ignorance we gotta deal with! But that’s one thing I would do. Another one is the Port of Coos Bay. I

think it's almost criminal how we have such a great natural port – the best between San Francisco and Puget Sound – and we're not utilizing it. The last timber barge went down there about three months ago. But like I said, bring homeland defense in there. Bring the Coast Guard in there to make it a central locale and then you could have surveillance, you could have the Coast Guard in there. But then they'd also be vested to dredge that bay and then we could get companies to come on in because it would be cheaper for them to come in instead of three days up and down the Columbia River and just drop off their product, turn around, and go out. Companies would do that if they had the incentive.

Gotcha. So, kinda speaking of that because any, uh, homeland security initiatives that happen in Coos Bay would fall under federal spending... what do you think of Congress' current spending habits?

Like drunken sailors. I mean that's exactly why we've got a problem. It's that we have become so dependent on federal resources. You know, we [can] talk about No Child Left Behind or we can talk about the rural safety net. You know, everybody demands state's rights but everyone wants federal money. Well, [with] federal money comes strings attached. And so what it's done, it's really put us on welfare because when you have the inability for us to utilize our natural resources and then they say "well, we'll put you on the dole because [there's] this much money you would have made from chopped timber." Well, that doesn't count the extra jobs that would've been created, the spin-off jobs. And congress... we're running a deficit, we're running a war... first thing's first: let's win this war. Then we'll get our house in order. But when you have 6,000 earmarks in a transportation bill and everybody talks about what a great deal it is and how many jobs can it create. Well, yeah, no. It's not going to create the 47,000 jobs per billion dollars. But what it's going to do is convince everybody that socialism's better. Because all that money's tax money that they take from you and they dole out for benefits. And I don't wanna play that game.

Gotcha. So, this is kind of speaking of federal issues. Do you believe that the FCC should be regulating the content over the airwaves? And how about content over cable and satellite, which is currently not in its purview but which it's trying to extend to?

I would think that if people are willing to pay, then it shouldn't be regulated. But if it's free, like, well, I guess you could go back to cable and all that. But I think there's gotta be a level of decorum on some stuff. And free radio, or radio and television that you can get, maybe there should be a little bit of regulation. Just for the fact that you can go onto cable - or pay-per-view, I should say - and you can see anything you want. But that's if you want to. You don't want to have it exposed to people that maybe aren't old enough to really want to see that or should see that.

Gotcha. And how do you feel about the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and the effects it's had on election process?

Well, I think we saw the effects that this Bipartisan Reform Act... money's going to seek it's own level. And when you try [to] squeeze it one way, you don't have accountability. And so on a federal level, I can only get \$2,100 per person. On a state level you can get \$100,000 per person if you can convince them. But that money's going to get into the campaign, either [through] 527s or whatever. And campaigns have become so expensive now... and everybody talks about "why don't we have publicly-funded campaigns?" Well, you can't-- because, a) if you did then it would protect the incumbent and this really does kinda protect the incumbent in the first place, [and b)] television and radio are not going to give you free airtime, and that's why you gotta raise the money to buy it. You saw with the Abramoff Scandal how even DeFazio, who "fights for the little guy," was taking money from 'em. They will peddle influence because everybody needs money [raised] to get elected. And that's unfortunately the nature of the beast. And you don't think you can blame the lobbyists. I think you can blame the environment [in which] everyone's hustling for cash.

Does it make it tough to be independent once you get in there? It seems to me that...

Well, you gotta look at it this way, and this is one of the reasons that I really wanted to run: it's gotten to the point where either you get out of college and you start running in politics and you build your name ID, you start going from the water board to this, to this, and this [ed- Feldkamp's fingers tap the table, moving from point to point] and then you jump to the federal level-- or you become a multi-millionaire and then you jump in. So there's really no niche for a guy like [myself, who has] done a little bit of the Navy, [done] a little bit of the FBI, [then done] a little bit of private business, to jump on in, because I can't finance myself. My personal circumstances have allowed me [to run] now because I'm divorced and I want to come on back and I have a little money in the bank to do this because I think it's important. But if you're a career politician you want to stay a career politician so you always stay in there. Maybe I'm idealistic, but I'd like to go in there and change a few things. And if my beliefs don't resonate with the populace and they say, "Now we don't want you anymore," okay-- I tried. Because that's what our system's all about: to be able to hop on in there and give it a shot.

Now finally, Oregon State, your alma mater, is in the fifth congressional district. And you're running for the Fourth. If you win the election, and this is tied into the first question, will we be seeing you in green and yellow for the next civil war?

At least for a half. [Laughs]



This interview was conducted by Ian Spencer on January 23rd at the Lane County Republican headquarters. Mr. Feldkamp's campaign website can be found at <http://www.jimfeldkamp.com>

Guerrilla Capitalism: The Libertarian Ideal?

A brief look at libertarianism's hungry stepchild

by Tyler Graf

On April 14th, we capitalistic Americans will scramble for the post office, tax returns in hand, for what is indubitably our least favorite day of the year: tax day, the day the Reaper reaps the rewards of our hard work. It's a little like Christmas day for the government.

But some people are unwilling to acquiesce to the demands of the state. These people are called Guerrilla Capitalists. The Bible of Guerrilla Capitalism is a book cleverly entitled *Guerrilla Capitalism* by the cleverly named Adam Cash¹. First published in the 1980s, *Guerrilla Capitalism* is an outdated look at the underground economy (one chapter insists that it would be practical to buy Ford Pintos low and then sell them high, a salient example that should be used more often in economics text books). I discovered this book not through thorough research, but through repeat sightings of it in my house, where it stared up at me ominously from various countertops and other surfaces. I'm not sure how it got in there. Perhaps, I thought, the book's owner was a person who had gone so underground that he was now living in my pantry, subsisting on dried sugar and ants. I dwelled on this for quite sometime before I finally picked it up to give it a read. The book covers everything that a true Guerrilla Capitalist needs to know: How to avoid paying taxes, how to skim money from your business, how to refrain from participating in the banking industry, and a litany of other underground tactics.

After reading the book I was left with a question: Do people actually think that they can subsist within the underground economy? Is this actually a lifestyle borne of the belief that our economic system is not a truly capital-

istic one? The answer is clearly "yes", as Cash's *Guerrilla Capitalism* has remained a solid seller for 20 years.

The Guerrilla Capitalism movement is a libertarian one. However, as this publication has mentioned in the past, one must draw a distinction between rational libertarians (free markets are good, and so are lower taxes) and crazy libertarians (privatize the police force and revert to a bartering system). Clearly Cash, and his many disciples – who believe that corporations are the construct of the state and would never exist in a truly free market – belong to the latter. What Cash and his followers believe is a form of anti-big business, anti-government anarchy.

An anarchist, in his or her purest manifestation, is a libertarian-- though the points of agreement between the philosophical outlooks of the Cato Institute's Radley Balko² and, say, an anarchist denizen of the Whitaker District are, one suspects, slight. Thus, Libertarianism is not an intractable political ideal. The Libertarian Party, to cite the most obvious example of an organization predicated upon supposedly libertarian principles, is an embarrassment-filled with wack-jobs, Objectivists and Michael Badnarik³. Codifying libertarianism simply does not work terribly well. It is, like other political and social philosophies, a big umbrella that encompasses many different beliefs.

However, even the most stringent lowercase "L" libertarian must admit

2. Balko is a "nanny state" and consumer issues policy analyst for the libertarian think tank Cato Institute. He is a strong adherent to the oft-criticized concept of consumer choice, a proponent of the dreaded Wal-Mart, foe of food-Nazi Morgan Spurlock, and defender of one's right to smoke or imbibe what he or she pleases.

3. Michael Badnarik was the 2004 Libertarian Party candidate for President. *Surprise, surprise*, he didn't win. On paper, Badnarik seems like the ideal libertarian, not to mention the ideal Libertarian Party candidate. However, there is no such thing as the "ideal" Libertarian Party candidate.

that government– and by proxy, taxes– is necessary, regardless of whether you believe that tax collecting is an implicit threat of bodily harm. Are we taxed at an excessive rate? Yes. Is our tax money often misspent? Yes. But the tactics espoused by Guerrilla Capitalists are morally questionable, unrealistic, or both.

That's not to say that Guerrilla Capitalism couldn't work for a cash-strapped college student who needs to supplement his or her income. For example:

Sell Something: Marijuana is the most obvious item to sell in the underground economy, as America's drug laws require that anyone hawking the Devil's weed live the Guerrilla Capitalist lifestyle. However, if the thought of grungy stoners pounding on your door at three in the morning looking for "Dave" doesn't sound ideal, and the thought of listening to your roommates explain how UFOs are really time machines from the future piloted by super-evolved humans makes your head hurt, then you could go a different route. Craigslist⁴, for example, has revolutionized the Guerrilla Capitalism movement. With 2005 revenues topping \$20 million, Craigslist has everything for the discerning Guerrilla Capitalist, from car stereos to oral sex performed by Vietnamese trannies. And the internet-based service, which features approximately 6.5 million classified postings each month, is diverting money from newspapers to its ever-expanding coffers.

Perform a Service Under the Table: Let us assume that you are not a Vietnamese transvestite hooker-- you can still make beaucoup bucks in the under-the-table service industry. For example, an enterprising young student could sell papers to the lazy, the stupid and the *trustfunded*. Is it really that difficult to write a paper for Writing 123? As long

4. Craigslist is a centralized network of online communities created ten years ago by a San Francisco socialist named Craig Newmark.

as you draw parallels between missiles and penises, you'll do fine. Once word of mouth spread, a student could easily make a hundred dollars a month. Of course, buying or selling essays could lead to expulsion, but those are the dangers of living on the edge.

Obviously, it does not take a lot of creativity to come up with ways to make money within the underground economy. People have been doing it since the beginning of time. But Guerrilla Capitalism is not the most practical way to lead one's life; it is simply a way to make a few extra dollars. Avoiding bank accounts and not paying taxes, cooking the books and selling illicit wares: ultimately these choices may only compound one's financial problems, rather than alleviating any burdens levied by the government or financial institutions.

Yes, most of us, in one way or another, participate in the

underground economy, whether by selling something on eBay or simply not documenting our tips. And, as I've stated, there are a number of ways that a college student can supplement his or her income, as odious or dishonest as some of the practices may be. (Let it be known that I do not necessarily support selling marijuana or term papers.) Like libertarianism, Guerrilla Capitalism should not be an unyielding movement; as an in-compliant ideal, it doesn't work.

We may not like our system, but it is best to work within it. The underground economy works best for supplementing one's income. Beyond that, it is impractical and dangerous.



Tyler Graf is Editor Emeritus of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Sudsy...

- Is banned in Utah, New Mexico, Pakistan, and the Kulongoski household.
- Encouraged Rob Reiner to produce and direct *North*.
- Failed Writing 121 due to his inability to hold a pen.
- Has made passionate love to Margaret Thatcher on numerous occasions.
- Befriended Ian Crosswhite.
- Was cut from the cast of the *Apprentice* after getting cigar ash all over The Donald's hairpiece.
- Sold Steve Jobs his first black turtleneck.
- Once shot a man in Reno just to watch him die. That man was Arnold Palmer, who survived and went on to have a successful golfing career.
- Was once called "inappropriately frothy" by *Washington Post* fashion critic Robin Givhan.
- Has a Facebook profile up at [oregon.facebook.com/profile.php?id=11509691](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=11509691)
- Wants you to join the OREGON COMMENTATOR. Find out more at oregoncommentator.com



The Iranian Connection

As violence in Iraq intensifies, America must begin exploring new strategies in the Middle East

by Edward Niedermeyer

Some say that ideology and ignorance go hand in hand. Certainly, the world is far too complex and diverse a place to be understood from a single coherent, tidy framework. Some say that orthodoxy and incompetence sit together on the schoolbus every day. Clearly, every relationship and interaction is dynamic enough to eventually render unhelpful settled “truths” about any particular time and place. Few regions of the world have received so generous a portion of American ignorance, incompetence, orthodoxy and ideology as the Middle East. The resultant lack of dynamism and forethought has created a history of interaction characterized by righteous and condescending involvement by the US, followed by seemingly inexplicable tragedy and an inexorably increasing alienation. This self-reinforcing dynamic has been building back upon itself for some time now, and appears to have reached a zenith (or nadir) with a complete occupation and an apparently imminent civil war in what previously had been one of the region’s foremost powers. The consistent failure of such heavy-handed policies is once again becoming tragically obvious, and perhaps this time it will be enough to fundamentally change our methodology for dealing with this troubled region.

The lack of an American exit strategy from Iraq has been missing for so long-- since before there was ever a need for one-- that its absence is not even used to score political points. The sniping of one’s opponents being the prime motivating factor in this generation of policy platforms, the subject isn’t likely to become a topic for actual analysis. Rather than cleaning up a mess we have already made, we are already looking for a new one to make just next door in Iran. Tehran’s aspirations raise the scary question of what to do with a state that actually is developing nuclear capabilities, once you’ve overcommitted your military to occupying a state that wasn’t. Within the dual problems of Iran’s nuclear power grab and Iraq’s expensive fragility exists a single comprehensive solution, a new approach to break with our failures, past and present. The answer lies in the development of real allies in the region; it cannot be found in continued reliance on corrupt petro-regimes and thinly-veiled puppet states. The solution, as unbelievable as it may seem, may well lie with a new relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For any of this to make any sense, you have to lose your illusions about what our current relationship with the Middle East really is. The Iraq invasion has clearly failed. At a financial cost of tens of billions of dollars per year, American troops continue to die fighting a dedicated insurgency, which appears to be fuelled by the very presence of occupiers. At the same time, the American presence-- which hardly ventures from military enclaves not under force of arms-- seems at times to be the only force keeping the country from a Lebanon-style factional civil war. We have maintained this unrewarding position for

some time now, and however slowly, conditions seem to have improved: elections have been held, troops have been trained, former dear leaders have been put on trial. With our own massive deficit and military overstretch problems, specific withdrawal dates within a reasonable period seem a logical inevitability, ending a costly and dubiously successful adventure. Whether this happens sooner or later, it will happen-- and so it is important to understand what post-occupation Iraq will look like, and how it will act.

Iraq’s democracy is working, and as a result, its Shia majority has made huge gains in power. Oppressed second-class citizens under Sadaam, the Iraqi Shia have rallied to their mullahs and politicians to become not only the largest, but also the most active, political bloc in Iraq. It is safe to say that barring an outbreak of civil war, Shia and Kurd factions will effectively dictate Iraq’s policy as US influence in Baghdad decreases. As this happens, Iraq’s Shia leadership will doubtless look to its religious and ethnic compatriots across the Zagros Mountains in Iran for help and guidance. Ties between these two nations are deep and ancient. Iran’s 60 million-odd Shia view the Iraqi shrine cities of Karbala and Najaf with solemn reverence: many of Iran’s great clerics receive their education there; as pilgrimage destinations they are second in importance only to Mecca and Medina.

Long the only Shia state in the Middle East, Iran clearly understands the opportunity presented by the new Shia majority democracy next door and has been allegedly sending cash, arms, personnel, and expertise to Shia leaders such as Muqtada Al-Sadr and the Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani (himself an Iranian). These leaders have publicly ordered their militias to cease operations, but they remain formidable forces, and there is strong evidence to suggest that they have infiltrated many Iraqi army and police units. Indeed, American fears of Iranian influence on the ruling Shia have led recently to a knee-jerk reaction: reaching out to tribal Sunni insurgent leaders, citing the Iranian threat. This typically self-defeating policy has served to simply kindle fears of a Baathist restoration among the now-dominant Shia, driving them-- and the future of Iraq-- into the eager embrace of Tehran.

Given the practical impossibility of an optimal outcome (smooth withdrawal from a sovereign pro-west Iraqi democracy), where do we start looking for our least of many possible evils? Given that, once left to its own devices, Iraq will probably gravitate towards Tehran’s sphere of influence, such a scenario is often posited as a nightmare that must be avoided. The negative cast of this depiction is unnecessary if not counterproductive. It is easy to forget that for the 20-some years between the Islamic Revolution and the aftermath of 9-11, Tehran had been on a slow but steady path of reform and liberalizations. After the utopian excesses of the revolution Iranians sought

Note: The views expressed in this independent analysis are not representative of the OREGON COMMENTATOR's editorial position.

economic growth and personal liberty, creating a crescendo of political and cultural rapprochement with the west through the 1990's. The disastrous "Axis of Evil" speech, followed by the sudden appearance of American forces on two of its borders, has resulted in Iran rolling back much of its reforms and installing a fiery hard-liner as president. Much of the western opposition to Iran's ascendant status centers around the person of its current president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad-- in particular, his fiery rhetoric on the subjects of American Imperialism, Israeli Zionism, and a fully nuclear Iran.

In looking past one man's inflammatory bluster, however, one finds that rigorous research and analysis paint a different picture: that of a failing populist leader who has been unable to deliver on proposed economic and social policies, who has resorted to playing up his citizen's fears of the encircling US troop presence to drum up sympathy among his "street" base. As time-honored and prevalent as this political trick is, with the exit of American

troops from the region these populist ploys will lose their resonance. Ahmadinejad will be forced to return to a more pragmatic mode of foreign relations. If our withdrawal is accompanied by an escalated American respect for Iran's position, commensurate with their inevitable influence on the future of the region, there is hope for a relationship that could maintain stability in the increasingly volatile Persian Gulf. The problem is that neither a pull-out nor a partnership have happened or even seem in sight-- and far from reaching out to a potential ally, Washington continues to treat Iran as a pariah state. Case in point: the international histrionics over Iran's nuclear energy program reek of the patronizing condescension that most Iranians have associated with American myopia for the last several generations. (Don't even get me started about the ASUO.)

Now, Tehran has broken IAEA seals on its uranium enrichment facilities, earning it a playdate with the UN Security Council, where the US and others will doubtless extol the terrors of a nuclear-armed Iran.

While one can certainly make the argument that Iran merely wants (as it claims) more electrical output so as to increase revenue from its lucrative oil exports, to assume so is probably naive. Iran almost certainly aspires to be a nuclear power, and

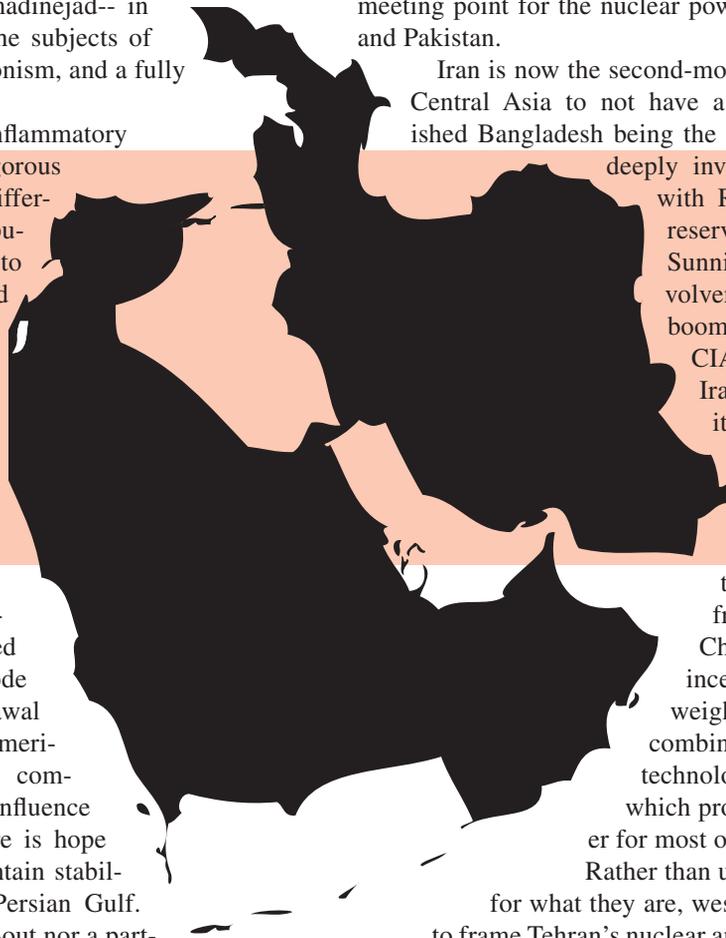
with good reason. Continental Eurasia is something of a scary place these days, with huge future superpowers maintaining 5% economic growth year after year, two new nuclear powers emerging within the last ten years, and an increasingly imperial former superpower with satellite states still touching Iran's northern border. Huge oil and gas reserves along with centuries-old imperial ambitions make the Asian interior a volatile meeting point for the nuclear powers of China, Russia, India, and Pakistan.

Iran is now the second-most populous nation in South-Central Asia to not have a nuclear weapon (impoverished Bangladesh being the unsurprising first). They are

deeply involved in potential conflicts with Russia over Caspian energy reserves, and there is tension with Sunni Pakistan over sectarian involvements in Afghanistan. Iran's booming population growth (the CIA calculates a median age for Iranians of about 24 years old), its strategic position, and its energy reserves are all tributes to its regional power status. Furthermore, the potential for a huge strategic

power bloc emerging from some combination of China, Russia and India creates incentives to encourage counterweights to that trio of nations-- the combined economic power, military technology, and natural resources of which probably hold the keys to power for most of this century.

Rather than understand Iran's insecurities for what they are, western policy makers continue to frame Tehran's nuclear ambitions in the context of the "War on Terror," or "Global Struggle Against Violent Extremism"-- or whatever the kids are calling it these days. It's important to bear in mind the deep separation between the Shia and Sunni sects, and in doing so to recognize that Al-Qaeda and the attackers of 9-11 are all Sunnis from nations like Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Egypt. Indeed, several Al-Qaeda affiliated clerics have called for a Jihad on Shiites, a cause once eagerly taken up by the Sunni-extremist Taliban in Afghanistan, and revived by sectarian bloodshed in Iraq. America is once again so blinded by ideology that it doesn't recognize a natural ally when it has one: Iran, like America, is looking at a long and painful struggle with Al-Qaeda and their affiliated Sunni extremists. We need not lose sleep over the possibility of Iran handing a nuclear device over to Osama, as they have as much to lose from



CONT'D ON 17

Westmoreland: Is the UO Making Good on its Commitments to Graduate Students?

Debate continues over the University's planned sale of the 404-unit housing complex

by Ian Spencer

About two miles due west of the University of Oregon campus lies the Westmoreland apartment complex. Built in 1964, the 404-unit, University-owned development now houses over 500 residents, many of whom are graduate students, international students, and students with families.

Despite its current level of use, the University has announced plans to put the complex up for sale, sparking controversy among residents, student leaders, and campus special interest groups.

News of the sale was first made public in an October 19 letter from University Housing Director Mike Eyster to Westmoreland residents. In the letter, Eyster claimed that the complex's "infrastructure is beginning to fail" and that a "substantial investment" would be required if the property were to be kept.

Public opposition to the plan was quick to develop. A coalition against the sale formed in October and now consists of the Westmoreland Tenants Council, the ASUO, the Multicultural Center, the Non-traditional Student Union, and Eugenians for Affordable Housing.

The primary concern for the coalition is accessibility. "By eliminating Westmoreland, you're eliminating access. You're eliminating precisely the type of housing that's necessary for the types of students that live there to achieve a higher education," commented ASUO President Adam Walsh in an interview. "The people that need the help the most with accessibility to college are the ones Westmoreland currently serves," concurred ASUO Campus Organizer Brett Rowlett. "The options that are being given to those that live there right now, some of [whom] were recruited by the University to come and be GTFs at our school with Westmoreland being used as an enticement for them to come here. The alternatives that the University's giving them are \$100-\$150 more a month, and when you're a GTF making \$850 a month, \$150 more for rent is a huge deal."

In a February 6 Request for Proposals, the University announced that it "expects the purchase price to equal or exceed \$18 million." Initially the University gave little indication as to what proceeds from the sale would be used for, leading to widespread speculation that the University would use the money to purchase additional land for a planned basketball arena. After opposition had reached a crescendo, it was announced that just over \$10 million in proceeds would go towards paying off the existing consolidated housing debt pool.

What would happen with the remaining sale proceeds is still unknown. The UO's website explicitly states that "sale proceeds will not be used to build a new arena" and "the funds

or equivalent will be made available to University Housing," but Housing as of yet has no concrete plans for what would be done with the funds.

With the exception of the 387-bed Living-Learning Center due to be completed in September, there has been no on-campus housing development since the 1960's. But while Walsh acknowledged that new dorms are needed, he feels that building new dorms would benefit a particular type of student – namely, young undergrads – at the expense of the many student families who reside in Westmoreland. "The problem with building dorms is that you can't have your wife in the dorms, or your domestic partner. [...] You can't have children in the dorms."

Walsh, who is from Eugene, also believes that by selling Westmoreland the University is primarily hurting in-state students while trying to attract out-of-state students (who pay far more tuition) by improving the dorms. "We have a state-funded public institution that's prioritizing out-of-state students over in-state students." [Ed- THE COMMENTATOR was unable to obtain statistics by press time which might determine what percentage of Westmoreland tenants have in-state status.]

But while the UO is indeed a state-funded public institution, the percentage of revenue provided by the state has decreased over the past thirteen years. While in 1992-93 the state provided 28% of the UO's total revenue, it only provided 14% in 2003-04. The decrease has been particularly significant during the previous four fiscal cycles, as during 2000-2001 state revenues accounted for 20% of the University's totals.

"You can't fault the University of being business-minded. I mean, for the institution to continue to function and be able to provide service to anyone, it has to," said Walsh. "[The University] has to function more like a business just in order to keep its head above the water. But I don't think that that means prioritizing parking lots over people's homes, and that's really what we're talking about here."

Our Take: The UO should not be in the housing business in the first place, as the institution's purpose is to educate, not house. As of this year, the University is fifth in *Princeton Review's* 'Dorms Like Dungeons' and 115th in *US News and World Report's* 'Best Colleges 2006' rankings. (To put this last ranking into perspective, the UO is one notch better than Washington State and one notch worse than Florida State.) Quite simply, the University is failing at both properly educating and properly housing its clientele. The best thing the University could do would be to lease its current housing properties to private companies and consequently

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IRAN FROM I5

such a move as do we.

Similarly, the possibility of Iran striking Israel with such a device is minor. A nuclear strike in Israel proper would kill many Palestinians, rendering the land itself uninhabitable in the process, thus ensuring once and for all the eternal devastation of those Iran ostensibly intends to avenge. If you consider Iranians to be so spiteful as not to be deterred by that, consider their awareness of the certain overwhelming wrath they will undergo at the hands of the United States as a response to any nuclear blast in an Israeli civilian center. They know fully well that in such an instance of naked aggression toward that dear an ally America will become apoplectic; we will have no interest in their plausible deniability; we will bomb first and ask questions later. It need not come to that, however: Tehran has repeatedly emphasized that its only stumbling block in re-establishing relations with Israel is the Palestinian crisis. A satisfactory peace deal there would remove the threat of future violence from the table.

Ultimately, arguments about Iran's potential use of nuclear weapons just distract from a more reasonable conception of Iran's position in the world. A millennia-old regional eminence, with huge strategic challenges to the east and a historic opportunity on its western border, Iran should be guided and encouraged into a position of power. Here is a recipe for a peaceful, stable Iranian state: nuclear weapons, an investment in Iraq's future, and normal, open relations with the world's superpowers. Iran's stability is the region's stability. Most of these things will come to pass regardless of our efforts one way or another, so we should re-examine our choices. We

can either take a guiding role in the process, thus fitting it to our vision and recouping standing in the Middle East, or we can resist at great expense and greater likelihood for failure. Despite these fairly common-sense arguments, voices just barely in the American wilderness (specifically the AM radio band and the Department of Defense) continue to beat the drums of war against the looming threat of Iran's "Mad Mullahs."

Frankly speaking, I think that those people have ideologically more in common with the members of Iran's Council of Guardians than they do with the average American or Iranian. The barriers to cooperation with Iran are much smaller than leaders on either side will admit, while incentives for it are remarkably strong. Tragedies of history and plain short-sightedness are preventing a cooperative solution to an already troubled region's most recent crisis-- this one a crisis of our own making. Accepting Iran as a proud, strong, and growing nation with an increasing interest in guaranteeing stability in its region will take trust and time. Denying it will prove an exercise in futility and a strategic setback.



Edward Niedermeyer, a senior studying Political Science at the UO, wrote this article as a guest commentary for the OREGON COMMENTATOR. He can be contacted at eniederm@uoregon.edu.

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WESTMORELAND FROM I6

give students more choices and better service.

But, if the University wishes to continue serving dual roles as educator and landlord, the administration would be wise to hold on to Westmoreland for the foreseeable future. It offers graduate students, students with families, and older undergraduate students a more mature, family-friendly atmosphere in which to live. The University has legitimate infrastructure concerns about (amongst other things) the complex's plumbing, but any potential buyer would share these concerns and account for them when bidding. Westmoreland boasts over 400 units, child care facilities, an actual community, affordability, and even non-upgraded units tend to be in good condition. No

other existing University housing option matches what Westmoreland offers residents, so it should come as no surprise that there has been such a backlash to this sale.

The administration should continue upgrading units and gradually raising rental prices, but if it is interested in continuing to offer affordable housing to student families, the Westmoreland complex is ultimately its best asset.



Ian Spencer is Editor-in-Chief of the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

THE GUN COLUMN

...with *Andy Dolberg*

MY DAY AT THE GUN SHOW

On the second Saturday of Christmas break, the city of Portland hosted Oregon's largest gun show at the Expo Center. I have frequented these shows over the years, both with friends and by myself, and I always leave with a sense of amazement at the phenomenon I have witnessed.

There are certain tricks to attending the gun show; chief among them is the avoidance of the Expo Center's \$8 parking fee. Luckily, the City of Portland spent over \$350 million to provide a light rail train directly to the parking lot, thereby providing me the ability to circumvent the parking maids. I drove to a park 1/4 mile away from the show and hopped the train. Why should I have to pay for a ticket if the train is going there anyway? Several other prospective firearm patrons were on the platform also. One, a man in his 60's, struck up a conversation with me. He inquired of my intentions in riding the train for a 1/4 mile; when I informed him of my plan to see some guns and save money doing it, he handed me a free admission pass. (Total Savings: \$15.) We then boarded the train, where protocol dictated my feigning an interest in "old man stories". This gem revolved around his job at the paper mill: "[Do]youknowaboutallthoseyellowrecyclingcontainers?" "Sure," I offered. (I recycle just to save room in my garbage can, knowing that it all goes to the same place.) "The city [of Portland] sends us all the paper from recycling, and if any of it has ever touched food or is Teflon coated, we throw it straight into the trash." "Cool." (A confirmation of my suspicions.)

After four sentences the journey on the euro-styled eco-friendly diversity transportation ended. I disembarked and headed toward the entrance. Typically the gate is a sea of all manner of people, as the Center holds concurrent exhibitions such as a boat or car show-- but the gun show patrons are easy to spot. They are either young guys, occasionally dragging girlfriends along, or they are older guys-- in either case, without children. These events can be extremely boring for kids because they entail an awful lot of walking around and looking at things among a never-ending tide of interested buyers; touching and caressing the merchandise (known as "fiddling" in gun show parlance) is strictly unacceptable without expressed permission. Many attendees also lug around rifles, pistols, or shotguns to show off or sell.

On a given visit to the gun show, you will first encounter someone who checks to ensure that your guns are unloaded. Next, you have to give your admission ticket to an unarmed rent-a-cop before entering the main hall. The majestic irony in all of this is that whenever I visit a gun show I am herded through these motions while packing a loaded handgun: my right and duty as an owner of a Concealed Handgun License. It's a safe bet that the predominance of attendees to such an event also carry this permit and are thus, like myself, discreetly armed-- therefore utterly outstripping and rendering pointless the Center's supposed security measures. There are endless examples of stupidity in the name of safety in our society; this is merely a case in point.

On this recent Saturday the first thing to strike my imagination was the sheer size of the event. It required the use of two entire exhibit halls, and there were even a few tables lining the outside of these rooms. Hundreds of dealer table-spaces were taped off; the halls were packed with firearm purveyors from front to back and side to side. A rough estimate is that there were about 300 vendors in total. Perusing the aisles for hours, I laid my eyes upon tens of thousands of guns and millions of bullets.

At a typical show, the available products range from new to used, utilitarian to exotic. A good quality .22 caliber training rifle costs around \$200, where a gently used one would fetch \$50 less. The infamous AK-47 semi-automatic rifle can be yours for \$350 cash. The AR-15 semi-automatic, a clone of the M16 that serves as standard issue in today's American military, costs between \$800 and \$1500 depending on quality. Also in abundance are handguns, such as the popular Glock 17. The Glock is a singularly significant weapon that revolutionized the use of sidearms in police work when it first appeared, replacing every revolver in use nearly overnight. It boasts a 15 round, 9mm payload and trigger, with a built-in safety. These run from \$500 new to a used police trade-in for \$300. Care for a silencer? Only an extra \$400.

Then there is that league of dealer whose special offer is the rare and exciting. These merchants are called "Class 3", named for the type of permit they are required to obtain before selling specific types of guns. They sell machine guns, silencers, explosives, and other arms classified as destructive devices. The majority of people do not know that these weapons are readily available, and they are indeed expensive for most people. A fully-automatic M16 can



cost \$15,000, and a medium machine gun will set a buyer back \$175,000. The existence of these weapons-- and their ready availability to any pesky peasant like you or me if we can only front the cash-- never fails to bring a smile to my face that lingers for days after an exposition. (Significantly, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, no registered machine gun has ever been used in a crime.)

Locally, there is a bi-monthly gun show at the Eugene Fairgrounds. While a much smaller version of the Portland show, many of the same vendors may be found there. I would encourage everyone to check it out: a mere five dollars at the door will grant you access to all the vendors inside, who are more than happy to answer any questions you may have about guns.

I continue to reflect over the things I've witnessed at gun shows. Growing up in the liberal city of Portland, I was mostly exposed only to the negative connotations attached to guns. Firearms have been a taboo all throughout my public education; most adults in my childhood never mentioned them. In light of this systemic school indoctrination, it may seem out of place for these events to take place in major metropolises across the US every weekend. Yet the gun show has many draws: the sheer variety and magnitude of weaponry, the thrill of pushing social taboos, the mingling with other like-minded citizens. Fundamentally these shows exist more as a natural outcropping of the American right to defense: our rights to defend our selves and our loved ones and our property, our rights to defend our country against enemies foreign and domestic. The 2nd Amendment, too often overlooked, was written to

help protect these rights. A friend told me that rights are like muscles-- if you don't use them they will atrophy.

This line of reasoning may seem self-important or overly idealistic to those unfamiliar with a bit of wisdom that serves as a sort of credo for gun show veterans: "Never trouble another for what you can do for yourself." That was written by Thomas Jefferson, the third President of our Union two hundred years ago; generations of Americans have lived by it ever since. The conviction held by the many gun owners I know is that only they can guarantee their own personal security. The fact that crime continues to exist lays bare the fact that police will never be able to protect everyone from it; no amount of government-sponsored policing will ever ensure total safety. Not only does responsible gun ownership reduce crime, it also lessens the demand for police services. Self-reliance-- and by extension, self-protection-- are founding principles of our Republic and the bedrock of the American character. In light of the fact that this spirit is waning, that many in this society now lack that which first made us great, we should look up to the gun owners who maintain these crucial traditions-- the crucial traditions that continue to allow us to thrive.



Andy Dolberg, who's been missing since an encounter with a Portland Mercury Choose Your Own Adventure feature, is Gun Columnist for the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Conditional Development

A plan to revitalize downtown? We've heard that one before.

by Samuel Rutledge

When writing about current events for a publication that is released on a monthly basis, one always takes the risk of being behind the times. This article was submitted for publication on February 8th. On the morning of February 10th, the Register Guard reported that Connor-Wooly have taken eminent domain off the table in regard to their downtown redevelopment plan.

The first time I saw a picture of a woman without her shirt on I was in Lazar's Bazaar. When I was about thirteen years old Lazar stocked a billion posters in the back of his shop, in a skeezy corner tucked behind the skateboards. Many of them were mildly pornographic images of topless women in suggestive poses. I would take the bus downtown after school, and there, deep in the throes of early puberty, I would gaze at these nude goddesses, taken aback at the way they exuded feminine glory and uncovered skin. It was a rite of passage, I think. Or, maybe I was just a little pervert. One way or the other, it was formative.

I bought my first bong at Lazar's. My first pack of cigarettes. My first chain wallet, the signature accessory of the self-styled tough kid I thought myself to be. No single establishment could have provided more vice, at least not for an underage kid who was out to break all the rules. Several years later, I took up residence on the porch of the Café Paradiso. This was back in the halcyon years of that now defunct landmark of Eugene's downtown, before crank fiends necessitated the installation of a fence surrounding the patio. The Paradiso had the feeling of a European coffee shop at that time. On any given afternoon, I could be found there, and I felt assured that I would end up in a lively discussion with a complete stranger. It was at the Paradiso that I met my favorite vagabond, a man who calls himself Harley Davidson Motorcycle. He plays the coffee can like it's a bongo drum, drunk and ecstatic, and in his spare time he makes model boats. I can think of no other place where it would be possible to make friends with such an odd character, but the Café Paradiso made it easy. He was there every day, and so was I.

Since the early days of the Grateful Dead tours, Eugene has been a regular summertime stop for countercultural vacationers. Volkswagen minibuses converge here in droves carrying strange and interesting people on their way to the Oregon Country Fair, following jam-bands on tour, preparing for Burning Man, or just looking for some good reefer. Downtown seems to attract these people. It provides a meeting place for the disaffected dropouts who pass through town, and I have always loved to meet them and listen to their stories. But things have changed. Sure, there are still migrant hippies in the summertime, but there's something different. Something made of

Sudafed.

This past summer I made some extra money by delivering pies for the Pizza Pipeline. The Pipeline is located in the heart of scenic downtown Eugene, and is to crank addicts what halogen floodlights are to nocturnal insects. They spend their days sitting in front of the pizza joint waiting for drug connections, trying to leech spare change and slices of pizza from customers, and generally making a mess of things. This is the face of downtown Eugene; pockmarked, with sunken cheeks, itching for its next fix. It hurts me to look at it.

Downtown Eugene is like the crank-fiends who call it home – it has been in a steady decline for as long as I can remember. For those of you who are new to town, let me offer you a few tidbits of local history.

In the 1970s, city planners decided to build a pedestrian mall Downtown. Willamette, Olive, and Broadway were all closed to vehicles when I was a kid. I remember it being a pretty cool place. There was a fountain at the intersection of Broadway and Willamette, a monstrosity of concrete that by the early 1990s was turned off year round due to shoddy plumbing. But when I was little, you could jump and splash in the water, climb the fountain, and generally have a fantastic time. There was life on those blocks, and many small businesses did pretty well for themselves.

Little by little, though, downtown started to disintegrate. As more shoppers migrated to the suburban shopping centers, many downtown businesses closed their doors, and street kids moved in to fill the vacuum left behind. By the mid 1990s, revitalizing downtown was one of the biggest issues in city politics. Someone had the bright idea that it was the pedestrian mall that was driving business to close their doors and move elsewhere. The question was posed to the voters; should we open the mall up to vehicle traffic? Despite opposition from Eugene's 'no change' party, the measure passed, and over the course of a few years the streets were opened back up. The conservatives who had pressed for the measure were overjoyed, and everyone waited for life to be breathed back into the urban core. This was ten years ago. They're still waiting.

Today, downtown is a fairly frightening place. On Broadway between Charnelton and Olive, in front of the old Symantec building, there is a nearly constant bevy of disaffected youth. They're loaded to the gills on methamphetamine, which is to say, they're dangerous. Anyone who's wondering why businesses on this strip tend to fail need look no further. The South Hills yuppies, the university students, and productive citizens in general see no reason to traverse this gauntlet of surly ad-

The opinions expressed here are the author's-- which is to say that his column is neither representative of nor subject to the COMMENTATOR's editorial position.



dicts on their way to go shopping. This is especially true given that there are plenty of other more pleasant places to go on a recreational spending spree.

There have been plans to revitalize downtown that have come around every so often for the past several years. One was the re-opening of the streets to traffic. This was supposed to make the businesses more visible and accessible to lazy shoppers who didn't want to get out of their cars and walk. The plan, I think I can safely say, has failed. More shops have closed their doors since the streets were re-opened. The reason that the plan failed is that it ignored the central problem; people weren't avoiding downtown out of laziness. They were (and are) avoiding it out of fear. The elephant in Downtown Eugene's living room is that there is a massive problem with idle young people, and with drug addiction.

Recently some local developers, in cooperation with an out-of-town company, have proposed a new solution. Without going into detail about the plan, the basic idea is that these developers would like the city to help them buy all the property on either side of Broadway between Willamette and Charnelton. What's missing from this plan? It fails to address the core question of why downtown has been spiraling out of control: what to do with the street people?

It is possible that this development, which would likely require the city to exercise its power of eminent domain to buy the properties in question, would dissuade the street people from hanging out on that particular block. It is likely, as well, that in order to protect the developers' property an increased police presence downtown would be requested. A clean-up project would ensue, and it would probably seem like a success. But, it would be a matter of sweeping the real problem under the rug.

You may have seen signs along 13th street just to the west of campus that announce that dogs and skateboards are prohibited. This was another development of the mid 1990s. There was a time when 13th was the best place to go in Eugene to get good drugs. In fact, the weed that I put in that first bong I bought from Lazar's was probably procured on 13th street. In the '90s, there was a massive effort on the part of the Eugene

Police Department to 'clean-up' 13th, and it seemed to work. Now, a person can wander all the way from the U of O bookstore to the Indigo District without having to worry about being offered drugs. But the folks from the block didn't go away; they went downtown. In the years since, they've bounced between Broadway and the Saturday Market blocks depending on where the police were focusing their attention. A new retail development isn't going to break the cycle, just move it.

Nonetheless, I think the downtown development is a good idea, but the city has to establish some conditions under which it would use its power of eminent domain. In exchange for forcing current owners to sell, the city should require the developers to invest a large chunk of money into drug rehabilitation, job training, and social services for the street people who will be dislocated by the project. The developers should also have to promise that a certain percentage of the retail space they create will be rented to locally owned and operated businesses, so that part of the wealth generated by the project will stay in the city.

There are some problems with this position. Folks have speculated that the developers in question, who already own much of the property downtown, have been keeping storefronts vacant in order to depress property values so they could buy up the rest of the buildings at fire-sale prices. I can't say whether or not this is true. What's more, I don't think it matters much. It's time for downtown Eugene to grow up, and if these developers want to make that happen, I say let 'em.

The other day I saw Lazar down on 13th street checking out the vacant shoe shop and bubble tea store. It brought a smile to my face to see that this pinnacle of Eugene-ness isn't succumbing to defeatism in the face of what might be a traumatic event in the life of his business. If he has to move out of his longtime storefront, he'll move on. And another generation of disaffected youth will have the opportunity to peruse dirty posters and smoking paraphernalia. Isn't that the most important thing?



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SPEW

...and depictions of Mohammed through the ages

ON *FIRST THEY CAME FOR FROG*

Eugene may be the “World’s Greatest City for the Arts and Outdoors,” but it looks increasingly like it’s about to become an Auschwitz for Artists.

- Eugene resident Tom Tracey, writing about downtown Eugene development in a letter to the *Eugene Weekly*.

City management appears anxious to do the bidding of stone-hearted developers by unleashing a squadron of bulldozers to execute the Blitzkrieg of Broadway. Hungry for advertising revenues from big corporate outfits — such as The Gap, Hooters and Chili’s — the Ministry of Propaganda (aka *The Register-Guard*) goose-steps right along.

- *Ibid.* The Nazis have Hooters this time around? We’re screwed!



This image of unknown origin depicts Mohammed riding the flying beast with woman’s head that carried him to Allah’s revelation on the Night of Great Power. Here, he appears to witness infidel souls being tortured in the flames of hell.

ON *THE PLEASURES OF NUT BUTTER*

There are many sorts of foodstuff that can be turned into butter. Dairy, obviously, produces a common butter. Apples may be pureed and cooked into a spreadable buttery substance, and cocoa butter is essential to both white chocolate and new-age skin care.

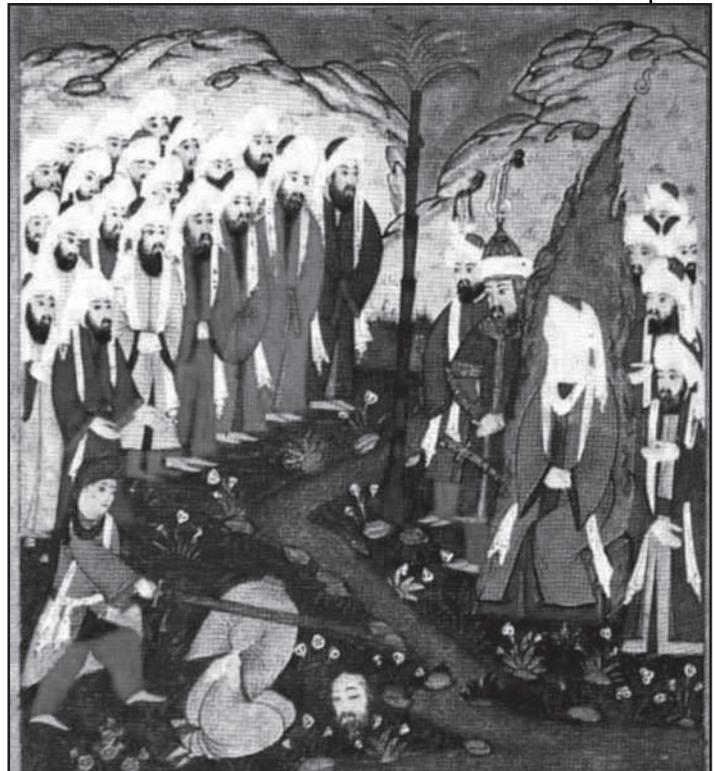
- Emerald Commentary Editor Ailee Slater, writing about her “vice”, nut butter, in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* supplement of the same name.

If people got along with one another as well as peanut butter gets along with almost any other food, world peace would be a reality rather than a dream.

- Slater, rhetorically putting MLK in his place.

There is rarely a food that can top the nut butter, and peanut butter is bested by none.

- *Ibid.* We’re pretty sure that, if anything, Slater proves that God exists and He wants Spew filled.



This image is one of 814 illustrations to appear in a 1595 Ottoman edition of *Siyer-i-Nebi*, a religious biography of Mohammed that first appeared in 1388. Here, Mohammed is depicted with a white flame for a face as he witnesses the beheading of Nasr bin al-Hareth.



This image, from the circa-1315 Persian text *Jami' al-tavarikh*, depicts Mohammed's birth. The book is currently housed at the University of Edinburgh.

ON *BELL-DROPPING*

bell hooks shared a story in her speech on Friday night of a lunch date with two white women, during which one of them said, "I'm not a racist but ... I don't think there should be interracial marriage and parenting because people should just stick to their own kind." ¶ How did hooks react?

She did not become outraged, she said. Instead, she used the opportunity to convert the moment into a [sic] educational one, said hooks, who doesn't capitalize her name because she wants people to focus on her message instead of her name.

- From the beginning of a Feb. 7 Emerald article. How nice of the ODE to explain her name before explaining her message.

hooks spoke on the daily fight to end oppression and racism, telling the crowd that she asks herself every day: "What are you going to do to end injustice in the world today?"

- Ibid. Defy the laws of English grammar! One has to wonder how not beginning a sentence with a capitalized letter is any different from using an imaginary pronoun like "heer" or "ze."

ON *THE INTOONFADAH, EH?*

Student newspapers are in a perfect position to push the envelope since factors like media convergence don't come into play, nor do investors or advertisers. The wrath of the Dean's office and of various student groups, while forces to be reckoned with, seem much more manageable than that of CanWest Global.

- Student journalist Aine O'Hare, in the University of Toronto paper *The Strand*, commenting on the power of the media in relation to the Mohammed cartoon brouhaha.

However, you can only push an envelope so far before you get a nasty paper cut, one sure to be infected with the gangrene of social unrest.

- Ibid. There is only so far a journalist can push a metaphor, as he steps up to the plate, grabs the bull by the proverbial horns, and wields his mighty pen like a razor-sharp rapier of truth, righteousness and the Canadian way.



This is an American school child's conception of comparative religion in the 21st Century. We found it on the Internet.

