

O R E G O N

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Smackdown! 2006

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POLITICAL
SMACKDOWN!



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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 on September 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-three 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.



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A wrestling ring scene with a wrestler in the foreground wearing a black jacket and sunglasses, and another wrestler in the background celebrating with arms raised. The ring has blue ropes and a blue mat.

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FLEM 95

It's not a magic wand!

Volume XXIV, Issue 2





The Politics of Smackdown

"Professional Wrestling is real, everything else is fake." -Rev. Billy C. Wirtz

What is the important issue in politics these days? Is it the Foley scandal? The suspiciously low gas prices? Is it whether or not Michael J. Fox was exaggerating symptoms in his Missouri stem cell ad? None of the above, Candyass, it's the indisputable fact that the opposing party will take our country to hell in a handbasket. The American people have spoken, and they aren't looking for pencilneck politicians with their sissy "policies." No, Americans want drama. We want epic struggle pitting the forces of Good against the armies of Evil. We want our Smackdown Politics!

There was a time when the politics of democracy reflected the immense responsibility of its historical promise. The confrontational nature of pluralism was once celebrated in well negotiated compromise, the selection of representatives was once undertaken with sincerity and gravitas. Somewhere along the line, the high-minded world of political discourse and activity has become a spectacle, a pay-per-view event complete with teams, heroes, villains, and poorly written dialogue. Our political process now involves picking a side, choosing a heroes, and cheer them on as they battle the sinister agenda of the ignorant, evil, ignoble opposition by any means necessary.

These teams were picked long ago. The coalitions now locked in the Potomac Royal Rumble are reflections of the cultural schisms of the 1960's, still whipping up arenas of the faithful with the issues and attitudes which once upon a time defined the basic divisions in American values. We are told that the Republicans are corrupt, conniving, lying plutocrats who wish only to protect the interests of the rich, while Democrats are cowardly, secularist class warriors who yearn to see America fail. No longer are we motivated by a vision of a more perfect union for all Americans, but by the promise that our caped crusaders can protect us from dystopian visions that would surely be made real, should "the other team" attain electoral success. As the world has changed dramatically in the past decades, these teams have

lost touch with reality; no longer the bold warriors of social necessity, our politicians have become showmen, all wild costume and boastful threats, but lacking the power and grace of true leaders.

Everything good on this earth eventually slides into decline. The classical age of professional wrestling eventually descended into the 1980's steroids-and-cocaine party of out-of-touch characters, outlandish costumes and flagging popularity. But anything worth fighting for holds the promise of redemption, and if the WWF was able to pull its nose off the mirror, see how times had changed, and remake the ass-kicking spectacle to regain its popularity, there may yet be hope for our political culture. The difficult task of transforming our approach to politics begins with the recognition that once again, true leaders are needed. America finds itself in a state of dire need; not for crowd-pleasing bodyslams on issues like abortion, religion, or stem cells, but serious, pragmatic leadership.

If America loves any two things, they are novelty and optimism. The record-low approval ratings currently enjoyed by most national politicians reflect an overwhelming deficit in both of these qualities, as old ideas and old divisions lead our once-proud political process into a repetitive and bitter screaming match. Every day, it seems more and more like a completely new party is necessary to tailor a new approach to the real challenges of Iraq, civil liberties, immigration, Social Security, and to do so without dismissing any workable ideas simply because they are advocated by the "enemies across the aisle." The fact that both major parties are bitterly divided on these, the issues of real importance, illustrates how irrelevant their current platforms are. Soon these two parties of fools must split under the weight of their internal contradictions, opening a historical opportunity to move past the partisan storyline that has dominated our politics for too long.



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BREAKING NEWS

Campus Party Scene Sucks

RENNIE'S-- The OC editorial board met Wednesday to discuss the results of a recent study outlining the current party scene on campus. The yearly survey, which grades the party scene on a multitude of factors including alcohol availability, number of alcohol related offense citations, and party attendance, was made public after a relatively lame start of the year. Much of the data is gathered from student surveys and police reports, after which a grade between "Lamer than opiate withdrawal" and "Orgasmic" is given. This year the Eugene score dropped from "Beer flowing like water" to "You're better off staying home and watching a movie."

"We're really at a loss for words on this one, maybe people just aren't trying anymore," remarked OC Editor-in-Chief Ted Niedermeyer at the meeting which took place at Rennie's Landing. Andy Dolberg, gun columnist and economics aficionado, had his own opinions. "I think we are in a party scene slump that is being driven by an increase in OLCC activity in the area," he commented. "There is a clear negative relationship between the OLCC and having a good time, we know this much. Those bastards need to pack up and head back to Canada, fucking socialists." Not everyone agrees with the official analysis of the survey, however. Two local freshman gave their opinions of the scene. "I black out all the time. I blacked out last night and I totally missed my damn midterm. Do you think my dad will be mad?" asked one freshman, and with another saying "I'm having the time of my life."

"These kids don't know what the fuck they are talking about. Sure they may black out all the time and come to in Pizanos stuffing their faces with cheap pizza on the late-night, but they have no idea what blacking out really is. Its almost a disgrace to the entire art of alcohol-induced loss of consciousness... we really do have a problem on our hands," lamented Eric Leeper, a inconsistent at best contributor for the Commentator.

The agenda then turned to discussing strategy. Most of the OC staffers were quite drunk at this point and little was suggested in the way of a response besides further drinking. The idea of a keg subsidy was raised, but then quickly beaten down as an example of "naked socialism." Ultimately, an appeal to individual responsibility carried the day, and the OC staff carried on its own commitment to maintaining per capita alcohol consumption levels.

ASUO Weighs Surplus Options

SUITE 4, EMU-- Faced with an unexpected windfall of about \$1 million of other peoples money, the ASUO has scrambled to develop proposals for spending its budgetary surplus. One of the first proposals to be suggested was for an "ASUO Mount Rushmore" depicting great former executives to be carved into Skinners Butte. "This idea was quickly shot down, when everyone realized that Adam Petkuns likeness would be so small as to be nearly invisible from campus," explained an ASUO insider, "It was going to get embarrassing." Another proposal which bit the dust early, was the idea to arm a street militia loyal to the ASUO Executive. "Jared was going to run again this year anyway," explained our source who insisted on anonymity for obvious reasons, "give the guy some muscle, and he'll make himself ASUO President-For-Life... everyone knows that's his aspiration anyway." Other suggestions are still making the rounds in memo form, including a controversial proposal to spend the bulk of the sum on an "Autzen Stadium coke and hooker party," and the proposal to develop a WMD program.

Administration Slammed with Further Ethics Complaints

JOHNSON HALL-- In a Fall term already rife with accusations of ethical violations against University administrators, more complaints have come to light, causing new concerns about a possible "Culture of Corruption" at Johnson Hall. Already accused of failing to report a property deal, President Dave Frohnmayer now also faces charges of targeting his accuser, Economics professor Bill Harbaugh, for assassination. Senior VP and Provost Linda Brady has now also been accused of failing to report her status as an "active member of the television's Brady Family," in what amounts to conflict of interest with her program to create a new "70's Sitcom Studies" department. Rounding out this new crop of accusations, is the revelation that Housing Director Mike Eyster may actually be in violation of the Geneva Convention by allowing inhumane conditions to exist in Bean Complex. "We're looking into this," said a spokesperson for the International Red Cross. "Even facilities like Guantanamo Bay have controlled their STD and overcrowding levels, but this is starting to look like genocide by neglect."

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WRESTLING WISDOM:

“You need to hunt something that can shoot back at you to really classify yourself as a hunter.”

-Jesse Ventura



HITS FROM THE BLOG

Timothy Says:
October 17th, 2006 at 8:41 pm

I once pissed on the DeFazio bridge, precisely because I hate that obnoxious little gnome that much.

OREGONCOMMENTATOR.COM



SUDSY SAYS:

REMEMBER KIDS, MAIL-IN VOTING MEANS YOU CAN VOTE WHILE DRUNK!

THE OC ASKS: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR?



Sudsy O'Sullivan: “My masters at the Beer and Liquor Lobby want more retreats for legislators in Hawaii.”



Jared Axelrod: “Retreats are fun... just ask Adam Petkun.”



The Anti-Frohn: “Let's replace the “O” with the Williams Bakery logo.”



Phil Knight: “Hey, I still sign your paychecks, bitch.”



Robocop: Dammit Knight, are those my shades? And the pretty boy hogging the contents page needs a serious ass-kicking... what the hell is going on around here?

SMACKDOWN POLITICS



LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,
GIRLS AND BOYS, IT'S THE
COMMENTATORS SMACK-
DOWN! I AM YOUR HOST FOR
THIS ROYAL RUMBLE. MEAN

GENE OKERLUND! AND LET ME JUST
SAY THAT WE'VE GOT A TEPID ONE
HERE, FOLKS! WE'VE GOT SEVERAL BIG
MATCHES HAPPENING, WITH OUR BIG
CHAMPIONSHIP "RAGE IN THE CAGE"
MATCH BETWEEN CHALLENGER RON
"I LOST IN 2002 BECAUSE I VISITED
BOWLING ALLEYS" SAXTON AND THE
REIGNING CHAMPION, TED "THE INCUM-
BENATOR" KULONGOSKI! THIS IS GOING
TO BE A ROUGH ONE, FOLKS! LET'S FIND
OUT WHAT THESE POLITICAL SUPER-
MEN HAVE TO SAY!



Mean Gene: Saxton, what's this match really about?

Saxton: I'll tell ya, brother, Kulongoski has been here for four straight years, and in that time, he hasn't done anything, but keep that seat warm... FOR ME!

Kulongoski: I can positively guarantee that I have done more for our state in the last four years than Saxton did!

Mean Gene: Wouldn't that be because he wasn't in office?

Kulongoski: That'd be right brother! He wasn't even in office! And do you know why?

Mean Gene: Because he lost the election?

Kulongoski: No! Because he's a jabroni, brother. Oh yeah, Dig it!

Saxton: You think you got it, old man? Whatcha gonna do when Saxton-mania and my 24" pythons run wild on you?

Mean Gene: All right, let's talk about the issues. Saxton, what's your platform?

Saxton: The ring. Macho madness lives forever!

Mean Gene: No, I mean the issues.

Kulongoski: The only issue is what hospital Saxton wants to be sent to!

Mean Gene: All right, all right. Kulongoski...

Kulongoski: Incumbenator!

Mean Gene: Right, but your name...

Kulongoski: Incumbenator!!!

Mean Gene: Incumbenator. What is your view on schools?

Kulongoski: The Incumbenator thinks that children are the future and that the schools need more money!

Saxton: As a matter of fact, I love kids way more than this buffoon, and that the schools need more money!

Mean Gene: Um... Ok, if we keep going on like this we're gonna have that creep Goldschidt back in office.

Saxton: I also want to make it known that abortion should happen as little as possible in this great country

Kulongoski: You would say that! Abortion is a terrible thing to go through, and it should never have to happen in this, the greatest country in the world!



Mean Gene: How do you feel about the war in Iraq?

Saxton: I definitely have a view about the war. Can you smell what the Sax is cookin'?

Kulongoski: I too feel strongly about the war.

Mean Gene: Okay, I'm sorry, what is the difference between you two?

Kulongoski: My opponent is trying to take my belt, whereas I already have it!

Saxton: It's true! The Incumbenator is a most excellent debater.

Kulongoski: Yes, you have finally realized! You can talk about your Psalms and your John 3:16. Well, Kulongoski 3:16 says I just whooped your ass.

Saxton: So, I guess that makes you the master debater!

Kulongoski: Brother, I'm a gonna stomp a mud hole in your ass and walk it dry!

Mean Gene: Well folks, it looks like this one is shaping up to be one mediocre race! Sounds like when these heroes duke it out, even the audience loses. Well, either way, neither of you is getting my vote, because I'm voting for the Donner Party ticket. Their platform is all about feeding our homeless. Remember folks, vote Donner and "No one will ever go hungry again!"





ASUO

SARA HAMILTON
SENATE PRESIDENT
NICKNAME: THE PRO

Well aware that one catches more flies with honey than vinegar, Hamilton's chief political weapon is an unflagging veneer of professionalism and cordiality. One cannot underestimate the amount of effort it must take to keep Senate meetings from devolving into a chaotic whine-fest, and one certainly pities the fool who tries. Hamilton rules the EMU boardroom with a firm but friendly hand, ensuring that it takes less than three hours to say, approve the last meetings minutes. She has even come up with common-sense, practical policy, such as the new Senate indexing system, which will improve transparency and organization, two things the Senate has traditionally needed help with.

ASUO Profiles

Remember that \$200 plus that you coughed last term under the billing item "Incidental Fee"? Well, you're gonna have to fork it over next term too, Rooty-poo, and the term after that... Makes your blood boil, doesn't it? Makes you just want to break someone over your knee, right? Well, we've decided to do some midterm assessments on the kids who spend your hard-earned scrilla, to help you decide which candyass is most deserving of some smackdown. Let's get it on!



ASUO

ATHAN PAPAILOU
NICKNAME: THE WOULD-BE
PRESIDENT

Another true politician, Senator Papailiou can often be found leading the charge against the more misguided proposals of the Executive and its slate. Whether this resistance is offered for motives of simple governance, or personal politics is often unclear, as Papailiou will almost certainly run against Axelrod this spring for the position of ASUO President. Either way, a little resistance to business as usual is a very good thing, even when it's done for the most cynical of reasons. As long as Senator Papailiou keeps asking questions that make the Executive Kool-Aid drinkers sweat, he'll have our backing





ASUO

JARED AXELROD
PRESIDENT
NICKNAME: J-ROD

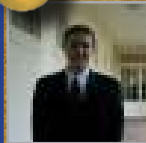
Often called the consummate politician, Axelrod has been playing the ASUO game since being appointed as a freshman to the PFC by the Petkun Executive. Having also served as chair of the PFC, Axelrod has plenty of experience navigating the sea of idiocy he now presides over. Backed by a coalition of student groups primarily focussed on the "issue" of diversity, and as yet untainted by scandal, the Axelrod executive has the political capital to make a mark on student government this year, but the question remains: how? Will he become known as the spiritual successor to Adam Petkun, who allowed another Sun River fiasco by eliminating student retreat guidelines? Or will he be the President who used a million-dollar surplus fund to say, freeze the incidental fee, or build a gold-plated bike rack? Reports indicate heavy lobbying for the latter from "tweaker interest groups."



ASUO

JULIANA GUZMAN
VICE PRESIDENT
NICKNAME: MS. DISCREPANCY

A relative newcomer to ASUO politics, Guzman is best known for her involvement in student groups. As an erstwhile internal director for MEChA, and member of Mujeres, OSAC and USSA, Guzman clearly knows which side of her bread is buttered. Once helpful in getting out votes in elections, her student group ties now simply impede any attempts at neutral governance; as head of the Executive hiring committee, Guzman recommended only MEChA members in her first batch of appointees and even missed interviews with other candidates. Additionally, Vice-President Guzman seems to think that calling mistakes "discrepancies" makes them seem less her fault, for example when the Executive circulated memos about cutting the Marching Bands budget without actually mentioning it to Band leadership... you or I might call that a mistake, but it turned out to be just a "discrepancy."



ASUO

JONATHAN ROSENBERG
NICKNAME: MR. INTERNATIONAL

Long involved with the campus Jewish community, Rosenberg crossed over into ASUO politics by championing a resolution condemning Iran's nuclear program. Although the resolution appropriately failed, Rosenberg has since won a seat on the Senate, and become the Vice President of that body. In that capacity, he has worked closely with Senator Hamilton to introduce a much-needed indexing system for the Senate, even joining with Hamilton to donate part of his stipend towards compensating the new Director of Information. Such action has improved the Senates transparency and fiscal responsibility, however Rosenbergs ability to resist the allure of sexy, but time-wasting and divisive resolutions on international affairs remains to be seen.



ASUO

THE BENCHWARMERS:
MICAH KOSASSAH
NATE GULLEY
ASHLEY SHERRICK

So named for their brave work keeping seats warm at the weekly Senate meetings, these Senators seem little interested in the actual proceedings at these admittedly boring affairs. Still, no one forced these slackers to run for office, and now that they are there, they should probably at least pretend to care about the issues. The only thing more frustrating than watching a dedicated group of people ramming their agenda through a democratically elected body is watching members of the elected body yawning and rubber stamp said agenda. What makes matters worse is the fact that these Senators hold powerful positions, including [seats on??] the PFC, and one of the few student seats on the University Senate. Time to give the decaf a rest kids and, y'know, actually represent your constituents.

WHO KNOWS HOW TO JUGGLE CLASSES, WORK, AND A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN?

THE SHADOW KNOWS...

A CONVERSATION WITH ANDREW HILL, SHADOW TO HIS FRIENDS, ABOUT RUNNING FOR STATE OFFICE WHILE WORKING AND STILL FINDING TIME TO MAKE IT TO CLASSES



OC: Where did you get the idea to run for office?

Hill: Well, nobody was going to run and I hate seeing races being unopposed. I hate seeing candidates just getting handed a position. That's what happened with the mayor's race. Kitty Piercy was just handed the mayor's seat because nobody was going to run against her and I just don't like looking on a ballot and only seeing one choice. So I said, "You know what? If I can do it, I'll do it." That's why my name is on the ballot.

OC: Tell me a little bit about your district. What are you running for?

Hill: District 8 is a pretty diverse district. I mean you got a lot of South Eugene so you got a lot of hippies and yuppies and a few college kids mixed in, but then it goes out to Veneta so you got all the farmers and stuff like that out there so I mean you got a pretty diverse district. The registered Democrats do outnumber registered Republican by quite a few percent, but I still think it could be a fairly conservative district, at least some of the principles that are embraced.

OC: Who are you running against?

Hill: Paul Holvey, he's been the incumbent for one term.

OC: How do you run a campaign and stay up on classes?

Hill: It's pretty tough. It's pretty tough to have... you know like when I first volunteered to do this they said, "Oh this isn't going to be too tough for you. You're just a college student, you don't have any kids or a family to raise or anything like that," well, you have to balance it out and it's pretty tough to balance when you're trying to work a

full-time job and you're trying to take 12 credits of class and do campaign stuff and I'm involved with the College Republicans of course so I'm trying to do that. It's unfortunate because I can't get as involved in everything as I'd like to so some things don't get done as quickly as I wish they would.

OC: What have you learned so far from the experience?

Hill: There's a lot of paperwork involved. I can see why people get in trouble because there's just so much to it that it's hard to keep up on everything and make sure everything is in order. I heard an advertisement the other day from the DeFazio campaign against Jim Feldkamp and it was talking about how, well he's gotten in trouble twice about campaign finance and stuff and you've got to fill out paperwork all the time and you can get in trouble for being a day late or something so it's not like somebody has to do something wrong to get in trouble they could just- a simple misunderstanding and you can get in trouble. [laughs] The other side is going to do whatever they can against your advantage if you don't have everything in order. They're going to say, oh they messed up, but it's tough to do it on your own. I don't



have anybody working on my campaign really besides me and I have a hard time keeping all the paperwork filed and you have to keep track of every cent you spend and every cent you bring in. It's quite a challenge.

OC: What do your friends think of the fact you're running for office?

Hill: At first it was really cool and everybody was really into it and now- it's a long process. I think I registered, I

think it was May 18th, and so a lot of people kind of forget. "Oh you're still running for that aren't you?" So, I mean even though I talk about it all the time, it's still- but everybody is excited, everybody wants to help so that's great. I do have some friends that have some property out in the country that they have offered to put up a big sign up for me and it's a good location, and lots of people will see it and that's the type of people that I'm going to appeal to is the people living out in the country. I'm not going to win over the hippies in South Eugene unfortunately.

OC: Have you been campaigning door to door?

Hill: I really haven't had time to do that. I was planning on it. I was planning on starting when school started because I thought I was going to be a lot less busy but that hasn't been the case so I haven't had a lot of time to do that. But it's coming, it'll happen, there'll be some stuff out there for it. This week I've been doing a lot of stuff. The Register Guard's had me down there two times now, so I've been down there talking to some of the reporters and the associate editor Paul Neville. So they've got some stuff they're hopefully going to put out for me. Free press is good press, I think.

OC: Why don't other people our age get involved in politics?

Hill: It's discouraging, a lot of people look down their nose at kids trying to get involved in politics. It's kind of the same as: We're in college and we see the freshman class coming up and it's like, "Oh, they're just a bunch of stupid kids," and some of them have got good ideas but for the most part we look at them all as stupid kids, they haven't been around -- and that's kind of the same way a lot of people in power in the parties look at it. I mean on both sides, it's not just the Republicans, it's not just the Democrats, it's people are people. Sometimes they feel threatened because a young person's ideas might be more popular than theirs are.

OC: Do you think much about national politics?

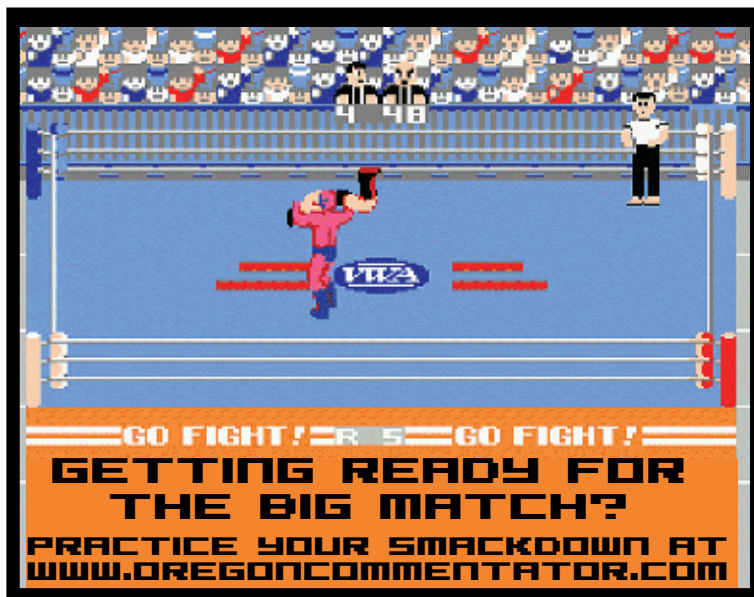
Hill: The last six months I've been focusing a lot more on local issues, but yeah, national politics is big too. Social Security, I think something needs to be done. DeFazio has been trying to push this idea that, "Oh well, people making over \$94,000 need to just pay 'whatever' to make up for the rest of it," and I think that's wrong. As a conservative, I think that you should get out of Social Security what you pay. Because people making over \$94,000 they're not going to get any more back than if they were only making \$94,000 and I think if they were paying more I think that's bullshit. That's not what our country was founded on.

OC: You're not getting tons and tons of money from Jack Abramoff?

Hill: It's not like I'm getting all these perks and benefits. The lumber companies aren't saying, "Oh you could to win this district. We're going to send you over to Sun Valley for a weekend. Here's 5,000 bucks from me and here's a check from my wife for 5,000 bucks since that's all we can give you since the campaign finance reform," so that might happen more on the national level, but as far as the local level I don't see it happen so much.

OC: So, where does the name "Shadow" come from?

Hill: Oh my gosh. I got that name when I was first, well it was before high school ever started. Football, daily doubles. I had gotten sick and we'd been conditioning together as a team all summer between my eighth grade and ninth grade year. I'd gotten sick and I missed the first week of daily doubles and I showed up and I didn't have any gear or anything, I was just in shorts and cleats out there with the guys going through drills. And nobody knew who I was because a lot of guys had never showed up for conditioning and so they said, "Who's that guy over there? He's followed us around like a shadow." Or something like that. And it just stuck. When I started going to school, my football buddies always introduced me as Shadow and it just stuck. And I don't know how it carried all the way through-out college, but it has.

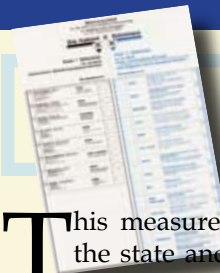




ELECTION 2006:

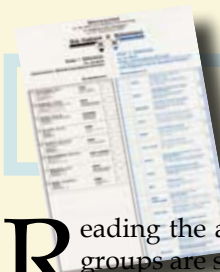
HERE AT THE COMMENTATOR WE SEEM TO AGREE ON VERY LITTLE. SO WE HAD THE GUY WHO DOESN'T VOTE GIVE US SOME ADVICE ON THIS YEAR'S BALLOT MEASURES. DOLBERG DELIVERED ... JUST DON'T BLAME US WHEN THE STATE GOES TO HELL.

You are always right by not voting. Our government is a coercive, violent enterprise that is lead by criminals, scoundrels, liars, cheats, and pedophiles. It's an especially sad state of affairs when we can't even trust them with our children, yet we trust them to keep us safe from terrorists who wish to kill us. The unending list of crimes that they have committed and failures will continue because this system doesn't allow for true accountability. If government were a business, it would be bankrupt and its executives jailed. When you vote, you overall support their reign of ineptitude and their orgy of theft just by having your ballot counted. But, there are good things that can come from voting. Prohibitions on government actions, limits on spending and taxes, and concealed handgun licenses have been steps towards freedom taken through ballot measures. It is much better to vote on laws than a person because laws will not scheme against you and you can read the exact proposal and reasonably predict its effects. The electorate is constantly disappointed with politician's actions, and an endorsement of a candidate cannot be made in good concise. Ballot measures can also be for worse and used to limit freedoms. Liberty needs all the support she can get so do not aid the government in advancing tyranny upon your family and friends. The work of millions of government employees and trillions of dollars extracted is more than enough to endure. Think long and hard about whether it is better to support freedom by voting for restriction on government or to voice your condemnation by not voting. If you choose vote for ballot measures, the following guide will help you navigate through the proposed measure's affect on freedom.



MEASURE 39

This measure is about Eminent Domain. Currently, the state and its thugs can condemn your property for any reason and hand it over to another private party or keep it for themselves. Wal-Mart has used this practice in other states, and quite frankly, it's despicable. One Portland business man, James Hogan, owns an electrical supply business in the Eugene-esq Lents neighborhood and the City wants to bulldoze his property so that a natural food store can go in. Now, of course the communists are happy that the capitalist foundation of private property is being pulverized by coercive redistribution, but we still live in America. How could this legal-tyranny have stood so long in the first place? It is insanity to let this practice go on - that you are forced to sell your home if even a city council demands it. A vote for yes on 39 would be a vote for freedom.



MEASURE 40

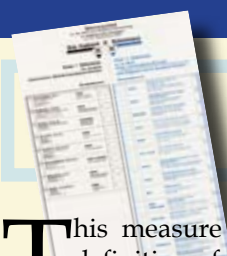
Readng the arguments in opposition I see that most groups are socialist/communist in ideology. But the definitive impact voting yes or no on this measure will have for freedom is difficult because it is now a gamble on the judges background. Currently the Supreme Court and Appelete Courts are dominated by judges primarily from Portland and Salem, of which there is a high chance that they will have no problem with government placing its cold boot-heel upon your neck. But will the judges from the better half of Oregon, i.e. outside of Portland, Euenge and Salem, be more inclined to whimper opposition to the incessant violations of our rights? You be the judge.



BALLOT MEASURES



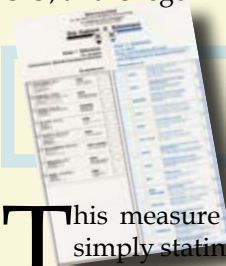
BY ANDY DOLBERG



MEASURE 43

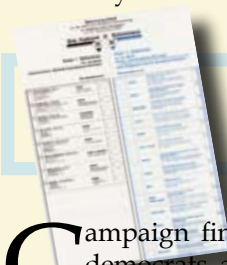
This measure isn't about a discussion of what the definition of a child is, whether abortions should be outlawed, and especially has nothing to do with parental consent. It's about the parents' - the legal guardians of a child - right to know, to just be notified, if their daughter is going to have an abortion. Everyone can agree that an abortion is an extremely traumatic medical procedure both physically and mentally. The idea that parents must be notified if their child, until the age of 18, can consume an aspirin at high school, but then doesn't need to legally be notified of an abortion procedure will occur is absolutely ludicrous. Parents should have the right to know, and a lot of good can come from notifications. One of the greatest fears children have is letting down their parents, which I imagine would be a reason a daughter would be silent if she were contemplating an abortion. But many parents have unconditional love for their children and want to help them through the tough times of life - this is the job of parents. For those extreme circumstances there are procedures in place to protect children if their parents are unfit, and this is why this is a sound measure.

If not for the Anti-Federalist's papers informing the populace of the need for a bill of rights, they might never have been adopted after the ratification of the Constitution. How convenient it would be for a government to suppress political speech with these laws. It seems that because the radical left's speech has been rejected across America and in this state, no speech is better than "unprogressive" speech. Groups that support these measures include; OSPRIG, Sierra Club, Pacific Green Party. Groups that oppose include; Democratic Party, Oregon Education Association, AFL-CIO, and Oregon Right to Life.



MEASURE 48

This measure is very clear in its text and intent by simply stating that total government spending in Oregon rate of growth cannot exceed the rate of growth of the population plus the rate of growth of inflation. The passage of this measure will be a moderate victory to stopping state spending growth. Don't expect your taxes to fall if this passes, and rest assured government will find some way around this to increase state spending. Reading the arguments by hysterical teachers against this measure would lead you to believe public schools will be "hurt." Why would they though? Since population and growth would limit spending, the spending per pupil wouldn't decrease unless politicians decided to change it. This measure would limit the growth of the pie, not the percentage of the pie eaten by various state departments. This is a good way to limit spending while making politicians prioritize spending instead of just taking more of our money when they want to increase the budget. Opponents also say this and that service would be decreased by this measure - but that's clearly a lie! The measure has nothing to do with deciding where money goes. Voting yes will help stem the ever increasing burden of taxation.



MEASURES 46 & 47

Campaign finance reform has been a hot topic for democrats and leftists after their scathing tirades against corporations and the rich left them lacking in campaign contributions. The definition of free speech for them is limited to patchouli-soaked hippies prophesizing impending environmental armageddon, which is unsurprisingly hypocritical due to their lip service to free speech.

ABORTING THE ABORTION ISSUE

Ever wonder why so many candidates for local office seem to think that their position on abortion is important to voters? Are there no better qualifications any more? Ian Spencer gets to the bottom of it...

While visiting Washington, DC this summer I happened to catch an advertisement on TV that perfectly captured the current state of American politics. Peter Franchot, a candidate in the Maryland Democratic primary, was in a tight race with two other candidates for the position of Comptroller. Billing himself as a “real Democrat for Comptroller,” Franchot’s ad emphasized that he was against slot machines and, more importantly, in favor of a woman’s right to choose. By “right to choose,” he meant the right to choose to have an abortion. Which, as the implication of the ad goes, is an easier and safer choice to make than whether or not to put a quarter into a slot machine.

But the question is: why would a man running for the privilege of collecting and accounting for Maryland’s taxes list his view of abortion as his most important qualifications? Does one’s opinion on *Roe v. Wade* determine their ability to use Microsoft Excel? The abortion issue (and to a lesser extent the illegal immigration issue) is largely irrelevant and yet, somehow, a universal factor in most local political races. The only things still being relevantly debated are peripheral to the main constitutional and moral questions. Here in Oregon, incumbent Governor Ted Kulongoski lists the “anti-choice” views of Republican contender Ron Saxton as one of the most important reasons to vote Democrat. The liberal beef with Saxton is that, while he’s pro-choice, he’s not quite pro-choice enough since he opposes late-term abortions and supports parental notification requirements. Both of these may be important issues to some people, but should they dominate the debate?

If you run for office in a state where your views on abortion converge with the majority’s, the clear answer, apparently, is yes. Take the local race between Jim Torrey and Vicki Walker for State Senate Seat 7. Walker’s main line of attack against Torrey hasn’t been against his record as mayor (a record, it should be added, that has holes an experienced campaign advisor could drive a truck through,) but instead on his Republican party affiliation, view of the Iraq War, and “anti-choice” views. Torrey’s campaign was so

afraid of this tactic’s effectiveness that they responded with their own ad, with Torrey facing the camera directly and somberly asking why Walker “is trying to distract [voters] again with the issue of abortion. Abortion has nothing to do with funding our schools or solving congestion on our roads.” A true statement, but also an admission of weakness. If his campaign were not worried about people judging him on his abortion views, they wouldn’t have felt the need to respond. As they well know, voters do bite when confronted with red herrings.

One such red herring is Oregon’s Measure 43, which would require abortion providers to notify parents in writing at least 48 hours before performing an abortion on a minor above the age of 15. At the moment, notifying the parent of a minor without the minor’s consent is optional. Those in favor of the law think it’s absolutely outrageous that a 15 year old girl could go through something as traumatic as an abortion without her parents knowing, and the Yes on 43 website points out that 44 other states have passed similar notification laws. The basic argument can be summed up as: “Would you want your 15 year old daughter to have an abortion without your knowledge? Of course not. She can’t even get her ears pierced without your permission.”

The No on 43 coalition, on the other hand, claims that teenagers would be put at risk since they would no longer have a way to avoid informing abusive parents of their abortion. There is a mechanism within the bill which would allow individual teens to petition a judge to make an exception, but this clearly isn’t a decision pro-choicers are comfortable leaving in the hands of Oregon’s judiciary. Moreover, No on 43 emphasizes that the law allows no exceptions for teenagers who are the victim of rape or incest, although it’s unclear why this is an important point since if a girl is a victim of incestual rape then there would be even more reason for her to speak with a judge rather than simply go back to a horrifying situation at home.

It should also be noted that at least one pro-life group opposes the bill. Life Support Oregon, an organization



that has distanced itself from Oregon Right to Life and the other traditional pro-life groups, has come out against the bill with a press release stating that it, in effect, "will cause many pro-lifers to unwittingly vote to affirm the legal right to abortion." Supporters of the bill clearly have the initial upper hand on the matter: parental notification is widely supported around the country and parents are a massive voting bloc that's easily swayed by "think of the children!" arguments.

Measure 43 is neither a pro-lifer's wet dream or a pro-choicer's worst nightmare: it does nothing to change fundamental abortion laws in Oregon and, in the words of the Register-Guard, "would affect a small number of teenage girls - a couple hundred, give or take" But it's still the main event in the show that is this campaign season, and that's too bad for those of us who just want a quality education and healthy job market.

Ian Spencer, who pities the fool, is Editor Emeritus of the *Oregon Commentator*.



WRESTLING WISDOM:

"I'd rather hurt a man than love a woman"

-Pro Wrestler Mick Foley



SEE THE ADS AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

- Jim Torrey defends himself on the abortion issue: <http://www.jimtorrey.com/news/Torrey%2006%20TV%20At%20Our%20Best.wmv>
- Franchot TV ad: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stDquf7rzFQ>
- Vickie Walker on Torrey: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4660845677487106494>
- Yes on 43's 'Listen to the Experts' ad: <http://www.protectourteendaughters.com/video/6minwebvid.mov>
- No on 43's 'Mary Lou' ad: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqq3X5wQ2Wc>



Rennie's Landing

or, "home" as we call it.

1214 Kincaid
687-0600

DALLAS BROWN THROWS DOWN

In Which a former ASUO Senator takes a look back at a year of controversy and takes on a few of the sacred cows of Suite IV.

OC: What were your impressions serving on the senate for the first time last year?

Brown: Believe it or not, this years senate is a lot more organized and more efficient.... than last years was. For the first two months I served on senate I was so frustrated with everything. Eventually I started to enjoy it. I started to see that we could make differences... as a group we started to come together, we started to get more organized, and I started to gain respect for the fellow senators. I eventually became the dissenting voice all the time... I actually relished it. I compare myself to other dissenters throughout political history, and they're usually the ones I want to stand next to... I'm talking about Wayne Morse, Jimmy Carter, guys who didn't go the direction of the flow. They were the ones who stood up and were ultimately unsuccessful, but they're the ones who stood up. I think the senate gets in this habit of rubber stamping everything that come through, because their friends are in these groups, or because they used to be in these groups. It is depressing to see how corrupt and inefficient it is... I encourage anyone reading this to go to the senate meetings consistently and see what I'm talking about.

OC: What individuals and groups were a part of the problem?

Brown: Here's the problem: the problem is that groups get funding in whatever amount they ask for. So essentially the people who fund the groups the most are going to be the most popular. Jared Axelrod is a political genius. He, at the beginning of last year gave money to whoever would ask for it, because he was building a coalition. The more programs he funds, the more individuals are going to be on his side, because no one has a problem spending other peoples money. You know where the money goes? It goes wherever they want it to go. Let me tell you about the ultimate form of corruption. Certain clubs will hold

fundraisers, benefits and they'll come to the senate to ask for the money to hold those fundraisers. We'll give them the money, or the PFC process will give them the money, so the costs of the event are totally covered. Then, they claim the profit as fundraising revenue, and under the Green Tape Notebook rules, you can spend fundraising revenue however you want. So often what you'll see is groups going to Sun River for ski trips, groups planning elaborate parties, groups buying nice equipment, and the students don't get reimbursed for it. The majority of students have no idea what goes on in student government. They are giving their money to individuals who aren't carrying out their wishes, and to me that's extremely sad, because that's what I see in the current American government as well.

OC: How did those groups break down in terms of their support last year? Who backed the winning pony?

Brown: Jareds special interest groups are the programs, and the dorms and the MCC. Axelrod was chair of the PFC, he was directly involved in allocating the money those groups received. If you look at the numbers, almost any group that asked for it got increases for the next years budget. You're gonna vote for me if I give you more money, right? So Jared had a number of bases. Ashley Rees and Jared Axelrod, they're... I have to take my hat off to them. They're better players at this game than I am.

OC: Ashley Rees?

Brown: Since this is the Commentator, I can say whatever I want. Jared's a little girl. Ashley's the one holding his hand through everything. I hope this goes into print, because I don't think Jared has the balls to do half the things he does. Ashley Rees is the mind of the ASUO... she's the Karl Rove. You can't help but respect her. She's as silent as she can be... she doesn't make herself known, but she

makes herself felt. She doesn't care about seeing her name in the paper, half the kids on this campus don't know who Ashley Rees is, but she's there, she's making the decisions. She's gonna smile when she reads this, but she's damn good at what she does. She's got a pretty face, she's built a coalition brilliantly. She's used race and age to organize voters.

OC: Describe how you got caught up in the Insurgent controversy...

Brown: Well, throughout my career as a Senator, I questioned any spending that was not allowed or specifically justified by the Green Tape Notebook. My issue with the Insurgent wasn't based on religion, it wasn't based on anything besides the fact that I thought their intentions were not within their mission statement. I had no problem until I read that they publicly declared that the issue was meant to piss people off. Any other language... and I would have had no case, and I wouldn't have said anything. When someone says that they're using money that is given to them by students for the sole, exclusive purpose of pissing people off, I'm going to take a very close look at that.

OC: Did you feel like there was pressure put on you as an ASUO Senator to do something about this?

Brown: Yeah, I got hundreds of emails, and to some extent part of my thinking was that I wanted to do what was best for the University. I felt that President Frohnmayer was very professional in the way he dealt with it, and he was correct in that the administration has no right to edit publications' content. But as a student and an elected official, I did have that right, and I felt that there was enough of an outcry that someone had to represent that constituency, because it was a large constituency and everyone else was afraid to do it. As you know, it was hard for me to get involved, because I saw both sides of the Insurgent thing. I flip-flopped back and forth on my stance... I knew it was political suicide. Ashley Rees called me the night before the big meeting, and told me "Dallas, we want you to be on the PFC next year. You know, we feel like you bring a lot of experience to Senate, but this is an issue we're not going to compromise on. If you go, and you continue with this, It's going to reflect unfavorably on you if you apply for any positions in Senate, because it will illustrate that you aren't viewpoint neutral."

OC: So do you think she was behind the Senate walkout at the final meeting last year? **Brown:** Oh yeah, she was behind it. David Goward and Ashley Rees, for once com-

bined forces. They don't like each other... (laughs). But you can get enemies to agree on anything as long as they have a common enemy, and I was the common enemy.

OC: Why did they put the issue on the agenda to simply walk out when it came up?

Brown: How many people on that Senate who walked out were watching the O'Reilly Factor the next night, crossing their fingers that they were on national television? Every single one of them. They were so disappointed that the coverage didn't come on... because they wanted to be the people who used the "brilliant tactic" of democracy, the walkout. It was a publicity stunt! If they vote it down in the agenda, there's no drama in that.

OC: What was your reaction to the walkout?

Brown: To be honest, I knew about the walkout before it happened. I probably could have done more to stop it from happening, but I felt that the walkout proved the hypocrisy of the situation. They were using viewpoint neutrality and freedom of speech as justification to not hear me, but what they were doing was taking away my freedom of speech. I have no respect for anyone who walked out of that meeting, because most of them didn't walk out because of their principles, but because they were pressured by other people. Two individuals actually said "I'm sorry, I agree with you, but I have to walk out for political reasons."

OC: What do you regret about the whole scenario?

Brown: I regret my contact with the O'Reilly Factor... that destroyed my credibility. I should never have talked to them, I should never have agreed to wear a microphone for that meeting... honestly, I never even thought about the repercussions. But people saw the microphone, and they jumped to conclusions.

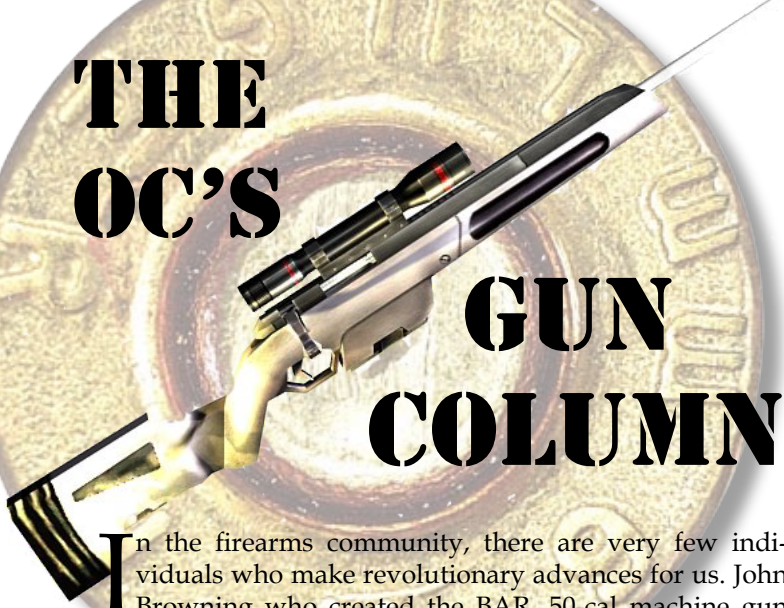
OC: What does it feel like to have Bill O'Reilly call you a hero?

Brown: It's funny. I mean, who wouldn't think that's funny?

OC: So, "Dallas Brown, Culture Warrior" is not appropriate?

Brown: (laughs) No.





THE OC'S GUN COLUMN

In the firearms community, there are very few individuals who make revolutionary advances for us. John Browning who created the BAR, 50-cal machine gun and the 1911 .45 pistol, and a myriad of cartridges and other firearms was a genius. Browning created the best handgun of all time, which is nearing one hundred years of combat-proven experience. Jeff Cooper taught us how to use it - Browning didn't.

The legend of Jeff Cooper begins like many American heroes, living in the country and exploring the wilderness. His mettle was honed by the Marine Corps and in World War II serving in the Pacific. When he returned, his enthusiasm for marksmanship lead him to develop the Modern Technique of Pistol. This is the greatest technical contribution to the use of the defensive handgun ever. He then created the American Pistol Institute, which under the name Gunsite continues to be the best rifle, shotgun, and pistol training center in the world. He trained bodyguards in South and Central America, and was the editor-at-large of Guns and Ammo Magazine. He is the writer of several books, including an autobiography, "Another Country." His Commentaries are published online at www.molonlabe.net/commentaries cover topics such as politics, firearms history, the American experience, and combat lessons.

If you wish to learn how to defend yourself, Cooper teaches that your mind is your most important weapon, and learning his Principles may give you the tactical advantage to win in combat. If there is one lesson about marksmanship we have learned from Jeff Cooper, it is that good shot placement is the best at wining gun battles.

Cooper also received a Masters Degree in history and the lessons of the past were never lost upon him. His philosophy of freedom and personal responsibility are libertarian and he wrote extensively about these subjects also:

"Weapons are the tools of power. In the hands of the state, they can be the tools of decency or the tools of oppression, depending on the righteousness of that state. In the hands of criminals, they are the tools of evil. In the hands of the free and decent citizen, they should be the tools of liberty. Weapons compound man's power to achieve whatever purpose he may have. They amplify the capabilities of both

the good man and the bad, and to exactly the same degree., having no will of their own. Thus, we must regard them as servants, not masters--and good servants of good men. Without them, man is diminished, and his opportunities to fulfill his destiny are lessened. An unarmed man can only flee from evil, and evil is not overcome by fleeing from it."

A Marine who studied Cooper's works, attended his Institute, and brought this Gun Columnist to the way of the gun writes:

I spend some of my time exchanging correspondence with a group of people that knew Jeff Cooper personally and have been directly influenced by this true gentleman scholar and warrior. Students of Jeff Cooper are marked by skepticism and energy. Nothing is taken for granted, from the design of a rifle to the interaction between the parts of the eye and the weapon's sights. They pursue the study of arms and combat with great vigor and eagerness.

I have also noted from the writing that has followed the death of LtCol? Cooper that they genuinely respected and liked Cooper. They loved the fact that he was a great family man and a patriot. The most emotionally impactful communication came to me from Amy Heath, Cooper's granddaughter. Heath described the enormous impact that having a man like Jeff Cooper as her grandfather had on her life. In fact Jeff Cooper had helped to raise her as a small child because her father was fighting in Vietnam.

I have found myself not being sad at the passing of Jeff Cooper. He led an enormously full life and leaves a tremendous legacy. I am worried though about how the leadership void will be filled. We really must commit ourselves to pursuing excellence in our communications (Cooper was a stickler for the English language and was an accomplished writer) and to defending the American values that have kept this nation free. Excellence in all matters martial is critical to being ready to carry out the physical acts associated with the defense of our nation and our families. One of the finest ways to pursue this is to go to Gunsite to take a course. When you have passed through the front gate and interacted with the expert staff you will be inspired far beyond what you could expect any five days to do for you. That is also part of Jeff Cooper's legacy.

It seems that every challenge Cooper embarked upon he excelled at. His passion for excellence and the example he set is his greatest contribution to us. He was a warrior, historian, and philosopher. He was a principled man of the past, embodying the virtues of honor, courage, commitment, and the joy of living. He says the greatest legacy a father can leave his child is a talent for appreciation which anyone can tell his talent in that regard by reading the many adventures he embarked upon. He lived life to the fullest.

Jeff Cooper passed away peacefully in his Arizona home surrounded by his family September 25th, 2006. His tombstone reads "Shoot Straight."

Andy Dolberg, who's Steyr Scout is arriving any day now, is Publisher of the OC.



CONGRESS BANS GAMBLING, IGNORES AUTISM, PROVES OWN IRRELEVANCE

THE GAMBLING COLUMN WITH DUSTIN STOCKTON

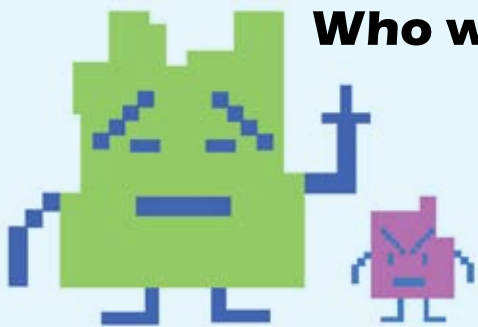
Although Congress failed to provide aid to the on in sixty-six children born with autism by passing the Combating Autism Act, it did find time to decimate online gambling with the Unlawful Internet Gambling Act of 2006. Senate majority leader Dr. Bill Frist is clearly looking to appeal to his Christian conservative base by sponsoring the bill. Look for this commercials to go something like this; “only one doctor had the courage to challenge the professional opinions of scores of doctors, nurses, and judges to diagnose Terri Schaivo based on a few seconds of video. Dr. Frist also led the charge against baby-killing liberals, and still found time to crack down on illegal online gambling. Jesus Christ himself has tasked him with leading congress back to God and he has answered the call. Vote Frist, because change is scary.”

Online gambling, including online poker, is not dead, but the most legitimate sites are closing shop to the US market. Both of my favorite sites, Party Poker and Hollywood Poker, are no longer accepting deposits. Only the shadier sites, based mostly in the Caribbean remain open for business. As a result look for increasing percentage of billions of dollars American gamble online to end up in the hands of cheaters and hackers. I personally can no longer justify investing significant parts of my bankroll to online gambling, and would recommend everyone else to do the same. I base my recommendation solely on personal experience. I spit on the Republican Party which I have been a loyal member my entire adult life. These futile attempts to legislate morality come straight from the Christian conservative base, who apparently has declared war on anything not specifically approved by the bible. This culture was is being

fought by two parties both of which are equally pathetic: the Christocrat right against the limp wristed, politically correct left. I am particularly pissed at the Republicans, because it is one of our own holding up the Combating Autism Act. Representative Joe Barton (R-TX) chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce stalled the legislation in committee, denying long overdue support to families dealing with autism.

It's hard to propose solutions. I realize that it's a small minority who are passionate about the future of gambling. I'm not going to try and organize protests, or tell you to base your vote on gambling and poker. I just hope that all of you who play the lottery slot machines and the lottery video poker and all the other lottery games realize that you are paying extra taxes. The government has tweaked the odds far beyond those offered in mega-profit casinos. The government wins more and pays out less than nearly every single game offered in Vegas. They give you none of the comps and a tenth of the entertainment because they're the only game in town. It's like a police force that can't respond to burglaries but can put officers on shiny new BMW motorcycles to write seat-belt tickets. Stop giving your money to the corrupt government and start giving it to me, in a friendly game of poker, of course. If you need something to be passionate about, the autism epidemic is a good cause as any. You can learn more at www.autismspeaks.org.

Dustin Stockton, who becomes a daddy any day now, is the gambling columnist for the OC.



Who wants to join our slavery program?

You get college credit.

[ocomment@uoregon.edu]

On Real Life Wiggumisms

"Even when you have the right of way, the irrefutable laws of physics are on the car's side"

- DPS officer Scott Cameron in the 'Ol Dirty. Yup.

"Tell everyone that it's okay to come out of the closet now."

-Nameless EPD while "busting" the OC's Back To The Booze Party. Very good officer, can we go back to not breaking the law now?

"Tobacco-fighting efforts geared toward teens may now be escalating teen pot smoking"

-Laura Blake Jones, director of Student Life, according to the Emerald, showing the analytical instincts of a post bong-rip dorm dweller. Yeah, that's why people are toking up more...



On Graf and Corruption

"Tyler Graf is a bigot. What a racist. He should be fired so we never have to be subjected to his un-PC opinions ever again."

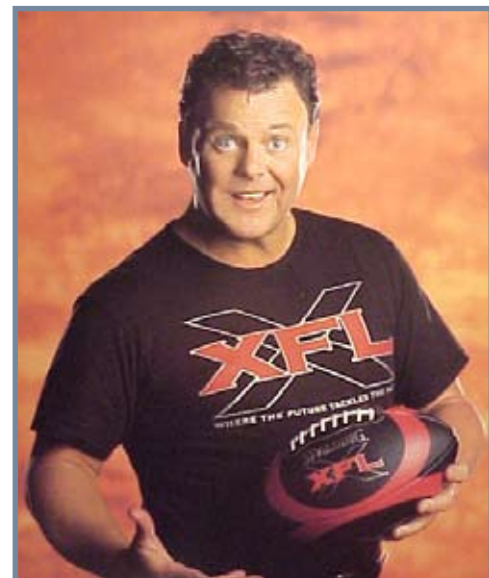
- Jonah Darwish, genius, on the Facebook group "Make the Emerald slightly less crappy: fire Tyler Graf" Facebook group.

"He sucks so much. I feel as if I am going to be consumed by the suckubus that is Tyler Graf."

-Claire Hambley, er, creatively joins in the Graf-bashing fun. Suckubus... because, you know, he sucks. Get it?

"I agree. What a hegemonic heterosexist."

-Darwish again... boy, these people really know how to get TGraf where he hurts most.



On *Let's Get Ready To Rumble*

"If you went for the tension, the zingers, the mud-slinging, you may have left disappointed. State House candidates Debi Farr and Chris Edwards, vying for the District 14 seat representing far west Eugene, Bethel and Junction City, did a lot of agreeing during their Sept. 22 debate before the City Club of Eugene."

-- *The Eugene Weekly's own "Local Journalist of the Year" Kera Abraham begins another editorial-- whoops, news story-- on local elections.*

"Both pledged to better fund community colleges, crack down on illegal immigration and leave the corporate kicker alone. Bo-ring."

-- *Ibid. Kera wants her some Smackdown! Because there is no room in democracy for agreement.*



On *Death in the Afternoon*

Because my family is rooted in Green Bay, Wis., booster support for the hometown team is not only familiar, it's genetic. As an immigrant Eugenean, I love the real affection folks here feel for the UO players and their wonderful coaching staff. That's why I'm puzzled by the Ducks football billboard at 7th and Washington that says "LETHAL" beside two UO players. Aside from the slang use of the term, we all know this word means "sufficient to cause death: harmful or destructive." Does the billboard somehow suggest that violence at games is taken lightly?

-- *Eugenian Patricia Burkart, in a letter to the Eugene Weekly. Yes, Patricia, it does. The University clearly wants more people murdered at home football games.*

Does it mean, in case of legal action by someone permanently injured during a game, that a jury might award compensation for damages because the billboard gives tacit permission to "lethal" attacks? What kind of sense does this billboard make in a county famous for its gun-toting teens?

-- *Ibid. I'm sure the jury would award compensation, at least if it were comprised of citizens of your level of intellectual rigor.*



