

OREGON COMMENTATOR





FOUNDED SEPT. 27TH, 1983 MEMBER COLLEGIATE NETWORK

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The Oregon Commentator accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at the University of Oregon, or anyone else for that matter. Letters and commentaries may be submitted personally to Room 319 EMU or placed in our mailbox in Suite 4 EMU; phoned in to (541) 346-3721, or e-mailed to: editor@oregoncommentator.com

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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-nine 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

THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

It was a close call with the White House, but the UO takes the cake for "Most Hypocritical Institution".

Voltaire said, "To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize." This is a timeless quote and is emblematic of the last four months. Getting "public" records is like pulling teeth. The UO General Counsel Randy Geller has a stranglehold on the Public Records Office (PRO) and is stretching applicable laws thinner than his penis. Assistant to the President David Hubin is keeping President Gottfredson's calendar a secret per The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a ridiculous application of said act. I know, we were dumbfounded as well. It's no wonder the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee of the UO Senate kicked three student-journalists out of a finance meeting in late May. The last thing the administrators want is for the faculty and staff to be informed of the business practices of UO Athletics.

We somberly remind you that the price you pay is based mostly on appearance and, to some extent, convenience. The Athletics Department ("Our Ducks") are the single most important cash crop of this institution.

Welcome to the University of Oregon-- you have no voice! Unless you're a groupthinker. You might also fit right in if you value comfort and safety over liberty. However, we the rough-and-tumble staff of the *Oregon Commentator* office, located in room 319 of the Erb Memorial Union, would like you to know that there is an alternative. We think for ourselves. That upsets administrators and scares some students. We're OK with that.

We at the *Oregon Commentator* hope to impart one thing to the graduating class as well as the incoming freshman of 2013: Those who rule over

us, the University of Oregon Administration (the suits in Johnson Hall) are making it a point to keep the masses uninformed.

Do you have a problem with this? Come to Room 319. Let us introduce you to PRO, slimy arm #2 of the Athletic Department. Let us show you how PRO and Chief of UO Thought Police Randy Geller, rewriter of history, interpret the law with whimsical irreverence to the wellbeing of faculty and staff in order to stifle understanding and general interest in the UO's practices.



Let it be known: a four-year degree from this sanctimonious institution will not get you anywhere. The extracurriculars in which you involve yourselves and the connections you make will be the deciding factor in your future.

As the UO will soon be dismissed from the American Association of Universities (AAU) for its insufficient research activity, and no longer declares itself "Oregon's flagship university", it's reasonable, if not compelling, to ask, "Why am I paying gobs of money to attend this school?"

Want to get drunk and argue about the direction of this institution? Come to room 319.

Consider us your sophomoric embarrassment, your obnoxious friend and cynical neighbor. Consider us the student group that all other groups wish was defunded long ago. They've tried so many times and it's hilarious.

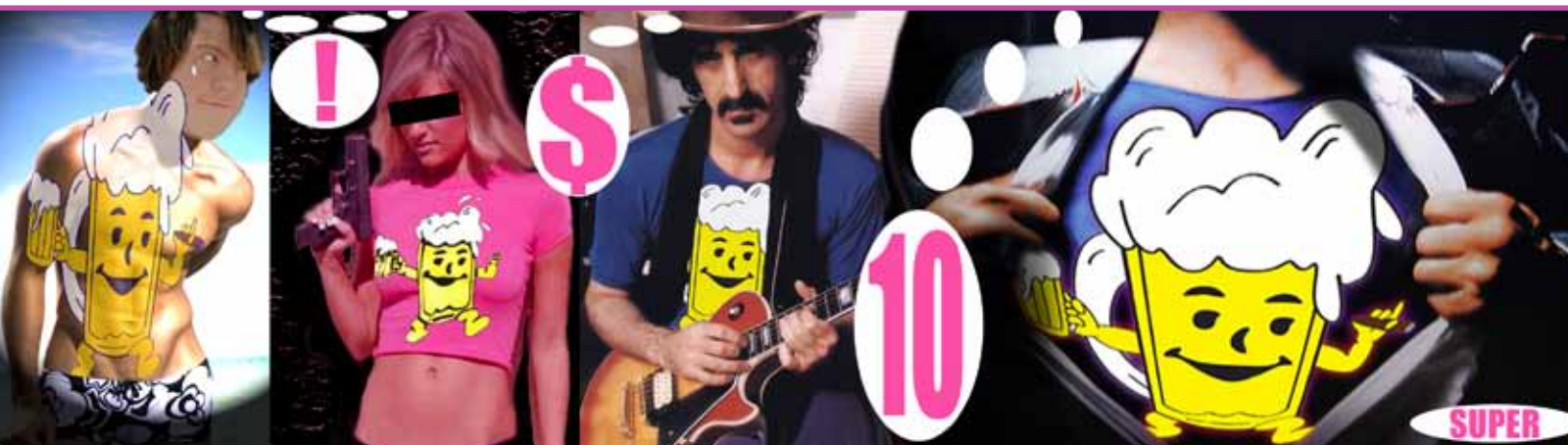
Asking questions is a good thing. When the institution discourages or even stonewalls your questions, you know you're on the right path. Should you wish to see what happens behind Johnson Hall's doors, join us in the *Oregon Commentator* office.

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THE SUDSY TEE. BUY ONE IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
\$10. AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES AND MANY COLORS.

BREAKING NEWS:

New study indicates adverse effects of increased soy consumption

MARTIN HALLSTRÖM REPORTS FROM GROUND ZERO OF THE SOY EPIDEMIC

A recently published study by Professor A. O'Sullivan at South Western Oregon University (SWOU) has found that the estrogen levels in males of Eugene is abnormally high. Dr. O'Sullivan and his team tested 500 male residents of Eugene and found that all of the them had unusually high levels of estrogen in their blood. The study links these results with high intake of soy products as soy contains a high amount of estrogen.

Dr. O'Sullivan stated that a high intake of soy can have physical consequences in men such as: pitch change, breast growth and lactation. However, the potential psychological damage is far greater. Previous case studies at the University of Montana State Tech has showed that spiked estrogen levels are linked to docility, political correctness and censorship. The combination of these studies create a disturbing picture in which soy has a stranglehold on the Pacific Northwest and can have adverse effects on our behavior.

The SWOU study has caused widespread outrage and concern from the Eugene community. One such voice comes from Eugene chapter of Misandry Ends Now (MEN) which is an organization that works to stop all forms of misandry and sexism against men everywhere. Their director Richard Meete was disturbed by the study: "It is very unnerving to me that what we eat can turn me into a pussy. It's like Big Soy declared war on men". Richard continued by saying that MEN would organize a protest against soy to raise awareness of what

he calls an "estrogen epidemic", he even went so far as to suggest a ban on soy products due to their obvious "oppression of men".

Another group making their concern heard is the PHI BI PI SCI sorority here at University of Oregon. Members are worried that increased, widespread soy consumption may reduce the availability of their main source of skin care: semen. "We're the number one ranked sorority here on campus, we have to look good" said Ava Faison, head of the PHI BI PI SCI chapter here at UO. I asked her if semen was the only thing that gave them that kept their healthy orange skin glowing and soft. She replied: "Yeah, what else would we use it for?"

When asked about the possible affect this "epidemic" may have on its student-athletes, the University of Oregon declined to make an official statement regarding this new information as of this publication's print date. One representative of the UO Athletic Department, who will remain nameless, spoke frankly: "Imagine the horror if some of our footballs players started lactating? We need our players to be driven and visceral not pensive and docile."

In conclusion, our community faces an acute threat thanks to soy and estrogen. We are in danger of turning into a nation of sissies. Expect censorship abound, everyone getting along and ridiculous spikes in chocolate consumption.



*Martin Hallström is the Associate Editor at the
OREGON COMMENTATOR and has never
touched the shit.*



WHO FUCKED UP?



Sudsy Says:

“Remember, ‘synergy’ is the corporate G-Spot.”

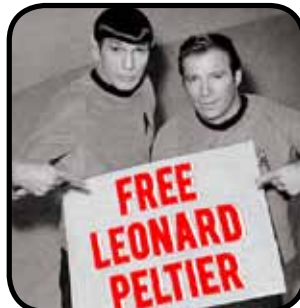
Corrections:

In our most recent publication, “The HATE Issue”, we said that we hate malt liquor and the ODE. Truthfully, both are acceptable in that they offer cheap consolation to the otherwise disenfranchized. When all is said and done, we don’t hate them. We just pity them.

However, we can’t get five cents from the ODE on return...



Leonard Peltier
“The FBI.”



The FBI
“Barack Obama.”



Barack Obama
“The IRS.”



The IRS
“The Tea Party.”



Cats
“Dogs”



Dogs
“The ‘Right’.”

WHAT AWARD WOULD YOU GIVE THE *OC*?



**The OREGON COMMENTATOR
is currently seeking volunteers
for the following positions:**

A photograph of a man lying in bed, smiling. He has a large, dark, irregular tattoo on his chest. The tattoo appears to be a combination of a skull and floral or leaf-like patterns. He is wearing a blue shirt and is lying on a blue bedsheet. The background is a plain wall.



7



Photos by Jazmin Avalos

The phrase “direct action” has been thrown around a lot on campus recently. It is a phrase that hippies without work ethic use to rally disillusioned freshmen to their cause. Lazy people with good intentions think that rhetoric changes the world, but hard-working passionate people are the ones who make a difference, not those who smoke weed all day and discuss which superhero would be most beneficial to modern society.

Jim Evangelista is one of these hard-working passionate people. As a 23-year-old he ran, managed, and owned a 24-hour restaurant that doubled as a community center and performing arts venue in Gainesville, Florida. Today he and his partner Catherine Pickup own and run Reality Kitchen, a school for people with developmental disabilities, and single-handedly strive to educate and empower people that “society” has left behind. People with development issues tend to be treated differently by society. When mixed amongst the general population people assume that they are slow, childish, and inferior. When people with development issues are unable to get the help and education they need, they are marginalized.

One of the first things we asked of Jim was to share any success stories regarding his students. Jim was taken aback by the word “success”. Success in the Reality Kitchen is not about

grades but about self-improvement. A number of students that had enrolled in their program had previously been deemed as having “anger problems” and an “unwillingness to learn”, the sort of people whom employers did not trust around kitchen knives. Jim said that the problem was that they were treated like children and expectations for these individuals were low, if not nonexistent. Jim and Catherine, however, recognize that those with development issues don’t want to be treated like children; that education is not about imparting skills. Rather, it’s about the cultivation of a person’s character, the development of emotional intelligence and the confidence to believe in your own abilities.

At first glance, Reality Kitchen appears to be a school that teaches its students to cook in a professional setting, but it is so much more. Not only do all ingredients used in their cooking come from surrounding farms, but Jim and Catherine have what the University of Oregon or the 4J district would label as an “unorthodox” approach to education, but what many quality educators would refer to as “holistic”. Jim said his approach to education involved treating people as adults and then having high expectations for their performance. He said that there is nothing more satisfying than seeing his students live up to his expectations and then exceed them-- something that happens on a regular basis.

Reality Kitchen has ambitious plans for the future. They are hoping to relocate downtown to be closer to the bus station because most of their students use public transport. Additionally, they are hoping to start a food cart so that they can sell their food to fund their school and give their students practical business experience. But they are also trying to expand their operations to include web design courses as well as publishing a monthly newsletter. All of these projects will give their students valuable experience and prepare them for the workforce.

In our society education has been bastardized. GPA's and IQ's are a false indicator of intelligence but people cling to them as a matter of pride. The already advantageous have the easiest access to extra resources while those who need it most go without. Jim and Catherine have sunk their life savings into this venture not just because it's something that Eugene needs but because they are certain that this is their calling. For their passionate service and priceless contributions, the Oregon Commentator ardently awards them The Tater Award (two thumbs up!).

We have nothing but admiration for their never-ending work but they cannot do it alone. If



you have skills in programming, Indesign, or education and mental development, your skills can be put to use and you can be part of a program that is a positive force in this world. If you have practical skills and the time to volunteer we urge you to email Jim Evangelista (contactus@realitykitchen.org) to begin being part of something that matters.



*James "The Hawk" Hawkins and Joseph "Rowdy" Rouse are reporters at the **OREGON COMMENTATOR** and think that the folks at the Student Insurgent need better role models.*



The Office of Student Advocacy

There is nothing quite like the weight of an established bureaucracy trying to choke the life out of you. Most students will never experience the self-righteous fury of Carl Yeh's (Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards) determination to expel people he deems "unfit to attend" this school.

When the university predetermines that you're an asshole. When what? When it takes less paperwork to undermine your education than to go in front of a trial by your peers. When what? So what? Finish your sentence. And when you are truly fucked and completely on your own, trying to fight against a debt-farming meat grinder. Then it's time to call the Office of Student Advocacy (OSA) and make use of the talents and passion and talents of professionals that truly understand the inner-workings of the law and this university. It is their purpose to represent and support you.

Carl Yeh dislikes the OSA because students with defense make his job more difficult. If you are part of a respectable organization in Greek Life, he will refrain from making a legal case out of you or the hedonistic principles on which your brain operates. But if he takes your case personally-- and you are a headstrong individual-- you need help. The OSA should be the first person/organization you contact after receiving a notice of allegation. Even if you don't think fighting is worth it, talking first with the Office of Student Advocacy and understanding what it does can only benefit you.

The University will try to convince you that letting Carl Yeh decide your punishment is the best course of action for you and your academic career. That is a lie. You must always request a trial by your peers, and this will make the school mad. They will say that you are making it worse for yourself, that once you do this they can't help you. But in all honesty the best thing you can do is to talk exclusively with the OSA regarding any complaint and to have one of their representatives by your side whenever you deal with the University.

But the OSA exists for reasons other than student (on student?) conduct. It exist to aid in not just disputes with university charges, but also faculty/staff concerns, university housing, student employment, grievances, academic issues, or student record issues. Our Incidental fee pays for this guaranteed representation to fight on our behalf and guide us through the legal labyrinth that is the University of Oregon. Their passion and dedication to stop the University from walking all over students without a fight is the reason I will be graduating.

The OSA wins the Oregon Commentator's award for Most Important Advocate of Student Rights and our everlasting appreciation.



*The **OREGON COMMENTATOR** hopes that Carl Yeh, through extensive counseling, support networks and the pile of money that he makes, will one day overcome his traumatic childhood.*

Caitlin Feldman

OF

Emerald Media Group

Caitlin Feldman is responsible for such journalistic masterpieces as **"How to Have Fun in the Snow in Bend"** (in which she miraculously remembered to advise that one wear wool socks in the snow, for Christ's sake), **"Grad Guide: Be Careful What You Post on the Internet"** (#TheSkylsBlue #NoShitSherlock), **"Pros and Cons of Living With Your Significant Other In College"** and of course Feldman's Magnus Opus **"Best Place to Meet a Hottie - The Student Rec Center is the New Dating Scene on Campus"**. Now, when you read these titles you will probably have the same reaction as I had: How the fuck is this person actually writing for a newspaper? It is one of the questions that I ponder along with "why do some girls wear make up to gym?"

An example of Feldman's journalistic wit: **"Yet, there are perks of living with the one you love. Like waking up next to each other without anyone having to take the walk of shame"**. Now correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't one of the perks of being in a committed relationship that one isn't waking up in a strange place next to someone you may not remember? How is it in any way shameful to leave your boyfriend's or girlfriend's place after a night of sleep and/or sex?

We don't know because she didn't explain. Furthermore, she hardly ever explains anything with reasonable coherency. We at the *Oregon Commentator* receive no stipend and wonder what Feldman's employment status is at the *Daily Emerald*. Surely she doesn't get paid to write this garbage. How about it, Feldman, can you hear us out there? Do you get paid? If so, we'd like our I-fee money back.

I wonder if she has ever heard us howl with laughter from the OC office. Her articles keep us well-entertained. Some are utterly hilarious (e.g.,

"Best Eugene Restaurants with Patios" and **"Who Not to Bring on a Road Trip"**).

I am not saying that Caitlin Feldman is a terrible journalist but....wait, yes I am. A dirty mop has better things to talk about and twice the writing ability. She is the worst, hence why she gets this year's Tater Award for "Worst Journalist". Congratulations, Caitlin!



We at the OREGON COMMENTATOR want to bang Caitlin Feldman because she seems really easy.



The Filibuster Tater Award goes to Senator Rand Paul for his almost 13 hour filibuster on March 6, 2013. The actions of the filibuster served several purposes. Delaying the nomination of John Brennan as CIA Director, bringing attention to the drone debate, and—possibly more important—put the White House in its place. This modern day superhero of conservatives deserves a cold Sudsy for his actions.

Why is this important? Why should you care? Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike should stand and cheer Paul's actions. Jonathon Moseley from the American Thinker answered the question regarding the effect of the filibuster with this: "You will answer questions from Congress, Mr. President." Oversight is one of the duties of the legislature, and the administration had refused to answer Senator Paul and his allies. Senator Paul could have backed down and followed the path of Republican leaders, but instead he chose to cause the scene and force the administration to answer his questions.

There are times when lines must be drawn, and representatives must have the courage to keep that line, even when those within their own parties are against them. In our current climate of scandals including the IRS, Benghazi, Fast and Furious, and the re-authorization of the

Authorized Use of Military Force (AUMF), we need members in Congress who are willing to stand and take their responsibilities seriously.

Today it is American citizens that have joined our enemies, tomorrow it could be Tea Partiers, and in a few years maybe Occupiers, environmentalists, or Michael Moore. Second thought, maybe we should allow all this drone activity.

A great big cold Sudsy to Super Senator Paul! Cheers!



Neil Killion is the Associate Publisher at the
OREGON COMMENTATOR *pisses the world*
off, one liberal at a time.



UO SCUBA

Most people in college take at least one extracurricular class to experience something new, but hardly ever completely alien. Some take Tai Chi, Meditation, History of Jazz Music, Snow Camping, or Rock Climbing.

The University's SCUBA program is a spectacular way to try something completely alien. This year, the program has been awarded "Best Kept Secret".

Oregon is not known for its diving; this isn't Florida, and the Oregon coast is an unforgiving place. But avid lovers of the outdoors don't let things like rain or temperature prevent us from our excursions. Water in Oregon is cold. The water can range between 38-65F degrees depending on the dive site. You need the proper exposure protection to prevent hypothermia (provided to you by the local dive shop), the proper equipment to breathe underwater (also provided by the dive shop), and the proper instruction & training in order to dive safely.

SCUBA diving is a mental and physical sport. When diving, all that matters is the current moment you are living and the one that follows. Whether you're interested in visiting shipwrecks, taking underwater photographs, hunting,

sightseeing, or chasing crab in Florence, SCUBA diving has something to offer everyone. I have friends that quit smoking as a result of the confidence they gained from SCUBA diving. The ability to survive in an environment that is trying to destroy does wonders for your confidence.

Although diving conditions are not ideal, learning how to dive in the Pacific Northwest will make diving easier in other locations. Instructors in Thailand or Mexico will recognize your superior skills and training.

As the saying goes, "Those who feel it, know it." Dropping a hundred feet head first, in an environment where the color of light changes depending on your depth, the overwhelming sound of Darth Vader breathing, and the gurgling of air bubbles being forced out your regulator. Creates a surreal experience that is as close to being an astronaut as a person can get and makes you question whether this is still the same life you woke up to in the morning.

Those who've felt it know what I'm saying.



*Joseph "Rowdy" Rouse is Publisher at the
OREGON COMMENTATOR and thinks PCP is
for weak-minded pussies.*

M O N S A N T O ' S

ATTACK OF THE CLONES

Genetically Modified Weed Found In Field

Monsanto admitted this week to designing a ROUNDUP resistant strain of marijuana for the Clinton administration but couch locked the

Medical marijuana growers in Eugene noticed a patch of weeds in a weed patch that they had not sewn. Immediately they poured agent orange, bus oil and apple cider vinegar on it to no effect,

BEST PLAGUE

"When ROUND UP didn't work we got worried since it DOES affect the flavor," said disgruntled grower Jack and Pam Heilman of West Eugene.

"I've got a field of Blue Dream and Alaskan Thunder Fuck that my government says is a bio-hazard and I can't sell to high schoolers."

Despite the USDA claims that genetically modified weed is safe for consumers, Japan has cancelled all Northwest weed orders until a test can be developed for this genetic mutt escaping the scientific kennel that is The Oregon Commentator's 2013 TATER AWARD WINNER MONSANTO - Best Plague



GMO proponents include:



B-Real



This chick

and Legal Eagle
Jim O'Fallon



Dr. Manhattan is the molecular multi-tasker at the OREGON COMMENTATOR and his "Blue Man on Mars" CD is the bomb.

Here at the **OC**, we believe transparency is the foundation of a meaningful relationship. Upholding this standard, we are pleased to inform the student body that this page cost 3.05828125¢. Although you cannot smoke it, we hope that you enjoy it anyway. The street value of this magazine is about .28 grams in sticky cannabis, .04 grams in high quality cocaine, and <.01 grams in china white. And now, for your viewing pleasure...





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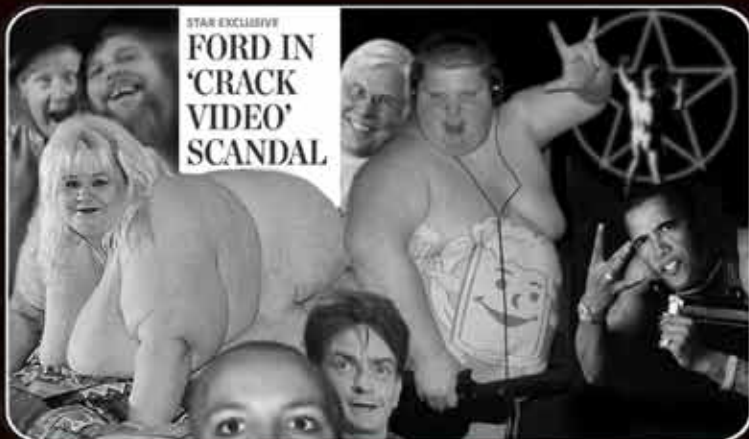


Bigfoot Beerswill Festival
2008 - BEST TEXTURE
2009 - MOST INVASIVE FLAVOR
2013 - BEST RECYCLING PROJECT

June 2013

CLUSTERFUCK

STAR EXCLUSIVE
FORD IN
'CRACK
VIDEO'
SCANDAL



TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 16 C | MONITOR SUNNY | MAP SE



1. Zane Kesey
2. Normal Bean
3. Dave Hubin
4. Rob Ford ?
5. Stephanie Kesey ?
6. unidentified
7. unidentified
8. unidentified
9. unidentified

BEST MOVIE



CLUSTERFUCK

The Emerald Shempire Shempfest

BEST JOKE



Mmmmm... Cannabis Candy... So good.

Where do you boys get yours, 1134 Main?

Isn't that where Richard Gaff makes his magic over an outdoor stove with dead batteries, syphilitic junkie cum & kitty poo?

Remember that first festival that lost money Dan AND WHAT HAPPENED IN CURTAIN Normal Bean?

This Hempfest has sucked for ten years which is not nearly as long as Reverend Will has been selling sick women's weed at his "church."

Still on cable access wearing a bag Dan planning beauty contests for UGLY judges?

CLUSTERFUCK

WORST NON-PROFIT



Zane "Wiped his nose in a large trust fund to end up with small fortune" Kesey

The newspaper said you need 10K to get an ESTIMATE to fix bus #1

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT YOU CAN BE TRUSTED WITH 10K ZANE.

You can't even seem to pay your artists OR your "hired"

help except for the white powdered freaks at the 13th

street shoppe that gives away bone flavored coffee.

Here's a question Zane, WHAT DOES MDMA MEAN?

Would you say candy flippers are your BEST customers

because they're drug addled toe suckers just like you?

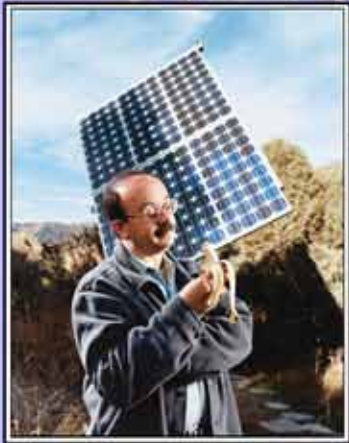
Do you THINK that the U of O library will give you a dime

until YOU and Professor Palmer explain some things to us?

MEET ME at the BATH ROOM!



Who will take your money, kiss your forehead and tell you everything is fine now with O\$PIRG gone?
The Oregon Commentator that's who!!!



Dear Old Timey Prospector,
"I've known Doug Wood for twenty-five years. Good Stuff."

~ Amory Lovins

Rocky Mountain Institute Cofounder,
Chief Scientist and Chairman Emeritus
Has briefed twenty-three heads of state on energy

The time for sabotaging ASUO elections is over and upon review, O\$PIRG\$ 2010 funding afforded over one hundred and forty, (140!), AIR403 wind turbines. While the AIR403 is rated to start in a six mile an hour wind the answer most likely lies in solar energy collection and the precedent for solar collectors on a campus include UNLV Las Vegas in 2003 & M.I.T. in 2010. The solar technician who lead the Boston team was Doug Wood, who has built a variety of different sized collectors, most notably a 40K and an 80K model that also brought 1500 liters of water to a boil on an island off of Washington state. Surely sunny Eugene could use a real alternative energy building program assuring a stable future economically for graduates? Doug Wood projects run from 60 foot high behemoths to retrofit satellite cable dishes. You can find out more looking at the plans here:

<http://wafreepress.org/11/Solar.html>

<http://www.harbornet.com/sunflower/>

<http://www.harbornet.com/sunflower/plan.html>

<http://www.harbornet.com/sunflower/free.html>

Now banished from colleges in Portland and K-Falls, soon Eugene shall broom this O\$PIRG TURD trash off campus and make room for a real discussion about alternative energy since O\$PIRG's intere\$t begin\$ and end\$ with their own \$elfba\$ting fi\$cal intere\$t. While Charles Dennison and company have been an endless source of cheap jokes, it is now time to develop cheap energy and train the next generation of engineers with NO ONE better qualified than The OREGON COMMENTATOR'S 2013 TATER AWARD FOR SOLAR GENIUS... Doug Wood.



O\$PIRG IS A WASTE OF TIMELINE:

1878

1891

1901

1991

2003

2008

2010

2013



Auguste Mouchat's Press 1878

First Solar Hot Water Heater 1891

Aubrey Enear's Engines 1901

Doug Wood 40K-80K collectors 1991

UNLV Campus tests solar collector 2003

M.I.T. tests solar collector 2008

O\$PIRG's \$170,000 and not one windmill



(Overheard at the OC Office)

“AMERICA!”

“Safety first! After my third drink, I take my gun to the bathroom and unchamber the round.”

“I’m old enough to be your deviant.”

“You can’t derail a trainwreck.”

“I like to be drunk when sending out resumes because it boosts my confidence.”

“It ain’t gonna suck itself, OSPIRG!”

“Getting blitzed is my idea of a good time.”

**“Are we playing Beer Pong or jerking it?
Come on!”**

“As long as the drugs are in you system and not on your person, we’re all good.”

“Nessy... That’s how I got into plesiosaurs.”

“What’s coffee without whiskey?”

“Cultural differences must be celebrated—and exploited.”

“50 ‘No’s and a ‘Yes’ means ‘Yes!’”

“You think you can act like that because you have a pony tail, don’t you?”

**“When in doubt,
it’s bullshit.”**

“If I were a dinosaur, I would be a sea turtle, lying in the sun on any beach where no Mexicans would eat my eggs.”

Senior Column by Frank n' Beans

I have a confession to make— an excuse, perhaps. Some of you reading this esteemed publication probably assumed, with correct empirical evidence, that I would have written the "I Hate The ASUO" column in the previous issue of the *Oregon Commentator*. The honest truth is that I dreamed at one point having that opportunity and taking advantage of it.

My confession, and my excuse for not writing it, is that I'm not sure that I do anymore.

It's my favorite thing to rag on, and it certainly hasn't been in its best form lately, but I can't say that I hate the ASUO because I love what it stands for.

After five years of learning Arabic, going to nationals in debate, doing award-winning work for the Emerald, I can say I've gotten a full sense of the heart of this campus.

And what does all of this tell me? The clearest thing is: I think that the ASUO can be better, and that's why I dig into it so much. Ever since covering it full time for a year two years ago, I talk about the workings of student government way too much.

I may have contributed to its punchline status, but there is no doubt that it was held with that regard before I got here. The mere constitution is rife with too many loopholes and the money is too great for it to not get bogged down. If this is how student government works, think how much worse it is on the next levels.

So yes, I think it can be better. As annoyed as everyone was by the Macklemore concert this year, no other ASUO event (if you exclude football games) got as many students participating and no other ASUO funding hearing that I can remember was as attended as the one when Oregon Athletic Bands' funding was threatened. It is more evident than ever that the "average student" needs to be included in this process.

Thankfully, next year the executive won't have hiring power over the elections board. There's nothing so silly to me as the fact that that's gone unquestioned for so long.

Also, Sam Dotters-Katz has convinced me that his commitment is to bipartisanship. I think the track of the ASUO is going in the right direction, in general. On that note, if there is one piece of advice I can give to any senator who will be working until past midnight most Wednesdays this fall, it's this: Read the damned constitution.

This isn't a statement about people not doing their jobs last year. They didn't, but there's something else here.

The ASUO constitution has things that get amended every year, and it's still an inconsistent mess. I think that if there were 20 people this summer reading the document, there would probably be someone who could find the questionable line that says you can hold both a senator seat and an executive position (4.2). Or maybe that it takes just 15 senators — a three-fourths vote — to impeach a standing president (5.17). Or, there's this piece that's not questionable, it's just one of those obscure measures: If Senate cannot get quorum (2/3 of the body) for a meeting in a three-week period, Constitution Court can just remove every senator from the body (11.14).

So yeah, go please read the constitution.

If there's only one big thing I think the ASUO could start to do better, it's to take yourselves less seriously and your jobs more so. The ASUO is a punchline and an obscure acronym because you let it be so. Don't blame the Emerald, don't blame the frats, don't really blame anyone. Take your commitments to your constituents more seriously and let the drama (and OSPIRG) wash away.



FT Bains is a copy editor at the **OREGON COMMENTATOR** and now has an informal gag order about mentions of the UO's student government.

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A BLOW TO DEMOCRACY

"911 Operator tells woman about to be raped that no police are coming: 'Ask rapist to go away' "

In late August a woman in Josephine County called 911 and begged dispatchers to send police. Her ex-boyfriend had hospitalized her a few weeks ago and now her ex-boyfriend was trying to break into the house after she refused to let him in. The dispatcher apologized and said she had no one to send before transferring her to state police. But the dispatcher for state police also said that they had no one to come to her aid and then shared this pearl of wisdom, "You know, obviously, if he comes inside the residence and assaults you, can you ask him to go away".

The woman was then brutally raped and as a result Oregon Police/Sheriff departments have earned this issue's Blow to Democracy. Although budgets cuts are rampant throughout all law enforcement agencies, if you truly want the job to "protect and serve" accepting a smaller paycheck rather than the six figures that you are used to might do more good then eliminating 90% of the deputies in your department. Fuck you very much



"Federal government mandates unconstitutional speech codes"

As the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) reported on May 10, 2013, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education sent a letter to the University of Montana describing a new speech code. It broadens the definition of sexual harassment to be "any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature" including "verbal conduct". FIRE points out that "if the listener takes offense to sexually related speech for any reason, no matter how irrationally or unreasonably, the speaker may be punished." The U.S. Government, by referring to the sweeping speech code "a blueprint for colleges and universities throughout the country," seems to be disregarding the Constitution completely.

Not only does the letter not address the First Amendment at all, but the policy itself contradicts the policy already set in place by the DOE's Office for Civil Rights: harassment "must include something beyond the mere expression of views, words, symbols or thoughts that some person finds offensive." FIRE warns that, although the Office for Civil Rights lacks real legal authority, the institutional fear it may instill could be enough to severely hinder the weight of the First Amendment for students across the nation.

SPEW...

"Oregon athletics are all about fun, excitement and bringing people together to have a good time... That's what we do at Dutch Bros., so this couldn't be a better fit for us."

--Dutch Bros. Coffee Co-Founder Travis Boersma states in a press release emailed to the OC. This is hardly surprising since both Dutch Bros. and the UO Athletics Department are disgusting organizations that appeal to the masses. Where as Dutch Bros. is a stale company selling convenience and operating on prepackaged ingredients that attempt to replicate the flavor of coffee, the Athletics Department operates behind a slick PR campaign that is indifferent to the needs and concerns of students.



"The resolution will take a stand against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Iran and attempt to pressure state legislators to pass a similar resolution."

--Ian Campbell of the *Oregon Daily Emerald* severely overestimating the reach of the ASUO and their misguided, feel-good efforts. Is this what we pay these clowns for, to debate international politics to no end?

--The OC presents:

A Spew by
Spew review of
Jacob O'Gara,
hamming it up in
the *Ol' Dirty*.



"Since this is the Emerald's "year in review" issue, this is my 'year in review' column..."

Oh, really?

"It feels somewhat forced to tie a narrative bow around my four years spent here..."

Then don't.

"College seemed more like a collage of unrelated events and tangents and anecdotes."

Agreed. Proceed, then, with your narrative bow...

"...with a lot of fades and bad banter — more "Rules of Attraction" than 'Animal House.'"

Fuck, you HAD to mention Animal House. Get out of here...

"Cut to a classroom. Cut to a party. Cut to all-nighters in the library. A montage of living arrangements: dorm, house, quad, house."

Are you, by chance, a schizophrenic?

"Fade to black. Credits."

Dude, shut the fuck up.

"Four years is a strange amount of time: enough to change you in a way, for better or worse, but not really enough for you to learn anything meaningful about yourself or the world."

Uhh, what?

"After four years at the University of Oregon, I am four years older but not wiser or whatever."

So, you have the emotional intelligence of an 18-year-old.

"Speaking for myself, and maybe for others in the Class of 2013, I don't quite know what I learned over the past four wonderful, horrible, dizzying, clarifying years here, but I will soon."

The same experience we all have when reading your Op-eds.

ON "THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE"

As the weather gets wetter and the students get drunker, fall term comes to a close and winter is upon us. For some, the shorter days and colder nights serve as a detriment to getting outside and engaging in ruckus, but we at the Oregon Commentator look upon this time of year favorably -- the sooner the sun goes down, the sooner we can down some pitchers and get to work on the "college experience."

Throughout the Commentator's existence, we have striven to challenge the accepted view of the way things "should be" at the University of Oregon. We believe that individual freedoms are of utmost importance, particularly on a college campus where students

are learning how to be a part of the world -- how to be adults, if you will. It's with this mindset that we have a few words to say about the ASUO's recent moves to repress student freedoms and attempt to speak *for* us without actually speaking *to* us.

The ASUO has approved plans for Student Sustainability Coordinator, Coalition and Center, displacing legitimate student groups with office space (seven, to be exact, including the inimitable Oregon Voice) for a bunch of whiny environmentalists who can't manage their own damn programs and need a \$40,000/year babysitter to make sure they can spend all their student money. With this move, the ASUO is telling us, "It doesn't matter what your student group does. If you're not contributing to an environmentally-friendly campus, you're not

worth our time. Get the hell out of the way."

Another big-time change: a smoke-free campus (Lyzi Diamond lays this one out in its entirety on page 12). With a smoke-free policy, the University is telling students that if something is bad for you, you're not allowed to do it -- "You want to make your own decisions about your lungs? Sorry, that's not how we roll."

The ASUO is telling us, "It doesn't matter what your student group does. If you're not contributing to an environmentally-friendly campus, you're not worth our time. Get the hell out of the way."

The ASUO Senate has also requested that the Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee fully fund the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group at \$117,000. OSPIRG has proven time and time again that they are not deserving of funding,

and are generally goobers with no sense of right and wrong.

Finally, the ASUO has expressed support for banning bottled water on campus. We feel this needs no explanation. Bye, freedom of choice. We'll miss you.

In light of these injustices, the Oregon Commentator is pleased to announce that we are starting a new student group: Students for Personal Freedoms. We will carry guns. We will smoke cigars. We will demand that we are listened to, possibly through bullhorns.

We will define our own college experience. And that, my friends, is the way things "should be."



asks ...

How do you keep it classy?



Thunderlove:
Two 40s of 2-11

Ron Burgandy:
Go fuck yourself, Eugene



**Vice President
Johnny Delashaw:**
I make it rain on DEM
hoes

Barack Obama:
Going to church



Ernie Kent:
Access to Athletic Department
travel funds is a good start...

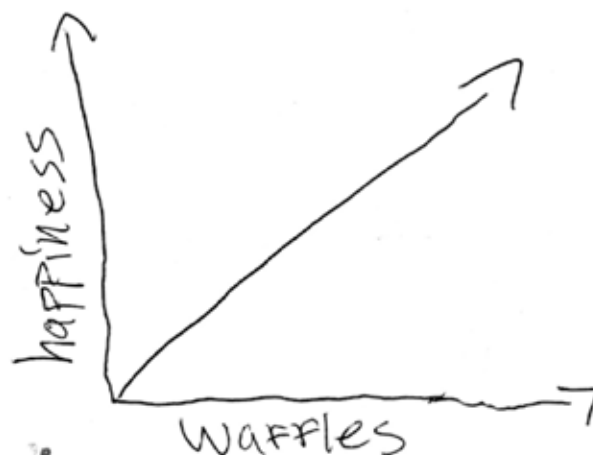
T Rex:
Raping pterodactyls.
But I always cuddle
afterwards.



Eugene Police Department:
Nothing is more beautiful
than 50,000 volts surging
through the body of a
transient

Graphs By Drew

by Drew Cattermole



Things you should know by now...

- * Sneezing all over yourself in class: awkward
- * Sneezing blue addorall dust all over yourself in class: more awkward
- * Sneezing cocaine all over yourself in class: awesome
- * Cocaine is expensive; go for addorall
- * If a Commentator party starts before five you will be black-out drunk by 8:30.
- * Hilyard St. Market does not sell 40s
- * Sean Jin does not hate white people
- * Eugene Police Department has tasers.
- * Billy Joel is awesome
- * Don't mix champagne and vodka. Seriously.
- * Nobody likes a whiner. If you're going to complain, drop the fucking class.



WHY WE FIGHT

*"The ascetic thirsts for the wine of Heaven's fountain, Hafez wants his glass refilled. Whom will God prefer?"
-Hafez, 17th century Persian poet*

"So what is the Commentator anyway?" It's a common question, a die-hard kind of question. "Are you a front for the Republican Party? A tome for the aching souls of the Fratboy Nation? A bunch of bitter alcoholics duping the University out of the printing tab for your crypto-fascist screeds?" Though some of these questions might betray a few safe assumptions about what we do, none of them hit the mark. We are the magazine that has seen it all.

Born in a blaze of Reagan revolution fervor, the Commentator has strayed considerably from its halcyon days during the great conservative revival of the 1980s. High-minded cultural crusading did not last forever at the Commentator, and during the 1990's, libertarianism became a more palatable expression of our mission statement on campus. Today, we find ourselves in a political landscape devoid of the landmarks of debates past. The death of New Deal liberalism, the more recent death of small-government conservatism, the post-9/11 agenda, and the red state-blue state idiocy all present new challenges to our mission statement and inform how our beliefs are expressed. Let's face it; the "war of ideas" referenced in our statement is not concerned with the controversies of 1983, or even 1999, but with the idiocies and outrages of today: take for instance the fact that there is no longer so much a war of ideas as an ideological dynamic reminiscent of the novel *Lord of the Flies*.

Like the generations of Commentators before us, we cling to our basic principles as the tools with which we take on the talking points and press conferences of outrageous fortune. Contrary to popular belief, our defining values are not rigid dogmas which can only be interpreted to support the Republican Party line, but in fact are articles of common sense, a basic guide to intellectual honesty, and a call to more free and open discourse.

Like Hafez, the Commentator just wants its glass refilled. We are neither the utopian idealists nor the dour fearmongers who play the lead roles in our political Punch-and-Judy show. We are not ascetics dedicated to the obsessive task of managing the lives of the many, but the fools of reason. We are the three wise monkeys who have stopped covering their ears, eyes and mouths to get wasted and fling dung at the morons who surround them. The path to a more perfect union and a better world lies not with conjured-up, institutional regimes based on high-minded, abstract ideals, but in the openness and honesty of our discourse with each other.

"In Vino Veritas," said the Romans, and we too have found truth in the vino. The most unvarnished conversations, deep into our cups at the bar may piss us off the most, but also invariably provide rare opportunities to confront the most jaundiced takes on our most cherished ideals, or see our best laid plans laughed down over crucial oversights. Mockery and derision are too often dismissed as prejudice or insensitivity, rather than legitimate and friendly criticism. The laugh test, it seems, has been replaced by the outrage test.

Why not admit that we all have bad ideas, and be receptive to a good razzing when it is well deserved? One can either give a decent answer to the criticism implicit in the mockery, or not; either way one should take it all in good humor. Oversensitivity to the offense of others, justified or not, leads only to a humorless, reactive, stagnant exchange of platitudes rather than the kind of vigorous, productive debate that yields tangible rewards. Sound familiar? Toss back that drink, take square aim at something that pisses you off, and do something about it.



OC contributor and former ASUO presidential candidate blamed for perpetuating rape

The ASUO's Women's Center recently published their Spring issue of *The Siren*. The first story in the magazine is Katie Hulse criticizing "the sexist and misogynist sentiments expressed in the Oregon Commentator." To get to the meat of her argument, she was pissed about a part of my "Odds by Drew" in the Special Elections Issue entitled "Odd's of Getting Laid if for V-Day you bought her..." Various gifts included KY Intrigue and roses. I gave 40's of 2-11 the best odds, at 1:1. Ms. Hulse claimed that my suggestion of giving your special someone 40's of cheap malt liquor on Valentine's will to secure a good lay "perpetuates a rape culture and climate, and actively furthers the stereotype that the smart and powerful women at the University of Oregon and everywhere else are at the disposal of men."

After calling me a borderline rapist, she goes on to say she is embarrassed that the Senate continues to fund this "obscene, hurtful and fearful language." While I didn't receive this letter from Ms. Hulse, I am regarding it as fan mail; being loyal to my fans I am writing a letter back. Here it is:

Dear Katie Hulse,

I see you're a big fan of my work. Only someone who has too much time on her hands (or loves my odds) could write an 800 word letter about one sentence. Clearly I was way off in thinking that 40's returning the best odds was a cheap joke. No, it's definitely a sign that rape is cool. What was I thinking? I thought 40's were a show of compassion and love. Nothing says I'm cheap and in love like 40's. What kind of person advocates the idea that drinking makes a person horny? I was very curious, so I did some research and it turns out you are that type of person. You have a Facebook bumper sticker that says "Warning: horny when drunk." I guess it's safe to say that alcohol increases the odds of someone getting laid. I was merely stating facts (and odds). Also, didn't you catch my other odds perpetuating violence and prostitution right next to the Valentine's Day odds? Those were pretty fucked up too. I saw that you expressed an interest in KY Intrigue in your letter. That's hot. As for the funding of the Oregon Commentator goes, we are just a nationally recognized campus magazine and award-winning blog. That's why we receive funding. It's a shame the Oregon Daily Emerald did not print this letter when you sent it in. Thanks for reading the Commentator. I am glad we could offend.

With Love,
Drew Cattermole



Will you have sex with me?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Gunnin' for It

By Ethan Bendau

If you are a 21-year-old legal resident of the country, you haven't had a misdemeanor in four years, you aren't addicted to crack, you don't rape too many people or molest a lot of children and you've passed an NRA-approved handgun safety course, then you might be eligible to pay a \$65 license fee for hiding a gun down your pants. Anyone who goes to that length to carry a deadly weapon next to such vital machinery is clearly serious about what he does. And as a result of a recent ruling by the State Court of Appeals, it has been determined that the Oregon University System does not have the authority to prohibit anyone from doing so.

Despite being a win for keeping institutions accountable and within their legal limits, the decision has left the university population less than delighted. Furthermore, the State Board of Higher Education has approved the conversion of the Department of Public Safety to a full police force. With that addition, gun rights and campus safety are two of the most contentious issues on campus today.

Common anti-gun arguments are generated by fear of weapons as well as skepticism about why one carries in the first place. The opponents of armed campus police are fueled largely by an unsurprising sense of distrust towards cops in a college town. In my experience, I find that people afraid of guns often have a distorted understanding of them and the people who carry them.

Let's be straightforward: a gun is designed for the sole purpose of inflicting harm. It is meant to destroy and it will never be seen in another light. It's natural to be uneasy around them, and that is why it is still prohibited to brandish a weapon on campus. It is the lack of respect, however, that makes a weapon dangerous, more so than any inherent power to cause harm.

That idea isn't limited to weapons: few of us fear our cars or the hundreds of cars that pass us each day. We might be wary of the occasional clueless driver,

but no one is disturbed to find out that his neighbor owns a large car and uses it daily. We rarely consider the threat we pose to other drivers, pedestrians or ourselves when we start our vehicle.

Yet, more people die yearly from car accidents than from guns, by a huge margin. Not counting intentional self-harm, the CDC National Vital Statistics Reports details that 2009 saw just under 12,000 firearms deaths, 588 of which resulted from accidental discharge. In the same year, 36,200 lives were taken in motor vehicle accidents.

We drive drunk and high, we talk on the phone, and we listen to music, all things that distract us from the few feet separating us from another three-ton steel bullet. Jesus Christ, we put our children in these things. As with guns, it is not as much the killing power that makes a car deadly (and believe me, a car is MUCH more deadly) as it is disregard for the responsibility you have to fellow drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists when you get behind the wheel.

Conversely, when you hold a gun, you are perpetually aware of its capacity to annihilate whatever comes into the sight of its crosshairs. You'll likely never become so comfortable with that fact that you start to neglect it, as we often do while driving. Unfortunately, there are inevitably those who will reject common-sense gun safety, and when they do, survival of the fittest will be there.

I don't want us to all fear our cars, just as I'm not trying to make us all love and support guns. But an informed fear is infinitely preferable to an irrational one. Informed fear is conducive to responsible, sensible regulation. Irrational fear risks our liberty to placate an ungrounded concern.

There is no reason why anyone should be worried about safety when walking through campus. In the same vein, it seems absurd that we should have a sworn police force on campus that doesn't carry weapons. That makes them about as effective as they are now at protecting us. With

guns on their hips, we must then hope, and demand, that the policemen guarding our campus will get out of their cars and dutifully patrol through the darkest corners of campus, knowing they have the authority and unmatched capacity to defend students from any threat.

It is still forbidden to wield a gun on campus, so whether or not you are in the presence of a gun, you'll hopefully never know. We need to consider the reality of our situation: No one can stop a weapon from being brought on campus by an irresponsible citizen, laws or no laws. If I want to bring a handgun to class in my backpack, it wouldn't be difficult. Save for metal detectors at every single campus entrance, that won't ever change. Yet the anti-gun laws are likely to deter the responsible gun carriers from bringing their guns, because they know to respect the law. So we have two scenarios: Guns brought on campus by someone who doesn't have to worry about any pedestrians having their own protection (particularly given that the Board of Education has yet to specifically approve firearms for the police force), or those lawless individuals being put in check by the uncertainty of who around them might be carrying, albeit legally and with greater skill. We can deter such dangerous people by arming our police force and leaving a measure of uncertainty for the gunman about who he might have to defend himself against.

We should never be so comfortable with guns that we neglect their inherent danger, nor should we trust a gun to win our fights for us. A gun is not a substitute for verbal diffusion or often even physical violence. Holding a gun means you have the responsibility to do everything in your power to leave it in its holster, including succumbing to a bully and walking out. Responsibility is the crucial idea. If you can't handle the responsibility of a gun, you likely don't and shouldn't own one. But there are people out there who need the comfort of knowing that if the worst

were to happen, they would be fully capable of defending themselves and those around them, and we would owe them thanks.



Ethan Bendau is the OREGON COMMENTATOR's publisher and once drunk dialed the Make-aWish Foundation asking to meet The Rock.

Continued from "Out the Ass" on page 10

themselves for the professional world, where underhanded treachery is a valuable resource for advancement. Even better, in choosing this method of financial gain, a student creates a mutually beneficial relationship between herself and those whose property is liberated: while the student thief adds a comfortable amount of girth to their wallet, the "injured" party is enlightened to the workings of reality, trust in her peers shattered, allowing that person to step into the world with a healthy level of bitterness. There is no replacement for such useful real-world experience.

The third means to be discussed here, drug-trafficking, is undoubtedly the trickiest to properly execute; however, it also unquestionably the most profitable. While the return for many commodities and services has decreased inverse-proportionally to cost of living over the last decade, the value of narcotics has remained consistent. In fact, it has come to a point where entire towns have comfortably staked their survival on the sale of marijuana, and cocaine traffickers have ten times the income of your average investment banker. Such work gives students valuable hands-on experience that time in the classroom simply can't replicate. Covering a variety of professional pursuits, such as marketing (one must find which street corner attracts a more affluent clientele) to sales (calling it a 'quarter-bag' can easily satisfy a customer seeking value) to interpersonal relations (taking John's roommate's stereo as collateral is, after all, not so different from the workings

of Bank of America's accounts receivable department), work in this field promises a bright and shining future for any dedicated student. With hard work, such a student may even find themselves rubbing elbows with the country's most influential elite: many a political slip of the tongue, celebrity reality program, and nightly news report has attested to the star power which patronizes the narcotics industry. While this line of work does come with increased risks—a drug conviction can be used as grounds for expulsion and a repeal of a student's financial aid, which leads one to believe that the members of our national legislature were either exceptionally crafty or light on their feet in their college days—it comes with similarly substantial rewards. As they say, a good education is priceless.

Many complain that the state of higher education in America has presented families and students with an impossible conundrum, wherein crippling debt, a lack of aid, and incompatibility with the current job market create a system of failure against which the country's youth has little recourse. However, such sentiments come only from a bitter and lazy crowd that has forgotten America's founding principles: hard work and perseverance. This is not a time for this nation's educated youth to sulk behind school accounts frozen for non-payment, or to cry bitter tears over soon-to-be bounced checks. The students of this great country are now charged with following in the footsteps of their forefathers. As Washington slashed the throats of his enemies to protect our soil, so must the students of this country do whatever it takes to achieve the American Dream—if that means whacking a couple of grannies and pawning a few dime bags in the process, so be it. A crossroads stands before us, a challenge set for us to face. It is now our task to pull ourselves up by our boot(leg) straps, and respond.



Ashley Reed is managing editor for the OREGON COMMENTATOR and would never pay from there!

DTF?



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Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Radical immoderation

By CJ Ciaramella
Associate Editor

When the Oregon Commentator debuted 24 years ago in 1983, it was in the midst of the “Reagan Revolution.” The front-page article by Michael Rust, entitled “Radical moderation”, described the effects of this conservative tide on the liberal bastion of Eugene and the University of Oregon. As Rust explained,

“the most popular explanation seemed to be that some vast horde of religious fanatics had risen throughout the country with the general objective of wiping out tidy little citadels of progressivism such as Eugene.”

Now, 25 years later and far past those halcyon days of the Commentator’s beginnings, the situation seems very different and yet much the same. The roles have not changed; Leftist orthodoxy is still alive and well at the U of O, and the Commentator is still fighting against it, fighting for intellectual honesty and fiscal responsibility (and a wet campus). However, the momentum has shifted.

The years following 9/11 have seen the last nail in the coffin of small-government conservatism. In their time in power, Republicans managed to push through one awful idea after another – uncontrolled spending, dubious attempts at nation building, the erosion of civil liberties, an expanded, more powerful central government – until the word “conservative” became tainted with their brand of overbearing governance.

The general public became more and more disillusioned with these policies, culminating with the drubbing of Republicans in the 2006 mid-term elections. On campus, the effect was much the opposite of the great, red tide of 1980. Conservative thought, never widespread to begin with, was more isolated and benign than ever.

When I arrived at the University of Oregon in the fall of 2006, I was a somewhat typical, if conflicted, liberal with radical leanings, and Eugene seemed like a happening place to be. There were more farmer’s markets, bike paths and Dark Star Orchestra concerts than

time in the day. Shuttles ran right to Country Fair in the summer, and some generous hippies would no doubt give me a lift to Burning Man, if I wanted to go.

During that fall term, I saw a lot of what the campus had to offer. I investigated the various campus publications, clubs and activities. I filled out an application to be a DJ on KWVA but never turned it in. I walked into the Insurgent “office” for approximately one minute before deciding I couldn’t handle the inherent irony of being part of an anarchist collective in a state institution.

By the end of my first year at the U of O, any radical leanings I had were quickly destroyed. I saw what all those noble, liberal ideas – to foster diversity, to create tolerance and acceptance, to fight racism and inequality – looked like in practice.

For example, take an opinion piece written in the Daily Emerald last year by Ty Schwoeffermann entitled, “UO must reject its culture of whiteness.” In his article, Schwoeffermann claims that “people of color cannot relate to teachers at a Eurocentric university because they view history and politics completely differently.” Furthermore, he writes that he often “get[s] the impression that white people don’t expect people of color to succeed or that they do not have the ability to do so.” I won’t even bother to quote anything from Schwoeffermann’s infamous “Jungle fever” piece, in which he claims that all inter-racial relationships are doomed because of still-prevalent racism.

This kind of attitude wouldn’t be problematic if it was confined to a few asinine opinion articles, but people like Schwoeffermann

have a loud and powerful voice in student government. Last year, several senators in the ASUO were accused of being racist for not increasing the funding for student union groups by enough. Note that they were not cutting funding; they were simply not giving groups as much of an increase as they wanted. Today at the U of O, if you don’t completely submit to the ever-increasing demands of diversity, you risk being publicly defamed and attacked.

That was only one of the more egregious incidents in the ASUO last year, though. Juvenile name-calling, crying, croneyism and blatant disregard of Robert’s Rules of Order were commonplace. Jerome Roberts, one of the members of Con Court, even continued to receive stipends after he was no longer a student at the U of O, which he has so far yet to pay back.

This year is shaping up to be another fine example of student government in action. Even though a new group of reform-minded senators were elected, many of the “old guard” continue to hold seats and push their agenda. Senate President Athan Papailiou was already berated by perennial problem child Nate Gulley for daring to bring up the Jerome Roberts issue. With this kind of precedent being set, it’s almost guaranteed that things will break down again when budgeting time rolls around at the end of the school year.

Amateurish, schoolyard tactics are not confined to student government, however. Even at the top levels of the university’s administration these kind of things go on. For

Continued on Page 3

The making of a non-radical

Continued from Page 1

many years now, the U of O has been working on a "new-and-improved" diversity plan, filled with subjective benchmarks and fuzzy goals. Unfortunately, the administration has been completely unresponsive to criticisms of the plan; in fact, it has gone to almost draconian measures to stymie any questioning of it.

Economics Professor Bill Harbaugh, a vocal critic of the diversity plan, was forced to file an ethics complaint to get access to supposedly public records on the university's affirmative action plan. The administration found his repeated questioning so annoying that it sent him

a letter saying that any further questions would be ignored as far as the law allowed. As then Editor-in-Chief of the Commentator Ted Niedermeyer wrote, "it's almost bitterly amusing to see a University attempting to squash discourse and inquiry, the cornerstones of it's institutional *raison d'être*."

On top of this, the U of O is still mired in the same fault that Rust described in his original article — what he called "the pestilence of historical illiteracy," an almost willful disregard of the past.

For example, in the past few years the University of Oregon has invited both

Ward Churchill and Angela Davis as lecturers. Davis, a feminist figure from the 70's, somehow manages to be both an outspoken supporter of prison abolition and the communist regimes of Cuba and the bygone Soviet Union. Churchill, on the other hand, is a fringe radical and pretend Native American who was recently fired from his professorship for research misconduct. He is most infamous for writing that the victims of 9/11 were not really civilians, calling them instead "little Eichmanns." Both speakers were received with aplomb (and a hefty lecturer fee).

In the face of these problems, it would be easy to say that the Commentator is simply not relevant, that the masses have spoken, but now is not the time to compromise or fold. We can not afford to moderate in our criticisms, demands or consumption of alcohol. Rather, it is a time to reassert ever more strongly our principles, to call out our student and university leaders and not kowtow to the prevailing majority. In the face of these problems, the need of an independent and alternative voice on campus is greater than ever.

The culture gap is to blame for economic inequality

By Brink Lindsey

Reprinted from the Wall Street Journal

Cut through all the statistical squid ink surrounding the issue of economic inequality, and you'll find a phenomenon that genuinely deserves public concern.

Over the past quarter-century or so, the return on human capital has risen significantly. Or to put it another way, the opportunity cost of failing to develop human capital is now much higher than it used to be. The wage premium associated with a college degree has jumped to around 70% in recent years from around 30% in 1980; the graduate degree premium has soared to over 100% from 50%. Meanwhile, dropping out of high school now all but guarantees socioeconomic failure.

In part this development is cause for celebration. Rising demand for analytical and interpersonal skills has been driving the change, and surely it is good news that economic signals now so strongly encourage the development of human talent. Yet -- and here is the cause for concern -- the supply of skilled people is responding sluggishly to the increased demand.

Despite the strong incentives, the percentage of people with college degrees has been growing only modestly. Between 1995 and 2005, the share of men with college degrees inched up to 29% from 26%. And the number of high school dropouts remains stubbornly high: The ratio of diplomas awarded to 17-year-olds has been stuck around 70% for three decades.

Something is plainly hindering the effectiveness of the market's carrots and sticks. And that something is culture.

Before explaining what I mean, let me go back to the squid ink and clarify what's not worrisome about the inequality statistics. For those who grind their ideological axes on these numbers, the increase in measured inequality since the 1970s is

proof that the new, more competitive, more entrepreneurial economy of recent decades (which also happens to be less taxed and less unionized) has somehow failed to provide widespread prosperity. According to left-wing doom-and-gloomers, only an "oligarchy" at the very top is benefiting from the current system.

Hogwash. This argument can be disposed of with a simple thought experiment. First, picture the material standard of living you could have afforded back in 1979 with the median household income then of \$16,461. Now picture the mix of goods and services you could buy in 2004 with the median income of \$44,389. Which is the better deal? Only the most blinkered ideologue could fail to see the dramatic expansion of comforts, conveniences and opportunities that the contemporary family enjoys.

Much of the increase in measured inequality has nothing to do with the economic system at all. Rather, it is a product of demographic changes. Rising numbers of both single-parent households and affluent dual-earner couples have stretched the income distribution; so, too, has the big influx of low-skilled Hispanic immigrants. Meanwhile, in a 2006 paper published in the American Economic Review, economist Thomas Lemieux calculated that roughly three-quarters of the rise in wage inequality among workers with similar skills is due simply to the fact that the population is both older and better educated today than it was in the 1970s.

It is true that superstars in sports, entertainment and business now earn stratospheric incomes. But what is that to you and me? If the egalitarian left has been reduced to complaining that people in the 99th income percentile in a given year (and they're not the same people from year to year) are leaving behind those in the 90th

percentile, it has truly arrived at the most farcical of intellectual dead ends.

Which brings us back to the real issue: the human capital gap, and the culture gap that impedes its closure. The most obvious and heartrending cultural deficits are those that produce and perpetuate the inner-city underclass. Consider this arresting fact: While the poverty rate nationwide is 13%, only 3% of adults with full-time, year-round jobs fall below the poverty line. Poverty in America today is thus largely about failing to get and hold a job, any job.

The problem is not lack of opportunity. If it were, the country wouldn't be a magnet for illegal immigrants. The problem is a lack of elementary self-discipline: failing to stay in school, failing to live within the law, failing to get and stay married to the mother or father of your children. The prevalence of all these pathologies reflects a dysfunctional culture that fails to invest in human capital.

Other, less acute deficits distinguish working-class culture from that of the middle and upper classes. According to sociologist Annette Lareau, working-class parents continue to follow the traditional, *laissez-faire* child-rearing philosophy that she calls "the accomplishment of natural growth." But at the upper end of the socioeconomic scale, parents now engage in what she refers to as "concerted cultivation" -- intensively overseeing kids' schoolwork and stuffing their after-school hours and weekends with organized enrichment activities.

This new kind of family life is often hectic and stressful, but it inculcates in children the intellectual, organizational and networking skills needed to thrive in today's knowledge-based economy. In other words, it makes unprecedented, heavy investments in developing children's hu-

man capital.

Consider these data from the National Education Longitudinal Study, an in-depth survey of educational achievement. Among students who received high scores in eighth grade mathematics (and thus showed academic promise), 74% of kids from the highest quartile of socioeconomic status (measured as a composite of parental education, occupations and family income) eventually earned a college degree. By contrast, the college graduation rate fell to 47% for kids from the middle two quartiles, and 29% for those in the bottom quartile. Perhaps more generous financial aid might affect those numbers at the margins, but at the core of these big differentials are differences in the values, skills and habits taught in the home.

Contrary to the warnings of the alarmist left, the increase in economic inequality does not mean the economic system isn't working properly. On the contrary, the system is delivering more opportunities for comfortable, challenging lives than our culture enables us to take advantage of. Far from underperforming, our productive capacity has now outstripped our cultural capacity.

Alas, there is no silver bullet for closing the culture gap. But the public institutions most directly responsible for human capital formation are the nation's schools, and it seems beyond serious dispute that in many cases they are failing to discharge their responsibilities adequately. Those interested in reducing meaningful economic inequality would thus be well advised to focus on education reform. And forget about adding new layers of bureaucracy and top-down controls. Real improvements will come from challenging the moribund state-school monopoly with greater competition.

Editorial

Who We Are

Forget everything you've
read about us. You
should simply read us

This is zero hour for the OREGON COMMENTATOR. For the past three months, this publication has come under attack from members of student government, sundry student groups and ill-tempered individuals. We've been called bigoted, obscene and disrespectful. Secret meetings have been held with administrators, letter-writing campaigns have been instituted and grievances have been filed.

Frankly, these people hate us; they consider us their enemies. But why? Is it our pro-gay marriage stance? Or have we ruffled their feathers by insisting that drug decriminalization is superior to the costly and impotent War on Drugs? Have we bewildered them by being more in line with P.J. O'Rourke, Shelby Steele, Milton Friedman, Chris Hitchens and Friedrich Hayek than Michelle Malkin, Rush Limbaugh, Anne Coulter and Michael Savage? Are we, perhaps, not the conservatives they envisioned?

Nope. I doubt that our enemies even read this publication. They have a nebulous understanding of our political outlook, based on the words "conservative publication" in our mission statement, and that's good enough. Clearly, they're too closed-minded to look past the label (or look past their own preconceived notions of what a conservative is) to view the underlying ideology of this magazine. If our enemies think that a group of individuals that supports gay marriage, drug decriminalization and pornography – not to mention a group of that vociferously defends the First Amendment with every molecule in its collective tar-blackened lungs -- is a propagator of bigoted hate speech, then they will have an eye-opening experience in the real world. Or perhaps these people are priming themselves for profitable careers as personal offense takers – cogs in the special interest lobbying machine.

I think I hear the Rainbow Coalition calling.

And this is what makes this situation so frustrating. Are our critics – our enemies – so detached from the real world that they expect everyone to take their ideas seriously, to respect their viewpoints no matter how inchoate, frivolous or silly?

Inevitably, content complaints are directed at our humor. We have often been described as "sophomoric" -- though I think the

word they're looking for is "sub-sophomoric", as we have freshmen on staff who take the word sophomoric as a compliment – but more recently the label "hateful" has been added. And let's not forget the claims that we promote violence.

The reason for this is the result of targeting a student senator, Toby Hill-Meyer, for mockery. Hill-Meyer happens to be a self-promoted gender queer. We never mocked Hill-Meyer for his being different. We mocked his politicizing of his being different. Hill Meyer insists that everyone use the pronouns ze (he) and hir (him), because he "doesn't fit into traditional gender roles". We have simply addressed his dogmatic insistence that by unilaterally declaring himself to be of a nebulously defined new gender, with its own set of pronouns, he immediately attains the status of an oppressed minority – a minority of one. The last thing we need at this university is more navel-gazing faux oppression.

Satire has the power to offend. We clearly understand that. And we are not so egotistical as to believe that every joke, every satirical jab we make is Swiftian. However, we are strong believers in dialogue -- even if that dialogue takes a bemused tone rather than rapt seriousness.

So here's our offer, made publicly and in the spirit of a free press: Toby, if you're that pissed off, we'll give you a page to run in our long-running Another Perspective slot. You would receive 500 – 700 words in every issue, unedited. Say what you like, as long as it's legal. This is our olive branch. Take it or leave it.

As an unstipended student group, we can't offer you remuneration, but we can offer you a voice. That's what we're here for, after all.