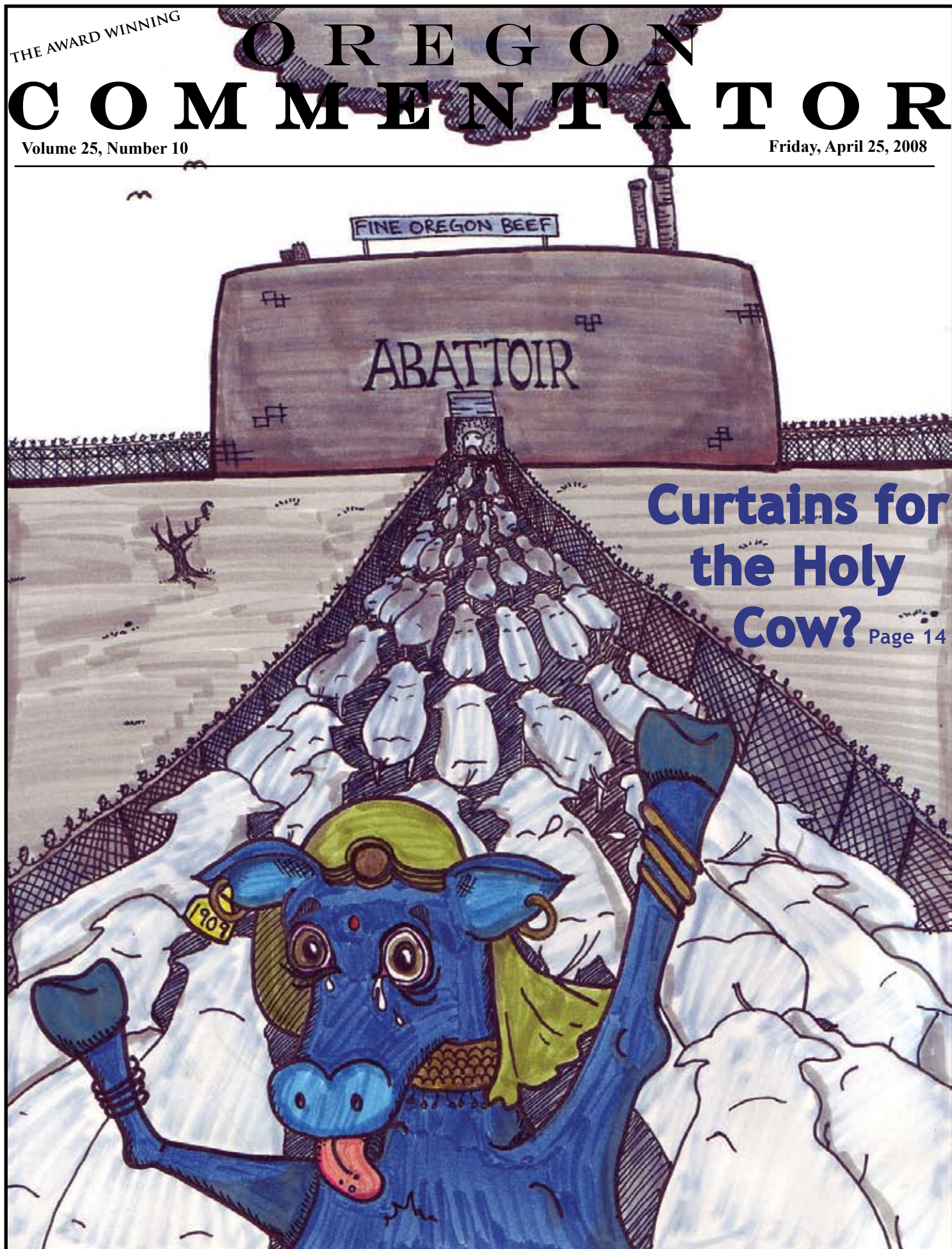


THE AWARD WINNING

# OREGON COMMENTATOR

Volume 25, Number 10

Friday, April 25, 2008



**Curtains for  
the Holy  
Cow?** Page 14



Founded Sept. 27th, 1983      Member Collegiate Network

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Philip Ossie Bladine

**Securities Associate**  
Guy Simmons

**Resident Speed Drinker**  
Jake Speicher

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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-four 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

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Cover illustration by Katy Rossing



“Always remember that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.”

**THE OREGON COMMENTATOR**  
**ANTI-SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES**



# A True Story

By Matthew Tham

On April 5, I was at a friend's birthday party when the cops decided to invite themselves in and ruin the fun for everyone. In the process of leaving the party, I got separated from my ride home so I made what I thought was the smart decision and decided to walk to my Duck's Village apartment from 14<sup>th</sup> & High. For those who don't know, that's about a mile and half away. A few blocks into the walk I saw some girl walking by herself. As I walked past this girl she jumped about three feet in complete terror of my presence, explaining that she thought I was a homeless man with AIDS who had been biting people all around Eugene (The fact that this person can possibly exist is one of the many reasons I hate the homeless of Eugene). It took more effort than it should have, but I was eventually able to convince her that I was in fact, not a homeless man with a biting fetish. After she accepted this, she asked me the only question you can ask a random person you meet on the street: "Would you like to smoke some pot?"

Now most people would frown upon doing drugs with strangers, especially strangers who thought you were an HIV+ hobo. But I'm not most people. I told her I'd love to.

So we go to this girl's house and she gives me her bong and to make things even better, hands me a beer. Within a matter of minutes I've gone from an STD spreading vagrant, to someone this girl feels like sharing her pot and booze with. Then she asked me a question, a question that completely blew me away. What can actually surprise me at this point you may ask? Well, here it is. She asked me if I wanted a steak.

I felt like I had hit the jackpot. My night went from a multi-mile walk mildly sober, to one filled with gifts of joy and intoxication. I was the luckiest person in all of Eugene, right? Maybe not, because that's when I began to worry. I realized this could very well all be a set up to take advantage of me in intimate ways. If you haven't met me you should know I'm no model, but I fall in at least the 7.5-8 category. The horror that fell over me is unexplainable. I love sex with women, but I really wasn't sure if I'd love it after it had become forced. My fears got worse when she told me I should probably just stay the night instead of walking. At this point I was scanning for exits, and I was ready to make a run for it. However, before I made my escape attempt, she put my worries to rest and told me I'd have to stay on the couch, as she wasn't about to let some random dude sleep with her. In any case, I still had someone pick me up and drive me home to safety.

As I look back on the night many parts of it are still a blur of drunkenness. This includes her name and what she looked like, along with whether or not she actually gave me that steak. Regardless, I want to thank this girl, whoever she is. She has showed me there are nicer people in Eugene than I had thought, people who are willing to get you high and drunk just because it's the kind thing to do. However, she did shatter my lifelong belief that everyone is out to take advantage of me sexually, and I may never forgive her for that.



*Matt Tham is a contributor to the OC and has some pretty fucked up stories.*

## What Ever Happened To...

- \* Slamball
- \* Aquasocks
- \* Brian Bogart
- \* Kel from "Kenan and Kel"
- \* Johnny 5
- \* Surge Cola
- \* Predictability, the milk-man, the paper boy, evening T.V.

## Corrections in April. 8 OC Issue

~ Due to an editor's error, Isaac Settles' and Joanna Johnson's answers were switched in our ASUO Candidate Questionnaire. The OC regrets if readers got the wrong impression of who the candidates would like to be trapped on a desert island with.

- Due to an editor's error, the font "Comic Sans MS" was mistakenly referred to as "Comic Sams MS." The OC regrets the error.

- Due to a reporter's error Kari Herinckx's name was spelled "Hernickx" several times. Jake Speicher regrets the error.

~ Due to an editor's error, a comma was missing in the "Corrections in Feb. 22 OC Issue" section. The OC regrets the irony.

- The editorial contained the headline "Con Court can lick our collective nuts." The OC would like to clarify that our nuts are, first and foremost, individuals and reject any collectivist ideology that would impinge or restrict their testicular freedom. However, our nuts reserve the right to voluntarily associate and peacefully assemble with each other for acts of political protest, including but not limited to being licked by Constitution Court.

## Sudsy Says:



**"Pure satisfaction is urinating on someone."**

## **Senator Obama Exercises Dangerous Judgement**

On April 5, 2008 in a speech in San Francisco Senator Obama stated that people who live in small towns in Pennsylvania and the Midwest are "bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations." These are very offensive remarks by someone who professes to associate closely with the workers of America. It shows Obama has an arrogant and elitist attitude towards people who are less fortunate than himself and gives some insight into what he thinks about this country. He is a condescending, divisive and dangerous person who could get this country into deep trouble domestically and in the world.

We recently learned about a fanatical extremist pastor of Obama's church who has been spewing hateful sermons about the U.S., the white race and Israel during the time Obama has been an active member of the church. The pastor is Senator Obama's mentor, he married the Obama's and he baptized their children. Rev. Wright was on Senator Obama's African American Religious Leadership Committee. Senator Obama had to hear some of these anti-American, hateful and bigoted sermons over the previous 20 years, and had to talk with other members of the church who heard the "God Damn America" remark. Most recently Wright said the founders "planted slavery and white supremacy in the DNA of this republic."

In a recent interview someone asked Senator Obama what he would do if he was given \$1 billion dollars to use as he wishes. He said he would pay off the mortgage on his house and give the rest to his wife. Then, after some thought, he said he would give a lot of the money to charities and contribute several hundred million dollars for mosquito netting to fight malaria in Africa. Now, granted the netting will protect the people when they are under the netting, and will help protect infants, but what happens when the people venture out from the netting? What

about trying to eradicate the breeding grounds of the mosquitoes? What about the much more serious problem of HIV/AIDS in Africa? Does this sound like a great thinker with excellent judgement?

Recently, in discussing Afghanistan and Pakistan, Obama said "I think it would be a profound mistake for us to use nuclear weapons in any circumstance involving civilians." Then he caught himself and said, "Let me scratch that." Should he be making off the cuff statements about the use or nonuse of nuclear weapons? Is he implying he would use nuclear weapons against military targets?

Concerning Senator Obama's patriotism, I believe he is patriotic, but he shows terrible judgement in this area. He has refused to wear a U.S. flag pin in his lapel because he feels he can show patriotism in other ways, he did not place his hand over his heart for the playing of the national anthem during an Iowa campaign event.

All of these missteps paint a picture of someone with poor judgement and someone who is not ready to lead this country in a time of peril.

**Donald A. Moskowitz**  
**Londonderry, NH**

## **ASUO Elections**

WTF!? I can't vote for the primaries b/c I'm out of the country, and I'm pissed, as are the other U of O students over here that want to vote. If you can shake a fist to the powers that be and make sure our voices are heard dammit! Or at the very least print this!....Fuck the ASUO!

**Matt Walsh**  
**Siberian Polecat**

## **Another Smoke-in?**

I didn't know that your smoke in at the emu happened like 6 months ago until today. in light of the survey that is now being distributed I think it would be sweet to have another one, perhaps bigger. Of all the people i know that smoke, i don't think any of them knew about your smoke out. maybe a bit more high profile?

**Anne Buzzini**  
**University Student**

## **Hey OC**

I just recently restarted my U of O career after a 6 year "layoff", and I was ecstatic that the Commentator is still around, and still top notch stuff. Thank you.

Fuck the ODE.  
Keep up the good work.  
**Lee Kearcher**

## **Duct Tape?**

Hello, we were just inquiring about our duct tape you borrowed from us. Did you use it all? If not, can you please return it as soon as possible?

**ASUO Office Assistants**

## **Chalk and Awe**

EMU Facilities has made a request of ASUO to remind all individuals using chalking as a means of advertising that chalking on any upright/vertical surfaces is against UO Policy. Thank you,

**Nicole Nelson,**  
**ASUO Office Coordinator**

## **Free Health Tips**

I hope this email finds you feeling your best. Today I would like to talk to you about a common problem known as acid reflux or acid indigestion. Millions of people needlessly suffer from this on a daily basis.

When you go to your favorite store you can find countless remedies for this problem. They come in pink pills, purple pills, white pills, mint tasting and terrible tasting mixtures, but there are some simple solutions to this problem:

1. Stop eating garbage from fast food restaurants.
2. Drink more water.
3. If you've eaten something that you think will cause a problem, or if you start to feel a problem coming on, drink a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar in a small glass of water.

The best apple cider vinegar is the one that appears to be cloudy in the bottle and you should shake it lightly before using.

Healthfully Yours,  
**Steve Fisher, ND**

Do you have an opinion about the Oregon Commentator? Let us know about it.  
Send letters to the editor to [ocomment@uoregon.edu](mailto:ocomment@uoregon.edu)

# WE DIDN'T SELL OUT WE BOUGHT IN

The flood of grievances has stopped. Sam Dotters-Katz and Johnny Delashaw are victorious, as were many on the Oregon Action Team Slate. A serious blow has been dealt to the special interests that have had a stranglehold on campus politics.

However, not all is well. A lot of people, not just our regular critics, have accused us of playing partisan politics. There are whispers that the Commentator has come down off of its high horse for a chance to be on the winning side for once. Frankly, it wouldn't be a bad idea. Who would blame us for abandoning our morals to stride the halls of power, to call in favors and trod the lowly plebs beneath our feet?

Well, as we sit in our newly remodeled opium den/office sipping Cristal and adjusting our monocles [see picture right], let us make it absolutely clear: We didn't throw our weight behind the Oregon Action Team because they promised to let us put a stripper pole in the office or add a "unicorn slaying" line-item to our budget. We endorsed them because they were obviously the better choice.

Rock the Yellow represented business as usual – special interests and bandwagon mentalities, the same dog and pony show that's been running student politics on this campus since God knows when. In short, they represented everything that the Commentator has stood against in its near 25 years of existence.

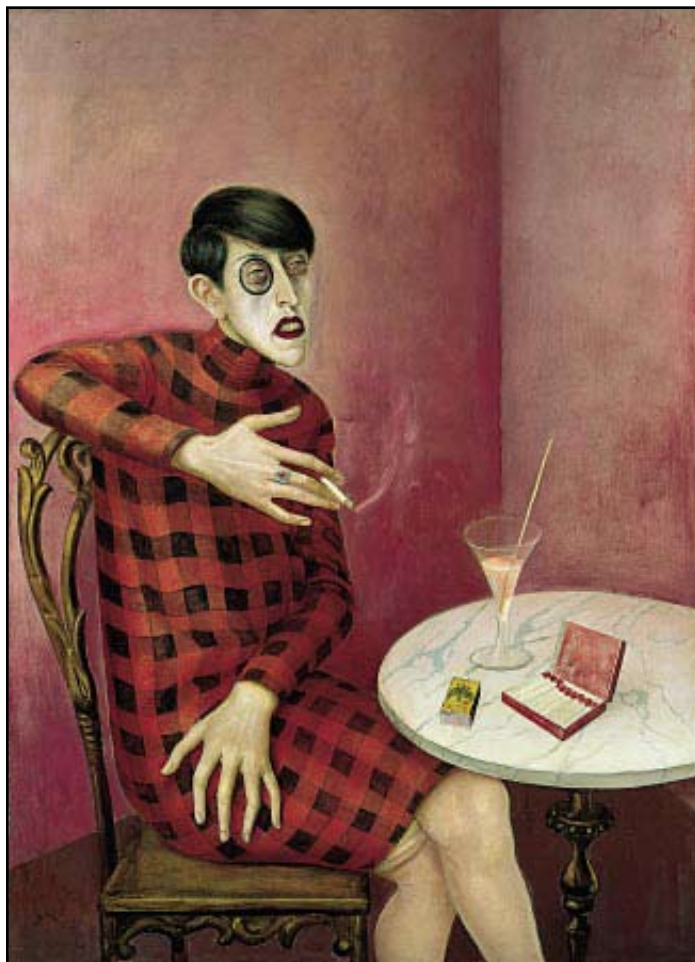
Of course, the Oregon Daily Emerald decided to endorse Rock the Yellow for these exact reasons. Go figure. Maybe it's just us, but having "insider experience" in a corrupt system doesn't sound like the best qualification.

A distinction needs to be made here, though. Our beef with OSPIRG, the MCC, et al has always primarily been about their tactics not their goals. Keeping the scenery green and increasing diversity aren't bad in and of themselves, but we object when they involve surreptitious money-funneling and stifling of open discussion.

It was enjoyable getting to know Dotters-Katz and Delashaw as care-free, fun-loving students. Unfortunately, they are now politicians engaged in a life-sucking organization built on hearsay and run on self-perpetuating measures. It's not something we would wish upon ourselves, but God bless them and their masochist tendencies. We hope they make it out with their conscience intact, not to mention their sanity.

As should be obvious by now, the Commentator doesn't place much faith in the democratic process. In fact, we're usually a cynical bunch of bastards. It's somewhat out of character for us to express anything resembling hope. The fact that we gave Dotters-Katz, Delashaw and crew the benefit of the doubt says a lot, but it doesn't mean we're giving them a free pass. We'll hold them accountable just like everyone else.

With that in mind, we would urge all of the newly elected Oregon Action Team members, as well as Rock the Yellow, to avoid falling into the same patterns that have plagued the ASUO in years past – namely corruption, cronyism and self-service. And while we're at it, how about name-calling and crying? If the ASUO acts like big boys and girls next



**The effete, cross-dressing journalists of the Commentator bask in their newfound power and influence.**

year, we'll give them all lollipops.

We're still obligated to be cynical bastards, though. If time has taught us anything, it's that real change is hard to come by. For example, back in the '90s OSPIRG was completely defunded by a general vote of the student body. A year later, it was reinstated by the ASUO Execs. We hope as much as anybody that Dotters-Katz, Delashaw and crew will really mix shit up, but it must be realized that next year will not be the magic bullet that fixes everything. It will not be the beginning of the end, as Churchill once said, but it just might be "the end of the beginning."

Now that we've got all that doom and gloom out of the way, where's the troupe of nubile, Chinese gymnasts we were promised?



## How to Make a Manly Margarita

Margaritas get a bad rap. The sugary-sweet drink, with its many flavors and variations, conjures up images of drunken sorority girls exposing their breasts in a south of the border bar during Spring Break. However, the Margarita deserves better. Hell, Jimmy Buffett thought they were so awesome that they inspired a number one song and a chain of overpriced restaurants.

Yet, the myth continues to be perpetuated that Margaritas are a "girl drink." This is an injustice that can no longer continue. It's an insult to tequila; it's an insult to warm weather, and damn it, it's an insult to Jimmy Buffett.

The key to drinking a manly margarita is to make it yourself. First, this allows you to control the manliness of the drink (i.e. the ratio of tequila to margarita mix), and second, your creating something. Not only do you feel manly for making something with your hands, but women have more respect for a man who can make stuff as opposed to a man who can talk to a waiter (It's science, trust me). However, the ultimate key to making a manly margarita is to not measure anything except the amount of alcohol you put in the blender.

First, fill the blender with ice. Duh, you need ice for a margarita. Also, you have to use a blender. Don't be lazy and make a "margarita on the rocks." No one wants to drink that. Next, put five shots of tequila in the blender as well as 2 1/2 shots of triple sec. Use triple sec. Triple sec is a magical liquid that takes the edge off the tequila while still being alcohol. The final step is adding your mix. Add to preference. I usually pour in enough mix so that the ice becomes buoyant. Now, blend.

The result should be a Manly Margarita. There are two reasons for this, first the lime mix actually accentuates the tequila flavor instead of over-powering it, and second if you split it with your lady friend, the two of you will be drinking around 3 shots of alcohol. If that doesn't get the two of you going, you're both alcoholics, and you should just start right in with the body shots.

~ Jake Speicher

Super



asks ...

### What's your kryptonite?



#### Batman:

Pre-pubescent boys in leotards and nosy butlers.



#### T Rex:

F-15 Fighter Jets



#### Ironman:

Cocaine



#### Superman:

Duh.

#### Robocop:

Magnets



#### Wonder Woman:

That damn glass ceiling!



#### Iceman:

Inconvenient Truths



#### The Thing:

Erosion and other natural weather forces



#### Sudsy:

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission. Those guys are like erectile dysfunction caked in six of the 10 plagues.



#### Leonidas:

Arrows, lots of 'em.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON TOBACCO ENTHUSIASTS PRESENT

# **The 1st annual springtime Great American Smoke-in**

**Does the idea  
of a smoke-free  
campus make  
you cringe?  
Join us for an  
afternoon of  
nicotine delight!  
Bring your cigs,  
cigars, pipes and  
hookahs.**

**Monday May 12  
EMU Amphitheater 11 am - 2 pm**



# Smokers unite

*An enflaming piece against the smoking ban.*

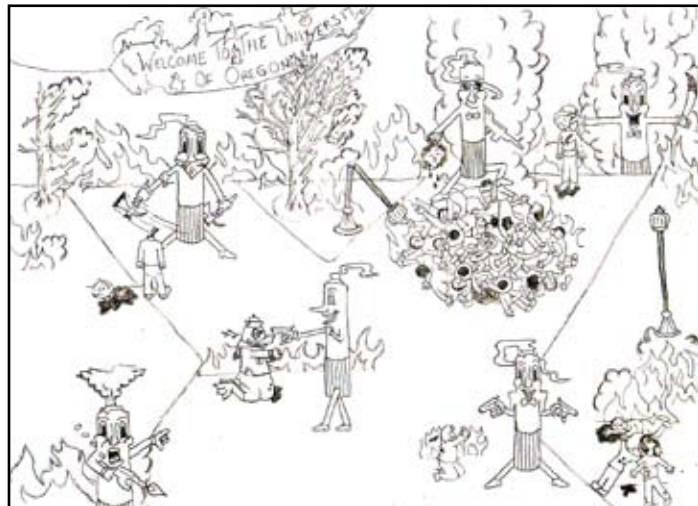
Carly Erickson

While back I heard rumors about possibly making the University of Oregon a non-smoking campus. As a smoker, this greatly offended me. However, months passed and nothing seemed to be happening to make this nightmare a reality. Then, a couple of days ago, a nasty little e-mail was dropped into my inbox, asking me to fill out a survey about my thoughts on the smoking ban. After furiously answering “strongly disagree” to many of the questions, I began wondering what good it would possibly do to take away smokers’ freedom.

Apparently, according to the article in the ODE (1/17/08), it’s a “life or death” decision about whether or not smoking on campus will continue. Seriously, you’ve got to be kidding me. What kind of world are you living in? I’m sure all the people who are arguing for the smoking ban constantly find themselves in situations where way more smokers are present. Parties, anyone? Outside bars? Hell, I see more people smoking outside the hospital than I do on campus. Their other argument is even worse, they claim that, “... a smoke-free campus may also deter students who do not smoke from starting the habit”. Really? You think people start smoking because of the people they see on campus? Right. People will start smoking if they want to, no matter what. I was 15 and nobody could stop my tobacco-hungry little teenage self. The bigger threats are the smokers that these poor defenseless non-smokers run into off-campus, not on it. The only part of their argument I can possibly kind of agree with is the litter. But, to be honest, I always throw my butts in the trash, and if there were enough places to dispose of them, everybody would do the same. But in the end, the argument against smokers is flimsy, and I’m just plain angry.

I understand the whole second-hand smoke argument. Yes, I get it, it bothers you non-believers; it is so unbearably disgusting that you cannot even let the scent waft near your face for three seconds as you pass one of us low-life smokers. But I have to ask, is it that hard to just walk around the smoker and ignore it? Does it really bother you that much? Are you that weak of a human being? I personally think people giving me Ramen to promote themselves/their organization and the “free hugs” people are way more annoying than a bit of smoke. Yes, I understand, second hand smoke kills, but so does skin cancer and obesity, and they’re not going to stop people from eating what they want and discontinue sunlight, now are they?

Think about how much it would inconvenience us smokers if we weren’t allowed to feed our habit on campus. Come on, non-smokers, stop being such elitists for 10 minutes and think about who this ban would really effect. We’d have



to make it to whichever crap designated smoking area was closest (which you’d still have to suffer past anyways) and probably be late for everything. I’d personally choose to enjoy a cigarette and be 10 minutes late to anything than be on time and sit uncomfortably through it, dreaming about the box of Camels in my bag; but I may not be able to just because some douchebag can’t stand the smell of smoke. And then, think about how bad that little section would be, the smoke would just billow for feet around it. Even worse, think about crossing the picket line onto campus, 13th would be a regular outdoor tobacco bar.

Cigarettes have been an important part of history. Think about all the people way cooler than you that smoke (Sean Penn, for instance). Further, cigarettes are a social device: sharing a cigarette, lending a cigarette, enjoying a cigarette. Smokers have a bond, if somebody asks me for a cigarette on campus, I never say no. Cigarette Karma is real. I have made friends through smoke breaks; ciggy time is a time of conversation and bonding, something you non-smokers will never understand. They are our freedom, and it should not be taken away from us.

In the end, it is each person’s individual choice whether they smoke or not. Just as you choose whether or not you eat meat, or whether or not you consume alcohol. In any case, it is my freedom to smoke. This is America, damnit, it’s my air just as much as it is yours, and I need a cigarette.



*Carly Erickson is a contributor to the OC and has never been seen without a cigarette in her hand. Seriously.*

# R.I.P. Jimmy Carter

**(whenever you decide to finally kick the bucket)**

*Though many see Carter as a lovable ex-president who now builds homes for the underprivileged, he is actually a terrorist-loving rabbit killer.*

Greg Campbell

I walked down the street, scuffling them every fourth step or so. I was tired. I was in Bandon and had been shopping for most of the day. Suddenly, in the mix of countless Myrtlewood shops and hippy-stores, I found a bookstore that I could duck into and quickly embrace the written word. I looked forward to clutching Glenn Beck's new book in my hand. Instead, I was accosted by the sight of "The Personal Beliefs of Jimmy Carter: Winner of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize". The book was of course written by Jimmy Carter.

I could not decide which was worse; that Jimmy Carter wrote a book detailing his belief system and referred to himself both in the third person and shamefully announced his Nobel Prize, or that someone, somewhere might actually buy a book written by this shitbag. And then I thought "Isn't he dead yet?" Unfortunately, no, he was not.

I decided that I would write an obituary for Carter. Unfortunately, he had not died. So, I decided that I would wait until he had, but that, too, had its problems. After Gerald Ford died, there could be no real discussion of his shortcomings for fear of trampling on a dead man's grave. So, I did the math. Let's say it's another two years until Carter dies, and then another year after that until I can actually call him an asshole. The thought of waiting three years to call him out on his ineptitude proved to be too much. I decided then and there that I would simply write an article now so that we can all engage in honest discussion regarding Jimmy Carter's utter failure as president and his condescending attitude since leaving office.

Now, it should be noted that it is not this author's intent to create a detailed list that enumerates all failures and treasonous words uttered by our ex-president. Instead, I trust that this article will serve to pique our readers' interests, and thus motivate them to explore for themselves the train

---

**When not fellating tyrants, Carter crusades against the evil empire of America by demanding that we lift our trade embargo on Cuba.**

---

wreck that is Jimmy Carter.

I guess some of my problems with Carter stem not, necessarily, from him, but from the ignorance of my generation. People look at this kindly, old house-building man and think, "oh, isn't he nice! He cares about poor people." Well, I've had enough of this shit. Yes, let it be said that Jimmy Carter is not all bad and completely void of anything useful. Likewise, let it be said that Hitler was a lover of animals and provided economic stability to a failing Germany. The point: someone does not have to be completely worthless to be denounced as a complete asshole.

Carter spends his days denouncing the Republican party for only caring about the rich, meanwhile Jimmy-do-Right is in some middle class neighborhood building shitty shotgun homes and working to move in the lower class to cripple that community's housing market like he crippled America's economy 30 years prior.

Furthermore, I take issue with this President who, when not discussing nuclear weapon proliferation with his 12-year-old daughter or attacking rabbits with an oar, kissed the ass of every dictator and despot under the sun, and continues to do so. It was Carter who asked the Shah of Iran to capitulate to the Ayatollah Khomeini, thus ushering in an era of chaos and unbridled opportunity in the Middle East for radical Islamic groups that would strengthen

exponentially in the following 30 years since this disaster of a foreign policy move.

Sadly, it was Jimmy's slaughter of the defense budget coupled with his "If we grab our ankles, maybe they won't hurt us" foreign policies that allowed some brazen college students to overrun our embassy in Tehran and capture 66 people and hold 52 of them for over a year. Today, our former embassy building is used to house, recruit and train radical Islamic terrorists. It's absolutely shameful.

Finally, Jimmy had had enough and ordered a rescue mission. However, because of his micromanaging of the operation and his slashing of the defense budget, the operation could not even manage to put forth a pathetic attempt at rescuing the hostages, as the operation crashed in the desert. The whole thing was reminiscent of a baby fawn trying to stand up and falling down. On Jimmy Carter's watch we were being pushed around by college students. They were unafraid of Jimmy Carter and his weak presidency, for good cause. The man was scared shitless of a rabbit swimming towards his boat. It really makes one wonder how Jimmy would have handled the September 11 attacks.

Carter's policies of appeasement when dealing with despots both while President and after his term are reminiscent of Neville Chamberlain's policies when dealing with Hitler's aggression. To make matters worse, he has appointed himself the unofficial ambassador to every nation that has a beef with America. Unfortunately, this senile people-pleaser loves to side with anyone Anti-American. Carter now spends his days denouncing all of his successors for doing a better job than he ever did. He does so with outstanding levels of unabashed self-promotion and tactlessness; prompting the Bush administration to aptly label Carter as "increasingly irrelevant". I finally found





something that the Bush administration and I agree on.

Prior to the first Gulf War, it was Carter that begged the U.N. Security council to oppose our impending invasion to liberate Kuwait. He said that our invasion would destabilize the Middle East and send us into a long, drawn-out war that was ultimately unwinnable for either side. Of course, his fear that we would destabilize the remarkably unstable Middle East was unfounded, as his presidency had already created a clusterfuck there 15 years prior to our invasion. It should be noted that we won the war with minimal casualties, thanks in large part to “smart-bombs” and other technology that was developed with a defense budget that had been restored since Carter had left office.

After the Gulf War, Carter got really cozy with Yassir Arafat. It was during this time that he worked to secure funding for Arafat that would be used to support his genocidal regime. Hell, Jimmy even wrote a speech for Arafat and has numerous times denounced Ariel Sharon and lambasted the Bush administration for our foreign policies in the Middle East. But don’t worry, the dictators and murderers that Carter befriends reward him handsomely. I guess treasonous alliances with hostile dictators pay well.

But don’t mistakenly believe that Jimmy only kisses the ass of Middle Eastern dictators. No, Jimmy is a friend of all whose goals are the elimination of rights or opinions other than their own. Jimmy has given a ringing endorsement of Kim Jong Il and has even supported North Korea’s efforts in creating a nuclear weapons program. Apparently, Jimmy has learned nothing from his heart-to-heart with his daughter, Amy.

When not fellating tyrants, Carter

crusades against the evil empire of America by demanding that we lift our trade embargo on Cuba. Though the Communist country has a long history of oppression of its people and human rights violations, Carter still claims that, “These restraints are not the source of Cuba’s economic problems”. I find it increasingly difficult to believe that there was a time where people thought having this asshole in office was a good idea.

Carter was recently quoted as saying, “In a democracy, I realize that you don’t need to talk to the top leader to know how the country feels. When I go to a dictatorship, I only have to talk to one person and that’s the dictator, because he speaks for all the people.” It is amazing that this democratically elected official now denounces the very fundamental ideas of our nation, as he actually believes that a dictator better represents the interests of his people.

Let’s pretend for a moment that one is the CEO of a major company. Say, Microsoft, for example. When this CEO gives away a major company asset (such as the Panama Canal was to American shipping interests) and runs the company into the ground, shouldn’t it be safe to assume that once the share holders have ousted this dumbfuck, his advice on how the company should be run is no longer welcomed? Likewise, this country should never be interested in what Jimmy has to say about anything. Ever.

To top it all off, Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, thus lowering the standards of the formerly prestigious organization to such a level that they would later give one to Al Gore for spreading environmental alarmism. However, as ridiculous as Gore receiving anything but a kick in the ass is, at least he never made a career



**Top: Carter during the famous “killer rabbit” incident.**

**Above: BFFs in a warm embrace**

out of supporting mass murderers and terrorists while simultaneously accepting an award for peace.

Finally, I want people of my generation to understand that this kindly old man who desperately wants to create a legacy of importance for himself has, in fact, produced few things of value in this world. If I thought for a moment that Carter’s intent was about actually helping the world instead of his desires to line his pockets with terrorist’s money and to secure a false legacy, then perhaps this author would be more likely to cut the senile shithead some slack. But it just isn’t so. With any luck, this crooked asshole will simply fade into obscurity and ultimately be remembered as the failure he has always, and will always, be.



*Greg Campbell is a contributor to the OC and secretly loves Billy Beer.*



# There is still hope for the Holy Cow

*Both sides are only talking to lawyers about contract negotiations for the EMU spot occupied by Holy Cow, but co-owner Kathee Lavine is still saying her business is not going anywhere*

Ashley Burton

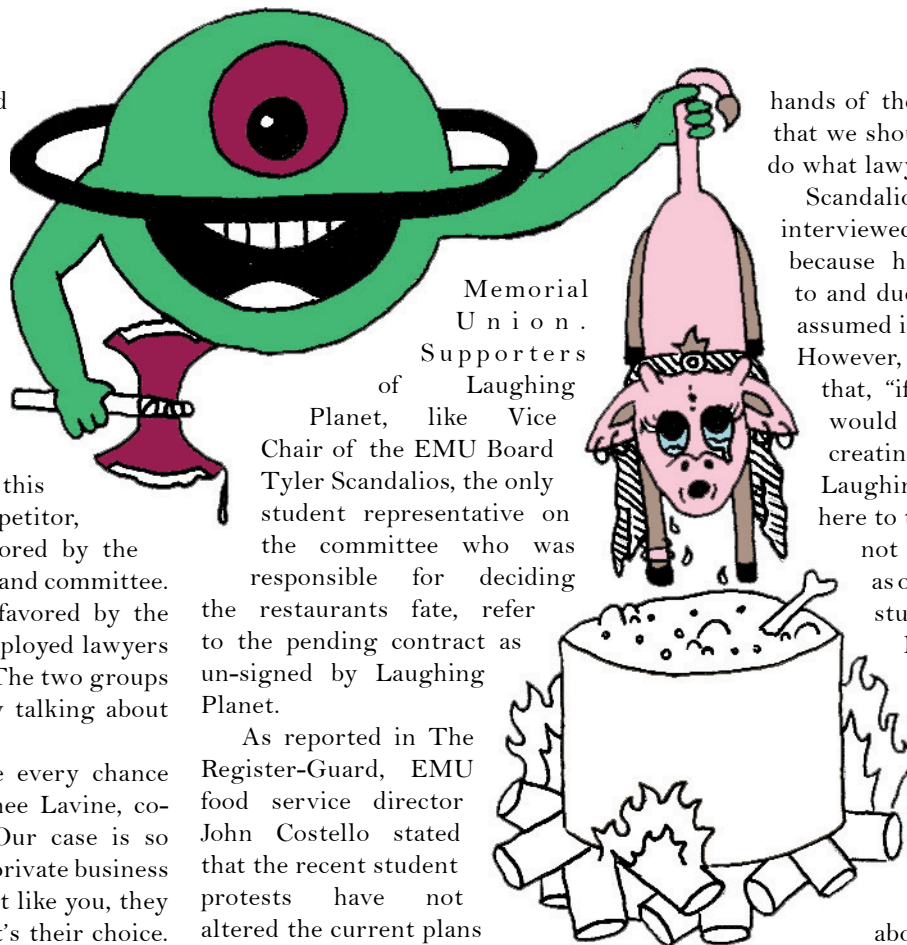
For those blessed few who only read the Oregon Commentator, let me catch you up to speed on the Holy Cow issue.

Holy Cow's lease is up at the end of June. Instead of being offered a lease renewal, they were faced with competition for their space in the EMU. At this point, it seems their competitor, Laughing Planet, is favored by the EMU board of directors and committee. However, Holy Cow is favored by the student body and has employed lawyers as part of their protest. The two groups of lawyers are currently talking about the contract in question.

"Of course, we have every chance in the world," said Kathee Lavine, co-owner of Holy Cow. "Our case is so strong...this is not like a private business where if someone doesn't like you, they can get rid of you and it's their choice. This is a university where you have to have a lot more responsibility."

Or at least one would hope.

There are to be two sides to this Holy Cow vs. Laughing Planet debate. Naturally, but the difference in opinion is drastic. Representatives from Holy Cow say they believe the vegetarian restaurant will be renewing its lease with the Erb



Memorial Union. Supporters of Laughing Planet, like Vice Chair of the EMU Board Tyler Scandalios, the only student representative on the committee who was responsible for deciding the restaurants fate, refer to the pending contract as un-signed by Laughing Planet.

As reported in The Register-Guard, EMU food service director John Costello stated that the recent student protests have not altered the current plans for the space in the EMU.

"It's not how the decision is made," Costello said.

EMU Director Dusty Miller decided that it was better to have a nice polite chat instead of talking about the pending matters between Laughing Planet and Holy Cow. He said that he could not comment due to the fact that it is in the

hands of the lawyers and noted that we should, "let the lawyers do what lawyers do."

Scandalios refused to be interviewed for this story because he was advised not to and due to the fact that he assumed it was pro Holy Cow. However, he did let me know that, "if the Commentator would be interested in creating a piece pro-Laughing Planet coming here to the EMU (they have not signed the contract as of yet), and interview students who are pro-Laughing planet coming, I would be glad to provide supplementary quotes and information."

I found it confusing that he could not talk about Holy Cow, but was willing to talk about Laughing Planet. Aren't they competing for the same contract, which is with the same lawyers that told him not to talk about the matter? And I know this isn't bash on Scandalios day, but according to Lavine, he was not even

TURN TO HOLY COW, PAGE 21

# A beefed-up Holy Cow would be best

Ossie Bladine

I am split on the decision of what restaurant should be in the EMU space currently occupied by the Holy Cow. Laughing Planet is potentially a more financially successful decision, thus providing a modicum on funding for our shrinking student union. There are five food options on the EMU's main level, one being a cafe/deli; I don't think 20 percent of University students are vegetarian, so having a meatless restaurant only makes sense to a minority of students, myself not included.

Holy Cow, however, is a local business. A long time ago, before big corporations paved the way for unions to ruin the economy, people shopped at home. They bought attire from the tailor on the corner of main and 3rd, vegetables at the open market, household necessities at the mart and meat from Bruno, the amiable local butcher. Money spent in the community circulates throughout the community and strengthens the local economy. I don't care so much about Eugene's economy, but shopping local is a time-honored conservative practice that should be respected by our generation.

With the economically obese nature of America today, however, buying within the state, or even the Pacific Northwest, is a reputable definition of shopping local, and Portland-based Laughing Planet seems like a well-established and environmentally friendly operation. So if the EMU Board sides with the Planet in this case, I'm not going to have a cow, but I do reserve the right to say Holy Cow should have a renewed contract ... as long as they serve local meat.

Holy Cow is deemed a model business and service to the University. Having that alternative to the crazed carnivorous omnivore food joints is saving the University from eternal



Katy Rossing

damnation, the hippies say. But, the majority of students crave meat for lunch. The Cow is only servicing a minority. What a great service it would be to the University, however, if there was a place on campus where students could buy organic, local meat product? More people would eat at Holy Cow; business would go up; students would have access to healthy meat products. I would easily pay \$7.50 for a fresh hamburger and side salad or \$10.50 for an 8 oz steak and home roasted potatoes rather than a five dollar foot long from subway.

To be clear, advocating for the Holy Cow in this case does not make me a hippy. If Hank Hill can side with the likes of Sunflower and Applesseed in the name of delicious, healthy food, if it includes beef from happy cows, ("Raise the Steaks," season 12, episode 6) then so can I. It's hard, however, with all the neo-flower children decrying a crusade to save the restaurant.

"The one thing you can do today that would have the most impact on

the world is to become a vegan or a vegetarian," Zacharia Krochina said.

What? No! A life without meat consumption will not save the world. Even if it did, I'd tell the world to go to hell for a good 12 oz. New York cut. The Holy Cow issue is business; it's not a threat to any one person's way of life.

"Please don't take away my Holy Cow Cafe, as it represents far more to me than just a place to buy a meal," wrote University student Jacob Mauck in a letter to the editor. "You can get a chicken sandwich next door at Subway, or go to Panda Express, but nowhere else can you get what the Holy Cow provides."

For someone dedicated to "sustainability, humanitarianism and re-localization," Mauck is quick to recommend Panda Express – God knows where their the beef, chicken and pork come from. Meat eaters deserve healthy food just as much as the rest. If Holy Cow wants to actually make a difference, it would get off its elitist vegan high horse and do something to benefit the majority of students: provide vegetarian options for its meat-hating insurgency and also offer fresh, local meat products for the majority of students.

To recap: unions suck; eating and shopping local is good (I know this is hard for you suburbanites to understand, just trust me on this one); and the Holy Cow deserves to continue as a campus asset as long as it opens its healthy doors to meat eaters. It's a compromise I think best suits the University community, and, for you idealistic hippies, the world.



*Ossie Bladine is not sure where he is right now and is Editor in Chief of the Oregon Commentator*





Bryanna Torgeson

# DISPATCH FROM THE BOWELS OF THE OREGON GOP

Guy Simmons and CJ Ciaramella



## *We drove north, two intrepid Oregon Commentator staffers speeding up the 101 towards Newport and the American Dream.*

Well, maybe not the American Dream so much as the Oregon Federation of College Republican's 2008 conference.

No matter, though. The sun was bright in the sky, ASUO elections had just ended and spirits were high. Visions of "honeys shaking their titties everywhere and liquor flowing like water," as had been promised by several sources, danced in our heads, yet an ominous feeling lurked... and we were very late.

The conference officially started at 6 p.m., but through some miscommunication between the OC publisher and the conference organizers we didn't arrive at the Best Western until roughly 7 p.m.

Standing at the check-in desk, we got right down to brass tacks and asked if there was an open bar for the conference.

"Yes" replied the hotel clerk, "the bar is downstairs to the right."

"Seriously, an open bar, as in ... free booze?" Simmons asked, hoping against hope.

"Yes, it's open ... from six p.m. to midnight."

"Damned Republicans." muttered CJ.

It was a sign of things to be, but we collected our room keys, stored our gear and jumped straight into bat country, undeterred.

The gala dinner and opening ceremonies were in full swing when we walked in. John Swanson, former chairman of the OFCR, was MC'ing. He regaled the audience

with some approximation of a "roast." It was painful to watch - somewhere between a luge accident and a junior high production of "The Miracle Worker." His speech was filled with such razor wit as:

"Have any of you seen that movie '300'? So-and-so is just like Leonidas. Am I right?"

"Miles, oh Miles, who can forget that guy?"

"Andrew and Rockne - those kids are going to blow away a mailman someday. Ho ho ho."

"For every drink you don't buy Reece, the terrorists win. Tee hee hee."

At one point, Swanson asked if there were any couples present that met through the College Republicans. We looked at each other, both thinking the same thing but decided against it. "The gay" is not something to joke about in a hall full of Republicans.

CJ later remarked that the Swanson debacle was "a snapshot of the whole ordeal."

Bruce Hanna, House Republican Leader, spoke next. It turns out that Hanna owns a company that distributes Coke products, confirming our suspicions that Pepsi is the drink of socialists. Afterwards, a seemingly important man who was recorded only as "RJ", said that with the help of College Republicans the party would "win a national congressional seat and take back the Oregon House!" The True Believers ate it up. Perhaps they will give everyone a pony as well.

After everyone had said their

piece, the conference was over for the night. We hit the parking lot for some illicit pre-funking like a couple of kids hiding from their parents. Then, like many of the other attendees, we hit the hotel bar. The bartender took too much time looking over our ID's, which irritated Simmons.

"What'll it be, fellas?"

"Four fuzzy nipples," Simmons demanded. "Two for each of us."

"A fuzzy nipple?"

"Yeah, you know how to make that right? I mean, it's okay if you don't."

"Uhh, I could look it up."

"Never mind. Four Singapore Slings."

The bartender turned to make the drinks, in the meanwhile Simmons asked CJ how a Singapore Sling tastes.

"It's like cherry and alcohol."

"Ugh, I hate cherry. Never mind!" Simmons yelled at the bartender.

It was ten minutes before the second bartender got anywhere near us.

"Could we get some service here?" Simmons asked, "We're feeling a bit neglected."

"It's a full fuckin' bar, Simmons!" hollered CJ.

"Whatever."

The second bartender, younger and less bitter than the previous, ignored our belligerence and took our order. It was a gin and tonic for CJ and a "cranberry vodka" for Simmons. Simmons handed him a credit card.

"I'll start a tab. You guys do that here, right?"

The night ended

# Ron Paul and the New Conservative Revolution: How I became a conservative

Sean Jin

**D**o you agree with restaurants making their tips collective? Some restaurants aggregate all the tips earned for the night, and split it evenly amongst the staff, regardless of how hard each individual worked. So a waitress working harder and earning more tips would see far less of a reward for her hard work, and a slacker waitress or staff member generally not eligible to receive tips would get a handout.

Is this fair?

No. Clearly not, because some people benefit off of other people's hard work. Regardless of how underprivileged or unlucky they may be, the fact remains that they are given handouts and begin to feel deserving of them without realizing the handouts come from somebody else's effort and individual hard work.

This, at a very rudimentary level, is what many liberal Democrats in America have bought into: the welfare state. They argue we all have a social responsibility to take care of others. With people's interests in mind, they decide the most compassionate and beneficial approach is to tax the citizens to provide beneficial programs for the less fortunate. I have no doubts about their motivation to do this: it ultimately stems from the compassion for fellow human beings. But you know what else stems from compassion? Parents spoiling their children. While seemingly the nice choice in the short run, spoiling children or providing too many welfare services drains the source (taxpayers) and creates a dependency and expectancy in the recipients. The issue with using policy to create a welfare state is that the government subjugates its citizens to pay up for these programs, which is in direct contradiction to American ideals of freedom, individualism, and small government. No matter how good the intentions are, creating policies that control citizens' money is the beginning of a slippery slope towards the abuse of citizens' money. These welfare policies also assume that the government is completely benevolent in its use of the taxes it receives.

What is American Conservatism? At the core, it is the idea that the individual is above the state. As I have discovered, it is the idea that personal responsibility and individualism supersedes all else. These are the ideals that our nation was founded upon. Citizens should be free from the government, and should take care of themselves. We are able to do what we want as long as we do not infringe on the rights of others, but the flip of the coin is that the government is not taxing to provide numerous programs to take care of some people under the pretense of protecting their rights. Ideally, the government only exists to protect and enforce the rights of

the people and the Constitution. Sadly, neither the majority of Democratic or Republican politicians seem to understand these traditional American ideals, except for Congressman Ron Paul, who has begun a revolutionary movement of traditional American conservatism or libertarianism.

Listening to Ron Paul speak has led me to see how babied and controlled our society has become. I have become thoroughly convinced that what we need is less government regulations and agencies instead of more. Ron Paul has been publicly saying this since the 1980s. A perfect example is during a talk show where he was asked about his stance on the War on Drugs. Congressman Paul had previously said that the War on Drugs was ineffective, was a waste of taxpayers' dollars and should be stopped. He was accused of being a quitter that didn't want to face the problem of drugs in the American society. His reply was that the War on Drugs was a manifestation of the preposterous idea that a big government could stop a social medical problem, essentially saying that a person's desire for drugs would not and could not be curbed by government intervention.

Ultimately, the government cannot make its people take care of themselves or be better people. Our nation was formed on the ideas of individualism and personal responsibility, and no one but ourselves can make ourselves better. Government regulations and policies stifle those ideas of personal responsibility and train people to be dependent and weak. Through our welfare state and social liberal ideas, people are raised dependant on the government to solve their problems instead of looking for ways to solve their problems on their own.

What strikes me most about Congressman Paul is his utter respect for the political institutions of our nation. He is socially conservative, doesn't believe in evolution, and is most certainly pro-life. But he has such respect for our institutions and states' rights that he would not impose his own beliefs on the American people in the form of government policy. In a traditionally conservative society, liberal people need not fear of social conservatives; they may believe what they want as long as they do not seek to force others to believe the same thing.

At the core, government regulations and policies restrict choice in the name of safety, fairness, or populism. Furthermore, they are ineffective because they do not change people's mentalities and only threaten to punish actions. A great example of this is gun control. Gun control outbursts occur every time someone goes and shoots up a school or

# Royal Jamaica a mild, sweet smoke

Greg Kendoll

Managing Editor of the Liberty, Oregon State University

If you have read the Liberty in the past couple years, you might identify me as “the gun guy” (or “nut,” depending on your perspective). I’ve written a handful of opinion pieces about Second Amendment issues and some informative columns designed to encourage people to take an interest in my favorite hobby. However, I don’t necessarily want to be known as a one-trick pony, so I began thinking about other ways that I could contribute to this paper and have fun at the same time.

Over drinks, my esteemed editor and I started talking about the Liberty of yore. By “yore,” of course, I mean maybe three or four years ago; the instant gratification of the information age has made my freshman year seem like a different geological era. The old guard of conservatives that helmed the paper in those days ran a regular feature called Professor Buez – a monthly tract on the topic of intoxicating liquors. As Rockne sipped his McMenemy’s Irish Stout and I my Maker’s Mark Old Fashioned, we tossed around the idea of reviving this feature. However, we decided that it would be better to create a new feature than resuscitate an old one. What could we write about? What knowledge did we have that we could share to the benefit of the OSU community?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I present you with the fruits of our mildly drunken deliberations. In future issues of the Liberty, Rockne and I will bring you reviews, tips, tricks and general information on the fine art of cigar smoking. A storied pastime among world leaders, politicians, captains of industry, comedians and bad-asses of all stripes, cigar smoking can be relaxing, rewarding, socially enjoyable and delicious. We’ll get the ball rolling with a review of a smoke that I have found quite tasty, the Royal Jamaica.

Royal Jamaica cigars are, as the name implies, made in Jamaica (although this was not the case through much of the 1990s, the brand is now back on its home turf). The tobacco blend is a mix from several different countries: an Indonesian wrapper with Cameroon/Mexican binder, and fillers from Indonesia, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. I have smoked a few Royal Jamaicas in the past, of varying sizes, and I decided that it would be a perfect choice for



my first review: it is affordable, available, and rather mild, so it should be quite accessible for anyone who feels compelled to try it. For this review, I smoked a robusto (a mid-size cigar, five inches long with a stout 52 ring gauge), which I purchased on sale at the Circle Street liquor store for around \$5.00.

The cigar itself is not what one would usually call attractive. The wrapper, although evenly-colored, is a bit rough; construction looks competent but not premium. Despite this, the head maintains its integrity after the cut (a damaged or crumbling head being one of my cigar pet peeves) and the foot lights effortlessly with a single wooden match. Throughout the smoke, the burn is slow and even, lending credence to the idea that looks aren’t everything – a quality construction and enjoyable smoking experience can still be found in a cigar that isn’t the prettiest girl at the dance.

I would classify the Royal Jamaica as a mild-medium body cigar. It can’t compete with some of the beefier cigars I enjoy, but on a mostly-empty stomach (thanks to my poor planning) it can result in a bit of lightheadedness. The flavor profile, however, is somewhat fuller than the body. The character is quite round and sweet, with cedar, nuts and honey up front and a slightly saccharine vanilla on the finish. As the cigar burns the flavor gets fuller and more direct, but the sweet character remains. While

doing research on the brand for this column, I discovered that this mild sweetness is in part a result of a fermentation additive called bethune, which is sprayed onto the filler tobacco after the curing process. This top-secret mixture of wine, vinegar, rum and native spices is supposedly used to retard the growth of mold during Jamaica’s long wet season, but it also contributes to the characteristic sweetness that makes the flavor profile so enjoyable.

Again thanks to my poor planning (as well as the nanny-state mentality that smoking indoors will cause any humans within the same structure to spontaneously develop terminal cancer), I smoked this cigar outside, in the Willamette Valley, in early April. The result was that, at the halfway point of the cigar, the weather turned lousy and the wind picked up significantly. This caused a faster burn and thus more harshness of flavor than I would prefer. However, since this is not really the fault of the cigar, I mention it only as a cautionary tale: during Oregon’s nine-month rainy/cold/unpleasant season, you will be happier, for many reasons, if you smoke indoors or at least sheltered from the weather in some way.

My overall impression of the Royal Jamaica is quite positive: it smells and tastes great, and it is both readily available and affordable right here in Corvallis. It would make an excellent accompaniment to a good cup of coffee or a light dessert, and would be very suitable for a beginner just looking to try a smattering of what’s out there.

Until next time, faithful reader, keep on smoking!

## Summary:

Cigar: Royal Jamaica Robusto

Country of Origin: Jamaica

Wrapper: Indonesia

Binder: Mexico/Cameroon

Filler: Jamaica, Indonesia, Dominican Republic

Size: 5" x 52

Body: Mild-medium

Flavor: Rich, round, sweet

Pair with: Coffee, dessert



*Greg Kendoll may be a dirty beaver, but he enjoys the scotch and we can respect him for that, damnit.*



### GOP Fear, from page 12

appropriately with a Greco-Roman wrestling match in the hallway. We stumbled out of a hotel room to see two shirtless kids tussling on the floor. A crowd was gathered around, and someone was recording the whole thing on their cell phone.

Coincidentally, Simmons had “exchanged words” with both of the wrestlers earlier in the evening. We can only speculate, but we’d like to think Simmons’ previous antagonizing, coupled with the low ratio of women to men, had pushed them over the edge into a testosterone-fueled frenzy.

Suddenly, a haggard Best Western employee came out of the elevator. “If this does not stop immediately, you will be asked to leave the motel!” she yelled in a menthol rasp. Everyone scattered, giggling like children and running to their respective doors. CJ was left standing in the hallway to face the angry beast, but he just shrugged his shoulders and walked back to the elevator.

CJ woke up the next morning and stumbled downstairs to the continental breakfast, loading up on pastries and coffee. He was cracking an ADD pill onto his tongue when Rick Dancer, a candidate for Oregon Secretary of State, showed up and asked if he would like an interview. This is one of the beautiful things about conferences. One minute you’re watching two douchebags bare-shirt wrestle in the hotel hallway, the next you’re interviewing a candidate for Secretary of State.

As CJ and Dancer walked into the hotel, Dancer remarked



**CJ Ciaramella stands amid a throng of college Republicans, completely out of his mind.**

that CJ didn’t look like a typical college Republican. We aren’t sure what gave it away; maybe his crazed, bloodshot eyes. Perhaps his lack of firearms.

Anyways, Dancer is from Eugene, where he was a TV news anchor for KEZI. He made national headlines when he announced his candidacy on air. Some journalist types claimed it was unethical, but Dancer assured CJ that it was in complete compliance with FCC regulations.

The rest of the interview was interesting - a nice chat that we’d love to tell you more about. Unfortunately, the interview was taped over later that night with some nonsense regarding unicorns, stripper poles and the fact there is no glory to be had in aqua-jogging.

We spent the rest of the morning and afternoon in various workshops and lectures. Between every session we would go back up to our room to booze and toke. It was

essential that we stayed at a premium level of intoxication.

Our favorite speaker was Solomon Yue, the national committeeman for the Oregon GOP. He peppered his lecture with battle metaphors such as “wage a comprehensive offense,” “advance the ideological line” and “coordinated attacks.”

“The RNC is a fighting machine!” he said with Patton-esque gusto. “We’re not your grandparents’ country club anymore.”

Yue went on to explain that Democrats “take us towards socialism at 75 mph, while the Republicans only take us towards socialism at 35 mph.” When someone questioned why we should still support the Republicans if they had abandoned core, conservative values, Yue said that doing so would cause “our entire front line to cave.”

We also got to hear from Kevin Mannix, who’s currently

running for Congress. During the Q&A session, Simmons asked Mannix if he knew a good lawyer. "It's always a good idea to have an experienced lawyer on retainer," Simmons explained to CJ.

The mushrooms started to kick in at the barbecue dinner. CJ was trying to manipulate a piece of steak onto his plate, but the grass was too green and the country music a touch too loud. "Just concentrate," he told himself. "Grasp the tri-tip with the tongs and drag it onto your plate. Don't draw attention to yourself."

We had drunk mushroom tea about a half an hour earlier. Right before walking out of the door, Simmons stopped and said, "Oh, I should probably leave this behind," pulling his gun out of his belt.

"Probably a good idea," CJ agreed.

During the barbecue, CJ attempted to mingle among the throng of people, but his attention kept being drawn to a rippling stream nearby. One person asked him if the conference had "changed his perception of college Republicans." He was able to answer confidently that his perception had indeed been altered.

As soon as it was convenient, we escaped to the comfort of the beach to smoke cigars and watch the sunset change colors. Some of the college Republicans joined us, and there was a brief discussion of theology. Although shrooms are said to produce feelings of empathy and oneness with other people, their effects seemed to be negligible on Simmons.

"Hey, listen. It's cool if you

believe in that shit," Simmons said. "Whatever. But I don't let some sky wizard tell me how to live my life."

We traipsed back to the hotel to hear WWII veteran Don Malarkey speak. Malarkey was one of the real "band of brothers;" he spent more time in combat than any other member of Easy Company.

Malarkey had some badass things to say, but he kept getting sidetracked into stories about Johnny Walker and being 86'd out of English bars. It was something we could really sink out teeth into - a boozehound Nazi killer, our kind of man.

Everything was kosher until the Q&A session. Suddenly some half-wit man-child in a "Tom Tancredo for president" t-shirt stood up and asked Malarkey how seeing a concentration camp had affected him.

Our minds started to recoil from the surrealist horror confronting us. Up in front, a World War II veteran was talking rather nonchalantly about dropping out of an airplane over occupied France. College Republicans surrounded us on all sides. Below, the carpet was undulating in odd ways. And now this ... this 6'5" walking twat with the nerve to ask how it felt to see a concentration camp. He looked like Blaster from Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome. It was too much. CJ resigned himself to staring at the floor for the rest of the presentation.

We dosed ourselves again after the Malarkey speech and headed up to a compatriot's room for more alcohol. We were trying to fortify our spirits for the upcoming "dance party." Terminator 3 was playing on the TV. We were having a

grand time comparing pistols and drinking whisky until we discovered that someone in the room had virtually no knowledge of the Terminator series.

"It's about a robot from the future; I know that," he said. "And there's, like, good robots and bad robots, right?"

Both of us became extremely agitated at this point.

"What the fuck's the matter with you?" yelled CJ.

"Seriously," Simmons continued, "Did you live in a cave or something?"

"I mean, Terminator 2 was pretty much a watershed moment for our generation."

"It was a production masterpiece!"

The kid attempted to apologize, but it was obvious he couldn't fully comprehend the faux pas he had committed. We stormed downstairs to the dance party.

Every girl on the dance floor was swamped by at least five dudes. The majority of the crowd was dangerously sober. Two dogs were inexplicably wandering around, which led Simmons to joke that they might be "the finest bitches here."

The rest of the night blurred into a soft oblivion. Memories and written notes are spotty - careening from hotel room to hotel room, out to the beach and back to more hotel rooms. We woke up the next morning reeking of bonfire and booze. It was time to go. The convention was over, and there was nothing left for us but stale beer and angry hotel employees.



*CJ Ciaramella and Guy Simmons think the conference was a gross, physical salute to the possibilities of life in this country.*

# Charleton Heston was a man of conviction

On April 5th, 2008, a true crusader for liberty passed quietly from this world and into the history books as a friend of freedom, a foe of tyranny, a terrific actor and above all, a true gentleman. Charleton Heston will surely be missed.

Born John Carter on October 4th, 1923, Heston was chosen for some of the best roles in films in the 20th century. He graced the silver screen as a Marc Antony in Julius Caesar, a survivor in The Omega Man, Judah Ben-Hur in Ben-Hur and indeed, Moses in The Ten Commandment". He won an Academy Award for his work in Ben-Hur.

Heston may best be known for his role in political activism. Initially a liberal Democrat, he campaigned for the Democratic parties in several crucial elections. He joined picket lines to protest segregated movie theaters and even marched with Martin Luther King. He would later say that he helped the Civil Rights movement "long before Hollywood found it fashionable".

By the early 1980's Heston campaigned for the Republican Party and became heavily involved in gun rights issues. He served as the president of the National Rifle Association (NRA) from 1998 to 2003 and was famous for declaring that the government would have to pry his gun from his cold, dead hands.

For his outspokenness, Heston was a target of the far left. In 2002, Michael Moore ambushed Heston in an interview, who had agreed to sit and discuss gun rights issues under false pretenses. After Heston announced that he had Alzheimer's, the ever-classy George Clooney mocked him. As usual, Heston responded in a

tactful manner.

Finally, on April 5th, 2008, he passed with his wife of 64 years, Lydia, by his side. He was survived by his son, Fraser and his daughter, Ann.

Heston was a man of conviction that never backed down from scrutiny. Much like Dr. King himself, he conducted himself with class and dignity when faced with the ugliness of intolerance.

As we remember Mr. Heston, I ask that our readers remember "Chuck" and raise a toast to him. Though perhaps we may not all agree with his personal stances, let us unite to admire a man who not only spoke, but acted (in every sense of the word). As I can never hope to out-speak such a principled man, I will not try. Instead, I leave you with the words of Mr. Heston himself.

"I admit I've been critical of societal bullies, posturing elitists, cultural warlords, and other self-appointed engineers who would remodel the Bill of Rights. They should rightfully be 'outed' and revealed for the damage they're doing. But I hope you've noted my admonition that the final solution isn't to accuse and condemn them, hoping they'll become converts while we commiserate and lament for a better world. That's a futile waste, since we have an infinitely more powerful weapon at our disposal. No, the path to victory in cultural war, as it is in most matters of personal conviction, is to live by example - and live loud. All true teaching, like parenting, is best conveyed not by talking it up, but by living it out."

~ Greg Campbell



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## HOLY COW, FROM PAGE 12

present for her presentation on why Holy Cow is a better fit for the EMU. Tisk, tisk, Tyler. Making decisions without adequate information...welcome to the ASUO!

Lavine said this is a surface issue and thinks that the real issue is student voice.

"It seems to me that the student voice has just really been squashed ... take this as a sign that you really have to fight for your rights." The fact of the matter is the student body was not asked their opinion on the matter. We were not asked about our dietary preferences before the decision to allow Laughing Planet to outbid Holy Cow was made. The only student representation was the one member of the ASUO Tyler Scandalios who was on the committee responsible for making a recommendation to EMU Food Service Director John Costello.

I agree with Lavine and think that the students should have a bigger voice on campus. What a huge victory it would be if the students could take credit for saving the cow (even though the university probably will negate to attribute the win to students and claim that contract talks simply fell through with Laughing Planet).

I hope the Cow is saved. It is comforting to know that there is a healthy fast food alternative on campus. It is also nice to know that by supporting Holy Cow, I am supporting local farmers. My patronizing of Holy Cow goes beyond that of a healthy food choice; it is a moral decision as well. In my decision to eat there I am supporting a local business as well as farmer

On May 3rd, Holy Cow is hosting a benefit in order to raise funds to cover the ever surmounting legal costs. "Cowfest" will take place at 6 PM in Agate Hall and be complete with live music by local bands, a silent auction full of local goodies, and an Indian dinner and dessert bar (made with local ingredients, of course).



*Ashley Burton is a crazy old cat lady in training and is a contributor for the Oregon Commentator.*

## RON PAUL, FROM PAGE 16

mall. Outraged people wonder what happened, they blame the police, and they decry guns as the root of all evil. They push for further gun control. Gun control limits the choice of our people to bear arms, a Constitutional right. Guns are merely tools, albeit dangerous ones, and it is up to the people bearing them to choose what to do with them. Law-abiding and responsible citizens should not be punished for the poor and deadly choices of some select individuals. Furthermore, just like the War on Drugs, restricting guns in our society does not stop murderous people from harboring criminal intent, but it does stop law-abiding responsible citizens from having access to tools to protect themselves against those murderous people.

Incidentally, the right to bear arms is an inherent necessity to the conservative values of responsibility and individualism. Conservatives don't like guns just because they like shooting. They like guns because guns represent power and a barrier to subjugation and oppression. Guns allow us to protect ourselves and give us the ability to enforce our freedoms and liberties. To throw away our means of protecting ourselves is to wholly entrust the government with the duty of protecting our rights, which is clearly a foolish choice. Once we trust the government to protect us, we are subject to its whim and control.

Similarly, allowing the government to tax our income represents control. It essentially means we have no choice but to pay the government for any work we do, and pay the government more if we work harder or better. Income taxes mean that the government has possession over any work that we do. If we refuse to pay taxes on the income we earn, the government reserves the right to seize our property and apprehend us. In essence, having an income tax means that the government owns us! There is something principally wrong with this.

Furthermore, the less people

are taxed, the more they will be able to stand up for themselves and take responsibility for their own lives, especially poor and underprivileged people living on an income margin. Instead, this tax money is redistributed to these people inefficiently, and makes them dependent on government handouts. Income taxes are the method through which the welfare state is provided, and if we cut the welfare state and the big spending of the government along with reducing taxes, we would be left with a society that would learn to be more individually responsible, and not be taxed out of choice and independence.

Simply put, the difference between conservatism and the social democrat welfare state is how we take care of our society and our people. The welfare state seeks short-term populist results that appeal to people that have no long-term insight. It seeks to do this with overarching government regulations, agencies, and mandates that are ineffective and controlling. The conservative movement in America, fueled in part by Congressman Paul's inspirational ideas, is a desire to return to the traditional American values of individualism and personal responsibility, which can seem cruel and uncompassionate in the short-run, but ultimately will lead to a stronger society and people. It advocates smaller government and more freedoms and choice. There is always the potential of the abuse of those freedoms, but the harm to society from that is far less than the harm from the abuse of government power. And as Congressman Paul said during the Republican debates: "If you trade freedom and liberty for security, you end up sacrificing both."

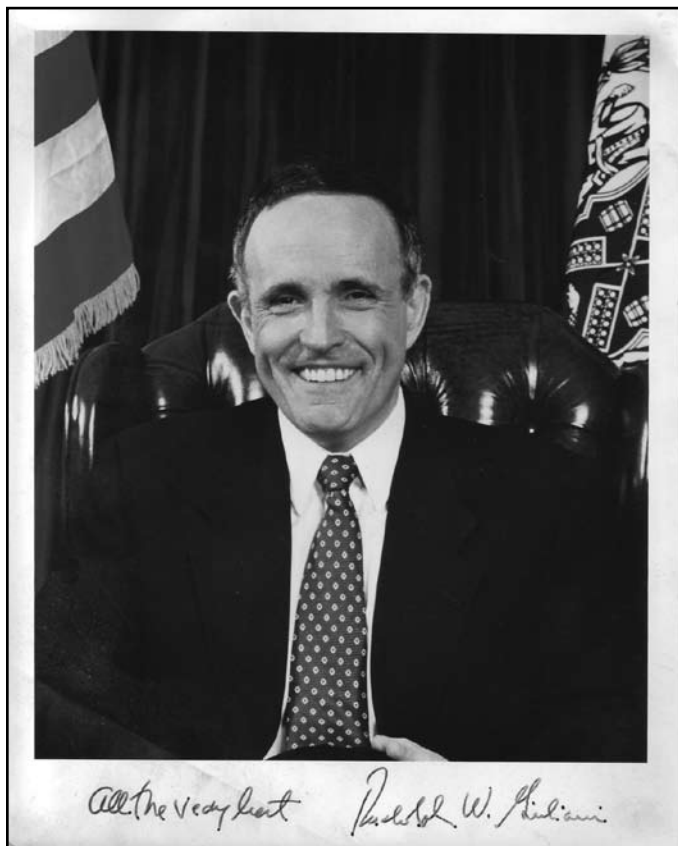


*Sean Jin is an ASUO senate member and contributor to the Oregon Commentator. something fishy is going on.*

# SPEW...

and the stuff off our office walls

## ON MEAT-TYPE FOOD PRODUCTS



"I am at once pleased, shocked and appalled by the announcement and the implications of separating our meat production from animals' bodies."

~ ODE columnist Josh Grenzsund on PETA's recent support of *in vitro* meat production. Conflicted much?

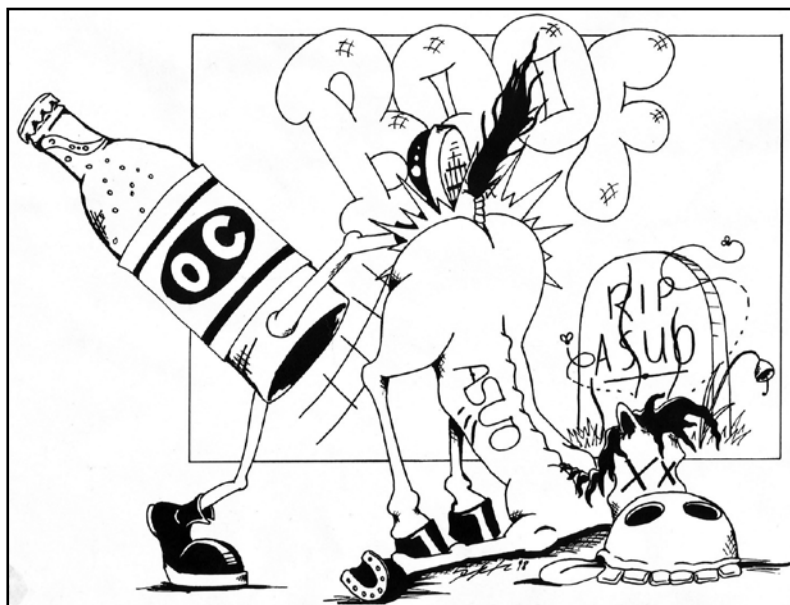
"We have to consider the question of whether or not we should support further industrialization of meat-type food products, because in the answer we will at once betray and realize a belief in either pastoral or industrial narratives of utopian ideals."

~ This is the stuff that makes Writing 122 GTF's cry.

"The sheer brilliance of refounding PETA upon such a paradox strikes fear deep into my heart."

~ Grenzsund's other fears include epiphanies and moments of zen.

## ON UNCLAIMED CONTRIBUTIONS



"The Kari and Jesse campaign refused to include Cimmeron [Gillespie]'s contribution of horrific drum playing."

~ Vice President-elect Johnny Delashaw's rules on a disturbance in infamous Seven Cents Petition. To be fair, the trumpet playing ain't half bad; Cimmeron's got some chops.

"Mr. Delashaw's seven cents petition is not well taken...Mr. Delashaw's unprofessional, personal attack on Mr. Gillespie has further drawn the Court's ire.

~ The Constitution Court rules — 'rules' of course as a verb, not an adjective. Con Court sucks.

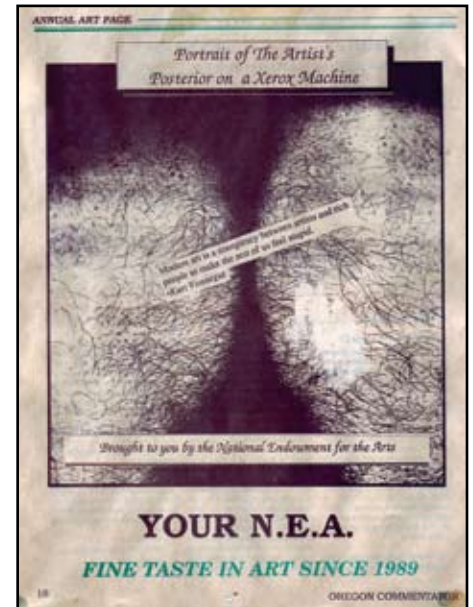
# ON A PROPHET IN HIS HOMETOWN

“Congratulations to Oregon Commentator for a fabulous blog,” Kirby said. “It’s really hard to do a group blog from a newspaper end and they have executed it better than most anyone in the nation.”

~ David Kirby of the America’s Future Foundation as quoted in a recent ODE article about our second place finish in the nation-wide AFF college blogger contest.

“What’s the Oregon Commentator?”

~ A comment by “Tom” on the ODE website. That’s more like it.



# ON CONNECTING THE DOTS

“A pro-Israel pressure group is orchestrating a secret, long-term campaign to infiltrate the popular online encyclopedia Wikipedia to rewrite Palestinian history, pass off crude propaganda as fact, and take over Wikipedia administrative structures to ensure these changes go either undetected or unchallenged.”

~ Dawn Coslow in an excruciatingly long comment thread on the OC blog where she defends the whacky and currently anti-Semitic Pacifica Forum.

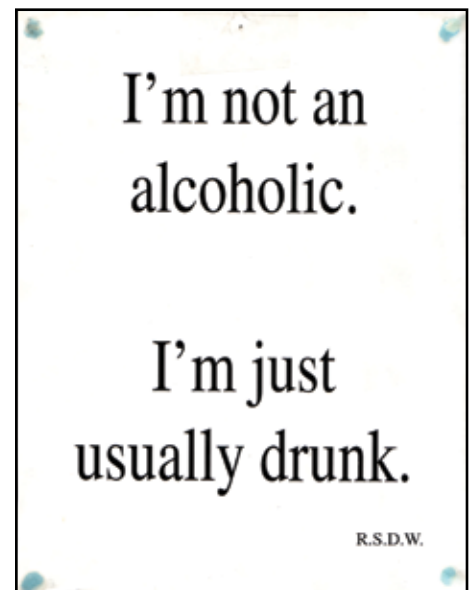
# ON REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

“Olly is the fuckin’ shit, and anyone says different is a [indecipherable babble] piss-pole piece of shit.”

~ Drunk Rennie’s bartender Jayson on OC alum Olly Ruff.

“Him and Tyler [Graf], those guys were the best at getting kicked out of bars.”

~ They may be gone, but their memory lives on in the hearts and blacklists of Eugene bartenders everywhere.





# WORDS OF WISDOM BY ELWOOD

James Brown, like John Denver, was full of shit. Denver's "Rocky Mountain High" misrepresented the vast Colorado flatlands (thank you, Lloyd Christmas) and Brown's "It's a Man's Man's Man's World" flat-out lied.

There's a couch in the Rolling Stone women's bathroom.

I've struggled now for months to understand how a couch ended up in their loo. Surely there's been some mistake. Last I checked, couches are for living rooms and shrink offices and fraternity porches. Couches serve a variety of purposes, none of them — 'cept for the frat porch ones, of course — involving urination and excrement. Couch sales keep ABC Furniture and the Bravo network in business. Without couches, there would be no naps. Sitting rooms would be perpetually incomplete. We need couches! I mean, you can even release skeletal metal framing from underneath the cushions when out-of-towners arrive, transmogrifying the couch into a legitimate queen-sized bed! Hell, one in six of you were probably conceived on a couch.

In three factually dubious, potentially polarizing sentences, I can postulate one reason a couch in the women's bathroom makes more than zero sense:

Women — by nature — are more emotional than men. Sometimes they just need a good cry. When they do, there's a couch waiting.

Or it's in there because it's a (wo)man's, (wo)man's, (wo)man's world.

There's doubtless a few perverts out there who want to know how I found about the couch. Truth is, it all happened so fast. Circumstances — thirst, proximity — brought me to a narrow hallway near the copy room with a drinking fountain at the end of it. At that precise nexus of space and time, an Us Weekly staffer entered the women's bathroom/spa, located to my immediate left. The timing was just too perfect; one-tenth of a second either way and I'm still convinced that no one around here's receiving preferential treatment. Anyway, back to the Incident — I really couldn't help myself. The bathroom's interior was there for the peeping. Wasn't it Ralph Ellison who said that "had the price of looking been blindness, I still would have looked"? Yeah, what he said. I looked, and the first thing I saw was a goddamn couch.

Wanna know what the men's room has? A row of white ceramic pissing receptacles bolted to the wall and about half a dozen water-filled pots to squat on. When we're done we put our hands under a stream of water and then rub them with paper towels and then we leave.

If the women get a couch, at least give us a dartboard or something.