

THE AWARD WINNING

OREGON COMMENTATOR

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THE RIGHT TO CARRY ON CAMPUS

page 11

ALSO:

Will the University become a
smoke-free campus?

page 9





Founded Sept. 27th, 1983 Member Collegiate Network

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Mission Statement

The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon for the campus community. Founded by a group of concerned student journalists 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 liberty. Apathy is a human right.

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“My rule of life prescribed as an absolutely sacred rite smoking cigars and also the drinking of alcohol before, after and if need be during all meals and in the intervals between them.”

THE OREGON COMMENTATOR
ANTI-SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES

FAREWELL SWEET PRINCE

It's almost the end of another school year. The sun is shining, skirts are shortening and the ASUO Senate is handing the keys over to another group of bright-eyed kids. We'd like to bid farewell to the outgoing senators, especially our good friend Nate Gulley.

It's hard to imagine what Senate will be like without Gulley's blathering, profanity-laden drivel. Much like Supreme Court Justice Warren defined the Court in his time, Gulley has practically dominated the Senate. And as his era is known as the Warren Court, the past two years will inevitably be referred to as the Gulley Senate – a time of unparalleled douchebaggery, casual accusations of racism and a loose attitude towards using student funds for dubious purposes.

Gulley has taken advantage of every opportunity to paint himself as a martyr for the under-represented. Unfortunately, the public persona he fostered has only damaged the student programs connected to his name. The Multicultural Center has seemed to digress 15 years back to its infant days of irrational victim-speech and invocation of mob-mentality citizenship. Simply put, if you want to sabotage the image of an organization, place Nate Gulley's placard at the head of the board table.

Even beginning to try to quantify Gulley's egregious conduct during his tenure in office would boggle the world's greatest mathematicians. It's a veritable galaxy of shit-eating grins, bluster and ego-driven megalomania.

To wit: Gulley voted to send himself to Washington D.C. using student money.

To wit: When called out on this blatant conflict of interest and unacceptable behavior, Gulley staged a faux-protest in Senate, claiming "institutional racism."

To wit: Gulley publicly labeled several ASUO senators as racist.

To wit: Gulley used student funds to send himself to Hawaii over Spring Break for a conference on "environmental racism." He came back with a rather nice tan.

Gulley managed to encapsulate everything wrong with our student government in one, doughy entity: no respect for law and order as a public representative, irresponsible spending habits and self-perpetuating motives. Alas, how else to know the errors of one's ways than to have them ceremoniously shoved in your face like a dirty jockstrap. A collection of Gulley's actions and comments should be compiled and serve as a guide for future generations of ASUO senators of how not to act while serving a public student body. Not only that, but "Gulley" should become a byword for the erstwhile senator's special brand of infantile time-wasting, as in "Don't Gulley this body," "This proposal is Gulley" or "Point of clarification: Is this conversation becoming Gulley?"

To tell the truth, though, we're almost sad to see him go. People define themselves through their enemies, so where will the Commentator be without Nate Gulley? He was our foil, the Moriarty to our Holmes, the Rommel to our Patton, the Carrot Top to our sense of propriety. In short, the Commentator will have to find itself a new nemesis.



Senator Gulley's reliable, smug and jaw-droppingly brazen abuse of power has, if not given this publication a *raison-d'être*, then at least made our job a helluva lot easier.

So farewell to you, sweet prince. You have brought to this campus a sense of stoic professionalism, a commitment to propriety, and an unimpeachable respect for your colleagues. We wish you luck in your future endeavors. We hear that peddling used automobiles is, if not the most illustrious of professions... well... it is what it is.

Senator Nate Gulley's response to grievance by Ol' Dirty Editor-in-Chief Laura Powers

Honorable Members of the Consitution [sic]Court:

Please don't stop there. Every day Senators hold clandestine and otherwise unlawful meetings. Action must be taken!

Just today, I commented on what a nice shirt Senator Patrick Boye was wearing. Not five minutes later, I asked Senator Noor Rajabzadeh if she was done using an office computer. As you well know, these gatherings of two (or more) Senators constitute public meetings under Oregon law and are subject to proper proceedings. The swelling tide of these "flagrant violations" must be stemmed. The student body of the University of Oregon deserves no less.

Please do not restrict yourselves in your decision. Please set a precedent that will resound in far reaches of Suite 4. Please find all Senators, especially Lee Warnecke and I (who sent each other a series of blatantly illegal text messages regarding the Cavs-Celtics game on Monday) in dereliction of our duties. And be firm in your punishment. A proverbial "slap on the wrist" is not sufficient. I suggest you remove every Senator from office for these egregious miscarriages of justice. Remember: "Injustice anywhere is

a threat to justice everywhere." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I know you will do what is right...for all students...not just those selfish politicians who spend four and half selfish hours selfishly deliberating over selfish "campus improvement" proposals.

**Good night and good luck,
Nathan Clark Gulley**

Smoke-In was a great success

Beloved Commentator Staff,

Thanks for making today's smoke-in event possible. I'm generally of the opinion that "occasional" smokers are dispassionate ninnyes, but this afternoon's display of ghoulsh paleness and vomiting was a sign of true commitment. You are all heroes. It would be awesome if you sent me an e-mail when the large Sudsy T's come in.

As you may be aware, it's a serious hardship being a medium sized person trapped in the body of someone who drinks large amounts of alcohol. A medium shirt would leave my beer belly exposed, thus making more of a statement about my enthusiastic beer consumption better than any garment ever could, but would consequently result in a really weird sunburn.

**Thanks again,
Alex Peters**

We're not all ignorant idiots, CNN

Hello Oregon Commentator,

My name is Nicholas Lipton and I am currently slacking through J202 (Info Hell) on my quest to gain admittance into the Journalism program.

I stumbled across your website today [see OC blog entry on May 5 at www.oregoncommentator.com] and noticed the video regarding Eugene's cultural diversity training and frankly I think it is in our best interest to hold a press conference and let the world know that not all the people residing in this cultural wasteland are that ignorant or that stupid. Some of us simply have to go to school here, give us a break America, not all of us are learning where the nearest soul food kitchen is located.

I also noticed an ad in one of your issues that stated you were looking for people to join the fun side and write or do whatever for the Commentator. Every now and then while I dine on Panda Express in the EMU I grab one of your issues and each time, I am impressed.

Nicholas Lipton

Do you have an opinion about the Oregon Commentator? Let us know about it.

Send letters to the editor to ocomment@uoregon.edu



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Breaking News from Liberty City

All hell has broken loose in the city the past couple of days as police report there has been over 300 cases of vehicular manslaughter committed within city limits since Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses describe the perpetrator as an Eastern European wearing a sweat suit and possessing almost mythical stamina and a seemingly endless supply of cars.

"I was out on the corner, walking in circles when all of the sudden this green SUV comes barreling down the sidewalk and clips me in the leg," said local florist Haggar Stein. "The very next day, I was standing on the same corner and the same guy comes at me with a red convertible."

Police have been unable to apprehend the suspect despite engaging in several high speed pursuits which have resulted in the destruction of 24 patrol cars, two police helicopters, several SWAT vans and taken the lives of over 50 officers.

"It's a war out there," said deputy police commissioner Francis McReary, "and unfortunately we're



losing. I advise all citizens to stay in their homes and avoid walking on their sidewalks at all costs."

Reports also indicate that there has been a sudden spike in gang-related deaths that coincide with this surge in fatal hit and runs.

Recently, 16 known members of the Russian mafia were found dead in a club in Broker and notorious drug kingpin Playboy X was shot through the head execution style in his midtown apartment.

So far, police have been unwilling or unable to comment on any connection between the two spikes in violent crime.

"As far as we know the two waves of crime are unrelated," said McReary. "Correlation does not prove causality."

By Jake Speicher

Things you should know by now...

- * Dog is God backwards
- * Prophetic things are said while drinking heavily on a couch in the front yard on a sunny day
- * Sharting is nothing to be ashamed of, but you should probably take care of that
- * The Oregon Commentator will be hosting a \$500 celebration on Friday, May 30
- * The ASUO is kind of like going to the bathroom when you don't have to pee
- * Any vice you have is better in the bathtub
- * Deez nutz

Corrections of April. 25 OC Issue

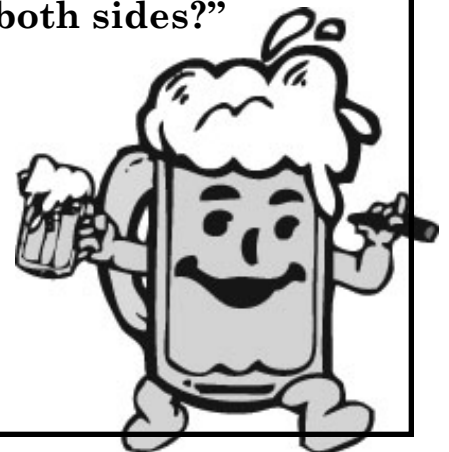
~ It was reported that Cimmeron Gillespie has "got some chops." It should have said "gottschalks." The Oregon Commentator regrets the error.

~ The tissue wuz relativity clean. The Orygun Commontator regrets the terror.

[Portrait of the Invisible Hand]

Sudsy Says:

"I pay taxes for the whole road, why can't I drive on both sides?"



Sublime certified quadruple annoying

Nineties rock band Sublime has been certified quadruple-platinum annoying by the RCAA. The rating signifies the amount in millions of people who can no longer listen to the band because of over-saturation.

"Not many bands achieve these rarefied heights of annoying," said RCAA Spokesman Scott Powers. "Sure, a lot of bands have breakthrough albums that are unbearable after a year – your Alien Ant Farm's or your Stroke 9's – but very few have had such a long, sustained climb to annoying."

The record-breaking moment occurred when University of Oregon senior Kelly Davis entered a party to hear Sublime's debut album, "40 Oz. To Freedom," playing on the stereo.

"Oh for the love of God," said Davis. "Again?"

Davis was seen leaving the party shortly afterwards.

"I've seriously listened to that album since I was 14," she said in a later press statement. "When I walked into that party, I suddenly realized I never wanted to hear it again."

Sublime's greatest success came with the 1996 release of its third, eponymous third album, which contained a No. 1 single, "What I Got", as well as "Santeria" and "Wrong Way." The album has gone on to become a radio staple. According to data from Neilson Media Research, a Sublime song is playing somewhere on the radio in America at any given time.

Noted musicologist David Melkus claims the band's incredible staying power is due in part to what he calls "the Marley effect."

"Sublime's music taps into universal themes such as love, freedom and smoking a shit-ton of pot," said Melkus.

And despite the now record number of people who can no longer stand Sublime, the band still has a remarkable number of supporters.

"Yeah, dude. Sublime is pretty much my favorite band ever," said UO freshman Brock Jergis, proudly displaying the Sublime poster in his dorm room. "Party! Woo!"

"I'm stoked and all that people still dig our music. Don't get me wrong," said singer Bradley Nowell through the aid of a medium. "But it's been like, what, 12 years since I died? Isn't there any new shit out there?"

Nowell died from a heroin overdose in 1996 shortly before the release of the third album. When asked about the afterlife, he said it was "OK I guess, but who do you have to blow around here to get some smack?"

By CJ Ciaramella



asks ...

What's your weapon of choice?



T Rex :

A sexual glider

Donkey lips:

A donkey punch



Emily McClain:

Impeccable timing. Do you know any open jobs?

The Punisher:

Someone once told me the pen is mightier than the sword, so I cut his fucking head off.

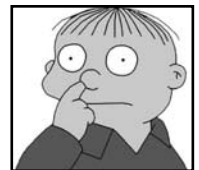


Ann Coulter:

My hypnotic adam's apple

Nate Gulley:

Institutional racism

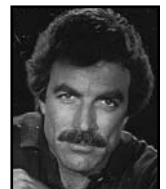


Slick Willy:

Do you really have to ask?

Magnum P.I.:

My mustache makes a more profound impact on other people than it does me. I just let it grow.



Robocop:

I have a new movie coming out. How about that, assholes?

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.

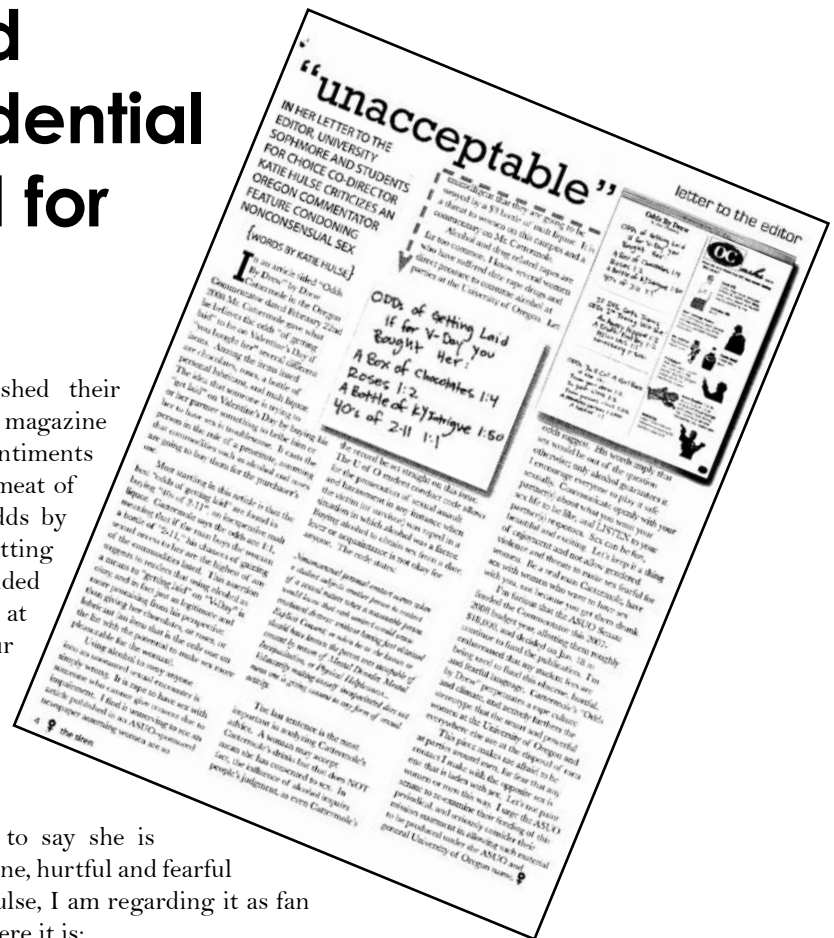
With Love,
Drew Cattermole



Will you have sex with me?

☐ Yes

☐ No



U of O may become smoke free campus

The Smoke-Free Task Force held two public forums to hear public opinion about a possible smoking ban. OC staffer labeled the forums “depressing” and “lacking in tobacco products.”

Ossie Bladine

In the two open forums put on by the Smoke-Free Task Force, both attended by handfuls of University students, faculty, staff, and community members, only three people were vocally against the proposed campus-wide smoking ban: the Oregon Commentator's CJ Ciaramella and Vincent Artman, and resident conspiracy theorist Zack Vishonoff.

Artman and Ciaramella, both (mostly) non-smokers, spoke of civil liberties, the unenforceable goal of such a plan and the necessity of keeping campus life in touch with the real world. Vishonoff called the proposal part of a bigger picture.

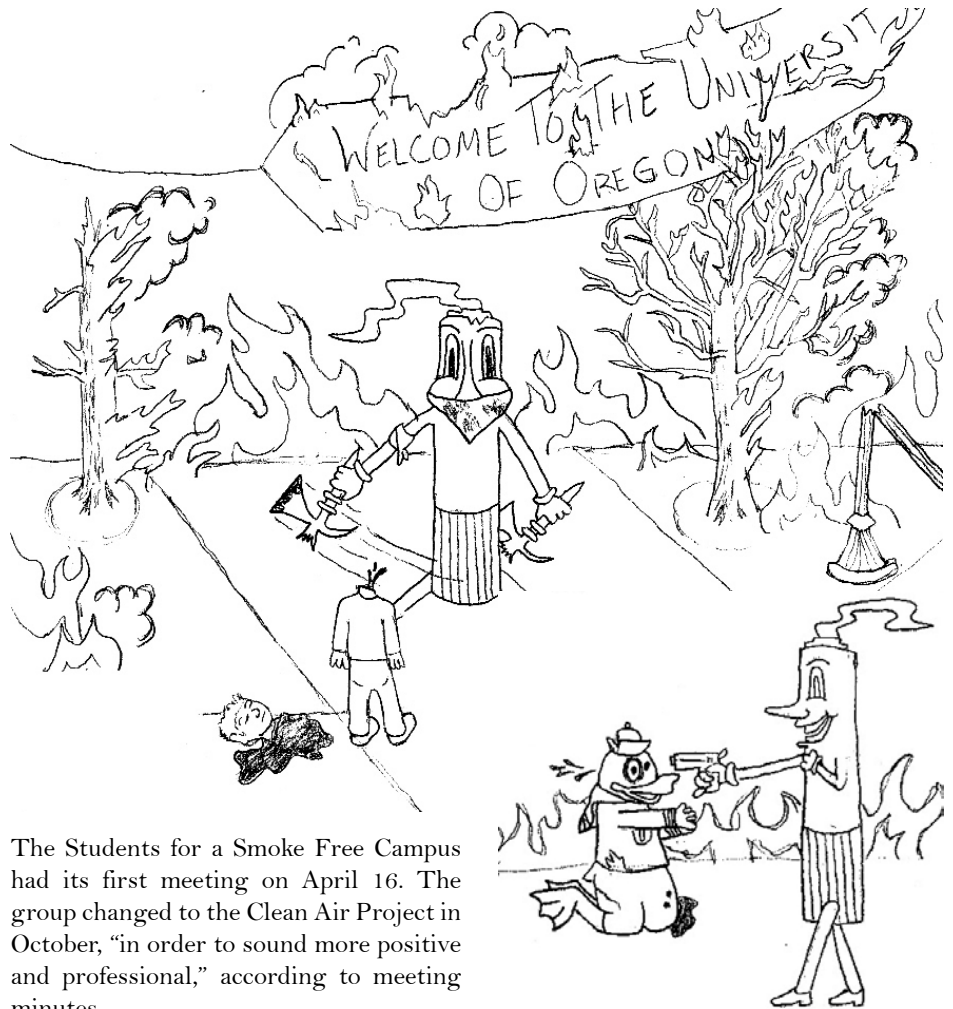
“I think it's Nike who wants this,” Vishonoff said. “The integrity of campus is being lost.”

While Vishonoff's lunacy didn't add much to the debate, he was right about one thing: the proposed smoking ban at the University of Oregon is part of a bigger picture.

Health administrators have been waging war against the tobacco industry for decades in an attempt to rid society of tobacco products. Under all the number crunching (probably padded) and waambulance comments during the forum, an underlying argument for tobacco prohibition in the United States was present.

Who's for the ban?

In early 2007, University Health Center Director Paula Staight presented a plan to make the University a smoke-free campus to the Student Health Advisory Committee and the Environmental Issues Committee. A student group was soon created, with the mission “to eliminate exposure to second hand smoke, through creating a smoke-free policy for the entire University of Oregon campus.”



The Students for a Smoke Free Campus had its first meeting on April 16. The group changed to the Clean Air Project in October, “in order to sound more positive and professional,” according to meeting minutes.

Many of the arguments for a smoking ban derive from the Surgeon General's 2006 report.

“We're not here to say you can't smoke, we're telling you where you can smoke,” Staight said at the first of the two forums on May 14.

The group earned public support from ASUO President Emily McLain, got several smarmy news articles in favor of a ban in the Ol' Dirty (which has traditionally staffed many frequent

smokers) and a task force was formed, of course, by U of O Vice President Francys Dyke. An “opinion poll” by the task force, which received 5,000 responses out of 24,000, was sent out. At the forum, a couple students called the survey “confusing.”

Presenters at the forum had various arguments: Staight said allowing smoking on campus gives the idea that smoking is

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

acceptable; Ben Douglas, a physician at the Health Center, said he believes "smoking is a removable barrier" and that allowing smoking makes it difficult for other smokers to quit, "like putting a beer in front of a recovering alcoholic" [mmm, beer]; one man mentioned his God given right to protect his body; Jennifer Jordan of Lane County Public Health said smoke-free campuses are "preparing students for a move into a smoke-free workplace," and said her agency is working with large companies to ban smoking; students of the Clean Air Project said stuff too.

"We became the bubble of acceptance of people smoking," someone said. "We should be a bubble for change."

Argument against a smoking ban

In the second forum, a man asked the task force what the arguments by those against smoking bans have been. A minor harrumph and mention of "civil liberties" was heard in the room.

The Clean Air Project claims only 4.4 percent of campus-goers smoke daily. Personally, I don't encounter that much second-hand smoke on campus on a daily basis. Yes, it's there, but with supposedly less than 5 percent of people on campus smoking, it's simply not that big a deal except to the few hypersensitive naysayers clinging to the Surgeon General's finding that there is "no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke." How about we get rid of that sun we are orbiting, too? Solar radiation is, after all, a known carcinogen. If this is discussed as a life or death issue, little will get accomplished.

Several questions arise from the prospective smoking ban. How will it be enforced? Will hookah smoking be included in the ban.

What about chewing tobacco? Will the ban extend to the U of O's Portland campus?

Then there are the costs. The short term costs would be minimal: "smoke-free campus" signs and an increase in funding to programs and resources devoted to battling the evil habit. Students and faculty can already receive free cessation benefits, including support and nicotine products. An increase in funding for programs to help and aide smokers who say they want to quit would surely increase. Take some pride people; cold turkey is only way to go. The long term costs, however, could be significant. An unintended consequence of the smoking ban will be a rise in long-term social security costs as society struggles to support that 5% of ex-smokers who just wanted a damned cigarette but instead survived into old age.

Finally, I've heard a few times how the U of O should be a "leader" in promoting healthier campuses. Smoke-free campuses, however, have been occurring for years and the U of O is just one of many universities nationwide debating the same thing. It has been a quick fix device by administrations to keep the public health centers happy. A smoking ban on campus would not be a leading policy, it would be a trend-following one.

What's going to happen?

Despite the overwhelming support for a ban at the forums, I am not convinced the ban is a certainty, although it does seem likely."

The idea of smoke-free campuses nationwide are "mostly perceived as something that would take a cultural shift overtime," said Gregg Lobbisser, EMU director of student activities. If that is what is wanted, is an authoritative move by the University the best possibly solution?

There are 94 colleges and university with smoking bans as of October 2007. Only a small portion of those are large public universities.

One woman said at the forum that at Clark College, "people just accepted it ... the times are changing. People are used to hearing where they can't smoke." A recent article by the Mesa Press of San Diego Mesa College, however, reports that students are ignoring the smoking ban imposed on campus by smoking and stealing the no smoking signs. "The students have been tearing down the signs, and ignoring the faculty's request to take their smoking off-campus," said a school nurse.

At best, tobacco enthusiasts and addicted smokers will get a few concessions. Many of the arguments against smoking can be resolved with common courtesy. Smokers need to start throwing away their damn butts and could be considerate to the people who become queasy around smoke. But no matter what, don't let the health addicts tell you how to live your life.

The Task Force will present its recommendation(s) by the end of the week, at which time the administration will begin to make a final decision. If you have missed your chance to voice your opinion on the matter, call the office of Vice President Frances Dyke at (541) 346-3003 or send an e-mail to fdyke@uoregon.edu



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Things just aren't like they used to be

Ossie Bladine is the Editor-In-Chief of the Oregon Commentator and is sorry we keep using the same murdering cigarettes drawings, but we just like them too much.

The Right to pack

The Students for Concealed Carry on Campus is a national organization seeking the freedom for students to carry hand guns to class.

CJ Ciaramella

Andrew Hill first shot a gun when he was three years old; he's owned and operated firearms his whole life, and as the owner of a concealed handgun license (CHL), he is allowed by Oregon law to carry a handgun just about anywhere, including public buildings.

But if Hill brought a handgun on the University of Oregon campus, he will be expelled.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, there has been a growing movement to ease these restrictions. Hill is the campus representative of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus - a nation-wide group with more than 30,000 members, over 90 percent of them students. The SCCC lobbies for the right of CHL-holding students to carry on campus.

"To defend yourself is a God-given right," said Hill. "That's what our founding fathers believed. Just on that level I think students should be able to carry a gun on campus."

Lately, the SCCC has been attracting a lot of media attention. On April 21-25, members of the SCCC at colleges across the country wore empty holsters to protest campus bans on firearms. But while the SCCC has raised the issue to national attention, states have been sluggish to respond.

Currently, Utah is the only state that explicitly allows concealed carry on public campuses. Public colleges and universities in Utah are now prohibited from creating their own restrictions. Sixteen other states have considered similar legislation, but so far none of the bills have been passed. Oklahoma was one such state, but its Senate recently shelved the bill, citing strong opposition from students and faculty.

In Oregon, there is no state law prohibiting concealed carry on campus. According to ORS 166.370, possession of a firearm in a public building is a Class C felony, but one of the exceptions is "[a] person who is licensed under ORS 166.291 and 166.292 to carry a concealed handgun."

However, the Oregon University System and the University of Oregon Student Conduct Code explicitly contradicts this law. The UO Conduct Code states (emphasis added): "Possession, use, or threatened use of a weapon, ammunition, or any object or substance used as a weapon on University Premises or at a University Sponsored Activity unless expressly authorized by law or University Policy [is prohibited]. A concealed weapons permit does not constitute authorization."

Apparently, being expressly authorized by law to carry a concealed handgun is somehow not recognized by the University of Oregon. If this sounds confusing, don't worry. It is.

In 2004, UO GTF Brian Stubbs sued the State Board of Higher Education over the discrepancy, claiming the Board was violating the state statute. A U.S. district judge dismissed Stubbs' case

**Signs can't stop
acts of violence.**



Armed citizens can.
ConcealedCampus.com

because there was no "cause or controversy" (the policy had not been enforced). However, the case did not settle the legality of the OUS firearms ban.

Some schools decided to settle the issue themselves. Shortly after the Stubbs case, Lane Community College reversed its previous position, allowing concealed carry on campus in order to comply with state law.

People like Stubbs and Hill believe the UO still has no authority to supersede state law.

"I'm not a law professor, but in my opinion they're a state-run institution, and they should abide by state laws," Hill said. "If they want to push legislation that makes this a state law, that's a different situation."

However, the UO's position on contradicting state law has not changed. If anything, it's only grown more ambivalent. In an initial

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

call to Phil Weiler, Senior Director of Public Relations and Media at the UO, Weiler indicated that he thought concealed carry on campus was a state issue, not something decided by the U of O administration.

But besides the gray legal area, critics have many other concerns. Opponents of concealed carry on campus often argue that it violates the spirit of higher education. Campuses, they say, are supposed to be intellectual havens. In fact, this attitude is codified at the UO, which defines campus as "an environment conducive to learning is one where the rights, safety, dignity and worth of every individual are respected." The Student Conduct Code goes on to mention weapons, even when carried by licensed owners, "[endanger] such an environment and [threaten] the welfare of the University community as a whole."

Hill believes that this is not an issue.

"That's why we're carrying concealed guns," he said. "We're not carrying AK-47's over our shoulders to classes. Nobody would know who was armed and who was not. There would be no fear about it. If there was, it would only be from ignorance."

Nor does Hill believe that banning guns on campus stop people from bringing them.

"Just because it's not lawful or accepted policy now doesn't mean that students aren't carrying guns on campus," Hill said. "That doesn't mean guns aren't there. We see this with the drug culture, underage drinking, speed limits. We see this with all of our laws."

In fact, when reviewing the history of

violence on college campuses in America, it becomes clear that banning guns does nothing to stop criminals. Thousands of law-abiding students may follow the rules, but it only takes one deranged person to shatter this so-called sanctity. Meanwhile, everyone else is left defenseless.

"On police being the best responders, we saw police officers at Virginia Tech standing outside waiting for a shot," said Hill. "They didn't kick down the doors. They didn't get in the school to save the students. They stood outside while students were being slaughtered."

It is worth noting that Virginia Tech is now home to the largest chapter of the SCCC in the nation.

Still, many students and faculty worry that allowing concealed carry on campus will increase violence, and in theory putting guns in an equation that often includes drugs and alcohol does sound bad. However, Hill contends that CHL-holders should be the least of people's worries.

"The people who take the time to go through the classes and courses to carry a weapon are some of the most responsible citizens," Hill said. "They have to have absolutely spotless backgrounds."

Opponents of SCCC also seem to work under the assumption that guns aren't prevalent everywhere else, but this is simply not true. For example, there are thousands of CHL-holders in Lane County alone; odds say that you be around at least one of them during your day.

And this is the crux of Hill and the SCCC's argument. Campuses across the nation, including the U of O, examined their safety policies in the wake of Virginia Tech. The results have been woefully inadequate and still deny students the basic right to defend themselves. U of O students who can lawfully protect themselves in practically any other place are forced to place their lives in the hands of unarmed campus security. In essence, the University wants everyone to pretend that guns simply don't exist.

"Guns are a fact of life," said Hill. "They are out there. Protecting people from them by saying 'guns are bad. Guns hurt people' is not going to save lives."



CJ Ciaramella is the Associate Editor of the Oregon Commentator and is no longer seen in public without his trilby hat.

College Shooting Timeline

1966 Charles Whitman climbs the clock tower at the University of Texas at Austin and opens fire on students below with a scoped rifle. Sixteen people killed, 31 injured.

1976 Edward Charles Allaway enters the library at California State University, Fullerton with a .22-caliber rifle and begins shooting. Seven die, two injured.

1991 Gang Lu opens fire in the physics department of the University of Iowa, killing five and paralyzing another before committing suicide.

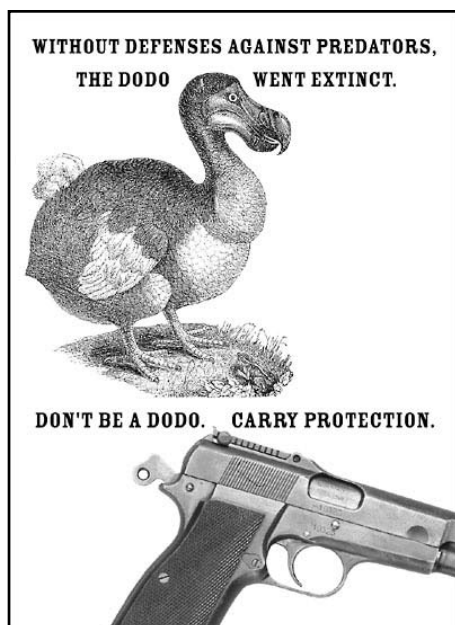
1992 Wayne Lo, armed with a rifle, kills two and injures four at Bard College at Simon's Rock before turning himself over to police.

2002 Peter Odighizuwa opens fire at the Appalachian School of Law, killing three and wounding three. He is subdued by several students, two armed with personal handguns.

2007 Seung-Hui Cho kills 32 people in two separate attacks at Virginia Tech before committing suicide - the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

2008 Latina Williams empties a .357 revolver into a classroom at Louisiana Technical College, killing two before committing suicide.

2008 Steven Phillip Kazmierczak enters a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University with a shotgun and three handguns. He kills five and wounds eighteen before turning the gun on himself.



When your roommate...

- pees on you - Keg stand
- cries - One shot
- wants to have a “dance party” - One drink
- actually has a dance party - Eat the worm
- and you engage in a hug lasting longer than three seconds - Slam three shots of Jack Daniels
- eats your God damn peanut butter - One drink
- says he or she will clean up and gets high/drunken instead - Three drinks
- says he or she downloaded the “best song ever” and then plays a song like “Lovely Lady Lumps” - One shot
- tries to get you to hook him up with your girlfriend’s sister/best friend - One shot
- tries to get you to hook him up with your girlfriend - Three shots
- breaks your piece and then hides it - One Jäger Bomb, one Irish Car Bomb and napkin to dry up your tears.

When you...

- hear your roommate masturbating - One shot
- see your roommate masturbating - Drink ‘til you can no longer see
- see your roommate in his or her underwear - drink indiscriminately
- see your roommate in your underwear - drink discriminatively
- hear your roommate having sex - listen
- see your roommate having sex - watch
- are having sex with your roommate - stop, you probably drank too much
- wake up at night with your roommate sitting in a chair next to your bed, gazing lovingly at your face and, when asked what the hell he or she’s doing there, replies, “being inspired.” - time to get a new roommate

Take one drink for every...

- Pink Floyd poster your roommate owns
- Bob Marley poster your roommate owns
- Ratt poster your roommate owns (actually, better make that three drinks)
- novelty shot glass your roommate owns
- time your roommate tags along to a party
- CD/DVD your roommate borrows and doesn’t put back in the jewel case
- conversation in which your roommate says “my last roommate was cooler.”



Wait a second, who let these guys in?

Interview by Jake Speicher
Transcribed by Nicole De Lancie

Oregon Commentator: So let's just get your general overall feelings about the elections: what you feel about the process and how it went.

Sam Dotters-Katz: Hmm...well...good one.

OC: It's good right? (Laughing)

Dotters-Katz: It is good! (Laughing) Well I think if there is anything to learn from the elections process, that is a deeper necessity for structural reform as far as the way that the elections board operates internally as well as it's interactions with the different branches of government and throughout the elections process.

OC: Could you explain a little how the elections board works, for people that do not know?

Dotters-Katz: The elections board is a five member board which rules on anything from rule changes to elections grievances and right now our two primary goals in reforming the elections board are in the arenas of transparency and autonomy, really trying to make them a board which is very much separated from the government and we are also trying to make the actions that they take and their processes a much more transparent thing. There are going to be disagreements during elections, always, but at least if there is a very transparent process then people can understand what is going on more so

then in the past. And the less confusing the process is the better for everyone.

Johnny Delashaw: An experience that everyone experienced during elections was that when grievances were filed, a lot of times you would not even be notified until a ruling had already been made, or you wouldn't be notified in order to respond. There was a lot of confusion on what the elections board rulings were and how you were supposed to act according to those. Another problem we had was that we had a sanction against us that was issued at 1:30 a.m. and we had to respond by 3 a.m.. So there were just some issues as far as understanding the process, and like Sam said transparency, that could really help next year's elections, so that the people that are trying to run for offices could really understand what the elections board is doing and how they can follow the rules to the fullest extent.

Dotters-Katz: Certain members of the elections board I think really gave a genuine effort to do their best under the conditions they were provided. But clearly elections coordinator Kendell Tylee did an absolutely awful job and failed in all of her responsibilities. And that is something that is widely considered by the candidates and by the current executive staff.

OC: Do you think the grievance process detracts from the elections, and sort of perpetuates the stereotype that the ASUO

has no idea what it is doing?

Dotters-Katz: Well I think that that is a dual-faceted problem. In the one hand, of course, when you have people filing grievances just for the sake of slowing down the process. The grievances weren't really legitimate in many cases in this election, as you can see from how many were filed against us. It does create that problem of legitimate arbitration. But at the same time, when you talk about silencing people's methods for talking about what they think is wrong, that is very scary too. So it is a really complicated issue.

Delashaw: I would say that definitely there needs to be some work done into the way that the grievances are filed and how they are looked at by both the Elections Board and Con Court, but it is really probably at this point the best way for students to make sure that the other students are following the rules. So until there is a better solution proposed to that, I don't foresee any way of getting rid of them. And yeah it does perpetuate that view sometimes that everything is out of control, and that is disappointing.

OC: So moving forward, what's the next step? What do you guys got going on?

Dotters-Katz: Currently the first thing on our docket is Executive staff hiring and we are looking forward to interviewing a wide variety of candidates that we have to fill these positions. We are looking to bring a really fresh perspective to the executive and that starts with hiring people that are really going to be ready to build coalitions, work hard, advance on the initiatives we talked about in our platform and

also a wide range of reform we are going to be implementing throughout the year.

Delashaw: Another thing that our administration is currently doing, before we even get into office, is Sam is proposing a plan to open the Knight Library for 24 hours next year. And that is just a good example of the way that our administration and the ASUO executive are going to work on behalf the entire student body next year.

OC: The perception of you guys going into the elections was that you were kind of outsiders. Your opponents used this against you saying that you wouldn't know how to get involved right off the bat. Have you run into obstacles coming in, like ASUO bureaucracy getting in your way, or has it been a smooth transition up to this point?

Dotters-Katz: Well the fact that we came into this experience as outsiders, as people who were not jaded by the process was an absolutely incredible benefit for Johnny and I. Based on the issue of qualifications, we were endorsed by almost every chair of the different committees and boards in the ASUO, so we were never too worried about how it was going to take place. We had been able to build such a broad coalition since we were elected, that many had gotten on board with our idea of reform and adding our fresh perspective of the ASUO that we really have been able to look forward to being very efficient. And just because there is an overbearing bureaucracy within the ASUO it doesn't mean that that's the way it how it has to be. We are really looking forward to cutting the red tape. And one way that is specifically going to be happening in is with our reforms with the RRC, the group recognition process. It's called the Review and Recognition Committee, and this is the committee that, it's only a couple years old, but is fraught with problems. This is something that we have heard from groups, something we have heard from current Programs Administrator Emma Kallaway, and it is something that we think needs to be fixed right away. When you have three years that it takes for a group to receive funding, the people that really put the ground work in and did the hard work in getting a group recognized, will never be there to see the finality. This is a big problem. So that is one way that we are really working to remove the pitfalls of an over bearing bureaucracy in the ASUO.

Delashaw: The RRC currently is a group of five students who are not paid any kind stipend and is also two administrators who oversee it. It is a process in which groups are recognized through the ASUO. There is a lot of bureaucratic maneuvering that is involved in this where you have to jump through all these hoops so that your group can be recognized. There are just some things that we feel are a little too strict in the process. As Sam said, the students that really work hard to get the groups and programs that want to exist on this campus, they can't necessarily do so because it takes so long for the RRC to meet and recognize the group, and then the funding, and also sometimes the groups that need more funding have to go through and get surplus money. We would just like to see that things could happen a lot quicker, and that way that will allow more students who are interested in creating a program, it would motivate them to actually do it more so than what's



By Chaz Faulhaber

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

going on right now. So the reforms that we are thinking about implementing are actually having those positions be stipend. The problem that exists right now is the five students that come right now, it's difficult because they are not paid, and they have to spend all this time on doing this. The other thing we are talking about doing is reducing the size of the RRC itself, so that things that can happen more efficiently.

Dotters-Katz: It may take a group only six months to get recognized, however the overall timeline for recognition and funding is actually a consecutive three year process, so that is an institutional change, a rule change we will be making specifically.

OC: Will you guys take any steps to reform Con Court, because right now it seems that they're a rogue entity?

Dotters-Katz: Athan Papailiou, current ASUO Senate president and our chief of staff, and I will be working extensively this summer to re-write the books on Con Court and prepare for the Fall an extensive ballot measure. There are a lot of reforms that need to happen surrounding transparency. As I said we are really excited about that. Some of the things that we are going to is make it so that they have to hear oral arguments in per curiam opinions, and in different ones that are requested, with a cap, with some sort of reason. We want to increase the body to seven members. As of now with only five members, we see a huge amount of turnover which gives a lot of power to a current executive. Hopefully increasing to seven will lessen that. We also want to have justice's voting to be disclosed because it is important to hold people accountable for their decision making. We would like it so Con Court cannot change its own bylaws, since they are the only body that can make changes to the ASUO Green Tape Notebook, our Constitution.

OC: That is something I was curious about. So is there any oversight of Con Court?

Dotters-Katz: Absolutely not. There is no oversight of Con Court. The definition in many ways of a democracy is a system of government that has checks and balances over itself. And that is something that we do not see at all. So we propose that any major rules changes the to the con court bylaws as well as to its constitutional articles about them and their practices, needs to be approved by Senate and signed by the Executive with veto power, to then go back to Senate with two thirds majority vote. Every facet of student government needs to have oversight, and right now the Con Court is truly a recluse power in the ASUO.

OC: What has it been like since you won? Have you been well received?

Dotters-Katz: I think once all the grievances and controversy died down and ended, people have really been receptive to talking and working with Johnny and I to get us ready for this position. It is an incredibly fortunate circumstance that Johnny and I are in, but it is also a huge responsibility and we don't take that lightly at all. Both of us have been working extremely hard to become well versed in the way that the ASUO has been run, and while we are planning on making a lot of reforms, we need to understand how the current process works.

Delashaw: A lot of people have been excited for what

Sam and I are about to do in the student government and we are hoping that next year we are going to be able to pull in a lot more students into the ASUO by some other means than currently. One of the reforms I am particularly excited about, and I think will really get more students involved on campus, is that we are not going to be accepting our stipends and we are going to instead have an Executive Grant for any student around the campus. This is something that should be put into place here pretty soon, probably this June. I welcome anybody who has a good idea for a project to come into the office and kind of pitch it to Sam and I.

Dotters-Katz: I just would like to add that so many of the people that have been in this elections process have been extremely generous with their time and energy in meeting with us, and I think they have been extremely gracious, and I am speaking specifically about Kari Herinckx and Jesse Hough. They have been very kind and thoughtful with their words and generous with their time in talking to Johnny and I. It has been something that we are extremely grateful for and is invaluable.

OC: So what's your least favorite grievance?

Dotters-Katz: Probably the one that violated our constitutional rights. There were some that violated just one of our constitutional rights, but I think there were some that managed to violate three or four. Those were quite, uh, quite bullshit. You can quote me on that.

OC: What was your favorite grievance?

Delashaw: I didn't necessarily have a favorite grievance besides the ones that I put into the system.

OC: Yeah, how do you feel about drawing the ire of the court?

Delashaw: Well, it's very worrisome for next year to have the ire of the court hanging over our heads. I hope that in some way we will be able to re-establish a relationship that doesn't have such fury against what we're trying to do. Hopefully, we can get around that.

Dotters-Katz: There are not many things worse in this world than having the ire of Shon Bogar.

OC: How do you guys justify write-ins getting more votes than Drew Cattermole?

Dotters-Katz: Well, first of all, I think the write-in box was right below Drew Cattermole's name, and I think many people clicked on write-in instead of Drew Cattermole. So he probably got quite a few of those votes. Stephen Colbert had a large draw from the write-in. However, I think Drew Cattermole's selfless campaign paid off. We'll see if he stays involved with student government or not, I hope he does.

OC: Are you guys going to appoint Drew Minister of Awesomeness?

Dotters-Katz: Probably, although based on his platform we might have to put him on sexual health awareness committee.



Oregon Commentator Managing Editor Jake Speicher and Production Manager Nicole Delancie are about to be officially unemployed. Johnny Delashaw and Sam Dotters-Katz are officially your student body president and vice president

The nuts and bolts of the AR-15

Sean Jin

Developed by the revolutionary firearms designer Eugene Stoner, the AR-15 is the civilian semi-automatic only version of the M-16. Well-known for its use as the US military's basic infantry rifle, the M-16 is commonly depicted as the counterpart to the AK-47 (See Guy Simmon's review, OC Volume 25, Issue 4, Nov. 5, 2007: The Man Issue), which is used in high volumes by the militias and militaries of ex-Soviet bloc, communist, and less-developed countries. Recently, most

notably, the AK-47 and its variants are frequently found in the hands of terrorists and insurgents around the world, as accurately depicted in films such as *Black Hawk Down* or *The Kingdom*. The AR-15, on the other hand, is the weapon of choice for the free world, and easily reflects the values of the West, just like American cars: sexier, more comfortable, more expensive, and less reliable.

Eugene Stoner started with the idea of having a lighter assault rifle designed

for engagements within 300 meters. This was a shift of doctrine from the traditional WWII 'battle rifle' mentality that employed precision fired hard-hitting bullets in lower volumes. This change gave birth to the AR-10 in 1956, which was about 2 pounds lighter than most infantry rifles of its time. Its direct gas impingement system used fewer parts, which meant a simpler system and less weight. The receiver was made from aluminum, instead of steel, which was unheard of at the time. Other parts, including the buttstock, hand guards, and pistol grip, were made of plastic reinforced with fiberglass, another unprecedented design. The stock was inline with the barrel instead of angling down, which necessitated higher sights to line up with the shooter's eye. This design helped cut down muzzle climb during firing, and gave the AR-10 and the subsequent AR-15 their distinct looks. When later chambered for the Remington .223/5.56 mm round, and with some design improvements, the rifle was designated the AR-15. Lightweight, comfortable, and easy to use, the AR-15 is the ultimate American weapon. Since its initial inception into the military in 1964 as the M-16, the AR-15 has found its place in the hearts of many Americans, including casual weekend enthusiasts, military-type wannabes, and tinkering gadgetwhores. Best of all, anyone owning an AR-15 will remove all doubt of them being accused of being a communist, socialist, terrorist or any other un-American-ist.

There are some drawbacks to being a true red-blooded anti-terrorist American, however. The AK-47 and its variants are the most produced and utilized assault rifles in the world for a reason. They are reliable and extremely easy to mass produce and obtain. One largescale factory can produce 20,000 in a day on average. AK-47s can be buried in mud, submersed underwater, or covered



By David Nguyen

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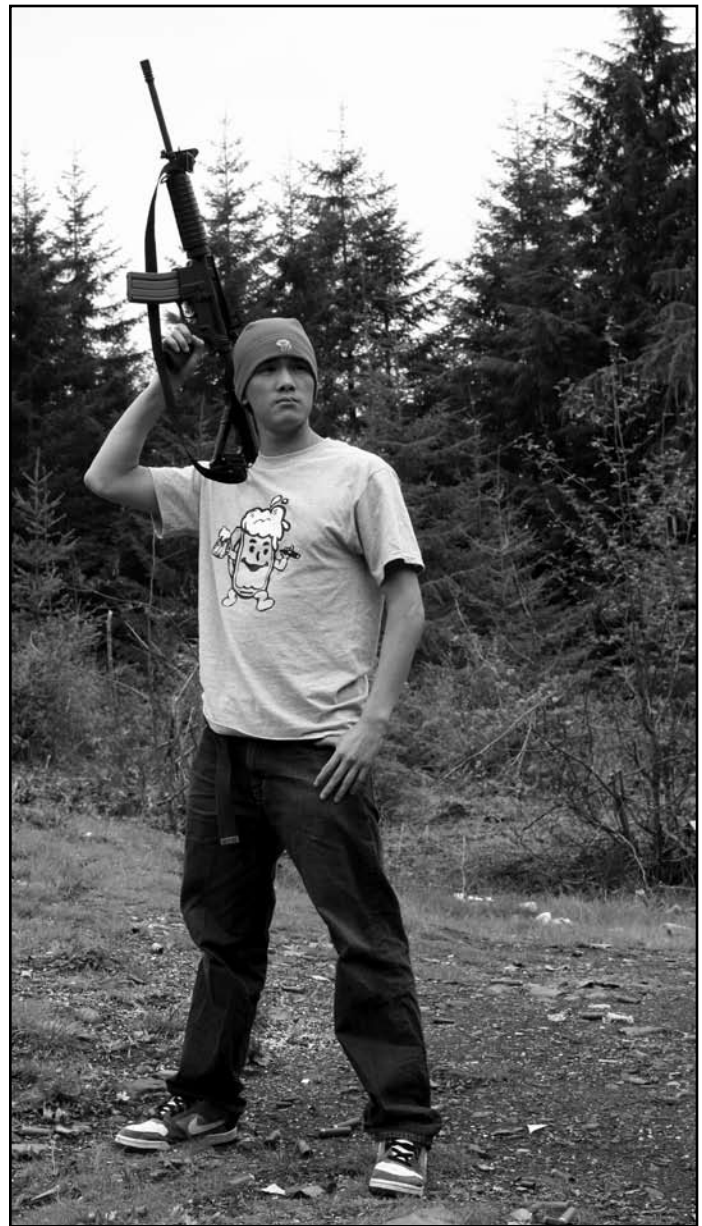
in sand, and will still fire reliably. Carbon buildup from firing the weapon does not cause stoppages as much with the AR-15. The weapon will always go BANG when the trigger is pulled. In stark contrast, the AR-15 experienced numerous problems with jamming and stoppages when it was first issued to US GIs in Vietnam. There were many reports of the weapon refusing to fire due to dust or dirt in the weapon. Even after improvements were made to the initial design, it is a sensitive little weapon that requires constant care and attention, unlike the AK-47 that can be neglected, tossed around, abused and still get on target and deliver. Quite remarkable for something having been designed, approved, and produced by a bunch of vodka-slugging communists.

Furthermore, because of its ubiquitous nature, ammunition for the AK is widely available in any part of the world. If you're going overseas with an AR-15, you better be packing your own ammo. In a tight spot in commie-laden China or Somalia or the Czech Republic and looking for ammo? Chances are you'll find something for the AK with ease.

Most of these poor and war-torn countries use this weapon because it is cheap and reliable. At almost twice the price of an AK-47, a basic AR-15 costs about \$600-\$700. So, what does the extra money buy you? In a sentence: comfort, versatility, and accuracy. The AR-15 comes with multiple options for customization on top of the original configuration. The buttstock, pistol grip, and handguards are easily interchangeable with aftermarket drop-ins that number in the thousands. A rail system can be installed that will incorporate a forward grip (ghetto grip), tactical light, laser, bipod, or reflex optic. With minimal tools, the AR-15 platform can be transformed from a close-quarters entry weapon to a far-hitting marksman's rifle. Noisy neighbors upstairs? Slap on a collapsible stock and you are ready to roll. Bothersome starlings' nest on your manager's roof? A 4X scope and bipod should solve your woes. Not to mention, this is the weapon of choice for badasses all across the country: SWAT teams, Jessica Lynch, Robert Neville (from I am Legend) and Forrest Gump.

They are remarkably easy to assemble from parts, requiring only the use of a hammer and roll punches for two pieces. And because of the modular design of the rifle, only the lower receiver is legally the gun, meaning everything else is purchasable online without a license or through a FFL.

Unlike rough and tough Kalashnikov, Eugene Stoner was looking to design a weapon that would be comfortable, accurate, and easy to handle. What the AR-15 loses in reliability is easily made up in ergonomics and light weight. Whichever stock might end up on the rifle will be invariably more comfortable than the hard and roughly shaped wood stock of the AK. Similarly, the pistol grip is far less punishing to the hand, and can be changed out for even more comfortable ones. The recoil is considerably absorbed by the well designed buffer spring system. With the light recoil and the weight of the weapon being quite lighter than most rifles of its class, it is well suited for small statured men and women. The biggest gripe about firearms from women is weight. With this weapon, being always progressive and conscious of equal opportunity, America has managed to level the playing field



between men and women in yet another aspect: self-defense and firearms. Furthermore, in a shit-hits-the-fan situation, you can rest assured that your girlfriend or wife will be ready to back you up with some serious lead.

It is not only in the interests of equality and fairness that we, as Americans, both promote and support the AR-15 as a rifle. It is in our own interests, as well, to use the weapon of the free world. By doing so, we are protecting our identity as Americans and recognizing the values that we stand for. By owning and using this weapon, we are vowing to fight the forces of communism, socialism, and anything else un-American. Most importantly, the possession of this wonderful weapon is a badge signifying an individual's lifelong commitment to individualism, equality and freedom.



Sean Jin is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and doesn't like white people.

Relish the freedoms granted in America

Matthew "Moose" Walsh

This article is dedicated to every Native American, immigrant, soldier, common man, woman and child who sacrificed themselves for the betterment of the United States.

As anyone who has ever traveled outside the good ol' U S of A will tell you, spending time away from your family, friends and familiarity can alter your world perspective in ways that only those who have gone through the experience can truly relate to. In my time abroad, I feel as though I have come to this altered perspective—or at least to the point to write this article. In my travels I have come to realize one thing in particular that stands out more than anything. The United States of America kicks fucking ass!

Let us set aside all the problems with our government for a second—because show me a country without a problematic government, I dare you. Why? Because there isn't one. Yes we have our problems, but who doesn't? But you know what we do have? Freedom, opportunity, unparalleled aesthetic beauty. Did I mention freedom already? You always hear that America is the melting pot of the world, and you know what, it's true. You can find every type of person in America, that in itself is a freedom that can be found in very few places other than the "Land of the Free, and Home of the Brave." The aforementioned trait is unique to America, and the next time you hear someone begin to bad-mouth our fair country be sure to point two fingers right in their chest, and remind them of their ignorance regarding our honorable land with a strong verbal lashing. For their right to even openly criticize their own government is something that not all people in this world can do without fear of persecution or imprisonment. Does China ring a bell?

We, as Americans – especially those reading this article, since it means you likely go to college and are particularly likely to succeed and prosper in this world – needs to enjoy it, embrace it, and be grateful for the sacrifices of those who gave you this freedom. Whether or not you totally agree with them or not, at least be happy you have the freedom to do so. Another important factor to keep in mind is that we do—particularly in Eugene—have the power as a collective body to change things politically if we use the channels and methods of our forefathers as given unto us in the Constitution. So don't bitch unless you're getting yourself involved.

And what we have lacking in physical history and architecture, we make up for with monuments only Mother Earth could have created: The Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, The Grand Tetons, Crater Lake, etc. These examples of the geologic exquisiteness cannot be found anywhere else that is as free and safe to travel to other than, you guessed it, AMERICA!

So the next time you're trying to decide whether to eat Mexican, Italian, Thai or Ethiopian food for this evening or flushing your toilet paper down the toilet (which this columnist hasn't done in two months), or choosing from a plethora of cheap, available booze, remember how lucky you are, and be proud to be a part of the greatest country on Earth. Raise your glasses high, and give thanks and cheers your closest neighbors for being lucky enough to be an American.



Matt Walsh claims to have added a few notches to the belt during his time in Greece, and is a contributor of the OC.

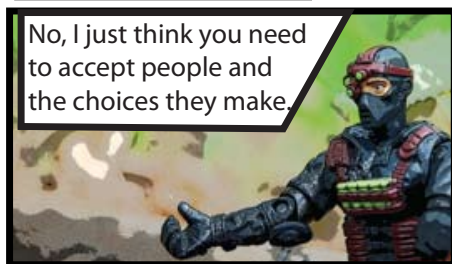
The OC is strongly considering its nuclear option in the ongoing war on toner. Beware.

Do you hate it in for toner like us? Join the Oregon Commentator.

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Yeah, of course! He's... uh... he was ... it's like... umm... I ... it.



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SPEW...

and, is this offensive?

ON OREGON VOICE GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

WIPE THAT SNEER OFF HIS FACE!



“In the eyes of many Americans, Africa is merely a land populated by potential NBA stars and graced with copious amounts of sunshine.”

~ Oregon Voice contributor Stephen Person in the opening line of a book review of Dave Eggers' *What is the What*. Wait for it ...

“In the eyes of those with a greater breadth of knowledge, however, Africa is a country burdened by political agendas and torn by war and famine.”

~ A country? This deserves a reverberation of the old saying, you can't make this shit up. Well done, OV.

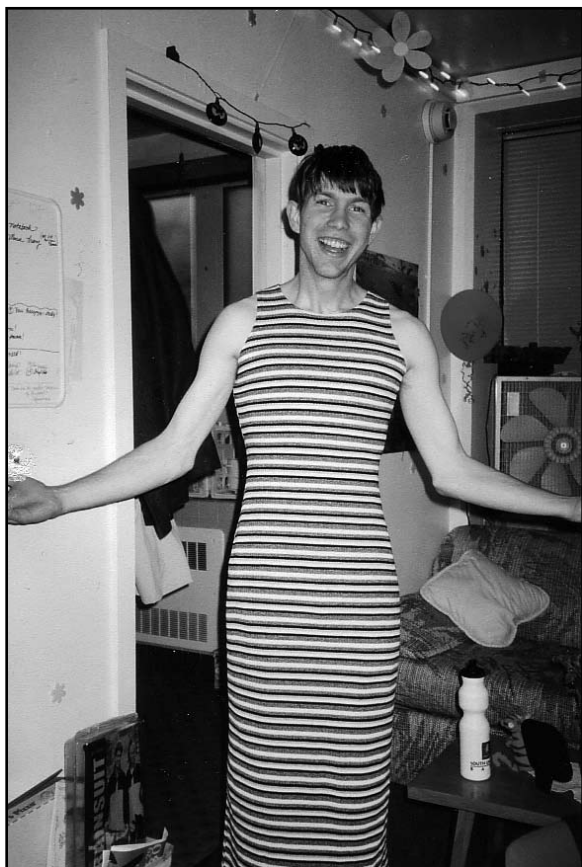
ON HE'S BAAAACK

He plans to marry a woman with “traditional” values who won't question his authority as head of the family. Ten years from now, he hopes to be “outside this shit hole,” teaching full time and heading up a family of his own. “We're talking barefoot and pregnant,” he says without a trace of irony.

~ A 2003 article in the *Eugene Weekly* about conservatism on campus. The author is talking about former UO College Republican member and notorious campus crazy Scott Austin.

“I even enjoyed the plethora of dishes offered by Holy Cow, and were I to return to the University — as my wife and I plan to mid-summer this year — I will probably enjoy at least one meal there.

~ A letter to the editor in the *Ol' Dirty* on May 20 by, guess who? I guess we'll have to set up the Scott Austin Watch Booth outside the Holy Cow.



ON A STEAMING, FRESH LOAD OF STUDENT INSURGENT

“It seems like forever since the last issue of this little paper rolled off the press doesn’t it?”

~ The editorial of the newest Student Insurgent. Someone has some ‘splainin to do.

“Well, it has only been three months, but you get what I mean. I can only attribute this slump to the bad timing of Spring. It’s hard to sit in a stuffy office and slave away when the sun is shining and you just want to get the hell out there and do something?”

~ Uh oh, here comes the waaaambulance! It must be a real drag collecting stipends to put out five issues so far this year.

“This just highlights the fact that there are those who cannot do just that, who are incarcerated inside concrete building as though it is somehow “rehabilitating” to be locked inside on a beautiful day [...], but I digress.”

~ Yes, your ineptitude is a perfect parallel to the American prison system. We couldn’t agree more.

“I’m an anarchist and in prison for the attempted assassination of ex-president Bill Clinton ... I was the man who was videotaped shooting up the White House back in 1994. My attack was against the authority of government; Not at anyone out shopping at the mall, attending church or going to school. I was young and impulsive. Not any longer.”

~ Francisco M. Duran in a letter to the SI. This must be one of those oppressed souls the editorial was referring to.

“I’m a bisexual man in prison, a neo-pagan and a communist.”

~ Jon R Shepherd in another letter. This is actually the least confusing sentence in the whole, insane thing.

“We live inside the dream of None-El Shaddai, the mother! Her mark is the #9999, and Her seal is an 8-pointed star (Rev. 12:12-21 & 22:14). Three dimensionally, that makes 16 signs to the Zodiac in astrology, or a 480 degree circle, just as 6 of the Lord’s days=6,000 human years.”

“To see the Bible as complete in itself is only to practice idolatry! Six day creationism is obviously an excuse for the genocide of most Intuitive personality types. But we’re kept from this realization by all three levels of the intergalactic state (666). [...] Honest transport from the center of the earth will only be found through Margherita Peak. Go into the sun!”

~ Pff. Everyone knows that time is cubic.

“Ant colonies solve problems that would be impossible for an individual ant to solve.”

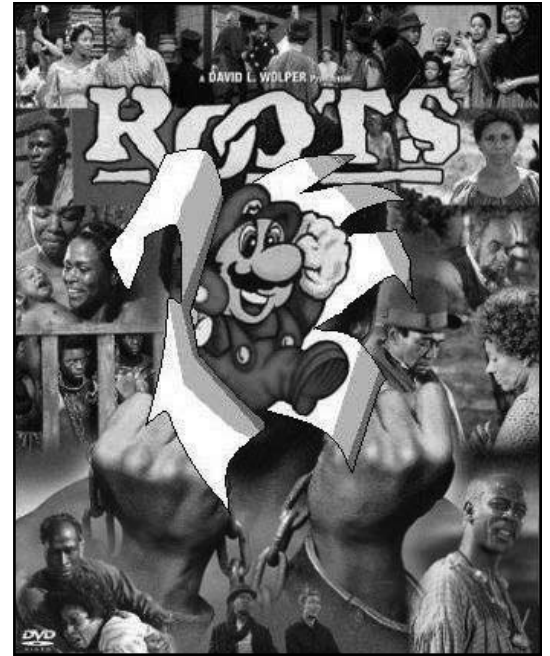
~ Proving it’s just a short hop from utopia to dystopia, Brian Kvenvolden’s opines on the great qualities of ants in “Emergent Complexity Theory and the Anarchist Approach.” Where could he possibly be going with this?

“No one ant decides when, what, or how a task is to be done, the colony act collectively. Ants truly use the motto, ‘e pluribus Unum,’ out of many one. [...] If you want a better world, you could do worse than having ants as role models.”

~ Yes, what could be better than being a mindless automaton in the hive-state?

“Pull the spine out of the human animal / and what would be left? / A creature / No better than a damn conservative.”

~ Some heavy poetry by Dee Allen. Why do you have to perpetuate your elitist, vertebrate privilege?



Lest We Forget ...

Which Conspiracy Theory is Right for You?

Feeling Lonely? Take this quiz and find your very own Conspiracy Theory to keep you warm at night!

1. Your biggest fear is:

- A.The Middle East
- B.Yoko Ono
- C.The government
- D.Solar wind

2. In the election you are voting for:

- A.John McCain
- B.Some democrat
- C.Ralph Nader
- D.What election?

3. Your MySpace headliner reads:

- A.“Fear Change”
- B.“Wings Forever!”
- C.“Save Darfur”
- D.“They’re out There”

4. Your most listened to album on your iTunes is:

- A.Toby Keith “White Trash With Money”
- B.The Beatles “Abbey Road”
- C.The Best of the Grateful Dead
- D.Pink Floyd “Dark Side of the Moon”

5. Your favorite movie is:

- A.The Ten Commandments
- B.Hard Day’s Night
- C.Dazed and Confused
- D.Star Wars

Count up your answers!

If you answered mostly A’s... You think Barack Obama is Muslim! His middle name is “Hussein”, so he obviously is a die-hard Muslim. And if he’s Muslim, that definitely means he’s working undercover for Al-Qaeda. If he gets into the White House, it will be destroyed!

If you answered mostly B’s... You think the real Paul McCartney died in 1966! They merely covered it up by finding a look and sound alike of good ol’ Paul. He’s clearly walking backwards on the cover of Abbey Road, your first clue that something is wrong. Go take a mirror and bisect the cover of Sgt. Pepper to find out more.

If you answered mostly C’s... You think 9/11 was an inside job! You saw Loose Change, the dimensions seemed so right, it all fit together so perfectly, how did they know where to fly those planes...trust no one. Take a bong load and watch Loose Change again.

If you answered mostly D’s... You think we never actually landed on the moon! There’s no wind on the moon, how’d they get that flag to wave...

By Carly Erickson