

OREGON

COMMENTATOR

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A Journal of Opinion



THE DARK NIGHT TRAIN OF THE SOUL.

INSIDE:

The Best of Eugene

The Death of Info Hell

Israel/Gaza Protests



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.

WHY SO SERIOUS?

"Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke." - Frank Zappa

Ladies and gentlemen, we're here to tell you that the government is a laughing matter - the funniest, most absurd thing we can think of, in fact.

In our own, limited little realm, government is the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. It's a government run by students, which makes it even funnier and more absurd than regular government.

As such, it's our great joy as a conservative/libertarian publication to occasionally remind the student body of this fact.

This is why Commentator Editor-in-Chief C.J. Ciaramella recently decided to apply for the vacated journalism seat on the ASUO Senate. Ciaramella submitted an application that called ASUO Senators "nominally more intelligent than a trained circus bear" and listed his influences as Teddy Roosevelt, Ghengis Khan and Conan the Barbarian.

When Ciaramella had his confirmation hearing before the Senate, he recited portions of Barack Obama's inaugural speech. Not surprisingly, the Senate voted down Ciaramella 0-12-2. In fact, some of them expressed outrage that he would treat the Senate with such flippancy.

This was not unexpected. Indeed, it would be hard to overestimate the Senate's gravitas and dedication to its own, Byzantine process.

Enter the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Almost a week after the fiasco, the Emerald ran an editorial, "ASUO, Commentator lacking integrity?" Answering its own poorly



worded headline, the Emerald accused the Commentator of, among other things, being unprofessional, disingenuous and lacking in journalistic ethics. The Emerald also found our flippancy unacceptable.

Which is amusing considering we've put in more time and shoe leather reporting on the ASUO than most of us would like to remember. Sure, the Oregon Daily Emerald covers the ASUO, but most of the time the editors treat stories with an all-too-telling complacency - an attitude of "this is the news we have to run, so let's just get it over with." That leaves us, the Oregon Commentator, to aggressively pursue and keep student government in check.

The Emerald concluded the editorial in its typical, overwrought fashion by writing, "Making student government and its coverage in the media into a circus isn't funny, even if circus bears are."

First of all, yes, it is.

Second, we're not making the student government and its media coverage a circus. It's already a circus. Everything about it is patently absurd. We're talking about a group of college kids managing \$11 million in student money. These are people who cry during Senate meetings and spend the rest of the time staring at Facebook.

ASUO election season has already started. As you read this, there are student politicians

scheming and organizing. There are backroom deals and power struggles, the kind of which average students can't really imagine (and would probably be sick to their stomachs if they did).

For example, the two major political factions on campus (fiscal conservatives and the student unions, environmental groups, etc.) use decoy candidates to throw each other off. We shit you not.

Many probably find it (a) surprising and (b) ridiculous that this is so, but student government is merely a microcosm of government at large. And as we all know, bureaucracy is inherently corrupt and self-serving at all levels.

But it's not just our conservative leanings that make us despise government. The journalist's natural enemy is the politician. The journalist's job is to present the truth, and the politician's job is to obscure and spin the truth for his or her own devices.

So what better way to fight this grossly incompetent system and bring out the truth than satire and mockery? Vicious satire has long been a part of the journalist tradition. Please refer to such sharp-tongued writers as H.L. Mencken and Hunter S. Thompson. Thompson has now become a tired stereotype and idol for kids who think doing drugs makes them good writers, but he also had a fantastic talent for pointing out the absurdity of government and politicians.

Take, for example, Thompson's infamous run for sheriff of Aspen, Colorado. Thompson ran on

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"The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

THE OREGON COMMENTATOR
FREE MINDS, FREE MARKETS, FREE BOOZE

We can find herpes anywhere

For the Work of Almighty God

For The Work Of Almighty God. Dear Beloved in Christ, Calvary greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ?

I am Mrs. Sandra Michael Stanley Brewster, A widow of 51years old suffering from cancer of the breast, My Late husband Mr. Michael Stanley Brewster, were killed during the UK terrorist Attack when we visited London for holidays. My condition is serious and according to my doctor, he said it is obvious that I may not survive. I have some funds that my late husband Mr. Michael Stanley Brewster, WILLED to me in cash. the sum of \$7,900,000.00 United States of American Dollars.

I packaged it in consignments and deposited it with a finance house. After my prayers, I searched a Christian

site in the Internet, I found your email address and I decided to contact you for the usage of the fund in your Ministry. Therefore as a, child of God, If your are honest and faithful enough to use this fund strictly for the work of God, Your response will be highly appreciated.

Yours in His Vineyard, Mrs. Sandra Stanley Brewster. Please do get back to me at mmchurch1@hotmail.com

Very Quotatious

Hello,
i need a quote for any of these Items:

- 1,85watt solar panel or 125watt solar panel
- 2, Grundfos SQFlex 11 SQF-2 submersible pumps
- 3,Grundfos SQ Pumps 10SQ10C-240 1C hp 200-240v P/N 11175

4,Shurflo Pumps (Model 9325-043-101) 9300 Submersible Pump

5,Grundfos SQFlex 3 SQF-2 submersible pumps

I will like to know any of the items above that you can supply .

larry

larrywaterpumpcontractors

3510 Main Street

Oakley , CA. 94561

Hello Larry,

I am writing to let you know that the Oregon Commentator (ocomment@darkwing.uoregon.edu) is not in the business of alternative energy equipment supply. The Oregon Commentator is a college news magazine. In short, we cannot supply you with any of the items which you have listed.

Good luck with your endeavors,

Guy Simmons

Publisher

Oregon Commentator

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

Send letters to the editor to ocomment@uoregon.edu

Sudsy Gear

All sizes in blue and grey t shirts and blue and pink tank tops
Send order requests to ocomment@uoregon.edu

\$10





asks ...

How are you cutting back during the recession?



Klunderman

I'm selling Wii's and other small electronics. Hit me up.

The Hef:

I'm only dating two Bunnies at a time.



Jesus:

I'm turning water into Steel Reserve these days.

The Big Three:

Cutting back? We just got a bailout bitches!!!! Drinks on us.



Frog:

Using my joke books to wipe my ass just like everyone else.

Lindsey Lohan:

Kicking the coke habit and getting into meth. Much cheaper and lasts longer. Thats a sound economic decision.



Winston Churchill:

I only smoke Swisher Sweets Rebels now.

Fantasy Class List

Matt Tham

Winter term has starting and that means, A) you've already blown off your New Years resolutions, B) good weather won't be seen again till March and C) more bums will start sleeping on my porch than ever before. The beginning of winter term also signifies another important time in the lives of Oregon students; new classes. During registration accounting majors signed up for accounting classes, political science majors signed up for poly sci classes and those undeclared, uncertain or simply uncaring just signed up for whatever classes RateMyProfessor.com told them were the easiest. This phenomenon led me to wonder, what if we could sign up for any classes we wanted, and when I say any class I mean ANY class. Here is what my schedule would look like if I could sign up for any class I want.

Music 399: Rockstar Training

Do you wonder what it would be like to live like a rock star? This class will teach you just that. The finer points of hotel trashing, substance abuse and all forms of debauchery will be explored. Lessons will be modeled after the lives of legendary rockers such as Slash, Tommy Lee, John Bonham and others.

History: The Legend of Mario

From his debut in DK to the infamous Super Mario to the ill-advised Paper Mario this class will dwell on all that is Mario past and present. Specific topics include his illustrious sports career, numerous enemies, legendary battles and his girl Peach's inability to avoid kidnappings.

Economics: College Budgeting

This course covers the essential lessons needed to make it through college when the wallets running near empty. Lessons include music piracy, obtaining free food, finding the cheapest clothing and most importantly, stretching that last dollar into the most booze humanly possible.

Philosophy: The teachings of Bob Marley

Take a closer look at the words of Bob Nesta Marley. Learn the way of the Rastafari from the most famous Rastafarian to ever grace this planet.

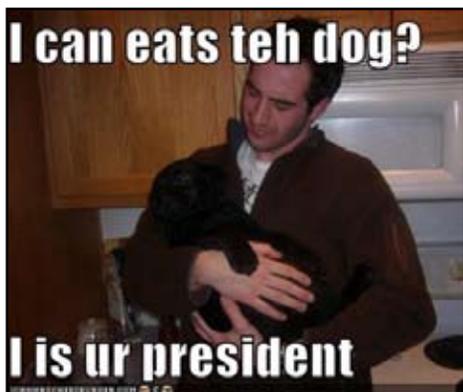
Post-election Issue Corrections

* All of the anonymous sex stories printed in the issue were, in fact, true. This is not an error per se, but it's still pretty gross to think about. The Commentator regrets the mental image.

*Due to a reporter's error, it was incorrectly stated that Obama will win the NBA MVP in 2010. Unfortunately, due to the time-travel paradox, the future has now been changed. (Or has it?) In any case, we hope you enjoy the robot apocalypse.

INTRODUCING LOL DOTTERS KATZ

Ladies and gentlemen, your ASUO Executive:



Theta Chi closes; who's stepping up?

Carly Erickson

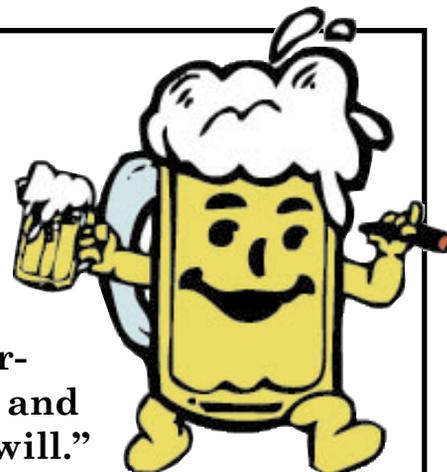
It's no secret that Theta Chi had a pretty bad reputation for taking advantage of drunken girls, rampant drug use, and being an all around embarrassment to college students everywhere. Now, considering that the frat has been shut down, we are left with two major concerns. The first is that now we have to be careful out on the street, since these bros are running loose, spreading their Theta Crabs wherever they go. Secondly, the big question, who is going to fill their shoes?

Douche-baggery aside, most of the frats on campus are not threatening. Some may even be acceptable. Yes, they might throw "Pimps and Hoes" parties and spank each other on the weekends, but that doesn't mean they're going to put GHB in your cocktail. A simple run-down of the fraternities on campus has left two clear options: Beta Theta Pi and Lambda Chi Alpha.

However, the winner is Lambda Chi. Despite Beta's sketchy rep, they aren't as bad as Lambda Chi. As far as rumors are concerned, Lambda Chi is just as bad as Theta Chi ever was. There are plenty of stories of their lowly behavior floating about, particularly in the girl "seeking" department. Well, and the drug-consumption thing, too. For all intents and purposes, they seem to be basically the same institution. Congratulations, Lambda, the tool torch has been passed, and you are officially the next Theta Chi.

Sudsy Says:

"If taxes aren't enough to turn you libertarian, drugs and prostitution will."



OC the BEST of the Eug

drugs

getting high

- your couch
- the cemetery

getting coked up

- backroom of SNAFU
- Johnson Hall

scoring

- South Eugene High
- Saturday Market

dosing

- the Lorax
- Jordan Schnitzer Art Museum

chasing the dragon

- needle park
- PLC 180

um, we forgot

- Mario Kart
- Adult Swim

old man bar

- Mac's at the Vet's
- Peabody's

pimp fights

- Indigo District
- Taboo

oral herpes

- John Henry's
- That disgusting, hunchbacked old beggar over by PLC

the bad touch

- John Henry's
- Joggers

Bro-pocalypse

- Max's
- Taylor's

gettin' shanked

- Tiny Tavern
- Lambda Chi

public sex

- Math Library
- men's third-floor bathroom, Knight library, second stall

down low

- Craig's List
- your mom

falling in love

- Phil's Clubhouse
- The Nile

ladies of the night

- Springfield bus station
- Gateway Mall

going greek

- Theta crabs
- Delta gonorrhea

public urination:

- Johnson Hall
- your couch

diarrhea

- Muchas Gracias
- Empire Buffet

fight club

- can't tell you
- women's center/foxy boxing

stripper pole

- Kitty Piercy's office
- Oregon Commentator office (forthcoming)

campus icon

- Sudsy
- Joey Harrington

professor

- Bish Sen
- Bill Harbaugh

ASUO group

- Oregon Commentator
- Geology Club (holla!)

drink

sex

etc.

The truth about Santa

Scott Younker

The sun hasn't even risen, and probably isn't even thinking about it, but in the small Chinese village of Shang-Chi, northwest of Beijing, one small man staggers from his home to a hulking factory.

Shuang Shu is running on less than four hours of sleep as he stumbles along the cobbled streets. A clock in the town square reads 3:00 a.m. Shu only just left work the previous night at 11:00.

As Shu gets closer to the factory more men appear drifting onto the road in dirty blue coveralls and worn down shoes. The only lights on the road come from a small apothecary cart that sells "energy roots" to the workers.

Just outside the factory a giant sign reads, "Shengdanlaoren Factory." The name means Santa Claus in Chinese.

Inexplicably a white man of similar stature to the Chinese checks the weary workers in at the gate.

Before leaving for work that morning Shuang says, "It's a hard living being an elf for Shengdan but we manage."

It turns out even Santa Claus has joined the race to "globalize."

Rumors from 2006 hinted that Santa was closing his North Pole factories and moving it elsewhere. Protests arose from the Pole Elves about supposed "toy outsourcing."

After that the North Pole went quiet and it seemed that the move out of country wouldn't be happening. Press releases from the Pole still showed happy white elves busily building toys for the good children of the world.

The Internet exploded with conspiracy theories anyway. One site boasted that it knew of three different factory sites in Africa, Pakistan, and Siberia.

All were false claims.

Still, the idea of Santa's Workshop not being in the North Pole continued to fester in the conscience of some Christmas Watchdog groups like C.A.R.O.L.

(Christians Against Racist Old eLves).

Julia Stienbek, a spokeswoman for C.A.R.O.L. says, "We had the aerial photos of the Shop, and things just weren't adding up. It was too quiet, and what about the giant new skyscraper up there? All glass windows and brand new Lexuses and Mercedes? It just didn't go with the simple culture that used to be there."

C.A.R.O.L. and similar groups across the United States have been calling for a

Santa threw a chair at one reporter and screamed, "You'll be getting coal this year, Johnson."

An anonymous source sent the Commentator to China in search of the elusive outsourced factory late in November of last year.

Getting through Chinese customs and having to deal with the stringent security and watchful eyes of the government hindered Commentator reporters until just two weeks ago when they finally reached the village of Shang-Chi.

It's as remote as one can get in China, surrounded by mountains on all sides with a steep trip down a snowy mountain pass that only locals know of and few of them are privy to that information.

The Xiao Jing-Ling, as the Elves are called in Chinese, have lived in Shang-Chi for thousands of years. According to Shuang it is their ancestral home.

Just past the security guard the hulking, soot blasting factory rises up out of the morning gloom looking like something more akin to Mordor than Santa's Workshop.

The conditions inside are worse. With little light and a back-breaking pace the Chinese elves turn out thousands of toys daily for the millions of "good" children in the world.

Working in the factory is dangerous as well. Instead of happy elves working at their own little station, today they're spread over miles of assembly lines.

Other than the conveyor belt the process is completely hand-made, machines can't move as fast as the elves.

They don't get many breaks other, one for lunch and another if it appears that they're slowing down. However, the managers are good at catching which elves are slowing down purposely and which aren't.

Considering the blazing speeds that the elves work at it's amazing they can



Congressional investigation into Santa's company, which recently began being traded openly on the U.S. stock markets.

So far Congress has resisted any attempts by lobbyists to begin the investigation.

Rep. Deck T. Halls (D) from Minnesota is in support of the investigation but faces stiff opponents from Republicans in the House, including several from his own state.

Halls was quoted in a 2007 Time Magazine article as saying, "It's an uphill battle. We have evidence that something is wrong in the Pole but those damn Republicans and their pro-business stance is hindering the movement of any investigation."

Whenever questioned about it, Santa and his representatives gave vague answers or became irritated about the issue. In one famous case in late 2006,

J-School Shake-up

The Journalism Department is radically changing its pre-journalism core classes, including the dreaded Info Hell

C.J. Ciaramella

On the wall of the Oregon Commentator office, next to the “don’t tread on me” flag and a signed picture of Norm MacDonald, there is a dusty, yellow button. It simply says, “I SURVIVED INFO HELL.” Left by some long-gone alum, the button is one that every journalism student and graduate of the University of Oregon owns. It’s a sign that the wearer passed the infamous Journalism 202: Information Gathering or, as it’s known by students and faculty alike, Info Hell.

Soon, though, Info Hell and its yellow buttons will, like Norm MacDonald, be a thing of the past.

The Journalism Department is merging three of its pre-core classes: J202: Information Gathering, J203: Writing for the Media and J204: Visual Communication. In their place, students will take a two-term sequence, Gateway to Media, which will combine elements of the old courses. Students will take Gateway I and II concurrently in fall or winter term and Gateway III in spring term. Gateway I focuses on storytelling and multimedia, while II focuses on research.

According to Julianne Newton, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at the journalism school, the purpose of the new classes is to “take the skills that we were focusing on individually a term at a time and integrate those into a different formulation of the twelve credits, so that people are actually working on projects where they use all three of those skills.”

The Journalism Department is also consolidating the specializations or tracks that J-students choose when they become full



majors. The old options of news/editorial, magazine and electronic media are all being rolled into a catch-all “journalism” track.

“The three faculty groups who make up those particular tracks got together and determined that we really were more concerned about the content than the platform,” Newton explained. “I’m thinking about it as a super-journalism major. It’s pulling together what we used to teach separately into an integrative process, so the focus is on the content rather than the platform. By focusing on the story and the meaning of the story, it gives us more flexibility to deal with the changes that are going on in journalism right now and helps us focus on how to best prepare you for what might be going on ten years from now.”

Michael Werner is currently teaching Gateway I. According to Megan Koler, a student enrolled in the classes, Gateway I is primarily about “storytelling and effective ways to use each medium.”

“[Werner] has us look at a lot of Ira Glass and This American Life,” Koler said.

The course description on the syllabus reads: “This is a beginning multimedia storytelling course in which students gather information using journalism practices, such as in-person interviews, and then tell these stories through words, photos, audio and video. No prior experience with the tools or with reporting is necessary.” In keeping with its experimental nature, there is no required textbook or final examination for the class.

Journalism professor Mark Blaine is teaching Gateway II this term. Blaine has previously taught Information Gathering, and the primary elements of the class - choosing a specific topic and researching it - are still intact. However, the 100+ page paper that was the hallmark of Info Hell is gone, replaced by a more manageable 15-page research paper. Students are also required to start a Wordpress blog.

Newton said that new media and technology will be a “core thread” throughout the gateway sequence. As an example, all of Blaine’s students were assigned to cover a different side of the media during Barack Obama’s inauguration - mainstream, independent, conservative, liberal - and blog about it. Blaine is also creating a master blog for the class, which will act as an aggregator for all of the students’ topics.

“It’s not just going to be a big paper on a shelf,” Koler said. “Everything’s going to be accessible for everyone to read.”

The new classes are still pilot programs, and the instructors are

developing the curriculum as they go.

"There's some kinks, but it's not frustrating at all," Koler said.

The new program is no doubt due in some part to the changes in media at large. Journalism as a profession is contracting and consolidating. New technology and smaller newsrooms are requiring reporters to be jacks of all trades - writers, bloggers, photographers, videographers, etc.

"Everything is in flux and we need a curriculum that is dynamic," Newton said. "We want to prepare our graduates to be leaders in ways to solve the new problems."

However, Newton said that it's still a long way to go before the classes become official. The Journalism faculty voted to approve the plan, but it still must be voted on by the Undergraduate Council of the University of Oregon. If approved, it again moves on to the Curriculum Committee, which must review the individual course changes. Finally, if approved yet again, it must be voted on by the University Senate.

Many current and former journalism students are unhappy that Information Gathering will be gone, if for nothing else than pure schadenfreude. The course is a "filter class" that many majors have - the kind of hard and tedious class that weeds out the noncommittal and inept. The first question that is often asked when someone says they are a journalism major is, "Have you taken Info Hell yet?" Newton was quick to reassure, though, that pre-journalism students will still suffer under the new system.

"We actually believe the gateway sequence is going to be more rigorous than the original three class sequence," she said. "So as far as things being tough, toughness will continue."



C.J. Ciaramella is Editor-in-Chief of the Oregon Commentator and took Info Hell three times. No joke.

Aw, geez. Would you look at all this blank space? This is what happens when we don't have enough material and the editor has to try and fill it at God knows how late at night.

Might as well make it a house ad. Comic Sans font? Why not?

You know, we get lots of emails from people who want to write for us, but do they ever show up? Noooooo.

They just squander their opportunity to get published clips and real journalism experience - the kind you can put on pieces of paper that you give to potential employers.

So we (and you) are left with this. Thanks for nothing.

The Oregon Commentator
Looking for reporters, opinion writers and designers

ocomment@uoregon.edu

Proportional Response: University of Oregon Style

Vincent Artman

At this point, everyone has formed an opinion on Israel's supposedly ghoulish attacks on the "world's biggest concentration camp", the Gaza Strip. The incursion into the Hamas-run Palestinian territory of Gaza has provoked howls of outrage worldwide, accompanied by demands that the "Zionist entity" immediately cease the carnage and halt operations. We frequently hear about how the Israelis deliberately target civilians, blow up schools, and engage in other nefarious deeds, but they're often described in a vacuum, divorced of the context in which they happened

There is seemingly no end to the reasons that purport to explain why Israel's incursion into the Gaza Strip was lawless and unwarranted. On the milder end of the spectrum, you will find those who simply declare that Hamas is the legitimate and duly elected government of the Gaza Strip and say that was Israel, not Hamas that initially broke the ceasefire, forcing the Palestinians to escalate their

campaign of indiscriminate rocket attacks. Others will explain Gaza is an "open-air prison" where the Israelis cruelly deny Palestinians access to necessities such as water, electricity, medical supplies, and food. A recent letter to the Eugene Weekly ("Unrelenting Brutality", January 8, 2009) maintain that arbitrary murders are driving Palestinians to a state of desperation, ultimately leading, one assumes, to the adoption of such tactics as suicide bombing to fight back against an overwhelmingly superior foe. Another letter ("Shocking Gaza") approvingly cites Naomi Klein's rather confused Disaster Capitalism and declares that Israel is intent on "erasing 'surplus humanity'".

A more explicitly racial version of this theory can be found in the words of those who argue that the Zionists are carrying out a "genocide in slow-motion" and attempting to exterminate the Palestinians entirely. Rocket attacks and suicide bombings are compared to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943, the single largest

act of resistance by Jews during the Holocaust, which resulted in the razing of the Warsaw Ghetto and the establishment of a concentration camp in its place. The implication is clear and should come as no surprise given the frequent and explicit likening of Israelis to Nazis among Palestinians and their sympathizers.

The most prevalent (and mass-media acceptable) criticism of the Israeli campaign, however, is the accusation that Israel is engaging in a "disproportionate response" to the Palestinian rocket attacks. Precisely what this is supposed to mean is somewhat unclear. It is generally discussed alongside pictures of exploded Qassam rockets which have resulted in minor damage to a sidewalk or field and figures illustrating how the thousands of these things which have crashed into Israeli cities have resulted in a mere handful of deaths. All of this is laid in comparison to reports of mass carnage in Gaza and photos of Israeli self-propelled artillery and attack helicop-



ters. The intent, of course, is to highlight the “power imbalance” that Hamas finds itself on the losing end of, a state of affairs that more or less excuses their methods.

The question of what does constitute a “proportional response” is always left unsaid. Few aside from the most vicious anti-Zionists and anti-Semites who’ve bought into Hamas’ stated goal of destroying Israel argue that Israel is obliged to simply accept the fact that it will be subject to ceaseless and increasingly sophisticated rockets attacks (while the Qassam thus far remains the most popular method of long-distance “resistance”, newer models hailing from China and Iran promise to increase the operational reach of Hamas’ rocket campaign and, presumably, its effectiveness). Even more absurd are suggestions that Israel engage in a sort of tit-for-tat war with Hamas, indiscriminately firing Qassam-style explosives into Gaza or limiting itself to only killing as many Palestinians as Hamas kills Israelis.

The essentially meaninglessness of the “proportional response” criticism became immediately clear at an anti-Israel protests held at the University on Friday, January 9. Not one person – not the anti-Israeli protesters, not the pro-Israeli counter-protesters, not the old Pacifica Forum guy who was nice enough to let me talk to him – could offer anything ap-

proaching a definition of what they thought a “proportionate response” would look like. (One supposes that there is a possibility, however slim, that the posers from the Student Insurgent, who were taking advantage of the occasion to distribute their publication to a wider audience than the motley assortment of convicted criminals they usually foist their stuff on, might have known what a “proportionate response” would be. Unfortunately, when I asked to talk to them, they assumed they fancied to be a steely, revolutionary gaze and refused to speak with me. Alas.) While some talked about “waging peace”, others spoke of “engaging” with Hamas and the Palestinians, the answer to what would constitute a proportionate and acceptable military response to continuing rocket and mortar fire into Israel remained elusive. Unless one is to suppose that there is truly no acceptable military response that Israel could conceivably engage in, it’s difficult to view suggestions to “wage peace” and “engage” as much more than slogans and evasions.

If “proportionality” isn’t really the issue – and how can it be if no one knows what it means? – why all the fuss? I don’t recall this sort of organized outrage over the bloody and ongoing Sri Lankan campaign against the Tamil Tigers or the crisis in Zimbabwe. Is it a fundamental disagreement over the right of the

Palestinians to live in peace in a state of their own? Perhaps, but no one at the rally, pro- or anti-Israel disagreed with that goal. The real disagreement, it seemed to me, was over the nature of the government of Gaza.

The sentiment among the pro-Palestinian demonstrators was that Hamas was essentially a traditional national liberation movement struggling against a vastly more powerful and totally implacable foe. Hamas is the elected representative of the Palestinian people, so the argument goes, and they must be dealt with as such. That’s a fair point to make, since, barring any drastic developments in Gaza, Hamas is unlikely to disappear any time soon. Merely casting them as murderers and terrorists, as many on the pro-Israeli side of the debate do, may be more or less accurate, given the specifically anti-civilian tactics that Hamas has traditionally employed, but it does little to acknowledge the fact that, for better or worse, Hamas was carried to power by the votes of the Palestinians.

On the other hand, the people demonstrating against Israel seemed unwilling or unable to admit that Hamas and many of its supporters are motivated by virulent anti-Semitism. While none of the Jews I spoke with at the rally reported any instances of anti-Semitism aside from

TURN TO RESPONSE, PAGE 20



The Eugene Bum-vasion

Justin Hurst

If there is one thing I have learned in my over 3 years here in Eugene it is that this town is full of thieving little sons of bitches. Whether it is because of the homeless, a meth-head tweaker or that piece of shit student, lots of stuff gets stolen from the dwellings of innocent victims. Nearly everyone you talk to has either had some douche-face break into your place and steal everything of value or they at least know someone who has some of their shit jacked.

Last year some tweaker broke into my friends house only to steal a few movies and an invaluable copy of FIFA 08. That same year a lady-friend of mine returned to her house on her 21st birthday to discover that some mongoloid had stolen her TV, her car, and worst of all her sack of dankness.

After witnessing such stories I was not convinced that my house had been broken into when my friend, the Balla Domogalla (who happened to have his place broken into and his Wii stolen during the break) found the side door to my house wide open with a posse of cats roaming through my house. Domogalla called to inform me that there were more pussies in my house than an ASUO Senate meeting.

However, it did not appear as if anything had been stolen (the TV, stereo, laptops and ipods were still there) so I assumed nobody broke in and that my dumbass roommate had just failed to lock up the house properly before he left for break. Since seemingly nothing was stolen, and Domogalla was unable to round up the feline menace, so I told him to leave the side door open. Retarded, I know, but if there is one thing I can't stand, it is the smell of kitty shit.

When I returned home a couple weeks later there was no cat crap, but I soon discovered that my house



had indeed been broken into, but not in the traditional Eugene fashion. This break in was completely different; some bums and their dogs came into my house, turned the heat all the way up, and slept in our beds.

My place was invaded by bums. It was a bumvasion.

At first I was not upset by the violation of my personal space by dirty bums. I was a bit creeped out, but after a load of laundry my bedding was free of dog hair and the smell of stale Old English. Hey, at least the bums didn't steal anything, right? Wrong, those fucking assholes stole my snowboard jacket, as well as the warmest jackets from each of my roommates and our change jars.

As violated as my roommates and I may feel, I figure that this bumvasion was our yearly act of charity. We provided some lowly bums with shelter, some change and warm ass jackets to help them carry on with their meager and worthless existences a bit more comfortably this winter. If everyone in America can be as kind and charitable as us, change will indeed come to America, and we will reach Obamatopia.

P.S. if you bums are reading this, gimme my fucking jacket back.



Justin Hurst is a contributor to the OC, dances like a maniac, maniac, and he's dancing like he's never danced before.

College Bowl wrap-up

Thomas Steiner

Confirming college football talking heads prior convictions that the Pac-10 is in fact a weak conference, all 5 bowl teams won their games. Apparently the teams didn't get the memo that informed them that to be amongst the college big boys, such as the Big Ten (1-6 bowl record), the ACC (4-6), and the Big 12 (4-3), the objective isn't to actually win games.

While watching the National Championship game (presented by FedEx in case you missed it), the commentators were overheard analyzing the taste of Tim Tebow's penis. In an odd twist, Tebow's penis is said to have a distinct taste of broccoli mixed with rainbow sherbet. Not my cup of tea. But many Americans started sucking in August and haven't looked back since.

Most human beings are made up of roughly 80% water. Penn State's legendary coach and part time mummy, Joe Paterno, is believed to consist of roughly 80% embalming fluid.

After 3 consecutive years of forcefully penetration of Big Ten opponents by USC in the Rose Bowl, the BCS is considering changing the principle sponsor of the game to Vaseline.

After 9 innings of no hit baseball, Oregon State defeated the Pitt Panthers by a final score of 3-0 thanks to a walk off home run by Justin Kahut.

Colt McCoy confirmed that besides Dick Butkus, he has one of the best football names ever.

That's all for this year. I've got to run. I'm in the process of getting Tim Tebow's face tattooed over my own.



Thomas Steiner is a contributor to the OC and is a mystery wrapped in an enigma.

Duck-U: the best student program that no one watches

Drew Cattermole

On a late Sunday night you can find dozens of students feverishly running around Allen hall. As they cram in Brainerd computer Lab and the news studio relentlessly finishing their projects, they perfect their segments. Final tapes are due in twelve hours and packages need to be edited and shots need to be cropped. These students, although seemingly stressed, are casually joking around one with one another while contentiously working on their projects. No, they are not ordinary students working on their latest project for the J-school. These dedicated students are members of the only student run television program at the University of Oregon, DuckU.

The student run television show has been on air since 2002, and continues to air on Comcast channel twenty three every Wednesday night. The show garners little attention viewer wise, but the participants do not even seem to care. The one thing every member will tell you about DuckU is that no one watches it. But for these students it's a labor of love.

DuckU is strenuous work that is wrapped up each week by a premier showing in the Allen Hall studio two hours before it airs locally on Wednesday nights. Although only the producers are required to come to the viewings, DuckU participants regularly pack the room in anticipation for the premier. The Longest tenured DuckU member and executive producer Saed David Georgieff says "my favorite part is the Wednesday night showings, and hanging out after sometimes. It's kind of an SNL mentality, work all week on this product, finally watch it, party, then start the whole process again." The as-

piring television producer and director has been able to master editing software and techniques during his tenure at DuckU and is quick to give help to any staff member in need. Saed can be found regularly in the Brainerd Editing lab long after he has finished his own work helping others finish their's.



It comes with no surprise to the current members of DuckU, that Georgieff won the coveted "Ghandi Award" for being the most helpful member of the staff at the prestigious Jemmy Awards run by the Journalism School. Georgieff currently produces a sitcom entitled "Roomates." "Roomates is a show that artfully describes itself. A three minute peak into the lives of two roomates and their minuscule problems that seem to emulate the lives of the viewers watching it.

News and Sports are all shot on those hectic Sunday nights in Allen Hall. Production begins an hour before actual filming to get all the kinks out of the way. Lighting, sound equipment and scripts are all finalized while they prepare for shooting. In house shots are finally filmed after every problem is solved. News packages are filmed

the week prior. Producers Sharon Ko and Leah Artz run news, micro-managing a group of twenty highly skilled members. Their hard work and dedication has been inspiring to the young and relatively new members of news. Executive producer Alicia Inns also works with the news section filling in for tech jobs as well as anchoring. The aspiring news anchor is quick to help out any staff member in need and says that "I love seeing all the passion that everyone has for creating a show that, in reality, not a lot of people see. Just goes to show the dedication out there, and that is inspiring." Inns is the newest executive producer to the staff and the best communicator out of the bunch. Her ability to connect with all members of the large group has been a much welcomed addition to the team.

The Sports section is run by a very dedicated group that only has one rule that producer Mike Konowitz has made, "all members must love sports." Konowitz can be seen sideline during games at Autzen stadium preparing his staff to get the footage they will need for that weeks segment.

This quarter's staple show is "The Date" a project that Executive Producer and Director Dennis Pak has been working on religiously for months. Pak is able to show his attention for detail in his wide arrange of shots and intriguing cinematography during his story of a nerd looking for love. The aspiring director says of DuckU that he was able to learn more about filming through DuckU. "My favorite part is the production process. Starting from writing scripts to story-boarding to filming and finally editing is

TURN TO DUCK-U, PAGE 18

The strange pathos of the hometown dive bar

Jake Speicher

Nickelback is blaring through the speakers. I'm drinking some sort of light domestic beer straight from the pitcher. Why? Because it's five dollar light domestic beer night.

The bar is packed. Never underestimate the allure of light American beer and adult alternative post-grunge rock. Two old men are perched on their barstools. They look like owls. Their eyes wide as their heads scope the room for the twenty-something girls that saunter airily through the bar like contestants in a beauty pageant from hell.

Each girl has some sort of bastardized martini in their hand, neon and sweet. I recognize one. I think to myself, "please don't see me, please don't see me." Shit, she saw me. At least she's smiling. I smile back like an idiot. Fuck, she's coming over to talk to me.

We hug. She asks me a few cursory questions. "What have you been up to?" "Isn't this place great?" I tell her I am the editor of a small town newspaper, completely ignoring the second question. She tells me "that's awesome," followed by "that's really awesome" and "can't believe how awesome that is."

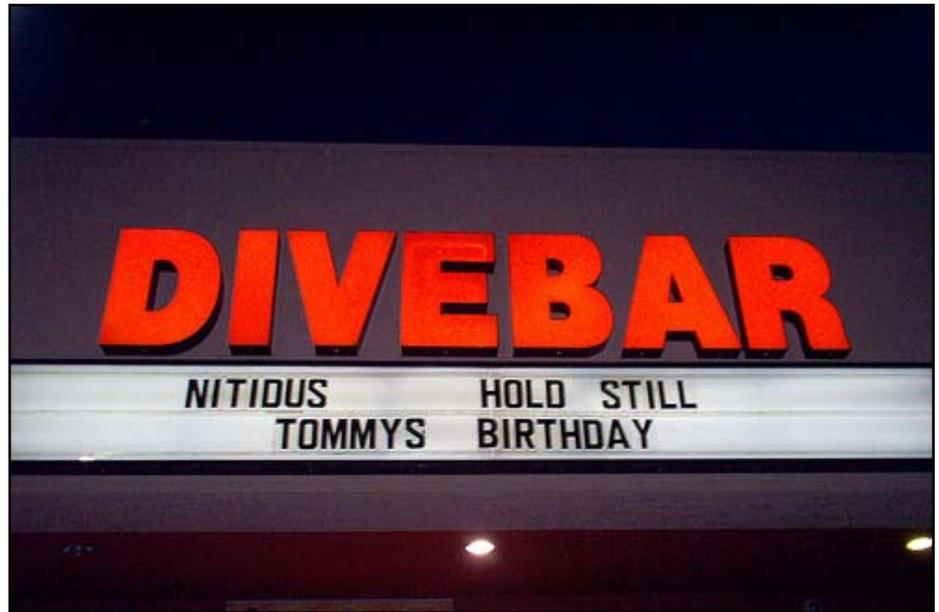
I tell her thank you, and then ask her what she's been up to. "I just had a kid." I almost drop my pitcher. "Wow, that su--." I stop myself. "Congratulations?" I say it with a shrug of my shoulders.

She sighs. "Yeah, it was kind of unexpected, but she's beautiful."

"Oh, it's a she?" Why do I keep asking questions? Why won't this conversation end?

"Yeah, her name is Destiny."

Oh, fuck me. Don't laugh. Don't laugh. Don't make a stripper



joke. Don't laugh.

She turns and looks over her shoulder. "Well, I better be getting back. It was awesome to see you."

"Yeah," I said. "We'll have to hang out sometime." Why did I say that?

"Yeah, that would be awesome." She leaves.

I watch her walk back to her table. There are three other guys with her that I went to high school with. As she sits down she points in my direction. The guys peer over. I raise my pitcher towards them, hoping that will be enough of an acknowledgment that they won't come over. They don't. Thank God.

I turn to my buddy who's sitting at the table with me. "We need to find another bar."

He gives me a look like I just insulted his mother. "Why?"

I don't say anything; I just make a circular motion with my hand.

I sit back, and we both take in the room. That kid was a year

ahead of us. He went to rehab for cocaine. That kid there was a wide receiver on the football team. Christ, he's wearing his letterman's jacket. Those two were just laid off from Car Tech. That girl blew three dudes in the bathroom in high school. So did that girl. I heard that guy playing pool had two kids now, or is it three?

My buddy takes a sip. "I don't know what you're talking about."

He must be drunk. That has to be it.

"This place isn't that bad."

I shake my head and look him dead in the eye. Then, with all the seriousness I can muster I say, "No one in this bar knows who Ira Glass is."

My buddy pauses for a second. "Dude, who the fuck is Ira Glass?"



Jake Speicher is an OC alum, editor of the Tri-County Record and has a kid on the way named Candy.

*War on Toner
update:*

*Get to da choppa.
It's the only way
out.*

*Do you have it in for
toner like us? Join the
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JUMP



DUCK-U, FROM PAGE 15

truly a pleasure to do" says Pak. Pak also gives workshops in the beginning of each term for newcomers to DuckU on how to have basic editing and camera work skills. He is an outstanding teacher and has learned much from his years at DuckU, "I would recommend this to anyone who wants know how to be on T.V. or work for T.V." Pak exclaims about his learning process while on DuckU.

Being totally produced by students it is obvious to see why it is such a learning experience to work for Ducku. No teachers are teaching during their meetings, but Kevin May does help out with equipment, so the teaching is up to the students. Respect and the willingness to learn has been the keys in DuckU's ability to maintain productivity on air for seven seasons.

This season promises to be one of the best seasons yet. A project that started as an assignment for class, "Culture Vulture" has turned into one of the most popular segments on the show. The show focuses on dissecting various subcultures like hippies, jocks and our favorite subculture to mock, Hipsters.

So If your not watching anything good on Wednesday night and feel like you need to sit back relax and watch some student produced television tune in to DuckU or check them out on line at uoregon.edu/Ducku.



Drew Cattermole is the Production Manager of the OC, an Executive Editor of Duck-U and doesn't understand conflict of interest.

EDITORIAL, FROM PAGE 3

a platform that included renaming Aspen "Fat City" and legalizing all drugs. He shaved his head solely so he could refer to the other candidate as his "long-haired opponent."

That's the kind of attitude we can get behind. And we have. For much of its 25 years of hell raising and name taking, the Commentator has been running joke candidates. Back in the day, one editor, Tamir Kreigel, was elected to Senate and then resigned by being carried out of the room by clowns. Timothy Dreier ran a neo-McCarthyite campaign for ASUO exec, and two years ago editor Ted Niedermeyer ran on an anti-douche-bag platform.

Some students might also remember Drew "Thunderlove" Cattermole's campaign for ASUO exec last year. Thunderlove's major campaign talking point was the importance of making magnum condoms available in the health center. "The well-endowed should no longer be discriminated against," he wrote in the voter's guide. Well said, friend.

In conclusion, we regret nothing.



The editorial board of the Oregon Commentator keeps it like this and like that.

Ugh, here we go again.
Really, this is pathetic.

Do you know how much
this blank space pains
our hearts?

Have you ever seen
Sophie's Choice? It's
worse than that.

C'mon, it's not rocket
science, guys. 400-1200
words that don't suck.
That's all we're asking
for.

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feat. V.I.
Butt-Gravy
&
Likka-Shittz

JUMP

RESPONSE, FROM PAGE 12



the well-publicized controversy surrounding some members of the Pacifica Forum last year, protests worldwide have been characterized by calls to “smash the Jewish state”, to “target all Zionist businesses” and to send Jews “back to the ovens”, to say nothing of interminable attempts to equate Jews and Israel with Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Indeed, a synagogue in France was firebombed on January 11, another was torched a week previous, and two Israelis were shot in a shopping mall in Denmark. Holocaust Memorial Day was not observed in some cities in Spain and Sweden as a protest against the campaign in Gaza.

These incidents cannot be seen as anything but explicitly anti-Semitic, identifying (and in some cases punishing) all Jews worldwide with Israel.

The prevalence of anti-Jewish rhetoric and violence, it must be noted, is not matched by equivalent anti-Muslim or anti-Arab sentiment. While there is undoubtedly anti-Muslim bilge being spewed in the dark corners of blog comment sections, exterminationist rhetoric and violence has been notably missing from pro-Israel demonstrations. Beshara Kehdi, who helped to organize the anti-Israeli protest, reported that neither he nor anyone he knew had been subjected to racist or anti-Muslim attacks. Indeed Kehdi had to admit that he didn't feel that the Israelis were motivated by racial antipathy toward Palestinians, even though he had previously characterized the campaign in Gaza as “genocide.” This incongruity may indicate an understanding that the word “genocide” is a useful slogan and that images of suffering Palestinians are powerful propaganda even while it's simultaneously admitted that

what's happening in Gaza is devoid of the explicitly racial character one usually associates with terms like “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing.”

In fact it seems almost willingly delusional to make the rather easily disproved claim that Hamas is not anti-Semitic. They demonstrably are, and it's not difficult to see why Israel would be reluctant to trust an organization whose founding charter holds that the Jews were behind both World Wars (Article 22), references “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” as an authoritative source (Article 32), and whose leaders have expressed support of Holocaust deniers like David Irving and their theories.

Nevertheless, if we're to suppose that Hamas is indeed the legitimate voice of the Palestinian people, should it not be held responsible for the continuing attacks it carries out against Israel – attacks which have drawn the ire of such friends of the Israelis as the Fatah movement and the government of Egypt? Palestinian children are taught anti-Semitism and violence in television programs and even in UN schools, where the Associated Press recently reported that teachers were teaching students to “wage war” against Israel with “rockets” and “stones”.

Much like the conflict in the Middle East, there is no logical and bloodless way of concluding this article. I tend to sympathize with Israel, but neither myself nor any of the pro-Israeli supporters I spoke to at the protest believe that Israel has a completely spotless record. I also agree with Beshara Kehdi's conclusion that Hamas, for better or worse, must be dealt with as the representative of the Palestinians in Gaza. Simply treating them as terrorists has failed to produce any real dividends for Israel, the United States, or the

Palestinians.

For their part, if Hamas intends to survive it must begin acting like a government rather than an armed mob. This means it must abandon tactics such as hiding among civilians and rigging public buildings with explosives. Hamas would also do well to abandon its crude anti-Semitism. If Israelis are supposed to engage with Hamas, then Hamas must be willing to engage with Israel, rather than preaching that the state of Israel does not actually exist, as a Hamas official recently did, shortly before being killed by an Israeli missile.

If the January 9th protest is any indication, both sides are more comfortable standing shoulder to shoulder with like-minded people and listening to their own rhetoric than really engaging with one another. Mohammad Jemmali, an Arabic instructor at the U of O was unhappy that the pro-Israel protesters even showed up, likening their presence to “crashing a party”. Clearly there's a long way to go. Nevertheless, I expected to arrive to the protest to find people screaming at one another. What I found was altogether different. Both sides, though they clearly held their beliefs closely, seemed almost to be going through the motions. Tempers were calm and, aside from the dour little Insurgent kids, no one really seemed to harbor much personal antipathy toward one another.

Protests elsewhere in the world, sadly, were not as moribund as the rally in Eugene. Gaza itself has been anything but quiet. After the demonstration on January 9th, though, one came away with the sense that if the Israelis and the Palestinians could only reach this point of apathetic torpor, they'd stand a reasonable chance of not killing one another. If only they cared less.



Vincent Artman is the official Witchfinder General of the OC and launched a disproportionate attack against booze.

SANTA, FROM PAGE 9

see at all. Except for office of the manager, the windows in the factory are small and covered in grime letting barely any light.

Small light bulbs that seem miles away glow like dying fireflies on the ceiling. A sign on one wall reads; "Days without an accident: 14".

It's the longest that the factories gone without an accident.

One small concession that the elves get the is "Made in China" logo on the bottom of every toy they make. Shuang's eyes become wistful when asked about it.

"We are very proud of that," he whispers as his hands move at a blazing speed over the assembly line he works on, "It's not much, we know, but it's something."

The Northern Lies

Up north it's a different story. With a relatively new skyscraper gracing the horizon of the North Pole, Santa's Workshop is beginning to look like Winter Wallstreet.

The original Workshop is still there, shunted off to the side of the newer buildings. The old neighborhood and Santa's first home are still there too, seems there's a lot of room for expansion in the Pole.

Less than a hundred yards from the quaint village that is the Hallmark of Santa's public image stands the newer, more modern city that the Pole is quickly becoming.

A suburb of small, modern homes opens up into a downtown area with shops, restaurants, and of course, the much ballyhooded office complex that reaches 100 stories up.

Supposedly Santa and Mrs. Claus have a posh penthouse on the top floor but most know that he now lives in a sprawling mansion on the other side of the city.

The North Pole went from quaint small town delight to bustling metropolis in just a few years. It even features it's own elf university, UNP or the University of the North Pole. It's very prestigious among elf-kind.

Young elven students at UNP have been the most outspoken against Santa's

recent corporate turn. They claim that he no longer cares about the children and their goodness but rather he acquiesces to capitalist greed.

The largest anti-corporate Santa group on the UNP campus is run by Hammey; son of the famous elf dentist, Hermey. Protesting runs in the family according to Hammey.

"We're protesting Santa's outsourcing of North Pole jobs," he says. "What's a young, educated elf to do when all the jobs are being sent to China?"

In his small apartment, Hammey shows off statistics that have records numbers of North Pole unemployment. One-percent may not seem like a lot in the United States, but in the Pole with a growing population 100,000 it's a large number.

"Cases of Nogism have gone up ten-fold in the past two years, and don't get me started on the rampant drug abuse," Hammey fumes.

According to North Pole statistics Nogism, the addiction to Egg Nog, and Caning have increased significantly since Santa Corp. began trading openly in the global stock market. Caning is the new drug of choice, especially for younger elves.

It involves melting candy canes down and shooting up the liquid version, similar to heroin. The more white-collar community has taken to crushing the candy and snorting it up.

Cane as it's called, is a popular drug at the biggest club in the North Pole, The Reindeer House.

Hammey believes that it's all a side effect of Santa's greed.

With the Chinese factory and the blooming city kept mostly under wraps, Santa's public relations team has been working over-time to insure that the Santa image is kept up. According to one anonymous source within the company, the elves seen in the more recent workshop images don't even have toy experience.

The North Pole has become mostly white collar and service oriented. The highest paying jobs out of UNP today are for accountants and stock brokers.

"It's a cubicle job these days," says

the source who wished to remain anonymous to keep his job. "More and more North Pole elves are losing sight of the traditions that used to make this community unique. Now? Now, we're looking more like New York than the North Pole."

'Tis the Season?

Despite what seems like thousands of calls for Santa to steer away from the path that he's set Santa Corp. on the jolly, old elf has refused. In a recent press conference, he reiterated the business plan that he started in 2006.

"We have no plans to stop what we're doing. The Santa Corporation will continue to trade publicly and we will continue to provide the Holiday service that we have for hundreds of years."

Most Americans don't seem to care either. Public polls have shown an increase in popularity since Santa Corp. began trading publicly.

"Other than a few left-wing liberal, hippies and college students most Americans don't care. They just want Santa to be provider of joy and Christmas wealth that he's always been," one recent New York Times article read.

Still other polls showed that even if Santa was be coming more corporate most Americans believed that to be true in the first place and it just reaffirms it. These facts haven't decreased Christmas time sales, still the biggest time of year for many companies.

In fact, many companies have reported an increase in sales since Santa Corp. went public. Toys'R'Us actually outsells Santa in the toy market.

Meanwhile, Shuang Shu trudges to work every morning before the sun has risen. Hammey wakes to his friends and peers growing accustomed to the new lifestyle of the North Pole as he continues his protests.

Says one white-collar elf, Denny, "It's harsher world today. Even Santa has to keep with the demand for people to globalize. It's too bad really especially since Santa was truly the first global company."



Vincent Artman is the official Witchfinder General of the OC and launched a disproportionate attack against booze.

SPEW...

and somewhat contextual pictures

ON SUNSHINE PATRIOTS

“I bought an American flag last week. I displayed it on our deck rail for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and for Inauguration Day.”

~ *A letter in the Eugene Weekly from Darnell Rudd Mandelblatt.*

“I am adding some words: ‘We Dreamed. We Hoped. We Worked. Yes, We Can! Yes, We Will!’”

~ *Ibid. Because the best way to show patriotism is to write on your flag.*

“I am 63 years old. I have never owned an American flag before. I have never worn or displayed one before. I have never wanted to do so.”

~ *Mandelblatt must have been the “rebel” kid in school who never stood up during the national anthem - y’know, the one who was actually a big wiener.*

“We are dreaming and hoping and working to believe, now, that we are entering a new era. Our country can live up to its principles. Our government can conduct itself with dignity and thoughtfulness in the world. We can, for the first time or again, feel proud to be U.S. citizens.”

~ *So ... is Toby Keith cool now?*

ON OVERHEARD GEMS

“Why would I sleep with him sober? Then it would be like we were dating.”

~ *Overheard at a party. The mind boggles.*



ON THANK GOD FOR THE INSURGENT

“Why Am I Holding This Newspaper?”

-Good question.

“There are... some things I should have made clearer and some things I’ve been totally wrong about. I should have mentioned, for instance, that an el shaddai is a mountain god. to be perfectly clear, the Mother would probably be called None-El SE, slope of Margherita Peak for us white folk. But because I generally believe in defending Muslims I like to call her None-El Ruwenzori ... I should also have mentioned that there are 3 genders, performatively speaking. As for the last species of our Oversoul or time travel entourage, the species in question most likely refers to a race that hails from south of the star Tau Ceti than the beast of Job 40:15 or 41:1”



-Ron R. Shephard, prison inmate and friend of the Insurgent. Thanks for clearing that up, Ron.

“My Fellow slaves just can’t seem to understand why most tribal people believe that being sexually PLAYFUL with children is good for their self esteem. But I for one do not think I’m smarter than Africans.”

-Ron again. Africans appreciate your modesty.

“Sadly, in this 21st century re-run of neo-colonialism, we find a new approach of non-gender bias oppressors. In other words, the Imperialists now use strong-women to repress sovereign nations.”

- Cims Gillespie, Insurgent writer. Smash that glass ceiling one “global genocide” at a time, ladies!

“The imperialists, in their own interests, intend to colonize the planet earth through global imperialism.”

- Gillespie still at it. Paging the Department of Redundancy Department.

“For women, there is a move called ‘ringing the doorbell’. You push the clitoris lightly, like ringing a doorbell, very casually, and with proper finesse, then move onto other things, as if you did not ring the doorbell.”

-Violet Rose in an article about how to have better sex. Would it be crude to make a joke about “knockers” here?



**IF DISSENT IS THE
HIGHEST FORM OF
PATRIOTISM...**



**THEN BARACK OBAMA
CAN KISS OUR ASS.**