

2009 ASUO Elections Issue



Inside: The best voting guide you will find in the immediate vicinity of our distribution racks!



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.

KEEP THE DAILY EMERALD INDEPENDENT

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This editorial was originally released on March 4, 2009. Since then, the Daily Emerald strike has been resolved. However, we feel that this issue is still relevant and important.]

It has come to the Oregon Commentator's attention, as it probably has to most of the campus, that the Oregon Daily Emerald is on strike.

In a front-page editorial and separate broadsheet issued this morning, the Emerald presented what it says are unacceptable conditions forced on it by its Board of Directors and stated that it would cease publishing until the board meets the staff's demands.

The full substance of the Emerald's argument will not be restated in this editorial, but we will summarize it for context: The Board of Directors, going directly against the wishes of the Emerald staff, hired Steven Smith to be the paper's new position of "interim publisher" for a year while it searched for a permanent publisher.

Smith was hired at the exorbitant salary of \$80,000 a year – at a time when the Emerald is in the red and desperately seeking to increase profits. The real problem, though, was Smith was given "supervisory control" over the student editors. The current equivalent position of general manager has no such control.

Furthermore, it was hinted at by the board that Smith might teach at the UO School of Journalism. The Emerald vigorously opposed Smith's for all these reasons and more, and presented a list of four demands to the board, reprinted here verbatim:

1. Immediately rescind the offer to Steven A. Smith to serve as interim publisher April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
2. Conduct a nationwide search for a publisher, as originally voted at the Feb. 10 board meeting.
3. Stipulate in the chosen publisher's contract that he or she shall not be employed in any capacity by the University, including at the School of Journalism and Communication.
4. Stipulate in the chosen publisher's contract that he or she shall not have immediate supervisory control over the editor; rather, the publisher and student editor shall remain equals in the organization, as the general manager and student editor currently are.

The board ignored the Emerald staff's complaints, and, as a final insult, made the discussion of Smith's hiring an executive session, which means it's closed to everybody but the board.

Some probably expect us to use this opportunity to snipe at the Emerald or revel in its problems, but the Oregon Commentator fully stands behind the Emerald and its demands.

At a time when newspapers everywhere are struggling to maintain their relevancy – both as solvent businesses

and a vital public service – it is more important than ever that they conduct themselves with absolute integrity and transparency.

With this in mind, we find the Board of Director's actions disingenuous and harmful to the reputation of not only the Daily Emerald but also the University of Oregon. One would have hoped for better from a school with a nationally recognized journalism program.

However, we are not completely surprised by the board's conduct.

Earlier in the year, Editor-in-Chief of the Oregon Commentator C.J. Ciaramella applied to sit on the Daily Emerald Board of Directors. Readers may chuckle at the idea, and the humor of the situation was no doubt part of Ciaramella's motivation. But he was also motivated by a strong desire to protect and make student media better. For as much as the Commentator criticizes and makes fun of the Daily Emerald, it is ultimately due to our vision of how good a student newspaper can and should be.

In fact, the Commentator was founded in 1983 by two former members of the Daily Emerald with the lofty goal of making campus media coverage and discussion more diverse, more freewheeling and more fun. If readers will allow us a moment of hubris, we feel this goal has largely been accomplished.

But we can't do it alone. Just as the campus needs an opinionated, right-of-center publication, it needs an unbiased paper of record. Just as it needs a good arts and entertainment magazine like the Oregon Voice. Just as it needs a good radical leftist paper, unlike the Student Insurgent.

Ciaramella, who has about three or four years of college journalism experience, was denied the Board of Directors seat without being granted an interview. The board balked at allowing someone who writes for a "rival" publication to sit on the body. In an email exchange, Mark Watson, who sits on the ODE Board of Directors, wrote (emphasis added):

"Your assurance that ODE Board business will not be covered by you for the Commentator helps, and it sounds like you probably have the best interests of the ODE at heart; however, as I've continued to think about this, the crux of the matter is that you will face an unavoidable conflict of interest. The Board has ultimate legal and moral responsibility for all acts of the corporation, and individual Directors, as fiduciaries, are legally and ethically required to be loyal to the corporation. You run a publication that competes with the ODE in several ways (e.g., for readers, student funds, etc.), and **I have trouble with the idea of placing anyone in a position where their loyalty is or can be divided.** Given your position at the Commentator, I don't see how this can be reconciled. I assume you are not interested in signing a notarized affidavit or anything like that. Can you see my problem?"

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Every normal man must be tempted, at times, to spit on his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin slitting throats."

- H.L. Mencken

THE OREGON COMMENTATOR
FREE MINDS, FREE MARKETS, FREE BOOZE

On strike from sobriety

Serious Hatin'

Seriously, did you guys see this crapfest today?

The article was titled "Everyone can't B winners".

This kid is talking about how there was a study done of UC system students, and the consensus showed how most students thought that showing up on a regular basis should gain them an automatic B or higher grade. He supports this evidence that a B grade is "traditionally defined as "above average." ". He also references how lazy students are, and that it is caused by society's new inclination towards deeming every child a "winner" (giving everyone a trophy or something. Maybe he didnt get his, or it broke). He builds up his conclusion with a little bit of advice, in the style of Dear Annie,

"If you want to succeed, you do have to try, but you also have to learn and compromise. That means actively participating in your classes, not just showing up, and also learning to sacrifice some more of your leisure time to really go the extra mile on your term paper. It means eating right and exercising, not just taking a pill and hoping for the best. It means going out and meeting people instead of entering facts

about yourself into a Web browser."

As far as Im concerned, I maybe the UC students surveyed are right. Fuck, I showed up to about 10 classes last term during my 12 credit hours and got a A, B+ and B. As a college student, its reasonable to understand that no one shows up for all of their classes, maybe not even the majority. These students are still enrolled here and that must be because they still end up passing their classes. The idea that a "C" is commonly held as "average" is fucking retarded. A "C" means you completed 75% of the work, asshole. It doesnt mean you're average. Looks like my string of "As" in high school means im a goddamn rhoads scholar. Watch out Nobel Foundation, I graduated from highschool with a 3.6 GPA!

What kind of classes does this kid take if the "simple fact of trying alone doesnt make us winners"? Maybe he just sucks balls here at the UO and cant get any good grades here in college. Fuck I show up every-so-often, do 90% of my reading cause I'm jobless and have nothing else to do and I seem to get those Bs and As tossed my way. Maybe people here are just so fucking lazy that "average" means you start binge drinking on thursday and wake up monday morning in the cemetery.

Thats probably why my GPA stands at a steady 3.0, cause I only do that some of the time, making me above average.

The best part of this whole article is right in the middle, so you almost miss it, "Just because you spend a few hours on something doesn't mean it's going to be any good - take this column, for instance."

I will take this column, in this instance. What a fucking moron. If I show up for all my classes, do all my reading, answer all the questions an essay is asking me to answer I expect more than a fucking C. If I complete all graded answers satisfactorily, that means I did 100% of the work, which is an A.

Who lets idiots like this onto their staff?

Oh yeah, the ODE.

My point here, is that you should do an entire Commentator on how bad the ODE sucks. Or if you've already done it, you should do another one, cause they still suck.

Keep doing your thing, the Commentator is the best part of this school for me and my roommate.

- Dane Carbaugh



SUDSY TANKS

GET 'EM WHILE
THEY'RE HOTT

\$10



asks ...

What's your favorite adventure?



Michael Phelps
Dude ... I'm so ... what?
Adventure?

Bill and Ted
Excellent ones.



Lumpen Mass
Free beef.

Duke Nukem
There's only two ways this
can end. And in both of
them, you die.



Les Schwab
FREE BEEF.

FREE BEEF!!!!

Rush Limbaugh:
I don't have much time
for "adventure", since I'm
usually too busy being a
fat, arrogant douchebag.



Eight ways to fix the economy right now!

1. **Sell off states:** I am sure Canada wouldn't mind having Alaska, Japan would be stoked on Hawaii, and Mexico would love all those states we took from them in the Mexican American war. I bet we could pawn Florida, Puerto Rico and Guam to Cuba and sell Utah back to the Navajo.

2. **U.S. Department of Defense garage sale:** F-22 Raptors cost over \$100 Million each and old F-15s run about \$28 million. That's just fighter jets, imagine what other military equipment could be sold to the highest bidder, M1 Abrams tank anyone?

3. **Cut through all the bureaucracy, Government lay-offs:** Do we really need all those senators and representatives? Why doesn't the President write his own speeches? Does the Vice President even DO anything? Fire 'em all save big \$\$\$

4. **Tax the internet:** U.S. tax dollars developed the internet and its time we get our money back! Sorry rest-of-the-world its time to pay-up. Freeloaders.

5. **Sell used electronics to developing nations:** Donate your old electronics to Uncle Sam. VCRs, CDs, and any computer over 6 months old all accepted. Turn planned obsolescence into cold-hard cash for the U.S.

6. **Stop shooting things into space:** Those satellites cost a bundle, and all we seem to use them for is to take Google Earth spy photos. Remember all those Mars missions? Complete waste of tax dollars. Wow! So Mars is made up of red dirt and has no running water, glad we sorted that out.

7. **No more road repair:** Everyone in the U.S. owns an SUV these days anyway, so let's put them to the test and stop building/repairing roadways. This is a win-win in my book; no more billion dollar highway projects and an increase in sales for Detroit (maybe they'll even get the cost down on those Hummers.)

8. **Stop bailing everyone out:** "If you dig a hole deep enough make sure that you got a whole lotta rope to get out with." That's what pops always said (not really). Anyway, if a business is going to fail, let them fail and let a new, better business pop-up to take their place. It's not my responsibility as a taxpayer to provide them the rope to get out of their holes. I think I learned that in microeconomics; don't politicians have to take that class?

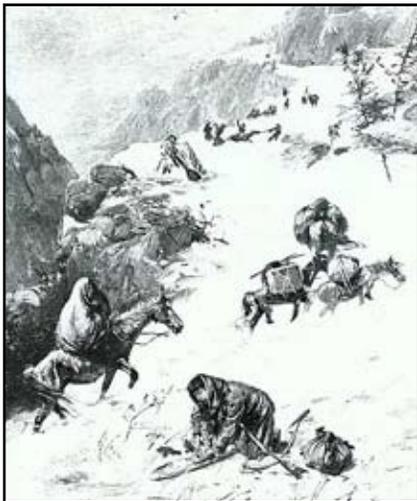
~ Ian Summers

Corrections

* The original edition of the editorial "Keep the ODE independent" incorrectly identified Mark Blaine as an author in the email exchange between Commentator editor-in-chief C.J. Ciaramella and the Oregon Daily Emerald Board of Directors. The author was in fact board member Mark Watson. The Commentator regrets the error.

Party theme: Donner party

By now, those of us who aren't freshmen have been to just about every theme party under the sun. Red light/green light, heaven and hell, barn dances, highlighter parties, sweater parties, 80's parties, Tennis Pros and Golf Hos, office hos and CEO's, and anything else that can conceivably rhyme with "ho."



Well, the Commentator has a theme that we suggest you try out for your next soiree. Donner Party.

We shouldn't have to explain how to throw this one but just for you guys we will.

What you need:

Racks of ribs everywhere. We prefer hickory-smoked, but when it comes to pretending you're a cannibal any flavor works. If you're a Halloween buff, bust out your fake arms and legs and make sure to smear the walls with fake blood. However, if you're a perfectionist, killing homeless people and using them as party props solves two problems at once: you get rid of homeless people and throw a rocking party!

You don't have to but it is recommended that you dress the part in authentic 1840s garb. It'll really bring the feel of the travel out west together when your girl wears a bonnet as you mouth through a juicy rib in your straw hat and six-shooter.

~ Scott Younker

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

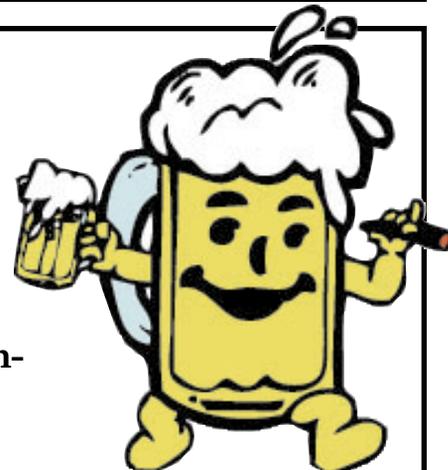
TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS WE'D LIKE TO SEE

This year the UO implemented a text message alert system. Here's some alerts that we'd like to see:

- * OH FUCK ZOMBIES! RUN!
- * Skirt day
- * Last day to drop Info Hell
- * Warning: The Athiarchists now playing in EMU
- * Sky-net has become sentient. Evacuate campus immed&%\$*BOW TO YOUR ROBOT OVERLORDS
- * Knight Library masturbator spotted. Do not use keyboards.
- * Warning: Your major is useless.
- * Ice Cube alert: Check yo self before you wreck yo self.
- * Warning: Drunk bro did not hear what you just said, would like you to repeat it to his face.

Sudsy Says:

"When life hands you AIDS, you make lemonAIDS."



Why advertising rocks

Ian Summers



What's your major? English, cool. History, sounds interesting. Philosophy, whatever. Environmental Policy, have fun with that. Journalism, did you take info hell? What's your emphasis? Advertising? Why the fuck do you want to go into advertising?

When asked the all too common question of "what's your major" most people slide by with a head nod and a "that's cool." I, as an advertising major, have to explain myself every time I am asked this seemingly meaningless question. You wanna know why I am an Ad major? Alright sit down little one and let me spin you a tale of capitalism, media and how the Ad industry ties it all together.

As you may know our great country was founded on the principal that we can attain freedom by working and getting compensated for our labor. You can then in turn, take this "compensation" we call the American Dollar and go out and spend it anyway you see fit, from top-shelf booze to student incidental fees and everything in between. Isn't it grand?

Next step, we have this great thing called the media. It tells you pretty much everything that you think you know about yourself, from what sports team to root for to what ladies (or manlies) you want to bed. It allows you to observe the world at the click of a button or the turn of a page. Isn't it grand?

Now here's where it gets tricky, so pay attention. Media, as you may already know, was not created for your enjoyment. Your giggles and "fuck yeahs" do not drive the media industry. I am sorry, but your enjoyment is really not that important in the big scheme of things (unless of course the media you choose is The Oregon Commentator then your giggles and "fuck yeahs" are of the utmost importance.)

You know what drives the media then? Spreading information? Nope.

Giving you feelings of self-validation? Nope. One more guess. Thor's flaming chariot? Nope. But good tries. The reason the media exists is to provide a vessel in which your decisions to spend your hard-earned currency (remember that choice thing that our country was founded on?) are made simpler. How does this happen you ask? Advertising.

Here's where it gets good so listen up! If you watch TV, use the internet, read a newspaper/magazine, or quote a movie. You are supporting the Ad industry. No don't hang your head in self-pity, this is a good thing! It makes capitalism flow in a nice manner and it allows companies to compete for your hard-earned currency. If you remember from Econ 101, competition benefits you; the spender of currency because it lowers prices and allows for the further proliferation of media industries. These industries must continue to get better, stronger, and faster because they have to compete for advertising revenues. So now instead of just having three TV channels you have hundreds, not just tens of magazines but thousands, not just Myspace but Facebook too! Isn't it grand?

So please, don't begin your rant on how evil the ad industry is, save your breath to discuss the lung-capacity of Michael Phelps and how it allows him to take massive bong rips (or any other conversation inspired by the nearly endless media out there.) Remember that you are the one supporting this supposedly hell-sent profession.

Guess what kiddo, every media product you love, from the "Desperate

Housewives" that you secretly TiVo to the "High Times" you read while taking a shit, was created to sell advertising. The only reason that media exists is to get you off of the shitter and get you out in the world spending your hard-earned currency. So now that you have heard this tale, of freedom, capitalism, media, and the advertising that links it all together. It's your turn to make a choice and choose your destiny:

1. Accept the inevitability of advertising and get on with your life-

You realize that you'd live a miserable and pathetic existence if it weren't for advertising and the media content that it supports. You utilize your marketable skills and the advertising industry to become well recognized, successful and respected. You retire early and take up collecting high end scotch and traveling the world. You die peacefully in your sleep at the ripe old age of 86. Your heirs are inspired by your success and in turn lead successful and inspiring lives. Well done you ol' polecat.

2. Keep "sticking it to the man" and deny the inevitability of advertising-

You "take a stand" against the advertising industry. You realize that all media uses advertising, so you boycott the media. As your ignorance grows no one wishes to employ you. You lose your friends and become incapable of functioning in modern society. You quickly fade into lonely obscurity and move to a cabin deep in the woods. You are either eaten by bears that you try to befriend or, go blind from drinking bad moonshine and shoot yourself. No one is sure what happens to you, because no one cares that you exist. Whoops, you should have choose #1.



Ian Summers is a contributor to the OC and has a poster of Gordon Gecko on his ceiling.

You acquire a Snuggie

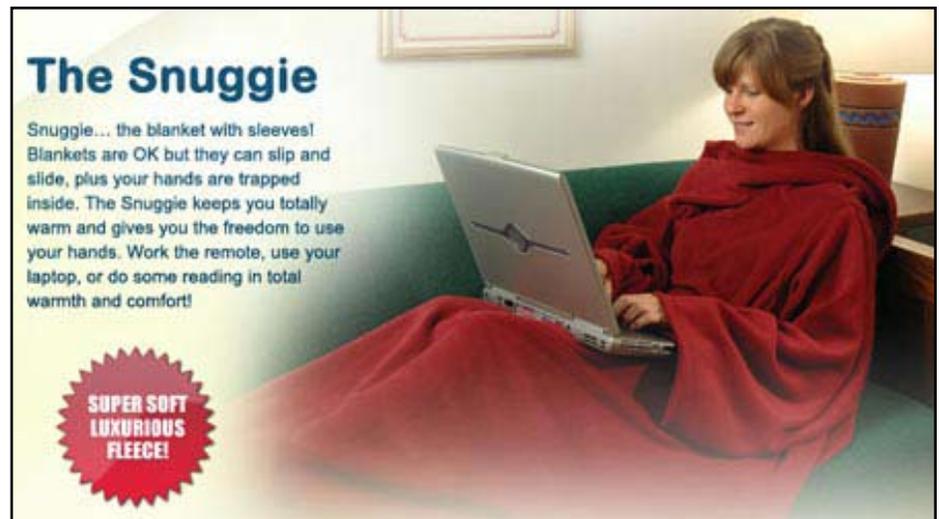
Drew Cattermole

[Continued from page 65, in which you slaughter a tribe of peaceful mountain gnomes]

After your previous choice lead you down a dark pit of despair you have become a recent opium addict and live in a small apartment above a sweatshop in Sheng Hai. The expectations of being the best sweatshop overseer in Sheng Hai prove to be too tough and opium is the only way to get through your day. The months of opium abuse begin to rot your mind and your body and everyday functions become increasingly harder. Soon enough you cannot even do everyday activities making you become confined to a blank on the couch of your pimp's living room. As the slippery slope that is opium addiction continues to attack your body even activities in the blanket become too hard to perform. Simple tasks such as answering the phone, holding a baby, and reading a book become such a difficult task that there is only one option in your life.

You get a Snuggie.

The Snuggie, a blanket with sleeves becomes your life saver. Your ability to be able to use your television remote within the confines of a blanket gives you the strength you need to kick that devastating opium addiction cold turkey. Withdrawals are a sinch in the Snuggie as it keeps you warm and gives your arms total freedom to move around. As your brain and body slowly recover you are able to use your newly properly functioning body to enjoy outdoor activities in a cult like robe while staying snuggly warm. At one of these functions you meet a very sexually attractive member of the opposite sex who thinks that your sage blue Snuggie makes your eyes pop. Love is in the air, hands are completely free. Making out is a sinch in your machine washable Snuggie and passion between you and your lover is become irresistible.



Now it is time to consummate your love.

In attempts to make love to this very sexy member of the opposite sex who you decided might be spanish, you find the one thing that is wrong with your Snuggie. Sex is impossible within the warmth and coziness in the Snuggie. After several failed attempts and hard thinking while holding a baby in your Snuggie, you have decided there is only one thing you can do to improve on the Snuggie. Give it a dick hole.

Your new Snuggie-with-dickhole makes your life complete. Now you live life enjoying various romantic encounters while staying snuggily warm. Orgies, Bj's even beastiality is as easy as pie in your new invention. So, you do the only responsible thing you could do and you market it world wide.

Fuggies: The Snuggie you can fuck in.

After a bold and erotic viral ad market campaign Fuggies become and international sensation. Fuggies become so popular that Snuggies are run out of buisness giving you the ever so precious blanket that you can fuck in monopoly. In less then a year Fuggies becomes a Fortune 500 company with stock prices leveling out at sixty seven

dollars a share.

The new found fortune allows you to live your life to fullest. As your sail travelling around the world on your twenty millions dollar yot with full bar service and crew. Life begins to seem as though it is becoming complete. You go around to various port cities enjoying the tourist spots and picking up local singles to make love to in your Fuggie, you can't help to think of that special someone you couldn't make love to while being in the Snuggie. You tell your crew on board to head straight for Sheng Hai, to find that long lost love.

After hiring a private investigator in Sheng Hai, you are right on their tracks. Your passion for that long lost love are enormous. When you finally reach that special someone, you are fully aroused and fully warm, ready to pounce in your snuggily warm garment. When the extremely sexy spanish member of the opposite sex sees you and they pull out a gun asking you to give up your fortune or take a bullet to the abdomen.



Drew Cattermole is the production manager of the OC and

How I learned to start worrying and hate wasteful spending

Kai Davis

I came into college as a financial & political liberal who shunned the Oregon Commentator as 'that conservative magazine.' Now I find myself writing for it. Strange days. I still identify as a Democrat in social situations; it's easier than explaining my beliefs versus their beliefs, but strictly identifying as a Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian does little more than provide an outmoded means to separate 'us' from 'them.'

After five years at the University of Oregon, I stand on the threshold of my final 12 credits, believing that financial responsibility doesn't subscribe to a strict interpretation from a single party, but instead hinges on a proactive, intelligent analysis of the issue at hand before approving any spending.

Through this, I can't even begin to see the necessity of certain funding decisions that the ASUO has approved during my time at the U of O. The incidental fee, sometimes referred to as a 'tax' on the students, contributes to the funding of student programs and the senate approves funding for campus services drawing, in part, from the incidental fee. Thus, when the ASUO decides to fund, say, a \$64,000 hair show for the Black Women of Achievement campus group, the student incidental fee contributes that money.

This is similar to the 'real world' and how our taxes fund programs that should benefit the community. The logic behind programs like the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Pell Grant, Food Stamps, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (aka Welfare) is that they make society better off by providing assistance for people in need. I can get behind this idea. In the end

I'm made better off by contributing - intentionally or not - to these social programs because of the overall positive effect they generate in the community*.

What I can't get behind is the seemingly wasteful spending that the ASUO generates by funding programs that don't have a tangible contribution to the campus community while at the same time dismissing programs that don't have a long term financial plan established but do provide to the community. OSPIRG, love it or hate it, consumes \$120,000 of student dollars each year and Sam Dotters-Katz wants to stop that and keep the money on campus. OSPIRG has been having trouble justifying the funding they've been receiving and even now is waging a campaign to reestablish their funding.

But what value does OSPIRG or the Black Women of Achievement Hair Show contribute back to campus? Why has the Senate continued to fund groups and events like these? When I've raised this point in the past I've heard the usual arguments bandied about in response: "Oh, it raises multicultural awareness and the campus community is made better off!" Bull shit. If the Senate were so focused on raising multicultural awareness, Ethos (The rebranded KD / Korean Ducks) wouldn't have had to go and beg for the funds to put out a print copy of their multicultural magazine.

The fact of the matter is the money going to fund these groups and events is my money. I don't have a large say in where it gets spent, but the tradeoff is I do get to engage in a world of exciting events on campus!

What I take issue with is the use

of these funds for projects that, at best, seem to be a complete waste of students funds, contributing nothing to the greater overall culture of campus. Give me something tangible like Ethos, campus recycling, or a bike loan program, but fund it so as to provide the resources for it to become self sufficient. It isn't enough to just fund groups that provide a tangible service to campus, but an effort must be made to make these groups self sufficient so they can continue to operate in the future with a minimum of ASUO funding. Isn't the ideal environment on campus one where groups can, when able, step away from the teat and provide their own funding to free up resources for other campus clubs?

In the end I'm left wondering about the true value to society of social programs. Just because the dominant thought that I've been exposed to is that contributing to social programs benefits society (and, through society, me), doesn't make it true. This ASUO election season I intend to closely look at the cost proposed programs will draw on me to pay. This isn't to say that I'll be voting for the candidate that promises to reduce costs the most, but the one that seems to be working to generate self sustaining enterprises on campus.

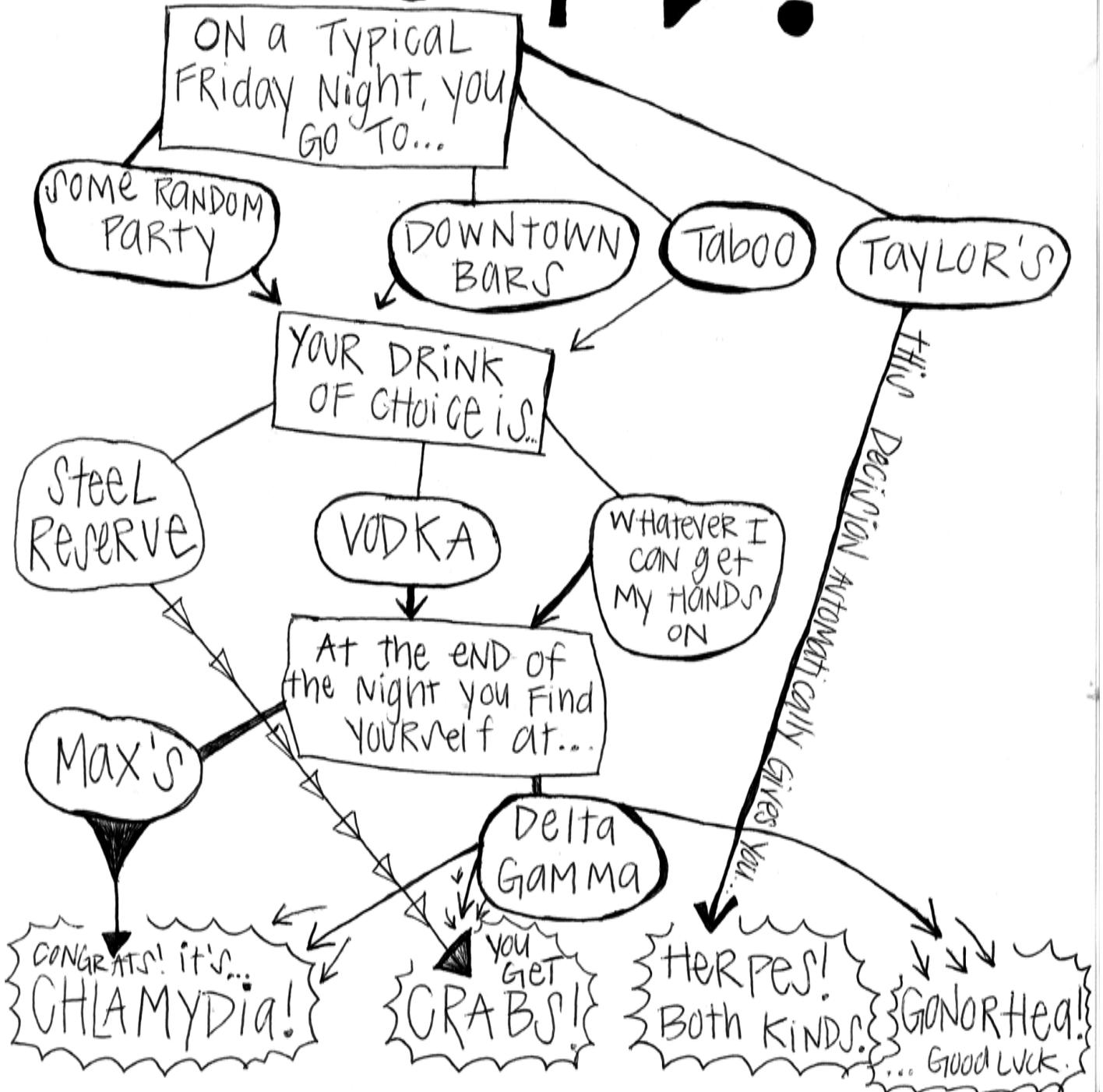
*The discussion of the negatives that a program like welfare generates by potentially encouraging people to live in the 'welfare zone' so as to scam the Government and live for free is a discussion for another time.



Kai Davis is a contributor to the OC and edits the Comic Press or some shit like that.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN STD!

By: Carey



The death of OSPIRG?

Everyone's favorite useless, money-sucking "student program" finally got the axe this year, but don't break out the champagne yet

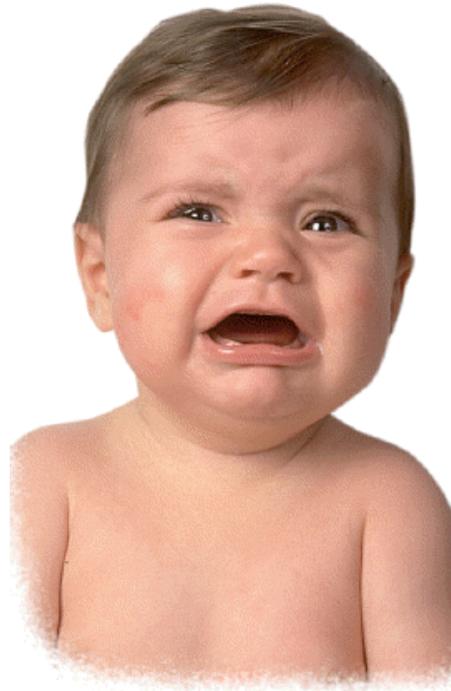
C.J. Ciaramella

It is the great pleasure of the Oregon Commentator to announce that OSPIRG, our longstanding nemesis and perennial burden on University of Oregon students, may be no more. After four long, tedious meetings, the ASUO denied OSPIRG a budget for next year. For the moment, OSPIRG is dead in the water.

For those new to the issue, OSPIRG stands for Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group. It's the University of Oregon chapter of the nationwide PIRG system. These groups, individually and at large, claim to lobby in students' interest. In fact, though, they lobby for boilerplate liberal issues, such as health care reform and environmental projects, while throwing in a few obligatory student issues like textbook costs.

But here's where things get tricky. States also have PIRG chapters, which feed into the national USPIRG. For example, here on campus we have the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group. Yep, same acronym. In fact, both OSPIRGs share the same staff, same office and same telephone number. As Editor Emeritus Ossie Bladine wrote in a guest opinion in the Oregon Daily Emerald last year:

"If you go to the Web site of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group and the Oregon Students Public Interest Research Group, you will notice that contact information for the two groups, which claim to not be tied together, are the same: 1536 SE 11th Ave, Portland, OR; (503) 231-4181. This is because money that the student OSPIRG gets from Oregon universities goes to pay rent for a space in the state OSPIRG office. How much they pay is unknown, because the student OSPIRG does not have to list line items when it submits its annual budget to



OSPIRG supporters really blubbered like babies when their budget got axed. It sounded like this: A BLOOOO BLA BLOO BLOO BLOOOOOOOO!

the ASUO Programs Finance Committee. For all we know, the rent could be a convenient way to launder money to the state OSPIRG, which could then use student funds to lobby its campaigns in the state agenda."

OSPIRG (the student one) received roughly \$120,000 of student funds this year, and most of it went to OSPIRG's Portland office to pay eight trained staff members. Only \$25,000 stayed on campus, and of that, \$23,000 is the salary of a paid "campus organizer." That left \$2,000 for actual campus events. At last week's budget hearing, when asked what OSPIRG had directly brought to campus, one OSPIRG member could only meekly bring up a screening of *Sicko*, Michael Moore's latest "docu-

mentary."

What you're seeing is, in essence, a giant pyramid scheme. The university chapters funnel money into the state chapters, which in turn funnel part of that money to the national PIRG. Radley Balko, an editor of Reason magazine, wrote in 2003 that the state PIRGs send roughly 10 percent of their budget to the national PIRG. What that figure is today, or even its veracity, is hard to determine because OSPIRG doesn't have a line-item budget. OSPIRG is a contracted service through the ASUO.

If you're still saying "so what?" consider: A large chunk of this money is involuntarily taken from students through mandatory fees. Once again: money is being taken off-campus through mandatory fees without a line-item budget or other way to keep track of it, all for explicitly political purposes.

The Long Goodbye

These concerns did not sit well with the four members of the Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee, the ASUO body responsible for contract budgets. (Most of the ACFC was elected as part of the Oregon Action Team slate, whose platform included cutting OSPIRG's funding.)

Sensing controversy, students packed into the room to speak out for and against OSPIRG at its first budget hearing on Feb. 4. Even OSPIRG Executive Director David Rosenfeld drove down from Portland to attend the meeting.

OSPIRG was given a chance to defend its budget, but the ACFC was extremely unsatisfied with the presentation, pressing the group for specific details which it was either unable or unwilling to give. Several students announced that they didn't feel comfort-

able with the hearing, saying it felt like OSPIRG was "on trial." (Funny, it was, after all, a budget defense.) After nearly three hours of back and forth debate between presenters and audience members, the ACFC adjourned the meeting without a vote.

OSPIRG was then given another opportunity to present its case before the ACFC a week later. Members said they were presenting new information, but on further questioning, one OSPIRG member was forced to admit that their presentation was "a different perspective on the same information."

One presenter claimed that the ASUO would see a 1,300 percent return on its "investment" of \$120,000. It was a little redundant when he then started a sentence by saying, "Now, I'm no economist, but ..."

The ACFC first motioned to approve OSPIRG for a \$27,866 budget, but the committee could not get clear answers on how that would affect the group.

The ACFC continually pressed the group to explain exactly how their budget would be affected by the cut and what services they could still provide, but OSPIRG waffled every time. When ACFC member and Senate President Alex McCafferty asked for a "yes, no or maybe" answer on whether or not a campus organizer could still be provided for \$27,000, one of the presenters said they would have to talk to the OSPIRG board of directors.

This is what caused the committee to vote down its original proposal and later motion for a zero-percent budget.

The room was split between OSPIRG supporters and detractors (left to right, coincidentally). ASUO Executive Sam Dotters-Katz spoke out against the group several times throughout the hearing.

"The issue that I have is not the good things they do for the world," Dotters-Katz said. "But the purpose of the Incidental fee is not to save the world. It's to improve the experience of students on campus."

Department Finance Committee member Brendan Good had strong words for OSPIRG as well, saying "a pig is still a pig, anyway you look out." (He handed out flyers earlier that said

OSPIRG wasn't kosher. Get it?)

Several ASUO Senators spoke against the group also, such as Derek Nix and Demic Tipitino and Nick Gower. Tipitino recommended that OSPIRG be completely defunded and return next year to apply as an ASUO program. (Programs are required to have strict, line-item budget.)

On the other side, Jesse Hough, who ran for ASUO vice-president last year, said that defunding OSPIRG would silence students. Actually, his exact words were, "You're tearing out my larynx here!"

Former ASUO Senator Diego Hernandez, displaying his trademark wit and tact, also told Dotters-Katz to "shut up" at one point and later went on to accuse several in the room of sexism (for disagreeing with a female OSPIRG supporter, presumably).

All the cries of "student empowerment" and sexism were for naught, though. After about an hour and a half of hearing speakers, the ACFC called the vote to question. ACFC member Tina Snodgrass, after a moment of deliberation, gave the final "aye" for a vote of 4-0-0.

OSPIRG's fate was then handed to the ASUO Senate, which is charged with approving the ACFC total budget. OSPIRG formally appealed the decision, both before the ACFC and the Senate. In fact, it packed the Senate boardroom with OSPIRG neophytes, many of whom were from different campuses, but by this point the decision was largely moot. There was no way OSPIRG could be included in the budget without exceeding the ACFC's already strained budget. Although Senators bandied around different ideas for funding or partially funding OSPIRG, eventually the budget was approved without it.

As a hail mary, OSPIRG supporters tried to gather signatures for a special ballot measure that asked whether the incidental fee should fund "student-directed programs that address issues that affect both students and all Oregonians, using methods such as: research; press conferences; letter writing drives; demonstrations; public forums; advocating to the City Council, Legislature, Congress, and corporations; and hiring

professional staff to work to amplify and empower student voice both on and off-campus in places like Salem and Washington DC[.]"

Notice that OSPIRG is mentioned nowhere in the ballot measure. In fact, the measure was started by a group calling itself the "student voice campaign." Presumably, the measure, if passed, would have been used as leverage when OSPIRG tries to get back on the budget next year. The group's ruse fooled no one. If anything, it only drew more anger towards OSPIRG. Student groups that previously supported OSPIRG criticized the ballot measure, which they claimed could hurt similar groups such as the Oregon Students Association if it failed. The student voice campaign seemed surprised that no one wanted to associate themselves with OSPIRG's tainted and corrupt practices.

The Sordid History

The Oregon Commentator has opposed OSPIRG since our founding. In fact, our inaugural 1983 issue has an article about the group. The story describes how Editor Richard Burr argued before the ASUO Constitution Court "that OSPIRG's political activities such as lobbying for state legislation violates a principle Thomas Jefferson voiced in 1777: 'To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.'"

To put it in context, the article was about the ASUO Constitution Court striking down OSPIRG's request to have its budget reviewed every two years instead of one. The decision was largely due to the protest of Burr. As you can see, OSPIRG always has and always will try to shield itself from actual scrutiny. That's why it tried to have a bi-annual budget, and that's why it recently moved to be an ASUO contracted service. Contracted services aren't required to have a line-item budget, meaning OSPIRG doesn't have to show exactly how it spends its money.

In 1995, Owen Brennan Rounds sued the State Board of Higher Education and OSPIRG, claiming the mandatory fees he paid as a student violated

Things college kids like (that actually suck)

Dane Carbaugh

Scarface – Seriously, have you watched this movie all the way through? You bet your silly, stoned ass you haven't. Cause this movie would be bearable if it wasn't longer than *Vanilla Sky*, but it isn't. The movie is about a Cuban guy who comes to America and finds money in selling cocaine, dying in a hail of gunfire. If I just described to you in one sentence the entire movie, it shouldn't have a 2000 word Wikipedia description of the plot alone. Oh yeah, I almost forgot the most ridiculous part of the entire movie – that Al Pacino plays a Cuban guy. I guess 1980's America was still pretty racist when they couldn't tell the difference between an Italian and a Cuban. The only thing worse than the endless references to it by retarded rappers is the retarded college kids hanging its poster in their room. If you're a business major, driving around a 2004 Honda Accord, chances are you aren't going to die in a hail of gunfire. But here's hoping.

Posters –

You might think that having posters of the things you like is still cool, but guess what: you're an idiot. Not only does having your room covered in meaningless paper (see above) show you have no taste, it will severely hurt you in the bedroom. The fact that you are spending time with your hand while every-so-often glancing at that poster of *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* shows you should find an interior decorator, quick. In this recession, they'll work for practically nothing. Have you ever stopped to consider what women might think of your walls? Sure, any classy ladies you bring home shouldn't notice, but if you've ever brought home anyone over 25, you know what I'm talking about. Go buy some paint, posters are for garages.



Comedy Central – I'm sure by now that while you're at home, not going to classes and eating the other half of that Dough Co. you didn't finish last because you passed out face-first into your couch, that Comedy Central blows. Sure, you may think that all of its shows are as funny as *Colbert* or *Futurama*, but spending time at home

in the middle of the day shows you just how terrible cable TV is. How many episodes of *MadTV* are they legally allowed to show? Not to mention the smattering of comedic cinematic experiences, like *Waiting*, *My Bosses Daughter*, and *Hangin' with the Homeboys*. Sure, they stumble across shows like *Important Things with Dmitri Martin* and *South Park* but the majority of hours on this network are wasted on things unwatchable (Note: This changes if you've totally burnt out and are high when home skipping classes. Then Bobby Lee seems like Steve Martin circa 1975). In the end, there are only so many reruns of the 5 seasons of *Futurama* you can run before I get dressed and go to class to escape the monotony. Besides, we all know that the best TV network ever created would have half-hour episodes of *SportsCenter*, with episodes of *The Simpsons*, *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, *South Park*, *Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations* and *The Soup* placed intermittently at every hour, on the hour.

Family Guy –

Ooh, here's the big one, shit. Stand back son, gonna piss some people off. Here's the deal – remember before *Family Guy* got picked back up again by Fox, and you had to buy the DVDs (and by "buy the DVDs" I mean bitorrent it)? Those are the episodes of *Family Guy* that are still good. This argument has been brought up many times before, but there's an easy test to tell you whether or not *Family Guy* sucks or not: When was the last time you heard someone quote from an episode not in the first 3 seasons? That's what I thought. The first new *Family Guy* I was all ready for, and from the get-go you could tell something was different—even the animation in that first car ride was 3-D textured or something, just a little off. Case in point is that you're always going to hear "Hey Lois...diharrea" "Peter, I'm holdin' iced tea!" and never something from the newest seasons. The last memorable quote from the recent seasons was "Come on...do math" (Peter pokes a small Asian child) and even that is a shaky rip off of Homer's many whiny tones from the *Simpsons* (Think "My pockets hurt" Season 11 etc). I heard Seth MacFarlane on *LoveLine* a few weeks ago, talking about how people rip on *Family Guy*, and that it sucks and how they'll never watch again. Seth pointed out that after every show though, those same people watched every minute of every show and wrote about how much it sucked. He shouldn't be so sure, cause I stopped watching a long time ago. Take it from someone whose never hated *Family Guy*, whose never thought they were a copy of the *Simpsons* (they aren't) and bought all of those first three seasons back in the day – *Family Guy* sucks.

Cooking – This is for the young’uns. So you’ve moved away from the dorms, right into your cozy little green carpeted noise barrel (you know what I’m talking about). You just couldn’t handle that fucking sandwich shop, salad place, buffet or asian grill anymore could you? Except now week two of *Project: Grown Up* is in full swing and there’s this faint smell of urine and rotting asshole coming from the area known as the kitchen. The piss isn’t that unnerving, but what to do about all these dishes? Your parents bought them for you and you can’t just throw them away. But it’s all fucking stuck on and you can’t soak all of them. I mean, you should wash them if you’re going to get high, skip classes and watch Family Guy all day, but do you really want to? Someone with your mental capacity and go-gettumm attitude will soon realize that taking the 3 minute walk to get food that, at the very least, passes easily through your digestive system is a treat when faced with the logistical problems of the alternative option.

Video Games – Here’s big stink number 2. Pun intended. Let’s get one thing clear: video games are fun. Pleasure is experienced. Etcetera. But video games do in fact, suck. How many of you have played a game of COD:5 just to completely wreck those damn Nazi’s with 38 kills. Fuck, you’re a pixilated god. That elation is soon wiped away the next game when you’re kill to death ratio is 1/79 and that in the last game you were probably playing with someone’s girlfriend and a bunch of monkeys with nodes on their heads known as Test Group B. You suck at video games, and in turn, video games must then, suck. The only other things that have the same elation-to-degradation experience effect is Heroin. And that always seems to work out for people.

Hookah – So you walk into this guy Ziggy’s house and his place is everything you’ve ever wanted in a college house: He’s got every episode of Family Guy, any video game system known to man, sweet posters of people who epitomize your lifestyle and a big glass contraption known as Hookah. Obviously incredibly culturally sophisticated, he sits everyone down on the floor criss-cross-applesauce but instead calls it something stupid, Sukhasana. It takes him 85 minutes to prep this magical portal of wisdom, using tin-foil, dirty chewy grass and his stove. Finally, you

get to experience this tradition of kings, and you take your first puff. It’s like mango, peach and chocolate all rolled into one, you think to yourself! “It’s a little bit of mango, mostly peach and for good measure, chocolate,” says Ziggy. Everyone’s taking turns, watching Family Guy and trying profusely to make smoke rings, but really looking like bunch of retarded monkeys trying to suckle a banana. You can’t do it yet, and you realize you have to learn by the time this thing is done delivering its wonderous gas. So you begin to take huge, giant pulls in order to give yourself multiple tries at this smoke ring trickery. Pretty soon everyone has refused their turns, “No I’m good”. How can they be tired of this superb smoke? Oh well, it’s more for me, you think. Pretty soon you’ve got it all to yourself and after 15 minutes of this, Jerrod tells you “it’s out”. You desperately want him to put more in, but everyone’s now caught up in *Scarface* and that movie takes for-fucking-ever to get done with. You now have a massive headache that seems to have come out of nowhere, and you decide to head home. Before you excuse yourself from this cultural mecca, you ask Jerrod how you can obtain this “Hookah”. It’s how much? And that’s for the glass thing, not including the mango shit? Awesome! You’d expect something as great as this to be that expensive.

Sleeping Around – Sure, this is your right of passage here in college, and you deserve to track down some strange ass in your youth, you ol’ polecat. Why not head out to that Red Light/Green Light party with full on green pants, green socks and green polo, collar popped of course? You’ve hung out with that one girl twice already, and you don’t really want to have to hang out with her every week just to get down. You’d rather just replenish my stock of classy ladies every Friday night. That seems like the best plan for you. What you’re forgetting here is that anyone you date here in college has the same fucked up schedule you do, and they don’t want you’re dumbass getting in the way of their shit too. Seriously, you can’t call me all the time I have to fuckin’ pass my classes at least. You’re both adults, and you aren’t going to be around each other 24/7. Dating in college is simplified into one thing, and you young’uns may not have realized it yet: guaranteed sex. Instead of having to track down new tail every single week, why not use that mandatory time with one person every week to put a little change in the meter? You haven’t been thinking the economics of this situation through ladies and gentlemen, and you’re welcome.

Hard Alcohol – Sure, it may get you “fucked up” quicker and it costs less per alc/vol than anything else, but have you fully considered how delicious beer is? My bet is that you haven’t. Seriously, if you have to prep yourself for something you’re about to drink, especially if it’s in 1-ounce portions, you need to punch yourself in the taint and rethink that situation. The worst thing out of all this is the flavored ones – who thought of this bullshit? All it does is coat your mouth with the flavor of Jolly Ranchers, leading your brain to think, “This is tasty!” Three seconds later, the alcohol flavor kicks in and your brain thinks you’ve be-



trayed it, and is now trying to kill you. “Fucker! You said it was candy!” The flip side of this argument is the tasty, tasty brew known as beer. Has there ever been anything more refreshing, drinkable and downright delectable than beer? If you say water, you best prep yourself for another taint-punch. Never has there been a concoction that allows you to be refreshed and beligerant at the same time like beer. But I digress. At the very least, Ill supply some alternatives. The first is 3-buck Chuck. If you don’t know what this is, ask whoever you give your money to go to the liquor store for it and they’ll come back with the right thing. The only acceptable hard alcohol is then whiskey. I prefer good ol’ Jack Daniels for the same reason I love beer: its delicious. Don’t go buying things like Maker’s Mark or anything that is “un-college” just to make yourself cool and different. Jack Daniels slides down almost like, well, beer and it gets the job done. Really though, these should be relegated to emergency, back of the pantry options only. Do yourself a favor, throw out that UV Pink Lemonade and get yourself something made for people.

Upper Division Classes – I suppose this one is for the young’uns too. I’m a veritable tank-o-wisdom today. If you a first or second year student here, thinking that classes will get better here at the University once you get to your Upper Division coursework, well great news: you’re fucked. This one is quite an understandable mistake: It stems from the idea that classes will get smaller, Professors will be better and the overall quality of your education will go up. The most prominent of these mistakes is that all lower division classes are taught by lowly GTFs, and such may be true with most 100 level classes. But GTFs themselves are a grab-bag of educational value. Some may very well be the type trying to imitate professors, saying nonsensical things like, “I don’t give As” and other scholarly badass material. But you may also get that GTF who knows what the fuck is up with college kids, or better yet has mistakenly taken the path to Professorhood when they should be a high school teacher. You know, the cool Honors High School teacher who knows you’re all smart and just teaches you the shit straightforward, helping you out and generally doing a good job? So GTFs aren’t all that bad. Really, the most common mistake here is that there is some kind of mystical level of teachers who descend from the heavens and only teach 350+ level classes. A quick venture onto any of the UO department faculty websites will show all the classes a Professor is teaching during the year. Since many choose to rotate through both high and low level classes, they basically take turns teaching which classes, and when. So let me give you a little advice, young’uns: find a professor you like, latch on and don’t let go. Take all their classes, and ask to take ‘em again. Otherwise you’ll get stuck with that douchebag Physics teacher who teaches Astronomy 100 level classes and talks to you about quantum physics, then decides that he’s going to curve the class because he wants to test you on knowledge you can’t possibly ever know but wants to put it on the test anyways. Fuck that guy.

Frisbee –

If you find yourself barefoot, tossing a bright yellow disc around the field cornering 18th and Agate, look around you: do you see Fixies and soccer jerseys? You’ve just made the common mistake of being a college stereotype, at least here at the University of Oregon. If you are justifying your Frisbee fetish with the fact that its “fun” and that its “exercise” and it makes you “friends”, you best punch yourself in the taint, and then listen closely. The best way to understand why Frisbee is fucking retarded is with an example.



It’s your senior year in high school, and it’s the end of May. Graduation is just a few weeks away, its sunny and starting to get hot outside. It’s probably one of the most memorable times of your life, at least in feeling. You’ve just stepped outside and are walking to the parking lot to get into your car. Suddenly, one of your friends is walking towards you, trying to get your attention. You stop, and he catches up to you, “Hey dude, I was thinkin’ we should hit the fields and toss around a Frisbee!” After punching him in the face, you help him up off the ground, “No thanks, I haven’t done that since I was 9 and even then I lost interest after a half hour. I don’t do things that are retarded.” Fast forward one year, it’s the end of your freshman year in college and it’s just starting to get sunny and hot again – time for outdoor activities. You’re walking back to the dorms when a friend crosses the grasses to catch up to you, “Hey dude, I was thinkin’ we should hit the fields and toss around a Frisbee!” What’s your reaction? If you said anything else other than “Punched him in the face” then you’re a douchebag. Changing who you are and what you like in college is for Sorority girls and democrats.

Newly Minted Vegetarians and Vegans – See above.



Dane Carbaugh is a contributor to the OC and has a very shiny head.

Infinite Chest

Michelle Haley

The short story you are about to read is a poor poor tribute to David Foster Wallace's mega-novel Infinite Jest. I assure you, while these characters, and some loose themes are based on his highly-regarded work, his novel is way way way better. This is really just a piece of shit.

The ultimate form of adult entertainment, that is what Jim Incumdenza was trying to create, little did he know that Infinite Chest would be the vehicle to end humanity, as we know it.

Hal watched the clock ticking on the wall—it was almost as if the second hand had stopped moving, time was dragging on just so. It had been five years since Hal's father; Hal called him "himself" had committed suicide. Hal had come home to a house filled with the scent of barbecue—or some other sort of deliciously cooked meat. Following the seemingly visible scent into the kitchen, Hal Incumdenza was greeted by his father's body splayed awkwardly on the floor, and the remaining contents of his head in the microwave, still steaming. Finally the minute hand ticked forward once, and -clunk- pulled Hal back from reliving his gruesome memory.

Jim Incumdenza was a troubled man, besides his addiction to Himself, he had a passion for alcohol and filming pornography. Jim's ultimate goal was to create an adult film so entertaining anyone who watched would be forever satisfied. This is where I come in, my name is Mycock, and I am arguably the biggest paraplegic porn star in the world, I won top honors at the Woodies for my work in Wheelchair Ass-Assins in 2012, and have been bangin' ladies (and some men) professionally ever since. I have been investigating the Infinite Chest film since it disappeared after Jim Incumdenza's death, and have a feeling it may kill me when I find it. I also think Infinite Chest drove Jim Incumdenza to his death. Although his suicide was painful, death by porn is a beautiful thing.

To become an Ass-Assin turn to Pg. #
To someday cum infinitely turn to Pg. #

Ass-Assin:

Mycock came home from a long, hard, long, hard, long day at work, checking the mail before reaching the door of his condo. An unexpected manila envelope, containing a thin, rigid rectangular shape had arrived.

Without putting too much thought into the DVD that was mysteriously mailed to him, Mycock popped the disc into his laptop after dinner. Depicted in the film was a topless woman wearing a veil over her face. It was as if the

viewer were in a stroller looking up at his mother—topless and in a veil. This is when Mycock focused on the beautiful breasts of one-time actress/adult film star Jizzelle Van Dyke, and instantly came, and shit himself, and sat, mesmerized, staring at the screen.

Infinite Chest played on loop, continuously, for three days, Mycock's eyes glued to the screen until his eyes simply glazed over. Seizing to blink, Mycock had died, covered in his own excrement and jizz.

Cumming infinitely:

The one-time actress/adult film sensation Jizzelle Van Dyke had started dating Jim's oldest son Whorin' Incumdenza in college. Whorin' the first-string kicker of the football team, met Jizzelle on the field—she was a baton twirling cheerleader. It was impossible to ignore her perky chest that seemed to go on forever, and that is what inevitably drove Whorin' to her.

However, he wasn't the only Incumdenza to be taken by Jizzelle's supple sweater-pillows, and upon meeting Jizzelle, Jim knew she had to be the star of his masterpiece. Jizzelle inspired the theme for the film, her chest being the showpiece of Himself's lifelong work—Jim would cum in his sleep just thinking about it.

-clunk- Another minute forward and Hal wondered what had ever happened to Jizzelle. She had never seen the film, no one still living had in fact Hal had always believed that this is what had killed his father—not the act of watching the film, but rather the effort put forth it making it. Infinite Chest drove Jim Incumdenza to microwave his life away.

Hal couldn't take the stillness any longer, glancing up at the clock, he decided that even just five minutes more would be too long to wait and began the long walk back.

To witness eternal mammary turn to Pg. #
To follow the troll into the cave turn to page #

Eternal mammary:

Hal returned to his dorm room and couldn't get the memory of his father out of his mind. He went to his entertainment closet to select an overplayed film his father had made when Hal was still quite young. It featured a nun who was a former biker that had converted her ways, and Hal loved the ridiculousness of it.

However, when he went to insert the disc into its player, there seemed to be another disc inside. Unable to remember the last time he'd watched anything in his room, he quickly

The official Oregon Commentator ASUO elections cheat sheet

Too lazy or stupid to figure things out for yourself? Just don't care? Use our handy, totally subjective voting guide to free yourself from the burden of participatory democracy!

Executive ticket

- Deez Nuts (seriously, write it in. Wouldn't you like to be represented by Deez Nuts?)

Senate

Seat One: Jessica Jones

Seat Three: Alyssa Diamond*
Diamond is a smart, hard-working student.

Seat Four: Rachel Cooper*
Cooper is fiscally conservative, and she's a metal DJ on KWVA, which is, like, a 100 bonus points.

Seat Six: Follow your heart

Seat Eight: Benjamin Dodds

Seat Nine: Demic Tipitino*
Tipitino is a level-headed, fiscally responsible senator. For serious. His opponent, Hailey Sheldon, is also a cool cat. It's a slam dunk either way.

Seat 10: Alden Williams

Seat 11: Max Barkley
Barkley's opponent, Neil Cronkite, said he would have a drink with Anderson Cooper. LAME.

Seat 13: No opinion

Seat 15: Kellin Clark
The only seat 15 candidate to respond to our questionnaire. You see what happens when you take the initiative?

Seat 16: Mathew Baseman

Seat 17: Christina Ergas

Seat 19: Deborah Bloom
Bloom represents the J-School well, has good ideas and generally has the right attitude about what the ASUO needs to be doing.

Seat 20: Karissa McDowell*

PFC At-Large: Ross Harke

EMU At-Large: Jackson Hite

ACFC At-Large: Wenfei Phil Gong
That's a pretty cool name. Also, Gong is the only international student running. Alternatively, Melissa Buich. She is a total babe.

DFC 1-Year At-Large: Flip for it

DFC 2-Year At-Large: Ben Normandin

ASPAC 1-Year At-Large: Alex McCafferty
This year's Senate president. He's good people.

ASPC 2-Year At-Large: Kerry Snodgrass

* Denotes total hottie. Do a favor for your ASUO reporters. Vote for a hot Senate.

ASUO Elections Drinking Game

- * One drink for every grievance filed
- * One drink every time the Elections Board does something silly
- * One drink for every call for spending limits
- * Two drinks every time a slate does something outrageously expensive
- * Three drinks if another slate calls them out for it (with obligatory quote in the ODE).

- * One drink for every poorly attended debate or Q&A session.
- * One drink for every mention of “outreach,” the need for more of it, etc.
- * Two drinks if “outreach” is mentioned at said poorly attended debate or Q&A session.
- * Three drinks if said poorly attended debate or Q&A session is used as evidence of need for more “outreach.”

- * One drink every time the “everyday student” or “average student” is invoked
- * Two drinks if a candidate claims to represent the everyday student
- * Shotgun a beer if candidate claims to be an everyday student

- * One drink every time Ryan McCarrel berates the other candidates and says the ASUO is full of mouth-breathing idiots
- * Two drinks if the other candidates just kind of stammer and move on to another subject afterwards

- * One drink every time a candidate says something silly/regrettable in an ODE interview

Voters' Guide **Senate Seat 1 - PFC**

Jessica Jones

Editor's Note: Not all candidates are represented in this mass e-mail questionnaire, only those who responded. Also, the candidates' answers have not been edited for spelling or clarity. Enjoy.

Year in school: Freshman (Sophomore by credit hours)

Major: Undeclared

Activities:

Sigma Mu Omega

Jewcapella at Hillel

National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi)

National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Society of College Scholars

National Society of Being Awesome.

Hobbies: Reading, crocheting, music (singing, listening, playing), riding my purple bike, extreme underwater ironing

What prompted you to run for student government?

I've always been very interested in student government and the way things work. When a sister of mine discussed the possibilities of running with me and finally explained what the ASUO really does and what the I-Fee actually is, I realized that, because I don't want to see more freshmen like me: uninformed about the process and unaware of the fact that we are all, at least nominally, involved in the ASUO because we pay the incidental fee: I want to be an ASUO senator.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel like the bad thing about our student politics at UO is that there is generally a group of students who are a well-informed minority. These are the people who run for ASUO and get elected, who make all of the decisions, and while this is not necessarily a problem, it is a problem when other students (when the vast majority of other students) are left out of the loop and unaware that they have options and choices and that all of this (politics) affects them as well.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I think it's important to help make students aware from the outset what they're getting themselves into. Instead of just handing incoming freshmen a financial aid award and a cost of attendance sheet that happens to have the incidental fee on it, we need to explain to them: This is what you're paying, and this is why. If you want this to fund other things (after all, you are paying it), this is what you need to do to get involved. Not only will this enable more and more students to become involved and make a difference, it will also change the way student politics at the University of Oregon happens. Slates, while theoretically a good idea, can serve to isolate and frustrate the casual uninformed student who doesn't know what the difference is and merely sees colored shirts with big names and doesn't know how to get more information. The ASUO needs to focus on informing

students of their own involvement.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Fyodor Dostoevsky, and we would be drinking □□□□□ (vodka).

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Students should vote for me because I will work towards a more informed, motivated student body and because I look brilliant in the purple Students First shirt.

Senate Seat 3 - PFC

Lyzi Diamond

Year in school: Junior

Major: PPPM, Geography, African Studies Minor

Activities: DDS, KWVA, Sigma Mu Omega (Jewish Sorority)

Hobbies: Biking, climbing, playing bass, listening to music

What prompted you to run for student government?

Going through the budget process this year with DDS, I recognized a lot of flaws in the ways that PFC was making decisions. Many of these flaws, I feel, came from the fact that many if not most of the members of PFC had not been involved in ASUO programs. I felt that my experience with programs would lend well to Programs Finance Committee, and that my knowledge of the ASUO would make me a good candidate for Senate.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel that the University of Oregon has a student government system that has been too controlled by ideology and negative contention. It is important that student politicians be able to make rational decisions based on information that is given to them instead of playing off of some internal bias. Student politicians should be representing their constituencies instead of themselves.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I think the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body by diversifying the ways in which the ASUO put themselves out there. There are so many ways to talk to students and get them involved, and I feel that the ASUO tends to stick to the safe options. One of the biggest ways the ASUO can reach out would be to start doing programs on the University of Oregon campus that all students can get involved in. For example, the ASUO could sponsor a life-skills speaker series for topics that are not traditionally

covered in the classroom. There are so many ways to get students involved, and the ASUO needs to start exploring some of those options.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I have had a dream for many years now that Morrissey (of The Smiths) would whisk me away in the middle of the night to a magical island where we would drink red wine and he would sex me up the whole night. Mm mm mm.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I'm passionate, I'm motivated and I have good ideas. I'm involved in many areas of campus, and I feel that I could be a strong representative for students.

Senate Seat 4 - EMU

Amélie Rousseau

Year in school: Junior

Major: English and French

Activities:

FIG Assistant in fall 08

Alternative Spring Break member to San Francisco

Pi Beta Phi sorority's Publications Chair

Oregon Daily Emerald Freelance reporter

Honors College freshman group leader (CHIP)

Editor-in-Chief of the Honors College Creative Arts Journal

Panhellenic Greek Judicial Board member

One of ASUO executive ticket Emma and Getachew's volunteer captains

Hobbies:

Bicycling, soccer, knitting, voraciously reading newspapers, creative writing, volunteering, art.

What prompted you to run for student government?

The Audacity of Hope. No, seriously.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

Our university has been granted one of the biggest student government budgets in the country. We need to do a better job of bridging the gap between the work of ASUO representatives and regular students. The Senate is currently a self-contained, internal body, and we need to push further to become a visible, external force that has a spirit of servitude above all else. Hundreds of students walk past the glass-windowed ASUO office every day, but how often does the ASUO look back out at them?

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

Number one on my priority list is to tell students where the heck their incidental fees (of \$200 dollars a term) is going towards. ASUO and EMU programs, clubs, and events need to be much better publicized. For example, when I told my friends about Alternative Spring Break, I can't tell you how many people said they had never heard of the program and wished that they could have applied.

Whether it is in the form of an online newsletter, personal announcements, or required publicity for ASUO-funded groups, before students can get involved they need to know what is out there! Advocacy and ambassadorship for the ASUO should be a year-long goal, not a two-week one.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I would have a strong Deutschland beer w Karl Marx, and ask him his opinion on how online social networking sites are becoming a means of empowerment for the common voice.

Senate Seat 8 - ACFC

Curtis Haley

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Political Science

Activities: College Democrats, Leadership Specialist for Tri Leadership Resources

Hobbies: Politics, watching sports (especially NBA and college football), travelling, listening to music, watching movies and keeping busy with work.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I initially wasn't going to run, but I was approached by some folks who had great ideas and a similar philosophy about what how the ASUO should work, so I jumped on board. I'm running because I really believe we can do a better job making the ASUO more accessible and efficient for students.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

To me, it appears that way too many people in and out of the ASUO concentrate excessively on the political circus. Most students care more about the cost of their I-Fee and the quality of the services it provides than they do about personal differences or drama.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

The ASUO should work to become more accessible to students. This means being proactive in reaching out to students to hear their concerns, but it also means improving its use of technology and social media to create better lines of communication.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

It's going to sound really corny (especially to some of the folks who publish this fine journal of opinion), but it would be Barack Obama. I'd want to hear why he's chosen to implement his current economic plan instead of possible alternatives, and how confident he is that it will work. I'd be good with lemonade.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I'm as passionate about improving student government as anyone you'll meet, and I know I'll work hard enough to help make that happen.

Benjamin Independence Dodds

Year in school: Junior

Major: POLS

Activities: Debate, rec/club sports, wildland fire fighting

Hobbies: Teaching and coaching debate, coaching baseball, fruitful conversation

What prompted you to run for student government?

I was approached by a fellow debater and current ASUO senator about trying to get involved.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

The under representation of students is a travesty. In some senses it seems silly to have an election if only 20% of the people ever vote, but the alternatives are obviously far less representative. We have the right system, a little re-enfranchising is in order that's all.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

Streamlined channels of communication between the ASUO members and the students, as well as the student media sources. Having a series of press releases on the exact details of the day-to-day of the ASUO should increase the exposure of the body, and ensure the students are in the know about the inner workings of the ASUO. This should also increase voter turn out if people are invested in the details and make the election process more issue based than stunt based.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I would never pass on an opportunity to spend a beer's worth of time with my father. I don't really need super heroes since he is the best guiding force that a person could ask for. I would rather share any beer with him than any person I only think I would be enriched by since he provides that enrichment for me with out fail.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I've been arguing and persuading people for 9 years in debate and i can turn those skills into spoils for students in both services and savings in the contract negotiations on ACFC.

Senate Seat 9 - DFC

Demic Tipitino

Year in school: Junior in standing (2 nd year student)

Major: Economics and Political Science

Activities: Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Order of Omega Honors Society, ASUO Senate, College Republicans

Hobbies: Politics, Debate

What prompted you to run for student government?

I believe very strongly that students suffer because of a mandatory tax placed on them that has for years been far too high. The U of O has the second largest student government in the country, and the largest student fee in the nation. I believe that the job of the Senate is to guard against raising this fee, not to find new ways to creatively throw away students dollars.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I think there has to be more involvement, and a larger effort on the part of the ASUO and the students to make this happen.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

It all starts with relationships. The ASUO should spend less time funding conferences that send students across the country, and more time attending the ones we have here. Elected members of the ASUO should spend less time listening to people who come to lobby them for money and more time asking the students what they really want with this money. The ASUO should spend more time going to Greek philanthropies, and club sports games, and less time debating the merits of these activities. Maybe then we would have an ASUO that understood what the students wanted.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Probably Jesus, because I have always wondered what he would do, and we would probably have a nice glass of wine, however I would require he turn it from water first.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Students should vote for me because too many senators have caved to demands of small groups of students at the sacrifice of the rest of us. I believe that the most important voices are those that never find their way to my desk in the ASUO, and those are the ones I fight for and will continue to fight for.

Senate Seat 10 - DFC

Alden Williams

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Pre-Family and Human Services

Activities: I am Vice President of Organization for the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and am a member of the UO Blood Drive Association.

Hobbies: Camping, seeing new places, watching sports, doing craft projects and taking road trips.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I would like to personally see that student incidental fees are spent wisely on programs that are equally represented throughout the ASUO and I am interested in working with an active body of leaders that can collaborate with one another and run an effective and efficient student government.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

No matter what, the student government will never be able to fully satisfy every student and program on campus, however I believe that we could be doing a much better job of equally representing the needs of the students and programs.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I think that the ASUO is largely at fault for its lack of representation of the students wants and needs. We are expecting students to visit office hours and seek funding and support for themselves. We shouldn't be so apathetic. As a senator I think that we need to be reaching out to students even more than we already are, instead of them reaching out to us. We should be constantly getting to know the programs and students we work with so we can better understand how to serve them. Each student group should be well aware of their representative and how to get their needs on the table.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I'd love to have a little sit down with Mark Twain and we'd be drinking some southern sweet tea. I'd love to hear his

stories and views on life, as well as his take on what's happening today.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you? I will bring a level head and rational mind to the ASUO. My decisions will be informed and fair and I will be a solid advocate for the student groups that I represent.

Senate Seat 11 - Undeclared

Neil Cronkrite

Year in school: Freshman

Major: Undeclared

Activities: RHA Walton Leadership Representative, Walton Complex Government, University Housing Food Committee.

Hobbies: Reading, volleyball, swimming, music, water polo, and international politics.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I wanted to do more in college than go to class, study, work out, and eat. I want to work with other students to make this campus an even better place to learn and socialize. I also think running for ASUO will me grow as a person so I can tackle even more in the future as a UO student.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

So many great ideas, initiatives, and programs come out of the ASUO. The ASUO, in general, is made up of hardworking people that promise to improve our campus. However, I think our student government should work more as a team. Currently, many of their own interests motivate their politics. That needs to change.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

The ASUO needs to support all student groups - from groups as small as the Hong Kong Student Association to as large as the LGBTQA. Many student groups look down upon ASUO because the ASUO doesn't give them enough attention, and as a result, the ASUO has received a bad reputation. Posting new comments on the ASUO Twitter and Facebook accounts won't fix this. Collaborating with student groups who have a tangible effect on campus will restore positive feelings towards our student government and reach out to our diverse and involved student body.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Martinelli's Sparking Apple Cider with Anderson Cooper. Drink your apple a day.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

On my blog, neilcronkrite.blogspot.com, I use the word "let's" to begin my platform statements. For example: let's motivate students to vote on issues not on slate-affiliation; let's support all student groups; let's empower strong and ethical leadership. "Let's" in my campaign means "let us work together." Other candidates don't do that. Without this very important contraction, they imply "I will," which connotes making a promise. I'm not making promises. I'll be honest: there are times when the ASUO will make mistakes, but since I will be collaborating with students, they'll help me and the entire ASUO involve students in everyday decision making. Students know what they want, and students want collaboration and strong ethical standards. It's your future. Let's work together to make it happen.

Senate Seat 15 - Academic Social Science

Kellin Clark

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Political Science, Minor in Business

Activities: Resident Assistant in Bean

Hobbies: Golf, Swimming, Reading Books about Abraham Lincoln

What prompted you to run for student government?

I love politics and want to be a part of the student government. I believe that the student government should represent the voice of the student body. I believe that I can help fulfill this idea. Instead of simply complaining about the student senate, I felt that I could get involved and change the way the students view their student government. I believe that a lot of students see their student government as nothing more than an extension of high school drama. Our student government controls over \$11 million dollars, students shouldn't feel that their government is full of drama with that kind of money on the line.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel that students don't trust or believe in their student government. It saddens me to pick up our student newspaper and read letters to the editor about how students see our student government as a joke. I want to bring swift and strong change to the student senate so that students can believe and trust in their student government.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I believe the lack of bipartisanship in our student government really turns of regular students from getting involved or expressing their ideas to the ASUO. I believe that a dra-

matic change in the way the senate is ran will allow student the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions without feeling that their ideas will be undermined by the lack of bipartisanship.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I would sit down Abraham Lincoln and would drink tea. I my opinion Abraham Lincoln is the quintessential statesman this country has ever seen.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I will help bring transparency between the ASUO and the student body. I will help the ASUO senate be seen as a respectable and representative voice of the student body of the University.

Senate Seat 16 - Academic Science

Megan Pishioneri

Year in school: Senior

Major: Human Physiology and Business Marketing

Activities: Costume Designing for Children's Miracle Network Pageants

Hobbies: Playing instruments and listening to music, crafts, reading, and hanging out with friends

What prompted you to run for student government?

A friend approached me about running for office with the Oregon Action Team. It would be a good way to get involved, a great learning experience, and provide an opportunity to make a positive impact.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

There are so many people going in so many directions, common goals have yet to be identified. This creates a significant weakness while strength is needed to create the best leverage. So, I guess what I'm saying is and sounds very cliché; solidarity.

How can the ASUO more effectively reach out to the student body?

Making it more inviting. Reach out. Information campaigns that will help students understand what's in it for them.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Barack Obama and it depends on the weather...Hot cocoa? Lemonade?

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Because they're smart! Students need a person that will provide a fair and impartial voice that represents their needs and wishes. I welcome ideas and input and will be the voice of thousands.

Matthew Martin Baseman

Year in school: Junior

Major: Biochemistry

Activities: I am a volunteer at both the Assault Prevention Shuttle, and Sacred Heart Medical Center

Hobbies: Rock climbing and watching movies.

What prompted you to run for student government?

UO has been kind to me and, if elected, I would like to be kind back.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel that the current student government has made some very difficult but ultimately correct decisions regarding where the student incidental fee should and should not be allocated. Ultimately I believe the current ASUO has provided a good example to follow.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I believe that adults within my age group, meaning 18-22+, need to be engaged in an active manner in order to truly spark their interest. When I say active I mean members of the ASUO talking with the student body on a regular basis.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt with a glass of Whiskey

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Considering the fact that the cost of attending college is constantly on the rise I believe it is important for the student government to check and recheck that every dollar of the student incidental fee be used to fund programs which benefit the campus community in some way. If elected I would work with the programs financing committee to ensure that groups such as the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society and the pre-med club, Asklepiads, along with other worthy organizations continue to receive sufficient support from the ASUO.

Senate Seat 19 - Journalism

Deborah Bloom

Class standing: Junior

Major: Pre-journalism with the intention of taking the Communication Studies sequence

Activities: Associated Students of the University of Oregon, Jewish Students Union

Hobbies: Writing, learning, skiing, substantial conversations, drinking lemon drops and hanging out with my dog

What prompted you to run for student government?

Because shady practices of the ASUO are undermining to the University's mission statement and a lot of these kids need to take themselves a little less seriously in order to be more effective leaders. Most students don't care about the ASUO, don't pay attention to the ASUO, and don't hold their self-proclaimed "leaders" accountable, and this needs to change in order to actually integrate student government into the consciousness of the average student. After all, it's your money; aren't you concerned with the idea of 20-somethings playing around with 11 million dollars?

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

While the ASUO carries the potential to be an extremely positive and effective influence on the student body, in its current state, it's a joke. There are some people who are a part of the ASUO that are amazing, smart, and competent people who have their hearts in the right place. Unfortunately, there are others out there who are in this to solely boost their resume, networks, and sense of self-worth. It's dirty. No wonder so much of the student body doesn't care about their own student representatives. The ASUO does, in fact, have a lot of influence on this campus, but no one really sees that nor feels empowered to actually voice their opinion.

How can the ASUO more effectively reach out to the student body?

Well, at the very least, having a regularly updated website that actually carries accurate information might be a step in the right direction. Press releases that appear in the Oregon Daily Emerald would work to raise some awareness of what the ASUO is doing. Sharing information about the ASUO at IntroDUCKtion would allow incoming students to understand the resources that the ASUO can offer them. Personally, I think establishing a link on Blackboard to inform students about upcoming events and meetings, and well as following up on specific issues that are taking place within student government would be the right move. Let's remember, most students do not follow campus publications, and the situation with de-funding OSPIRG is something that should have been covered extensively in e-mail updates. Most importantly, talking to people in your department and even out in the streets about what the students are concerned about is essential. Harassing the stu-

dent body around election season is not an effective way to get students to care.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I would be taking Patron shots with Robert Downey Jr. before attempting to take advantage of him. No, I'm kidding. I would, without a doubt, be drinking Chivas Regal with Albert Einstein while discussing religion.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I'm down-to-earth, accessible, and the most qualified. My objectives reflect the idea that Journalism students should have greater opportunities both in and out of school and faith in their program.

Laura M. Johnson

Year in school: Freshman

Major: Journalism and Art

Activities: Ethos Magazine (formerly KD Magazine) PR team, ASUO Intern, School of Dance, and School of Music. Hobbies: Skiing, Singing, Dancing, Reading, and Calligraphy

What prompted you to run for student government?

I was the Senate Intern for the ASUO last term and after attending the majority of the meetings I realized the magnitude of the decisions made by Senate. I believe the students of the University of Oregon need to realize their potential to influence decisions made by the ASUO. Senate Seat 19 should not have been left empty for ten weeks. The Journalism students were unrepresented for much too long.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

When I began interning for the ASUO, my friends and hall mates were unaware of what the ASUO was. I have friends who wanted to become involved in the ASUO, but they were turned away numerous times. This is not how student government should function. It is not an elite club. The ASUO is a representation of students, and I believe that any student should be able to be involved. A student should not need to break down the door; their opinions and participation should be welcome.

How can the ASUO more effectively reach out to the student body?

A student should be greeted by the ASUO from the moment they arrive on the University of Oregon campus. Every student should understand what the ASUO does, how they do it, and what options were considered prior to a final decision. One way this could occur is that ASUO could send out a mass email of a summary of important decision made each week that affect students. Students want to be

engaged. They want to know where their money is being spent. The ASUO needs to be an accessible resource.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

No question- Martinis with Kurt Vonnegut...And so it goes...

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I have been an avid spectator of the ASUO this year. I understand how they function and how work is accomplished, but I am not entrenched in the system. I look forward to getting in and working hard within the ASUO for students. I have talked to Journalism students and faculty to figure out how the ASUO can better meet student concerns. With so much change going on within the JSchool, it is a perfect time for new representation and development. I believe I can provide a fresh perspective and new ideas for how the Journalism school and the ASUO can create a mutually beneficial relationship through collaboration and support. One concern I have heard is many Journalism pre-majors have been unable to register for prerequisite classes. Journalism students should have priority to Journalism classes. I would work with the ASUO to make this a reality.

Andy Johnson

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Journalism

Activities: KWVA campus radio station, employee at Student Rec Center

Hobbies: Relaxing, hanging out with friends, watching movies, sports, watching the Blazers

What prompted you to run for student government?

I have wanted to get involved with student government since later year, because of things that I think need to be changed in the school of journalism. I thought the best way I could actively help the students who are enrolled in the journalism school was to run for office. I am excited about the opportunity to work with leaders of the program to effectively fix problems that exist.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel that ASUO has done excellent work during the two years that I have been enrolled here, but as always there is room for improvement. Reaching out to more students and getting more kids involved could solve many problems. Participation by students is the best way for student politics to be effective, because the students have the say in what's going on.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

There are many ways for ASUO to reach out to students,

but one thing in particular that would help would be involving students in surveys. One of the key things that I would like to do if elected, is to have students fill out random surveys on teachers in the journalism school. I strongly believe in student accountability, but I also believe that the faculty needs to be held more accountable. I want to sit down with the dean and go over evaluations of each teacher, that way the people in charge get an actual view on how students feel.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

What an excellent question, for me it would have to be Barack Obama. Many will argue that he is the political icon of our generation, so sitting down with him would be a true honor. For the drinks, they would have to be an ice cold Widmer beer. I'm not sure if the President has had the honor of tasting one of Oregon's best brewing companies.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Because I am a student who has been through a lot. I have dealt with bad professors and had to challenge grades all the way up to the dean. I want students to learn from the processes that I have been through. This is why I want to evaluate each teacher with the dean, because for the amount of money that students pay to attend this University, they deserve a top notch education. The journalism school is a great program, but needs work. Students have a right to hard working professors and to understanding where there well spend money is going. I am a hard working student, who just wants what is right for the students of this University. I am fighting for faculty and financial accountability, and if I am honored with receiving the most votes, I will do everything in my power to improve each students experience here at Oregon.

Senate Seat 20 - Education

Amanda Hilts

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Education

Activities: I am apart of a group known as Oregon Think Tank which organizes community conversations for both students and the community three times a term. I am also a member of the Bowling Club, Hall Government and The Society of Scholars at the University of Oregon. Moreover, I have been a volunteer for the Leadership for 21st Century class and for housing acting as a Hall Host. I am currently enrolled in the RA class and hope to become an RA next year.

Hobbies: I love the outdoors and traveling; camping down

by the beach has been one of my favorite things since I was young. I am both a golfer and bowler and enjoy trying all kinds of new sports such as Frisbee, tennis, basketball, soccer, and so on. Working with younger kids and volunteering with different activities is something I take advantage of as much as I can. I also really enjoy photography.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I never dreamed of running for ASUO. My friends got the idea in my head, telling me that if I ran, I could help make the differences I have always hoped to see made on campus. I started thinking about running for a seat during the beginning of Winter Term when the bus system cut backs were being addressed. I began reading the paper everyday and realized how much control ASUO had over the campus and how disconnected it was from the actual student body. I now have a strong conviction to bring the student voice back to senate.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel like there is no organization; most students are oblivious to what is going on around them, promises are made to students which are not kept, and ASUO has created a bad reputation by those who are aware of its activities. My experience from running as an independent has been extremely frustrating. The campaigning system is completely biased to those students running on a ballot. Information on the election and political affiliations is hardly easy to find. One of the first steps which ASUO needs to make in order for students to become more active and aware of ASUO activities is to make this information more accessible.

How can the ASUO more effectively reach out to the student body?

They can genuinely care about the student body. Every year candidates say they want to bring the student's voice back. Every year, ASUO seems to become more and more disconnected from the students. People who win the senate seats need to do what their job intends and talk to the students around them. ASUO is not meant to be a click of people who think the same; it is meant to be a collaboration of ideas which express the diversity of the student body. In housing ASUO is not very well known, very little freshman even know what ASUO is nonetheless what it stands for. ASUO, if permissible, should hold some type of informational panel for students at least once a term. They should also make posters at the beginning of a new school year. By taking the time to accomplish these steps, ASUO will effectively reach more students and hopefully gain insight from the student body: which is their job in the first place.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

There have been many amazing people throughout history who have made powerful changes in this world to make it a better place. Though my person of choice is not recognized

by historians for the changes she made, she managed in her life to make my world a much more beautiful place. She taught me how to love unconditionally and never go back on what I stand for. We would talk over a bottle of apple cider because it is my most favorite drink and reminds me of the celebrations we had together in years past. I would want to talk about her life and how she was able to work while raising four kids and being actively involved with her community.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I have a strong conviction that the student body needs to be heard again; it is in my nature to never give up and I promise that I will be a strong representative for the students.

EMU Board At-Large

Max Boomer

Year in school: Sophomore

Major: Political Science

Activities: Delta Tau Delta, IFC/PHC, Intramural Sports

Hobbies: Golf, Squash, Tennis, Many other sports. Vacation. Nice Clothes.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I am very interested in politics and love how the political system works, the student government here is excellent and I would love to be involved.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I think that we heading in the right direction in terms of helping out students and making them the priority. There is always room to make slight improvements and I will plan on working my hardest to continue moving in our current direction as well as make the necessary changes.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I think in politics and government transparency is always an issue, no matter how hard we try to make it not one. Something I will work on is improving students knowledge of what is going on in our government, as well as general student awareness.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

I would love to have a pitcher of Widmer Hefewizen with the people that invented Brooks Brothers.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I'm charismatic, funny, smart, well dressed, pretty good

looking and have the skills and experience to do well in this capacity.

EMU Board 2 yr. At-Large

Jackson Hite

Year in school: Junior

Major: Environmental Studies; Planning, Public Policy & Management

Activities: Triathlon Club, West University Neighborhood, Neighborhood Leaders Council, Duckbill Thrill Triathlon Coordinator, Sigma Nu Fraternity

Hobbies: Anything outside. Traveling, reading, watching movies.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I wanted to become more involved in student government after spending 2 years of being involved with student government in high school. I am an avid user of the EMU and feel that improvements can be made to improve the building, facilities and programs offered.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I think that there should be a greater attention to how money is spent, especially in the current economic situation. Increased visibility is necessary for students to know how and where their money is being spent.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

The ASUO should focus on creating access to the ASUO website through duckweb, blackboard, facebook etc. In addition it would be useful to send out an email once a week or month describing upcoming meetings and include links that everyone can access to important information from the week.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you? I am an active participant of programs in the EMU and will be able to serve the general student population who use these services.

PFC At-Large

Ross Harke

Year in school: Junior

Major: Political Science

Activities: President of Students for Lower Incidental Fees, College Republicans, Rec Sports

Hobbies: Hiking, Camping, Cycling, Motocross

What prompted you to run for student government?

I want to be more involved in this school and I saw an opportunity to do that.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I feel that they are getting better. The ASUO, lead by Oregon Action Team candidates, extended the Library's hours, which a great example of the changes that can be made to benefit students.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

Direct email is one option. Or having a stronger presence outside where students are and reaching out to them.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Abraham Lincoln and water.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

Students should vote for me because I am fiscally responsible and want to save them as much money as possible, while still providing them with valuable and tangible services.

Edem Gomez

Year in school: Freshman

Major: Political Science

Activities: MEChA

Hobbies: Hiking, Camping, Traveling, Beekeeping, Soccer, and walking my pug.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I did not agree with some of the decisions/plans of the ASUO executive. I thought instead of just complaining and criticizing it would be better to actually get involved with the process. I also had a lot of encouragement from my friends.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I think that a lot of students are unhappy with what is happening on campus regarding the ASUO. Many students feel like they are being ignored or have no voice in the decisions made. As a freshman the ASUO did not feel like a place where I could go to voice my opinions or really be heard. I think that the ASUO needs to be more inclusive to all students.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

The ASUO needs to use the resources on campus to reach students. Using student publications and making daily/weekly releases will keep students updated about what is going on. Students need to know what is happening on campus so they can actually participate and make decisions about student issues.

If you could sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Jacque Cousteau and warm glass of milk.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I have no personal agenda I just want to represent students the best I can. I really care about student issues and I want to get as many students involved as possible.

ASPAC Seat

Christina Thompson

Year in school: Junior

Major: Political Science

Activities: Internship with Oregon Congressmen Greg Walden, Alpha Chi Omega, in 2006, I organized and put on a golf tournament which raised over \$12,000 for the non-profit organization Sparrow Club. In 2007, I was involved with Dance Marathon here at the University which raised money for the non-profit organization Children's Miracle Network.

Hobbies: Studying for the LSAT has become my hobby, but in my free time I like to travel, golf, play volleyball, and read about politics.

What prompted you to run for student government?

I have a passion for politics, helping others, and I want to make a difference here at the University. I enjoy being involved on campus, talking with fellow leaders, and want to help develop an innovative foundation of relationships to create effective change on campus. I believe student voice is imperative in regards to fabricating a consensus amongst the student body. I have really enjoyed my experience here at the U of O thus far, and I'm excited to have this opportunity to run on the Students First slate.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

Currently, student politics revolves around personal crusades and I believe the focus should instead be on creating practical policies. In past years, ASUO politics have been defined by ideologies; "Progressives" would run against "Conservatives," "Yellow" would run against "Green." This principle limits who governs and is harmful to the integ-

riety of the process. Students First will end these ideological battles by encouraging candidates to think independently from one another.

How can the ASUO more effectively reach out to the student body?

The student body should have more access to information regarding the ASUO: It is the key to moving students forward and empowering them to influence change on campus. The ASUO can be more effective in out reaching to students through press releases in the Daily Emerald that inform students about ASUO goals and ideas regarding student issues and concerns on campus. In addition, the ASUO needs liaisons that will effectively outreach to student groups and programs while seeking out their opinions.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Besides all of the political leaders I would love to talk with, such as Ronald Regan and JFK; I honestly would like to have a drink with Robert Pattinson, the star of Twilight (Yes...for some reason I like this movie).

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I am enthusiastic, dedicated and motivated to make a difference here on campus. I am excited to be running on the Students First slate and, if elected, I will use my liaison experience to inform students about administrative policies while voicing constituent concerns and advocating student issues. I will create an innovative foundation of strong ties with fellow student leaders in pursuit of bringing student voices and ideas to the forefront of discussion. Most importantly, I have a passion for helping others and voicing their concerns to form consensus amongst students. Ultimately, we are here for an education that will empower us in the future and this is why I believe it is imperative student voices are heard on campus.

Alex McCafferty

Year in school: sophomore

Major: Poli Sci/ History

Activities: ASUO, ROTC

Hobbies: Snowboarding

What prompted you to run for student government?

To get a clear understanding on how our student dollars were spent.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I am confident, the I-fee was bought down \$100 effective spring term, this is a great victory for students.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the

student body?

Be more involved in duck days and the orientation program

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

Colin Powell, because I admire his achievements, and we would be drinking Mountain Dew.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

I am the ASUO Senate President and as such I currently serve on ASPAC and would like to continue my work on the body for the following year.

Student Building Fee Allocation Committee

Megan Foster

Year in school: Junior

Major: Journalism and PPPM

Activities: APS

Hobbies: The outdoors, maintaining everyone's right to safety and to feel safe, water sports, writing, APS, working with nonprofits, especially in the area of community development, driving, traveling, adventures

What prompted you to run for student government?

Working with a student organization, I've had to work with the ASUO. From needs like understanding ASUO policy, to defending our budget to the PFC and working to maintain a successful student group, I've developed an interest in student government. I am really excited for this position as it will allow me to help make a lasting impact on campus, and develop it in a way that students support.

How do you feel about the current state of student politics at the University of Oregon?

I am still developing an understanding of how it all works, but as with any program, leadership role or situation, there can always be improvements, and I think it is important to learn from past student governments and to listen to the current student body to foster a more successful one for the present. I look forward to see how we will impact it in the future.

How can the ASUO can more effectively reach out to the student body?

I think it is crucial for students to understand the ASUO, which seems very hard to do at times. I also think that students need to be more aware of everything that the University has to offer and what the ASUO actually funds or supports. Making all of this information clearer and easier

to understand and gain access to would be a good start.

If you could have sit down and have a drink with any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you be drinking?

A girl named Lindsey Jackson, who used to be a student at the University of Oregon, and we'd probably either be enjoying a glass of Merlot, or finishing our third cup of chai tea.

In 160 characters or less, why should students vote for you?

It is important for students involved in many programs to represent the student body. I am one of these people and I enjoy finding out what people see for their future at the University.

Emma Kallaway and Getachew Kassa



OC: Could you outline your platform a bit?

Kallaway: We envision an ASUO that works with students for students. We have three main platforms. One is outreaching to students - not just outreaching to more students but outreaching more ways. Also, increasing fundraising and revenue, so that the asuo exec is doing their own fundraising and using far less of the surplus than previous executives.

Getachew: Also, enhancing the UO Experience. This includes resources. making sure the resources we do have are effective and that they're the resources that students need.

Kallaway: We understand that there will be budget cuts next year, but we think that if we are directly asking for what the expenses are of the resources that the ASUO is paying for we will be more able to directly identify how those resources are affecting students.

OC: Can you guys talk to your experience in the ASUO?

Kallaway: I started out my freshmen year as an intern for the multi-cultural advocate for two terms, and I was the programs administrator for the ASUO executive the year after that. I also work in residence life.

Getachew: My experiences are more on the programs side of the ASUO. I started off my freshmen year as a member of ASA and BSU and worked my way up gradually. I was on BSU staff my junior year. I'm currently the president of the Black Student Union. I'm also a board member of the multi-cultural center, and I'm gone to numerous conferences on leadership development skills.

OC: What made you guys decide to run for ASUO ex-

ecutive?

Kallaway: I wanted to run for ASUO president because the ASUO has the keen ability to represent students, and I think that we need a stronger, more professional relationship with the administration. And a more professional persona with students as well. I also think that the ASUO needs to have a fluid understanding of what students need all year and constantly be readdressing their needs. That was my main reason for running. I found a really good running mate and we communicate well together.

Kassa: As far as I go, I'm running because I want the ASUO to be a welcoming space that is more authentic and representative of students. I think a lack of account-

ability and information are two dangerous ingredients that really create an environment of egoism, and that can hinder the productivity of our student leaders to work together and also advocate on behalf of students. Also, student leadership positions are a privilege, not a right, and that's something that both me and Emma strongly believe. We want to create a culture of accountability. That starts with being responsible students and making sure that we respect the decision making process.

OC: Can you expand on what you mean by lack of accountability and egoism?

Kassa: For me, coming from the programming side of things, I know that things are not fully explained sometimes. Students are confused. By really respecting the decision process, students can really see how decisions are made and how we come up with them. I think that the more information that you give students, the more they know what's going on and the more that they can say, 'Hey, this is what we need from you guys.' When given information, they better know how to hold student leaders accountable and say 'Hey, you guys aren't addressing our needs.' But unless we bring everybody to the decision process and hold forums and those kind of things it's kind of harder for student to judge the effectiveness of our student leaders.

Kallaway: I think that there is a little bit of contentiousness between the Senate and the Executive this year, and I'm the only candidate that has had the privilege of working on both the Senate and the Exec. I hope that I can increase that accountability and work on that relationship better, knowing the positions of both and what's important for both of the branches.

OC: You mentioned fundraising. Do you have any ideas

for fundraising or what you'd do differently?

Kallaway: I think that we understand that right now the Executive has a big fundraiser, which is the street faire every fall and spring term. We also want to address the question, 'Where is the fundraiser winter term, and why aren't we creating something that students really enjoy that we can fundraise and produce money for the executive?' And we also want to look at the relationship between how we spend money for the street faire. I've worked a little bit on the street faire before. Maybe we can work and continue to build relationships with the administrators that will create a cheaper street faire that still produces everything that students want. We have to look at it more, but we definitely want to expand fundraising. Of course, this also includes working with the tax credits. It's my understanding that we are able to expand tax credits maybe even beyond the LTD system right now, so we need to be looking at every aspect that we can be receiving those carbon tax credits.

OC: Can you speak to how you would work to improve outreach?

Kallaway: Our big priorities, first of all, would be creating a better one-on-one relationship with students and then working out from there. We want to have the opportunity to go to more class wraps, and not just giving information when we need something from students but actually going and giving presentations at Greek houses and at programs, saying "We're halfway through the term, and this is what the executive has done." Also, going to classes, advertising that way about that one-on-one relationship. We also want to maybe create an ASUO social hour - a place where we can move the executive out of the work and egoism and into the buzz. Just create a space where students can come and ask questions and get some of the information that they're having trouble accessing right now.

Kassa: That also works for student reporters that come in. They have a chance to come in and ask questions of the exec and exec team. This also includes our exec team. I think part of the responsibility of hiring an exec staff is making sure that they are divers and they have experience all over campus, so that when we are making decisions and prioritizing our agenda we're making sure that all of our students who are on our exec team are bringing something different to the table. This also includes revamping the internship program in the ASUO and revamping the ASUO website. We want to make it more interactive. This includes making a blog.

Kallaway: We think that right now the AUO website really isn't searchable. Students are saying they're having a hard time with that. Including student resources on the ASUO website will make it like a home base for students to access more information that they need and at the same time find out what we're doing and what the executive staff is working on.

OC: One of the big points of contention among the various factions in the ASUO is conference and travel funds. What is your position on conference and travel funds?

Kallaway: It's important to be extra-critical of any student money that's leaving campus and that means going with the student or looking for resources outside of campus. However, it's also important to make sure that, although the education is solid at the U of O, there is information that you can get elsewhere that you can't necessarily get within the streets of this university. I think what's important is to be very critical of the fundraising that's done ahead of time. This year the Senate only paid for part of the LegCon visit for student government for that reason. More fundraising needed to be done. I don't think that you should necessarily pay for issues like food or something that a student can pay for themselves. But also there's an issue of accessibility there.

Kassa: I would also add in there the fact that whenever funds are being used outside the school it's harder to see how the funds are really benefiting campus. I think that's something that we can institutionalize: a way of figuring out how students are really benefiting from the funds that are leaving campus. For instance, if students are going on a conference they need to come up with a creative way to show how the things they are learning will benefit campus. Whenever students leave campus, they can come back with what they learned and share it, and it has to be transparent. This could mean putting on an event to demonstrate what they learned.

OC: If you guys were elected as the executive, would you support OSPIRG coming back as either a contract or a line-item group?

Kallaway: I think that what we want to do as the executive is make sure that we're addressing the concerns of students. That's our number one goal, right? What's most important, then, is addressing that there is a group of students that want OSPIRG back on campus. Now, I think that if you're able to cut a budget at that severe of a ratio, then you should never be able to add a budget at that size. We have rules in regards to that. Probably the most constructive way for them to build back their reputation, accountability and having a really solid OSPIRG on this campus, would look like the beginning of a student group. What do you think?

Kassa: I totally agree with that. I think, again, when money is being used outside of campus, those programs and contracts are held to a higher standard because the benefits are harder to target. I think that the contracts need to fully understand that also. There has to be that transparency and acknowledgment of, 'Hey, we are a contract, and we are using UO funds outside of campus.' It's our job to make sure those funds are benefiting UO students. It needs to be fair, but it does need to be a higher standard. However, there are students that want it back, and that is something we will ad-

Nick Schultz and Lidi Soto



groups as well.

OC: Would you guys talk a little bit about your basic campaign platforms?

Schultz: Sure, a lot of people have asked us why we're called True Blue, and we actually have a mission statement to go along with that, but it really stands for four basic points.

'T' is taking a stand for issues that actually matter to students in their everyday life. I think that one of things that people often ask themselves is, 'Okay, the ASUO is great, but what is it offering me every single day?' We're looking at tuition and textbook prices. One thing we're really excited about is the textbook exchange that we want to implement next year. This is something that has been talked about for years and really disappoints me that it's never been done. People have campaigned for it and then let it drop. But the fact is: We conducted a survey with students on the street, and we found that the average price that students were paying for textbooks each term is \$235. With the textbook exchange it will allow for the free trading of textbooks, and to go along with that we'll be pushing for more online and open-source books.

In addition, we're also going to be giving students the opportunity to pursue issues that are important to them. We're going to have a state and federal affairs coordinator in the ASUO office. What we want to see that do is get students in to the office, set up a congressional actions center, giving students the opportunity to write their representatives about the issues that are really important to them.

'R' stands for responsible planning, and that is thinking not just about next year but about what example we're setting for years to come. One thing that's really important to me is campus parking. One thing that we can easily do is fund the bike loan program. It encourages sustainable transportation and gets a lot of people off the road who would otherwise be driving. In addition, the EMU needs a lot of work. It's not going to be a one year fix. It's going to take a lot of time. But the fact is that we need to bring in more profitable businesses. There are a lot of improvements that need to be made. And keep in mind that it is owned and operated by students, so all the energy problems and inefficiencies are a drain on students.

Soto: 'U' stands for uniting campus. Basically, what we were thinking is that we have a lot of satellite campuses, but who ever hears about them? A lot of students who spend four years at the UO take a term or a year doing things like the marine biology program. We want to start conversations with them.

'E' is for equitable services. We all come to the university but we all have different resources available to us. Some of

OC: Can you guys talk about your experience in the ASUO?

Schultz: This was my first year in the ASUO. I liked it. I served as a Senator. I also chaired the PFC this year. I'm glad to say that we were the finance committee to come in with the lowest overall budget. It was a revolutionary concept, actually. You set a budget and say, 'We're coming in at this mark or below,' and then you actually do it. That was really incredible. I got a chance to work on a lot of really cool things. I talked about expanding meal points with Robin Holmes. That was my direct experience with the ASUO.

Soto: I am an academic senator in Senate seat 14. It's my first year.

OC: Do you guys have any involvement with other groups on campus?

Schultz: I was a member of the sustainability coalition when it was active. I was one of the sort of steering directors. We had membership from all the different social justice groups on campus. I simply ran meetings, held agendas, tried to organize programming. I've been actively involved in things like Earth Day. In addition, I'm a member of College Democrats. I've really been wanting to go to a College Republicans meeting. I've been invited to Second Amendment day by Demic Tipitino. It sounds like a lot of fun.

Soto: I've been kind of involved in this and that with everyone. I work with mainly MECha, the Chicano student union on campus. I've never actually been hired by the Women's Center, but I do a lot of stuff with them and other

us get help from our parents, and some of us don't. Some of us are on scholarships, and some of us aren't. Some of us receive federal financial aid, and some of us aren't. Looking at all those resources and making sure that all the folks know about them.

We also want to expand the HIV and STI education and prevention programs. A lot of people don't know that the HIV Alliance tests for at-risk communities and Planned Parenthood does as well. It's about letting people know about the services.

Schultz: One thing that we were really pleased that Sam and Johnny accomplished this year was keeping the library open 24-hours. There's a lot of student parents on campus that need access late at night, and that's obviously something we want to continue. Same when it comes to LTD.

To backtrack a little bit back to uniting campus. We feel that it's not that students don't care. It's that they don't have access to basic information like 'where's my money going?' We're going to be using different media sources. I mean, for the first time ever the ASUO got on facebook and Twitter. If you look at our campaign, we're trying to use a lot of innovative strategies to get people the information, letting them interact with us. That's what we want.

Soto: A lot of the things we want to do are things we're already trying to put into practice, like the website and the blog. Being technologically savvy and using different forms of communication to outreach is key. I think it's where we should be moving towards.

Schultz: One other thing: We're trying to do a lot. We have a very ambitious platform, and we're very open about that. But then again, we're also trying to show that you can accomplish a lot on a very small budget. We're the only campaign with a spending cap, and we pride ourselves on that. We're not going to spend a dollar over \$2009. We're not going to lie; it's very difficult to do that.

OC: Your slogan besides 'true blue' is 'making student government matter.' How would you make it matter to the everyday student who doesn't get involved with the campus that much?

Soto: I think one of the things is folks just don't know. They don't know that you can go to the controller's office and ask for a printout of how the I-Fee is being spent. People just think that it's like classified information that no one has access to. It's important to be putting stuff on the ASUO website like events and how much money was spent on what.

OC: Would you guys be working to improve the public records on the ASUO website?

Schultz: Yeah, student's are really paying a price here. They need access to that information. It's not enough to just have it available. I think we have to be more proactive in going out and giving it to them. It really comes down to using

all of these different methods of communication.

OC: This year there's been a lot of tension between the Senate and the executive, specifically with regards to hiring processes and surplus requests. How would you handle that issue if you were elected executive?

Schultz: I think it's a very simple solution. I've always said that I honestly believe that Sam has the best interests of students at heart, and I think that he's done a lot of great things. But sometimes just because you can do something doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. The fact was Sam had the ability to essentially not adhere to the ASUO program rules. There's a loophole built into the rules, and he's acknowledged that. It is something that he's told me he would be interested in looking into amending that in the future. But I think that if we're going to hold programs to a certain standard we have to hold ourselves to a certain standard. You have to be a leader by setting an example. You have to hold yourself, especially if you're the executive or the Senate, to a high standard.

OC: If you were elected executive, what would your position be if OSPIRG tried to return as an ASUO contract or line-item program.

Soto: Nick and I have both agreed that we've had to take away a lot of the stuff that happened this year and go back to the fundamentals, looking at the mission of the incidental fee. The incidental fee was established to enhance the cultural and physical development of campus. We said if a department or program or contract fulfills this, then it has a place on campus. Obviously, students spoke, and it was students that decided the outcome. If OSPIRG wanted to come back, that is what would have to happen again. It wouldn't be Nick and I deciding. We're elected to be a vessel for what students have to say, not to be these great decision makers. Not at all. We have to do what they say.

Something like that would require a lot of conversations and better facilitated forums. It's not about saying, 'This is the problem.' It's about saying, 'what are the solutions?' If it's possible for OSPIRG to come back, what would we like to see changed and how could we make that happen? If not, are there alternative programs that folks want to bring on campus?

Schultz: The only other thing I would add to that is that I think most people agree with what OSPIRG was fighting for. It just came down to the fact that they could not demonstrate that they were doing it efficiently and that it was worth \$120,000. Now, if they wanted to come back, they would have to take the initiative to prove that they could do it differently. If they approached us, we would be willing to consider it. But the fact is that at this time, they have shown no such initiative and failed to understand what the concerns really are.

Michelle Haley and Ted Sebastian



OC: Could you give us a brief overview of your platform?

Haley: We have six major points, but there's just a few I want to outline. I really want to get more students involved. I think the I-Fee is ridiculously high, and I think the more students that are involved the more oversight that we have. With that, I think that transparency is going to be completely necessary to make this happen. Right now, there is no break down on where the I-fee goes. If you go on Duckweb and look at your billing statement, you just see 'mandatory fees' and a number. I think we should have some sort of excel document that you could download off of Duckweb that would tell you, say, that you paid \$80 dollars for the EMU this term. I think if students actually saw how much money is going places, even if it upset them, it would spark some sort of reaction, and they might get involved.

I don't think that everyone has time to be involved at the level that Ted and I have put ourselves in, but I think that a lot of students would like to have input but just don't have the tools. That's our main thing: just getting more students involved.

Second, we really want to see the 24-hour library continue. Oregon Action Team was the one that fought to get that resolution in and get the over-realized funds, and it's going to end this year. There are a lot of students that take advantage of having that. Most of the schools in the Pac-10 have 24-hour libraries. There is absolutely no reason why our administration shouldn't see value in having a place to study at all hours. I really think that a lot of students, depending on their living situations, don't have peace and quiet at home. Whether you live at a busy fraternity or you have loud neighbors or you live in the dorms and there's not a quiet hall, you should be able to find somewhere on our campus to study anytime you want.

Not just because there's finals. People have big mid-terms and projects, and it's absolutely necessary that we provide a space for students to do that.

Another thing is transportation on this campus. Obviously we don't provide enough parking. I think that discouraging people from driving to campus is important. When we have things like the bus or the bike loan program, and you have ways to get to campus that are more energy efficient and better for the environment, you should try to foster those things. This year LTD was in danger of being cut. It's absolutely ridiculous that on this campus we preach about being green and sustainable and then don't support things like the bike loan program, which just got another year of temporary funding. I really support a transportation fee. I think this would actually make things more transparent because you would see exactly how much money you were paying towards transportation. We would be able to roll the student bus passes in with the staff and faculty bus passes and possibly get a lower group rate, as well as be able to guarantee funding

for the bike loan program, DDS and APS. Those are vital services. Those operate as student groups right now, but they do so much more than a student group. I really think they should be a priority on our campus. Those are the big three I'd like to talk about.

Sebastian: One of the main things I'd like to talk about is more football tickets. Right now we only get the full allotment, which is just under 5500 tickets a game. And we only get that for Oregon State and USC. I think we should get that full allotment for all the other games as well. Preseason games, too. Most of the students here on this campus are here a few weeks prior to school starting, and those are big games. Having a great football team and great student support is one of the main reasons students come to this university - big athletics. It's the whole experience.

OC: Yeah, because there's some really good preseason games this year, like Utah. [Talking into to the recorder] that doesn't have to be on the record, CJ.

Haley: Also, students don't have academic obligations during preseason, so I think more students are able to go. And we all know that they used to camp out for hours to get tickets. There's no lack of demand for football tickets.

Sebastian: And another thing is the electronic ticket system works great, but now there's just too high of a demand because it's so accessible. It's a good thing, but I think what we could put in place is a kind of hybrid system where if you know you're not going to go to the game you would have an hour before the game to return your ticket online. If you don't do that, there's a penalty, but it gives students a chance. Once

they know how many tickets are up for grabs, then put them in roll call and make it first come first serve on the day of the game.

OC: You've both been involved in the ASUO. Can you talk a little about that?

Haley: Sure, I've been involved for several years. Last year I was the house committee chair of the EMU Board, and I really feel like the things that happen in the EMU are important. I've been a student employee here for three years. As the house committee chair I found different ways to save money - about \$3,000 in electricity costs alone, which isn't a huge part of our budget but still a sizeable chunk of money. I ran with the Oregon Action Team as their campaign manager last year to become the EMU board chair this year. I think that the more I get involved the harder it is to not want to change more things. The more that I learn about the ASUO the more I see the things that are wrong with it. Now I feel like I'm finally qualified and knowledgeable enough to do this job.

Sebastian: I got started last year. Johnny came up to me last year and asked if I wanted to be a part of their campaign. I was flattered, and I accepted. Unfortunately, I lost, but I was appointed Outreach Coordinator, where I helped recruit students for the internship program. I only did that for a term because a position on the ACFC opened up, and I really wanted to get involved with that and help cut OSPIRG. I tried to advocate for more football tickets, but unfortunately I was the only one. We have people on our slate who are committed to making that happen next year. It's not just us that need to be elected. It's the members down the board that need to be elected.

Haley: I think that speaks to Ted's perseverance, too. He did lose his election last year, and that didn't discourage him to get further involved. Not only did he take a position on exec staff, but when something else that he was more interested in became available he filled that role, even though it was more of a time commitment and more controversial.

OC: What other student groups are you in?

Haley: Well, I write for the Oregon Commentator, as you know. That's really the only other student group I'm involved with. I've done work with other student groups, but I think I'm too involved to give a 100 percent, so I haven't really committed to stay there. I'm also an employee of the UO Cultural Forum, which isn't a student group. It's an EMU program. I've worked there for three years. I'm also the volunteer coordinator this year. I really enjoy to being able to participate in the events that we put on - upwards of 150 events a year - concerts, art shows, speakers and things like that.

Sebastian: I like to party.

OC: We talked about OSPIRG a bit earlier. How would you handle OSPIRG if it came up for reinstatement next year and you were the executives?

Haley: I believe I'm going to give this one to Ted. He has a two word answer. I believe it's .. hell no?

Sebastian: Well, it's a bit longer than two words, but basically along those lines. If they haven't changed their structure and organization, then there's no way that I would fight for that to happen. We made it clear to OSPIRG when we did cut them that we understood that they had good intentions. It's just the way they did it and the way that their organization was set up structurally just didn't make sense for the ASUO to fund them. Maybe if they do come with some sort of thing that fits in the budget, but I doubt will happen because we're trying to lower the fee. I see that as highly unlikely.

Haley: Especially as a contract.

Sebastian: Yeah, a program, if it all.

Haley: As a contract, no. This is the second time they've been removed from our campus, and they've proven to students that they're not transparent. I think that if they want to operate the way they are now they should seek funding at the state level and look for private donations.

OC: Many campaigns are campaigning on connecting to students through new media. How would you guys connect to students?

Sebastian: First of all, I think if we're opening up more positions, word of mouth is the best way for students to know about what's going on in the ASUO. Most of the people who get involved in the ASUO are friends of people who are involved. If we open up that base then we can open up that more. And what Michelle was talking about with the excel documents. I think those two things would definitely get students who want to know about it the means. There's always going to be students who don't give a shit no matter what, but for the students who are curious, those means will be available.

Haley: Well, I think you're going to hear from every single slate, 'We'll use Twitter and blogs and video blogs!' I'm definitely not opposed to doing that. Those are easy things. But when it comes to campaigning, when you look at what's most effective, creating a Facebook group doesn't get you votes. To actually get votes you have to go to talk with people and go to their group meetings and one-on-one meetings and actually care about what they're doing. If you care about what's happening on campus, they're going to care about what you're doing. I think that it's really unfortunate that for three weeks everyone who wants to be involved busts their ass and dedicates their life to reaching as many students as possible and then forget about campus once they're elected. I plan on serving my office hours at a table. If it's nice, I'll do it in the amphitheater. If it's not, maybe in the fishbowl. I want to be accessible to students.

Carina Miller and Nick Gower



OC: Talk a little bit about your experience in the ASUO?

Miller: We've both been on Senate the entire year. I sat on the Programs Finance Committee, Senate seat one. I was involved with the unions before that - Native American Student Union and Multi-Cultural Center. I'm also involved with the Oregon Student Association and the United States Student Association.

Gower: Right now I serve on Senate on the academic end with arts, allied arts, psychology and music. I've served on the public safety advisory group last year. When I was there I dealt with public safety and DPS concerns. I also served on the academic side of student conduct on the scholastic review committee, which concerns things like if you fall under a 2.0 GPA or you need to petition grade change. Also, the university hearings board, which deals with the student conduct end, like if you get in trouble for drinking in the res halls or at Autzen, DPS violations, things like that.

OC: Oh, so you're the one who gave me ten hours of community service.

Gower: I'm sure I wasn't on your committee, but yes, I do that kind of stuff. "Civic restoration" is what they call it. It's better than going to jail.

OC: I agree.

Gower: I would hope. So yeah, as far as the UO, that's my experience, and I think it's a pretty broad perspective. Also, I'm in Greek life, and I'm on the University of Oregon debate team.

OC: How'd you guys do in the tournament?

Gower: They got second in the nation. It was actually Hailey Sheldon.

OC: She went to the finals, right?

Gower: Yeah, our number one team went out in the quarters, but Hailey went to the final round. It turned into a debate about Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights, and it was supposed to be about her husband and his federal policies.

[MOVING ALONG ...]

OC: Anyways, talk a little bit about your campaign platforms.

Miller: Well, the basic reason we're running is because, running in elections last year and being in ASUO this year, there's a big political divide that goes on, and you're on side or the other. That's the way it is. It affects how you work in the ASUO and the things you work on. Both sides have a lot of beneficial people, and if they worked together it would be so much more amazing. For us, we decided that we would go and cross that line and try and put together some people who can work with anybody. Not just work with anybody but who have feasible things that they can produce.

Gower: It's easier to work with individuals accomodating beliefs than it is a mob mentality. These slates put in their platforms, "I'm giving you 24-hour library. I'm giving you this, this and this." They bring a whole bunch of people on their slates who don't really understand how the budget process works. They make these promises, and then throughout the year they force them into that position. They're locked into it because they've been campaigning on it.

It's easier to work with individuals on these positions. We're not locking our slate members into it. We can talk to you about those issues and how we approach them, but for those candidates, locking them into a position isn't healthy for the political system.

OC: You've been referred to by some as the centrist slate. Would you agree with that?

Gower: I would say "practical." But yes, centrist.

OC: Do you have some specific platform points?

Gower: There are things that are divisive that you can't make decisions on the ground about and lock people into, but things like outreach and transparency. There are a lot of things we can do that are specific. Outreach, for instance. Apathy isn't solved in a year. You need to get people involved

when they first get to the university. That means making sure they know what the ASUO is about. There's no information seminar. They don't get a handout with all the programs and what their money is going towards. We need to make sure that they're informed. That means making sure that we're hosting seminars, working with the student orientation staff to make sure that there's information about the ASUO incorporated. When freshman come in for IntroDUCKtion days, that's essential. Daily press releases to the Oregon Daily Emerald. Not necessarily to publish but just so they know what's going on. Also, a weekly segment in the ODE, kind of like the Wellness Wednesdays that they have. They need print material in there, and having a program highlighted once a week would be great. Most people don't know about the services out there.

Miller: Also, in the dorms and stuff like that, something that sticks out to me and that I really like is having forums for knowing your rights. That's not just for freshmen but also for DPS, so we're all on the same page about what's going on in the dorms and what's supposed to be going on in the dorms. That's something that really important for safety. We also want to work with programs who apply for the Oregon Energy Business Tax Credit to set up a funding option that goes through there. The bike loan program needs more money. It's grown to, what, 200 bikes? With all the transportation issues on this campus everything is kind of rough right now.

Gower: Also, the revolving loan fund is a really cool idea that the environmental advocate in the ASUO has been working on. Previously, we haven't been able to implement any sort of loaning program with funds from the ASUO. The idea is that you have the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit loan money to facilities for small investment projects that they usually couldn't do, like a \$10,000 energy efficient fan or something. Then the cost savings pay off the loan and it revolves. That fund would always be there, and it doesn't cost student dollars. Other schools like PSU have done it. There's no [Oregon Revised Statute] against loaning out money from the institution. It's just that previous administrations have been against it. Since we have a new university president, we can work towards that. Our campus and university have this environmental and sustainable message that we push. I think something like this would be successful if properly managed.

OC: You mentioned the new administration coming in. How would you guys be looking to work with the new administration? A lot of Senators this year have said that the administration should be picking up the slack for some of the things that the ASUO has had to take on.

Gower: Last week at the Senate meeting, Alex McCafferty explained what he heard on the presidential search committee when Lariviere came. When asked about the incidental fee and how he felt about it, he said, "I don't know." That was his answer. It tells a lot about the administration

and their knowledge about us.

Miller: The relationship will be shaky when you disagree on issues, but you have to find the points where it will be common ground. This year we had two separate lobby days. One was a student day, and one was an administration day. There were so many things that we could have been lobbying for together - the budget crisis that's going on with the university. Things like tuition we can work on together. I do agree that a lot of things on the I-Fee shouldn't be paid for by students, but how is the administration going to know that if we don't have that line of communication open?

But it's a fine line between being buddy-buddy with the administration and representing students. We need to make sure we have what's best for us at heart, not what's going to make them listen to us. I think it's really important to have a good relationship with the administration but be cautious about it.

Gower: With the new administration coming in it's essential that we at least make them understand what we're about and how we work. They don't understand the traditions of the ASUO or anything of that sort. That's important because we do have a unique culture and a unique opportunity at the University of Oregon with our student government and the way we allocate money and the level of control we have. It's very unique, and working with the new administration as much as possible is essential.

Miller: The administration is not going to understand it at all. It's going to take whoever the leader of the ASUO is next year to go and explain it to them on a level that they actually listen to us and understand what we're saying.

OC: One of the big issues in the ASUO this year has been conferences and travel fees. What is your position on this?

Gower: I'll speak to this. I've stood against most conferences on Senate this entire year - absolutely 100 percent. And the reason is because I think most conferences don't necessarily demonstrate or warrant the amount of students that they take or the amount of fundraising they do or what they're bringing to campus. They don't concretely articulate that. I think it's really important. Over the year I've realized more and more there are some that are worthy. I voted for SWAT to go to the presentation that they got asked to go to. But when it comes to the executives' position, am I going to veto Senate's requests on conferences? I don't think that's appropriate. I think it's an abuse of power. But me as a senator? I don't think that's an abuse of power.

Miller: For me, I go on conferences. The UO is hosting one of the board meeting for USSA, so there's a lot of things about conferences that I think are extremely beneficial. This is one of the big issues that we are on opposite sides of, but we can find that common ground and agree on certain things. That's one of the beautiful things about us.

Ryan McCarrel and Ian Baldwin



OC: What year are you in school?

McCarrel: This is my third year in school. I think I'm a junior. I'm majoring in history and poli-sci, but I'm also taking a lot of courses in planning, public policy and management.

OC: What's your experience been at the UO. I know you haven't been involved in the ASUO, but have you been involved with any clubs, groups or programs?

McCarrel: Not that I'm aware of. I'm a pretty dedicated student. I go to class. I've got a 3.68 GPA. That's what I do. I came to college to learn, not to be an activist. Not nearly as interesting as some of the other candidates right? It's an interesting question, and we're always fascinated with it. People are always asking, "What are your credentials?" It's funny because that in itself is problematic. When you are in middle school the question is, "Are you a TAG student? Are you smart enough for that?" In high school it becomes, "Can you get in AP classes?" After that it's, "Can you get into college? Are you as an individual smart enough to go to college." After college it's, "What are your credentials?" It has nothing to do with how smart you are as a person but what you have done.

One of the reasons people are probably not involved right now is because they're scared shitless. They don't have these credentials that everyone wants. But are they really qualitative credentials, or are they just quantitative? And what I mean by that is, if I go to a few meetings for CAER, a few meetings for MECha, maybe I write a guest thing for the Commentator, does that make me better qualified to be in a position? I'm not really certain it is. I think that if you have a good idea, you're qualified

as an individual.

OC: Would you say there's value in understanding the system and being involved with it before running for office?

McCarrel: Good question. [Thanks. - Ed.] Every other candidate who is running right now has been in the Senate. They've had their chance to enact these reforms, and they haven't done it. I don't know if it's a self-important issue where they just wanted to say, "I'm just going to sit out this whole year and watch all this shit go by." How come things like having more books on reserve ... why wasn't that advocated for this year by Emma? Why wasn't any of the other platform ideas, the ASUO website for instance, why hasn't that been advocated for sooner. They could have.

Y'know, I don't like naming names. I don't think that it was Emma's fault. I don't think it was Nick's fault or Carina's fault or Michelle's fault. It's a symptom of an institution that inherently blocks out good ideas and good advocacy. And the reason that it does it is because we have 12 million fucking dollars. And all of that money takes a hell of a lot of time to distribute. You have to deal with people lobbying you for the few hours that your willing to dedicate to the cause. At the end of the week, you don't really have time to advocate for any other issues.

This is what happens: Every year we get into this cycle where people say, "I'm going to do this and this and this," and they never have enough time to do it. It's not because there's only one year to do it. One year is a hell of a lot of time. It's because they're so focused on the budget.

Some of these platforms don't take money. Improving our education doesn't necessarily cost dollarbacks. Is it good? It just proves the flaws of the institution itself, and it shows me that if these were good ideas last year, then how come they haven't been enacted? I don't think there's any tangible benefit at all to knowing the system. I think the system itself needs to change in dramatic institutional ways that allow good ideas to surface, and that's not happening.

OC: Going off that, how would you change the system? Explain your idea for iGov.

McCarrel: You know what's awesome, CJ? You're a reporter, right?

OC: [Nods]

McCarrel: You're the first fucking reporter who's ac-

tually asked me that question. I've been talking about iGov, iGov, iGov, and you're the first person that has asked me about it, which is fascinating to me.

The short and sweet paragraph answer is that iGov is a multi-faceted Internet-based user interface that would enhance the individual's capability to interact with campus politics. What it really does is empower the individual, and that gets thrown around a lot. That's a cliché phrase to use: "empowering the individual." You guys are a conservative journal of opinion, right?

OC: [Nods]

McCarrel: I think that there is some credence, and if I know anything about conservatives, at least old-school conservatives, it's that you appreciate the individual. You appreciate that individual's worth and their ability to make competent decisions. I'm not a conservative, but I appreciate that very much from the conservative side. I don't want to make iGov sound like a political thing, driven by political motives, but it does empower the individual to use their innate gifts to participate with the ASUO.

What we're envisioning is a system where each individual would have control over their I-fee and say exactly where they want it to go. Now, this does a couple of things: (1) It allows individuals to have a stake in the process. When you go down to the street corner and listen to people pushing their fliers and t-shirts and shit, nobody gives a fuck. The only people who give a fuck are friends. There is only one answer why, and it's not necessarily because they're apathetic. It's because they don't see the benefit to them. That's because they're not involved in the process. The process itself doesn't allow them to get involved. iGov would then allow them to say, "This is where I want my money to go."

Because Oregon law does not allow that to be mandating, the Senate would either have to approve the budget set by all the students, or they should give reasons why or why not they don't want to.

I don't want to focus just on that. It is important that it empowers the individual, especially with a conservative journal of opinion. The other thing is the impact of this: (1) Half of the debate in this boardroom over here [points to EMU Boardroom], which probably shouldn't be there because it's stuffy and small, but it's always about what their constituents want.

I've got news for you: These guys don't know shit about what their constituents want because they never ask them. They're being lobbied by campus groups and other involved individuals, but they're not talking to the 82 percent of students that don't vote because they don't get them elected. Why should they give a shit? When the Senate knows what this 82 percent of students want they're going to stop arguing about that. This will free up important political capital and social capital that they need to make decisions. We have a finite amount of time. If it takes five hours to debate, or even gets to the point

where you can debate because of Robert's Rules (which are another reason to change this institution), the tenets of OSPIRG, for example, then that's a waste of time if you already know what students want.

Instead of having to do that, academic senators would be more empowered to advocate on student issues that they want to see. For instance, more books on reserve. It wasn't brought up this year. The reason why isn't because the people in the boardroom don't have good intentions. It's because they never had the opportunity to because they were talking so much about the budget. If they know the budget and what it's going to look like, then they can start advocating on other issues of more importance.

iGov should also be viewed as an opportunity to change the ASUO website into something that's aesthetically pleasing (because right now it's ugly). The most important function of a website is its interactive capability. If you think of the biggest websites right now - Facebook, Google, Craigslist - They all allow for interactive capabilities. How can we get the student body a website that allows them to interact? And this is an open-ended question. That's why my platform is open-ended. iGov should be viewed as a way to take any good idea that we see and integrate it into a website.

OC: If your iGov idea was instituted and the students decided where they wanted their fees to go, do you think that would be detrimental to a lot of programs that ostensibly do good things but don't have a big student base?

McCarrel: I don't see that as a possibility because if our representatives are accurately representing the interests of our community and we are all intelligent individuals, then I think we'll make the correct decisions.

OC: You're assuming that people are rational actors, which I tend to agree with, but is there a failsafe to this?

McCarrel: Yes, let me elaborate on this. The failsafe is that the budget that the students set is not mandating. The Senate still has to approve it. There are more failsafes, too. When you're deciding where you want your money to go, there will also be a learn more button for each of the groups. The second thing this does: Student groups can no longer sit in the EMU and get money. If the group's purpose is to serve an educational function on this campus, then they should bring that message to students. Instead of lobbying Senators, what I'm asking is that groups have to lobby the public. They have to get out of the EMU. They have to ask, "Will you please give 20 of your I-Fee dollars to my group? This is what we do." That in itself is educational. All of the sudden you have groups interacting with students on a level of probably never before.

How to reload bullets

Guy Simmons

It is a commonly shared opinion that assembling your own bullets is a dangerous activity and not worth the trouble. This attitude is derived from widely shared pictures of exploded firearms and mangled hands. Honestly, for much of the population reloading may be beyond their capabilities, but for the average college student it is a simple task. Which is why we are offering this quick introduction on what it takes to assemble your own ammunition.

Usually getting a box of ammo for an afternoon of plinking is as simple as picking up a carton of eggs or a gallon of milk, just a quick stop in the nearest big box store. However, as most shooters are undoubtedly aware an ammunition shortage currently exists. Happily, there is a way for the typical college student to provide for himself by reloading already fired brass cases.

The assembly process is pretty basic. Here is a walk-through of all the steps:

- 1 First clean and lube the empty brass cases (un-lubed cases will get stuck in the press).



- 2 Then the sizing die is screwed into place at the top of the press. This tool removes the spent primer and sizes the case to the correct dimensions (the case is slightly distorted when fired). After the cases have been sized and de-primed the sizing die is unscrewed and replaced with the bullet-seating die for use in a later step.



- 3 Next, using the priming hand tool a new primer is inserted into the pocket at the bottom of the empty case.



- 4 Once the cases have their new primers in place powder can be dumped into them with the powder measure (this device measures out the exact same amount of powder with each action of the lever).

-picture of the powder measure



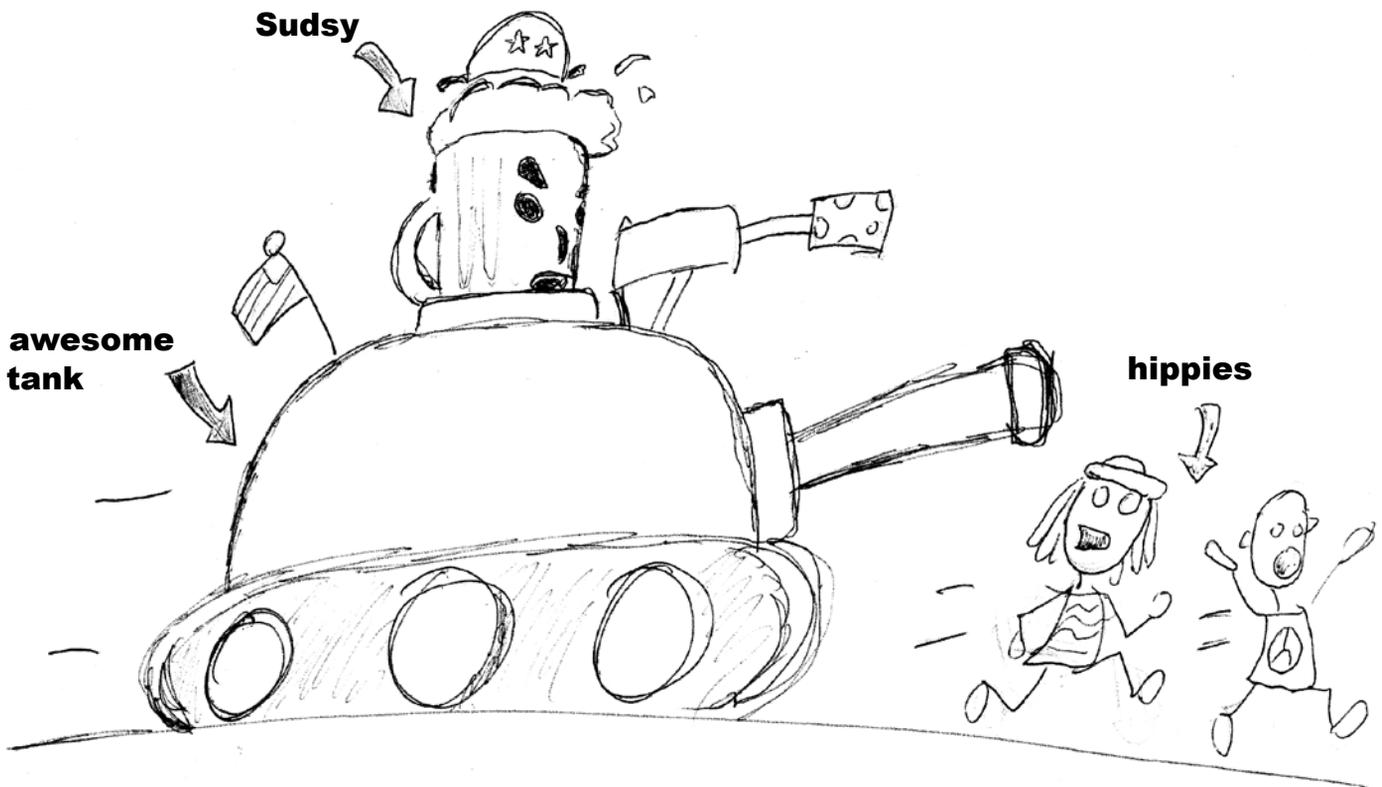
Finally, the primed and powdered cases are placed back into the press (with the bullet-seating die already in place) and a bullet is placed on top of the brass case. Once the lever is worked the bullet-seating die will push the bullet into the neck of the case and you've got yourself made at home ammunition. If you can follow basic instructions and work simple hand tools it is well within your abilities to construct your own ammunition from components.

A shopping list of required equipment and components: scale, calipers, case lube, lubrication pad, priming tool, powder measure, bullet-seating die, sizing die, press, empty brass cases, bullets, powder, primers



Guy Simmons is the publisher of the OC and killed his first deer with a rope and an outboard engine.

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PROVE IT AND WIN \$300

The Oregon Commentator is holding a cover art contest! The winner receives \$300, and his/her piece appears as the cover of our annual Hate Issue. The only requirements are: (1) The piece must include our mascot, Sudsy O'Sullivan, and (2) it must be totally awesome. (Extra points for explosions.)

Please submit pieces either as high-quality scans (300 DPI, TIF format) or drop them off at our office. Deadline for entries is May 10, 2009. No limit on submissions. The Oregon Commentator reserves the right to use non-winning entries as it sees fit. (Credit will be given to the artist, of course.) Please include name and contact information with submissions.

The Oregon Commentator
Room 319, EMU
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JUMP

OSPIRG, FROM PAGE 12



his First Amendment and association rights. He argued that the fee, specifically with regards to OSPIRG, compelled him to associate with and support the group.

Rounds' case was finally decided in 1999, when the 9th District Court of Appeals ruled that his rights were not violated. The case was later cited in the Supreme Court case of Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth, which ushered in the current era of "viewpoint neutrality." (Coincidentally, viewpoint neutrality has saved the Commentator from being defunded once or twice, so maybe it all worked out for the best.)

Our shining moment came in 1998, when the Commentator spearheaded a ballot measure, called the "honesty campaign," to defund OSPIRG. Students voted 55 to 45 percent to kick OSPIRG off the budget. Unfortunately, OSPIRG returned the next year and, through various chicaneries, forced another special vote of the student body. To win back its funding, OSPIRG pulled out all the stops, including getting ol' Ralph Nader himself to come speak on campus.

It's a tactic the group has used time and time again: when threatened, put on a big show to convince students that it actually does something for campus. And because of students' and student government's general lack of institutional memory, it works. OSPIRG was reinstated as a contract service, shielding it from those pesky questions like, "What are you spending your money on?"

But since its 1999 coup, OSPIRG's power has been waning. According to a 1999 article in the Commentator by Jonathan Collegio, OSPIRG used to receive \$147,000 a year. And that was at a time when the ASUO total budget was only \$6.5 million, a bit more than half of the current budget. The number of

OSPIRG groups on Oregon campuses has drastically shrunk since the organization's halcyon days. At its peak, there were around 12 OSPIRG chapters. Now there are two: Lane Community College and Southern Oregon University.

What must be done

Kudos to the ACFC and Senate for taking a firm stand against the unethical practices of OSPIRG. However, despite recent developments, this is not the end of the story. As previously mentioned, the University of Oregon now makes up the majority of OSPIRG's operating budget, and it will be a death blow to the organization if it loses this funding. OSPIRG will no doubt be back next school year, begging to get back on the budget. It won't quit. If its history is any indication, it will do everything it can to win, using all the parlor tricks and underhanded tactics it can.

The important thing to do at this juncture is keep the pressure on OSPIRG. It is banking that come next year students and student government will have forgotten why they opposed OSPIRG. It is banking that come next year there will be a group of new ASUO senators and ACFC members who don't see the problem with "empowering student voice." In essence, it is banking on us being stupid.

Unfortunately for OSPIRG, many of the ASUO members who took a stand against the group will be returning, and, of course, the Oregon Commentator will still be around. The rest of the job falls on the student body to vote for smart, fiscally responsible candidates in the upcoming ASUO elections and, above all, remember why that's important.



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

War on Toner update: Situation has devolved into sectarian violence. The Commentator advises staying the course until victory is achieved.

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

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grabbed the remote control and pressed play.

Greeting Hal's eyes was a topless woman wearing a veil over her face. It was as if the viewer were in a stroller looking up at his mother — topless and in a veil. This is when Hal focused on the beautiful breasts of one-time actress/adult film star Jizzelle Van Dyke, and instantly came, and shit himself, and sat, mesmerized, staring at the screen.

Infinite Chest played on loop, continuously, for three days, Hal's eyes glued to the screen until his eyes simply glazed over. Seizing to blink, Hal had died, covered in his own excrement and jizz.

Troll:

Hal had a real affection for the drug most commonly known as weed. He wasn't actually dependent, but he believed he couldn't function without a bowl every two hours or so. Hal knew all of the best places to get high on campus, and during the fall, the season the Infinite Chest disc was discovered, the covered tennis courts were the best place to get some alone time between the hours of 4 and 6pm.

It took Hal exactly thirty minutes to walk from his dorm room to the covered tennis courts, if he used his full stride and focused — this was not one of those days. Once he arrived it was already 4:10pm and Hal figured it must've taken him forty-five minutes at least to make the trip. He packed his pipe carefully, tamping it just so, like Hal had done every day for hundreds of days before. Swirling his lighter about without a single thought other than "inhale" and "hold." There was nothing extraordinary about that afternoon to Hal, except that he felt oddly tired from the long walk and the calmness of the THC. Knowing that he had at least another hour to himself he drifted off to sleep in the shade .

In his dreams he vividly encountered his older brother Who-

rin's ex-girlfriend Jizzelle and felt an overwhelming peace.

When the police had finally managed to kick in the door to Hal Incumdenza's dorm room they first saw Hal, eyes glazed and unblinking, staring into his television deeply, and covered in his own semen, urine, vomit and shit. Curious to see what was still playing on the screen, the officers walked around to the other side of the room. They promptly got week in the knees and began to lose control of their bowels, cumming infinitely to their deaths. The Infinite Chest disc had been found.



Michelle Haley is a contributor to the OC. The NYT Book Review recently called Infinite Chest a "breathtaking meta-deconstruction of David Foster Wallace's zeitgeist piercing expose of post-industrial civilization and the alienation at the root of its soul." Or something like that.

SPEW...

and the glory of the Internet

ON THE SIREN'S SONG

“The term MESA means table in Spanish. The simple, five letter word has a meaningful connection to what MESA stands for.”

~ *A profile in the Siren about MESA, the Multiracial/Ethnic Student Alliance. Go ahead, count them up. One, two, three ... five?*

“Warm April showers and cold moons in autumn / Good friends and lovers, you know you got ‘em / replacing the government with anarchy / these are a few of my favorite things.”

~ *The Siren's re-imagined lyrics to “A few of my favorite things.”*

“Lockdowns and treesits and teach-ins and blockades / joining with others to fight for a new day / reclaiming the streets while we dance and sing / these are a few of my favorite things.”

~ *Ibid. Personally, we prefer the John Coltrane version.*

“I got so tired of people accusing me of being oversensitive and politically correct that I just started screaming. Every time the words retarded or lame are used around me as an insult, I take a deep breath and yell as loud and as long as necessary to shut the fuckers up. Works like a charm.”

~ *The Siren's self-proclaimed “Handi-Capable Bi-Queer Slut of the World” writes about her interpersonal skills. Must be a hell of a debater.*



ON ACRONYMS

“New PMS Wins Annual Chili Cook-off”

~ *A headline in the University of Oregon Leader, the newsletter of the ROTC program, and another shining example of why acronyms make for confusing, sometimes disturbing headlines.*



ON LETTERS OF DEMERIT

“If Congress had morals or ethics or worked for the American people, the AIG executives would be gone or in jail. But they aren’t gone or in jail, so what does that say?”

~ Terry Jacobs in a letter to the Register-Guard. Nothing like Congress assuming the power to summarily dismiss the employees of private companies from their jobs and arrest them, for the crime of fulfilling a legally binding contract, huh?

“In dealing with this economic problem might I suggest looking at new revenue sources. I would suggest to our elected leaders in Salem and Washington to look at legalizing marijuana and taxing non-profits such as churches.”

- Chris Pender offers a novel solution to the recession in a letter to the Eugene Weekly.

“[The Republicans] say no to embryonic stem cell research because we must protect the sacred sanctity of life before it is born. But once that embryo grows up, the sacred sanctity of that life is thrown out the door if it becomes a brown skin man or teenager on a battlefield.”

~ Michael T. Hinojosa in yet another letter to the EW. If teenagers aren’t allowed on battlefields, who will save us from the Covenant?

“Genitals and genitalia are defined in a medical dictionary as organs of reproduction. Breasts, female or male, are not reproductive organs.”

- Ed Wilson in a letter to the R-G. Thanks, um, for clearing that up, Ed.

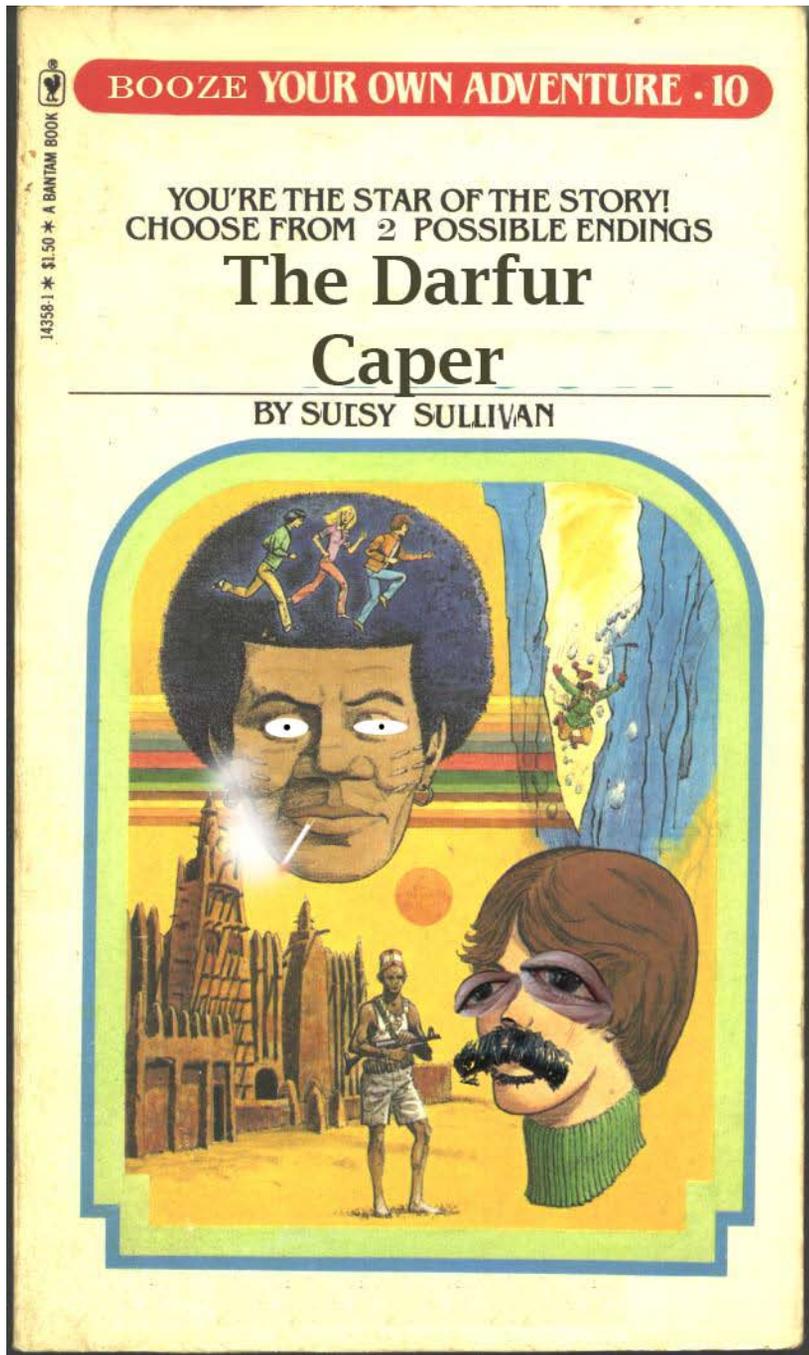
ON ABSOLUT CIVIL LIBERTY

“Civil liberties aren’t absolute - and reasonable people can disagree about what constitutes an appropriate limitation on those rights. But let’s at least agree that if we’re going to infringe on our civil liberties, it should at least be for some purpose that will actually save lives.”

~ Kari Chisholm, head wanker at Blue Oregon, a liberal blog. Don’t worry everyone. The government may need to infringe on your civil liberties, but it’s for your own good! (Besides, they aren’t absolute anyway.) That’s a comforting thought if we’ve ever heard one.



Lest we forget ...



Photoshop is a hell of a program