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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-six 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.

CAMPAIGNING IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

They were everywhere these last two weeks. Their persistent work ethic along with invasive procedures infected every single aspect of campus with their mission. Like a plague of locusts traveling along the desert sucking in any chance they can get to survive. They contaminated classes, 13th Avenue, Facebook and email inboxes, telephones, blackboards and ASUO printers. Of course, I'm talking about ASUO elections campaigners.

ed, alerted and had their update feeds filled with incessant pleas for votes. They were everywhere you looked, and like a bad zombie movie, there was no escape.

More than 5,000 votes were casted during the first week of elections and nearly 4,000 votes were placed the second week. Both numbers eclipsed last year's totals. One could see inflated voting results as a result of expanded enrollment, but the campaigners actually did a good job.

One could see inflated voting results as a result of expanded enrollment, but the campaigners actually did a good job.

They appeared the first day of spring terms setting up bases around the EMU amphitheater, their uniforms on full display, differing only by colors and campaign slogans. Their prey were students ignorant to ASUO agendas. Once they target a potential host, a campaigner will leech on to them for several minutes talking about campaign platforms while seamlessly forcing a leaflet into the host's hand.

Persistence is the the campaigner's greatest asset. When the rain comes they must trudge through sideways rain, hail, sleet and puddles, to force their candidate onto unsuspecting victims. While all campaigners come from the same species *Comeon Electus*, it is important to factor in the different electoral slates they follow to have a seat at the University of Oregon's very own form of amateur government

As the Internet is the number one cause of college student's dwindling attention spans, it was crucial for the campaigners to hit the World Wide Web. Average students were poked, prod-

The apathy of the students will come back. We have short attention spans here at the University of Oregon. "Out of sight, out of mind" is the theme with campus politics. *Pacifica Forum*, anyone?

The plague of campaigners left campus and their days of campaigning came to an anticlimatic end as seven people were at the unveiling of the victor. And to the victor go the spoils—or a senate filled with members of the opposing party.



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“America wasn’t founded so that we could all be better. America was founded so we could all be anything we damned well pleased.”



Dragonslayer Job

Howdy Dane,
 polanski's girls 12 years old and
 half full of coke...
 the zombies at 18th and hilyard...
 amphibian love / frog hate...
 magic eight balls...
 bro sprew...
 sudsy...
 yeah, i wanna work with you.
 what's the deal?
 non-student but USED to work for
 UofO's TAG program,
 Ian Zalewski

The OC responds:

*Ian,
 Glad to hear you're a fan! Unfortunately we're a student-only group... sorry!!
 If you do enroll at the UO though, you should definitely e-mail us back*

*Thanks
 Dane*

Alumni Appreciation

Glad to see the ol' Commentator spirit is still alive and kicking. Kinda forgot about you after I moved up to Portland a decade ago, but that UO magazine article made me remember the awesomeness of the Commentator. I'll be following you online now. Keep up the great work.

Casey

The OC responds:

Hey thanks a bunch! We're always glad to hear from fans, especially since we're a bit in the minority down here in Eugene. Since you

read that article, if you'd like to get a copy of the book they are quite excellent, and a good read. Tons of fun really.

Glad to hear from ya you ol' polecat! We'll try to keep grinding the axe down here.

*Sincerely,
 The Company*

Getting Technical

Esteemed Commentator,

I would like to bring your attention to a lovely little opinion article published today in the ode by a mister (and I use the term loosely) Mohamed Jemmali. This has to be on the highlight reel of the most intellectually bankrupt bullshit arguments of all time even surpassing Pascal's Wager. His basic argument is that because air is abundant it is free, we have the technology to make water and food as abundant, therefore food and water should be free. he offers such delightful little tidbits of distilled wisdom such as:

"With hydroponic technology, we can now grow anything with just water and electricity, and we do! We now grow food in deserts and the poles. If food no longer requires land or sun, we can grow anything anywhere and on a vertical scale. Imagine a tall building with a different vegetable or fruit in every floor. We can get rid of all world famines and malnutrition. In fact, every vegetable and fruit would become equally available everywhere."

Now I've only done hundreds of hours of organic farming and I'm not terrible acquainted with hydroponic farming but I'm pretty sure it takes a little more than water and electricity (fuck it plants don't need nutrients). Also concerning his "every vegetable and fruit would become equally available everywhere" hypothesis, I'm pretty sure that there are these things called climates and these things called seasons which might require Mohamed to have to consult the great gaia and captain planet in order to fix. He goes on to explain how water will be free via desalination (which is of course is a completely inexpensive uncomplicated process) and how electricity will be free (because those windmills maintain themselves). So in short he is absolutely bat shit crazy which is fine in its own right, but the fact the the Emerald actually published this garbage is asinine.

Sincerely, Nicholas Stachelrodt

The OC Responds:

Unfortunately, good ol' Mohamed has a few screws lose and the rest of us have to hear them rattle from time to time.

We wholeheartedly agree that the man is, in fact, insane. Either that, or he's a genius. If he's figured out a way to create matter out of "water and electricity" then it looks like a few Nobel prizes are on his way.

But we wouldn't count on it.



asks ...

What would you rather do than participate the ASUO elections?



Cpt. Pete Freedom Lesiak:

Go to the bar. Oh wait, that's what I did anyways

Alex McCafferty:
Wait, we didn't have to campaign?



Amelie Rousseau:
Making a coat out of D'Andrea's back hair. It's more sustainable that way.

Cassi Gritzmacher:
Get some tacos.



OSPIRG:
Get funding.

**UO PRESIDENT RICHARD "DICK" LARIVIERE'S
HATWATCH 2010
THIS WEEK:**

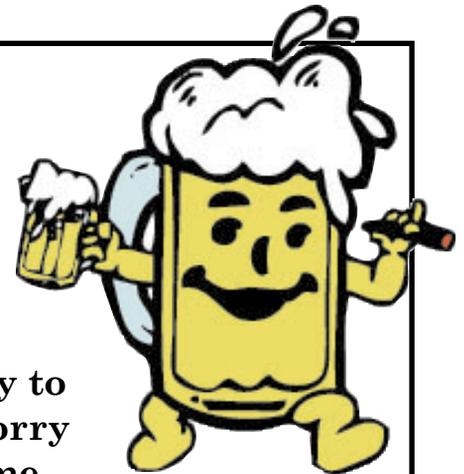
**This Week:
Pope Hat**

**"I'm working on
a new University
penal system that
involves light
padding."**



**Sudsy
Says:**

**"Is that a
gun in your
pants or are
you just happy to
see me? Oh, sorry
officer. I'll come
quietly."**



March Madness Corrections

* Due to a printer error, the cover of the last issue appeared to be sized down. We apologize to your eyes.

THE MYSTERY OF OSPIRG

Stephen Murphy

As the intelligent and well-versed reader is no doubt aware, this year the ACFC handed down a decision to deny OSPIRG their request for funding. Among other factors, the ACFC cited OSPIRG's tendency to spend funding off-campus as well as the allegation that the organization does not provide a great enough benefit to the student body. Yet, I and many like-minded individuals believe that the ACFC acted too hastily and without proper information, and indeed it becomes increasingly obvious to us that those in charge of our tuition-based funding are short-sighted and all together strikingly incompetent.

With any appreciable amount of consideration and thought, one can clearly see the great benefit OSPIRG provides the student body, and would continue to provide given adequate funding. While the ACFC stated correctly that much of OSPIRG's spending occurs off-campus, they erred in assuming this fact implied OSPIRG wastes funding. Dear reader, consider this: if OSPIRG wants \$117,000 to fund their operations, what do they plan to spend it on? I rarely see any direct impact of their work on campus, in fact much of the student body would be hard-pressed to name an event or project on-campus that OSPIRG is responsible for, yet OSPIRG claims they require this funding to aid the student body. What could possibly require that much funding, yet fly under the radar of much of the University? Yes, my friends, we know there is but one answer: OSPIRG spends their funding to provide hookers and blow for the student body.

Bear with me now; an organization such as OSPIRG thrives on popularity among the people,

and without the majority seeing the worth of their existence they would fade away. What do the students of the University care more about: saving the world, one social concern at a time, or going rock climbing among boulders of crack cocaine, cheered on by the seediest of prostitutes? I leave this question rhetorical, but you, reader, know the answer. OSPIRG clearly knows that

the student body does not care enough about climate change or Haiti to spend over 117 grand on support, so they must be using the funding to garner support another way. If this insightful mind had to speculate, it would come to two separate conclusions: hookers and blow, respectively.

And so with that, even a child could tell you that OSPIRG does, as a matter of fact, contribute greatly to maintaining a positive learning environment, contributing to student fulfillment, and ensuring the University of Oregon community is the envy of every academic institution. The only question remaining is whether this kind of secretive spending bypasses students' rights to determine how the ASUO spends their incidental fee. I leave you with this thought, precious reader: if you had \$195 in your hand right now, how much of it would you spend on drugs and whores? Q.E.D.



Stephen Murphy is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and is a total fucking trainwreck.

2010 ASUO ELECTIONS WRAP-UP

Rousseau, Arora take Executive spots. Reality Check dominates the Senate race.

T. Dane Carbaugh

As last Thursday's elections results were announced, campaign managers across campus breathed a collective sign of relief. The 2010 ASUO elections process was a tedious one, despite the fact that it was rather mild in comparison to years past. The overall results were somewhat of a double-edged sword for nearly all parties involved, as the more fiscally responsible slate, Reality Check, took all but two open Senate seats while their rivals, progressive and pro-OSPIRG candidates Amelie Rousseau and Maneesh Arora, took the Executive spots.

In all, the writing is on the wall for an interesting year in the ASUO next year. The Senate will be comprised of members of the Reality Check campaign except for five persons: Zachary Stark-MacMillan, Jeremy Blanchard, Max Barkely, Tyler Griffin and Marissa Garcia.

How this new body will interact with a staunchly pro-OSPIRG Executive (Arora was a member of OSPIRG) remains to be seen. If this year is any indication, the system of checks and balances between the bodies of the ASUO will do its job. Since he was the only member of a slate other than Reality Check/Rousseau and Arora, I asked Sen. Zachary Stark-MacMillan how he felt the balance in the ASUO will be affected next year.

"Even though I was the only one from 3C, we still have Blanchard, Barkley and Griffin. So total we will have 5 non-Reality Check senators next year. I don't know all the individuals on Reality Check, so we will see. Obviously I'm disappointed that not a lot of the 3C people made it, I think they were very qualified and would have added a lot to the



Who can say "no" to free buttons?

ASUO," said Stark-MacMillan.

He went on to say that he thought Rousseau would use her executive appointments on candidates from his slate, the Campus Change Coalition (3C). "I hope a lot of the 3C candidates will do good work next year in the ASUO through appointments. I think they're really well qualified," he said.

Although OSPIRG was not a campaigning point for Emma Kallaway last year, her administration is still rather "OSPIRG-friendly" politically. Kallaway asked the Athletics Contracts and Finance Committee to fund OSPIRG as a contract, which the ACFC, for the second year in a row, turned down. This year, OSPIRG spent \$80,000 to remain on this campus without student money. Another



It's the same two-step with a little twist.

year without student funding, and they may very well leave for good.

To further complicate things, OSPIRG passed a ballot measure this elections season. Although non-binding, the ballot measure encourages the ASUO to fund the lobbyist organization. Unfortunately for OSPIRG and their supporters, the ballot measure only passed by one percent--about 100 votes—despite massive efforts and money spent by OSPIRG to campaign during the two weeks of elections. Anti-OSPIRG groups only campaigned for one day.

The COMMENTATOR was privy to space inside the ASUO office, normally cleared of all individuals except the ASUO Elections Board and media, during the time the general election results were presented and posted on the ASUO office wall. As ASUO Elections Board Chair Nolan Gary opened the sealed envelope containing the results, he remarked of the numbers, “No one’s going to like this.”

Indeed, as the results were posted on the office window for the gathering crowd of campaign managers and slate individuals, the reactions of the involved parties seemed to be somewhat mixed. As ACFC member Sen. Ben Eckstein, wearing a Rousseau and Arora T-shirt, saw the results, he pumped his fist in the air and hugged his constituents.

Reality Check organizer Sen. Demic Tipitno was stoic upon the results, and he finally quietly and slowly walked away.

Despite the fact that his slate had taken the entire Senate race in the general election (except for Zachary Stark-MacMillan, who ran unopposed for the Campus Change Coalition slate) Tipitno still seemed to take the loss of Reality Check’s presidential candidate, Alex McCafferty, harshly. On that, I asked McCafferty himself whether or not he felt the campaign was a failure.

“Obviously I’m disappointed, but Alden and I are not the entire Reality Check slate. We have a lot of qualified people who all took spots on Senate. I think it’s bittersweet,” said McCafferty.

When asked what his plan was for the next year, McCafferty said he wasn’t planning on leaving. “Just because of the elections, I’m not leaving. I’ve been involved with the ASUO since before I lived in the dorms. I think I’m most qualified for a position on Con Court. Hopefully the Executive feels the same way.”

McCafferty also pointed out that the vast majority of the Senate next year will be Reality Check members, something Reality Check campaign manager Jeremy Cabalona said he was excited about in an interview with the COMMENTATOR.

“I think it was definitely a win, though bittersweet. We had a lot of great candidates who were well informed,” he said.

When asked if those candidates would continue with Reality Check’s campaign points of a fiscally responsible Senate, including OSPIRG, Cabalona assured me they would keep those promises.

“I don’t think OSPIRG is going to get a dime next year. I’m really proud of us actually. We only campaigned against OSPIRG for one day and we came within one percent of the vote. All of our candidates are informed against OSPIRG, and that’s why they will vote no,” said Cabalona.



T. Dane Carbaugh is the publisher of the Oregon Commentator and voted for Akon.

THE ASUO PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: UNINFORMATIVE FOLLY

Walk-outs and rhetoric at the ASUO primary debate

Stephen Murphy

The presidential/vice-presidential debates for the primary elections this year certainly were interesting, but not quite as interesting as most people would guess. Rather than serving as a stage for candidates to demonstrate how they differ from their peers and what makes them intriguing and worthy of support, the debates ended up a contest to see which team could turn themselves into the most stereotypical and pandering politicians on campus. Obviously ‘the people’ want to hear certain things, and I can hardly blame the candidates for arguing those points to garner favor. However, each team literally grabbed some cliched value, from “being self-reflective, resetting goals and deadlines” to “hav[ing] students who come from all



ASUO president-elect Amelie Rousseau answers a question at the first ASUO Executive debate.

“All you can think about is how much fun it would be to take a shot every time a candidate uses another candidate’s argument as a stepping stone for their own.”

sides, all perspectives,” and ran with it as far as they could, going so far as to make it an issue across half the debate. None of the sweeping generalizations I make here apply to Captain Pete “Freedom” Lesiak, as his campaign was built on the back of lots of rum and a pirate costume, and therefore is exempt from scorn.

First, serious props to Cassi and Lucas, despite their loss, for being the candidates to stand up at the beginning, state that “we feel this debate is, frankly, a waste of time”, and walk right out of the room. Considering the size of the audience, they just might have had a

point. Additionally, it saved them the shame of having every single other candidate reference them, saying “I think my opponent makes a good point.” Alex McCafferty and Alden Williams began the event by piggybacking the point made by the candidate dressed as a pirate, continuing to do so for the next question and adding an “as Maneesh pointed out” and ending with a nice “Cassi and Lucas made a really good point.” So maybe Cassi’s and Lucas’s absence did not save them from being human springboards.

Frankly though, to say that Williams and McCafferty were the only offenders would be a

horrible lie. Jairo and Esparza gave them a taste of their own medicine with “Alex brought up a good point,” amusingly enough after McCafferty referenced one of Lesiak’s points, and even more amusingly followed by Amelie and Ma-neesh saying that “Jairo and Alex brought up some good points.” Basically, that last sentence just about sums up the debates. Every candidate scrambled to cover all of the traditional and expected bases, and if somebody happened to say it first the candidate would simply mention what a good point their esteemed opponent raised, then elaborate on how they would do it more justice.

Then the elections board asked the candidates how they planned on to handle the many diverse student groups of the U of O. I can only assume that none of the candidates actually heard the question, because answers ranged from vaguely addressing the issue to hurling feel-good promises about “diversity” and “compost.” Esparza and Jairo claimed that “in order to have a fully functioning networked campus, you would have to have an environment that was clean” and proceeded to discuss how important composting and other sustainability efforts are to... I guess making minorities welcome on campus. Because minorities love compost. Honorable mention to Amelie, who spent roughly a minute talking about her French-American heritage and how because of this fact she is clearly better suited to handle diversity.

Seriously though, that example was hardly among the worst offenders of brutal topic-changing. Castaneda and Esparza managed to relate every other question to their goal to create a student advocate position in the ASUO, in

addition to stressing how important diversity is in regards to literally every issue that arose. Amelie seemed incapable of letting us forget, even for a second, how much help students need with housing, how we need a housing advocate in the ASUO, and so on. McCafferty and Williams found a way to relate every topic of debate to the need for government to include the student body, be transparent, and so on. At least that last one has something to do with

government, so it’s vaguely excusable. At least the candidates could all agree on one topic: the issue of rising tuition. Just about every single candidate suggested that the proper course of action is to... lobby the state for money.

In all fairness, the debates ultimately man-

aged to somewhat distinguish the candidates. But I’m mostly playing devil’s advocate. After a while, all you can think about is how much fun it would be to take a shot every time a candidate uses another candidate’s argument as a stepping stone for their own.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Alex Esparza of the Campus Change Coalition for being the one candidate to spend time arguing against a man wearing a pirate costume. Although, I suppose after the candidates spend half of the debate borrowing each others’ arguments, finding someone to take shots at gets a little more difficult.



ASUO executive candidates Alden Williams (left) and Alex McCafferty listen during a debate.



Stephen Murphy is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and is the fifth Beatle.

THE PRICE OF FAME

A former ASUO presidential candidate shares his experience as a part of the ASUO campaigning process.

Pete Lesiak

Running for the ASUO, especially as a pirate, opened my eyes to politics and simply being a recognizable public figure. There's a lot more to it than it seems, and I'm surprised people actually like to make careers of it. Yet we see students running year after year, pasting their faces on T-shirts, posing for photographs, and shaking hands with students who don't care. It takes a certain breed of person to handle life in the public eye. A special blend of narcissism and patience that is capable of putting up with incessant irrelevant bullshit beyond normal human capacity.

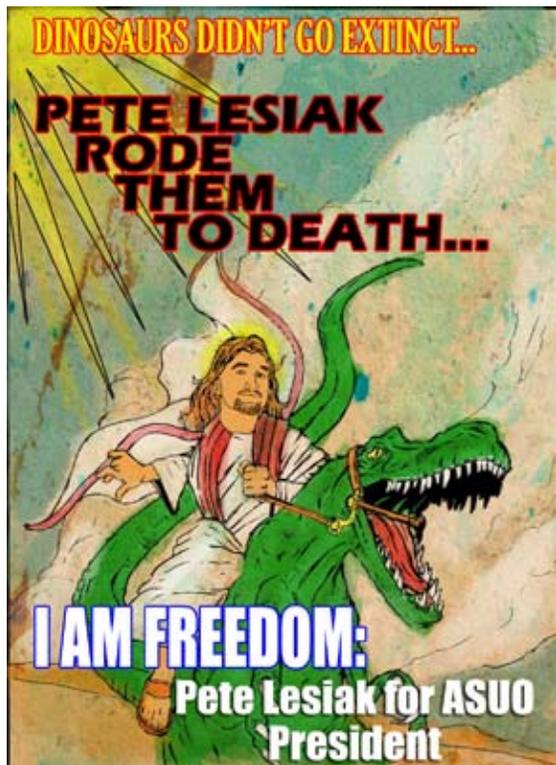
First of all, you have to get over the fact that complete strangers know you and are not afraid to tell you that. You don't know how many times I was in class and caught someone's eye only to get a "Hey, you're the pirate!" Personally, being the narcissist



I am, I enjoyed the attention, but with the recognition you're forced to hear what they have to say, too. I can't say that this is a bad thing; there are some intelligent people out there with good points. The catch is that to get through to those bright individuals, you have to wade through an ocean of zealous idiots: the majority of the population. I heard many stupid ideas on how to be a funnier pirate, and trust me, those people should not quit school to become comedians. But I can only imagine what the other candidates get, especially after witnessing some guy preach to the Reality Check campaign for nearly 15 minutes about how the war on drugs is pointless. I think he might have been high. The worst part, though, is they had to stand there and listen. Whereas I could have laughed and messed with the guy, Reality Check stood there and took it like champs, word after ridiculous word.

A public figure is also forced to take





criticism and be critiqued by complete strangers. A candidate friend of mine said it best: "It's like a party and everyone's talking about you, but your not invited." It gets completely ridiculous at times, though. I was ridiculed on the COMMENTATOR blog for spelling "doubloons" wrong. There's someone out there now, who seriously thought it necessary to correct the spelling of a joke candidate dressed as a pirate. But that's the price of being a public figure; people are going to hate you. Just take a look at the *Daily Emerald* blog article "Executive hopefuls start lining up." On it there are anonymous people just ripping into ASUO President-elect Amelie Rousseau. But the criticism isn't completely negative. The same Internet article contains an endorsement saying Alex McCafferty would do the best job as president. So it's more of a love-hate relationship with the general public. At one point they may be yelling on the street, "We love you Captain Lesiak!" and the next they could be calling you a "dumbfuck" anonymously on the Internet.

The last thing all potential public figures need to be aware of is that the public is

watching. Any screw-up or slip of the tongue will immediately become big news and land you into smelly doo-doo. I compare it to being hunted by a big game cat. It stalks you for an unknown period of time, waiting and watching. Then you slip it and pounces digging its claws into your juicy underbelly, spilling your guts all over your campaign posters and slicing your hip campaign T-shirt. Just look at Ms. Rousseau's, huge slip-up with making campaign posters in the ASUO office. Also take Cassi Gritzmacher and campaigning in the EMU; that guy with the iPhone camera was a pouncing panther.

What I learned from running is that politics is a dagger's edge. I easily dealt with it by spending my time at the bars and yelling in pirate jargon, but that's just me. What I think about most is the people who actually spend all their days under watch, like President Obama. I wonder if he's secretly taking shots of Old Crow in the presidential bathroom. I know I would. But as to our currently elected ASUO executive, good luck.



Pete Lesiak is the senior editor of the Oregon Commentator and keeps plenty of limes on hand to prevent scurvy.

NEO NAZIS AND APOLOGETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The Badger Herald, a paper at the University of Wisconsin, prints an anti-semitic advertisement in the face of the First Amendment.

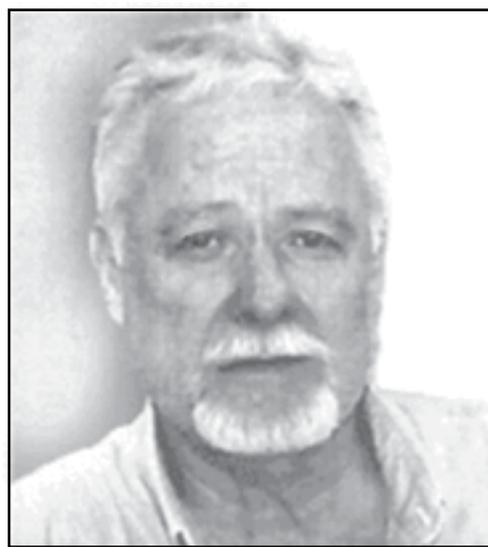
Sophie Lawhead

Sometimes you feel like placing a holocaust-denying advertisement on the online version of your collegiate newspaper, sometimes you don't. The staffers of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's student paper do, or at least just this once.

The Badger Herald ran an ad from Holocaust denier Bradley R. Smith, some fucking nut who, according to his Blogger site, is a former bullfighter raised in South Central LA. This "historian" paid \$75 for a three line advertisement reading "The Holocaust Question: THE POWER OF TABOO. www.codoh.com," which provided a link to The Committee for Open Dialogue on the Holocaust website, a name more misleading than the Magnum in the wallet of my last boyfriend.

Smith's blog would indicate that he placed this ad specifically after reading about the university's reaction to previous anti-semitic remarks made in the "comments" section of an article concerning a party at a Jewish fraternity ("the house should be turned into an oven," and other stupidity.) The staffers at the Badger Herald either didn't read the ad or didn't care, and really, neither did anyone else for the first five days of its run. Then someone accidentally hit the mouse with their dick on the way to Chatroulette and a shitstorm descended, probably the exact outcome Smith desired.

The Badger Herald scrambled to make amends, meeting with UWM's Hillel and printing two apologies. These articles, as well as ones written by UWM faculty, outlined the basic facts of the Holocaust and provided references for



Bradley R. Smith, historical "revisionist" and overall racist.

further reading, apparently finding the average UWM student too feeble-minded to have figured this out before college. The paper also promised to start censoring its comments and removing any that they deem unrelated or that "make gratuitous personal attacks," a strange concession for a paper that holds itself as a "bastion of free speech."

Despite the many regrets expressed by the BH, the newspaper did not pull the ad. "The placement is a vile, reprehensible and absurd recreation of history that would be rejected as blatant lies and fantasy by any rational student on campus. But it is because of this very fact that I have decided to accept this ad and allow it to run its course," said Editor-in-Chief Jason Smathers.

A TEMPERATE SOLUTION

FOR AVERTING THE UNITED STATES FROM BECOMING OVERWHELMED WITH THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND SOCIETAL EFFECTS OF CRIMINALS AND SOCIAL MISCREANTS, AND FOR PROMOTING THE SUCCESSION OF ETHICAL AND POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE NATION TO DECENT, LAW ABIDING AMERICANS.

Nicholas Ekblad

Being the land of opportunity, the United States of America attracts prosperous and persevering people from all walks of life. Those, and current citizens, reproducing and building families that will contribute to society in a positive way, are figuratively welcomed with open arms and encouraged to stay. It would be deplorable for them to witness the community around them become infested with criminals, small and large, compromising the innocence of the day-to-day lives of they and their families; these families, dutifully paying their taxes, are unintentionally funding the incessant vitiation of their country by means of criminal assimilation. These criminals, the routines of most of them not exceeding the cycle of legal punishment, are commonly unleashed early only to be returned within a few years or so. The incarceration rate is on a steep rise and prison populations are swelling to an unacceptable amount at the expense of the youth and honest taxpayers of our country.

I believe that most interest groups concur that the amount of federal funds spent on repeat offenders in and out of prison or maintaining parole programs instead of enhancing higher education is far exceeding the need. The person that may become enlightened with a just, equal solution, thereby leaving more resources to post-secondary institutions and other sources of progression, should be appointed as our Justice of the Supreme Court in order to enforce such a measure and provide additional contributions to the welfare of our judicial system.

However, my purpose reaches

farther than just financial independence from these unnecessary responsibilities and the subsequent reversal of our taxes' misappropriation; indeed, the principle objective is deterrence of criminal offenses and public assurance that control of this country does not fall into unworthy or ill willed hands.

The crime rate per capita in the U.S.



has been on a steady rise since 1960; of the 2.4 million incarcerated individuals housed in U.S. federal and state prisons, more than 21 percent are drug offenders of a non-violent nature, while the other portion of the incarcerations were for violent offenses such as murder, forcible rape and the like. The nonviolent drug offenders, because of a

mandatory sentencing measure, are put into prisons (the federal ones being overcrowded by an average of 34 percent) with the murderers, rapists and beasts of the lowest depravity to mingle and assimilate in the caged life. It should be mentioned, however, that a good number of the imprisoned mammals filling these correctional institutions are led into a life of violence and lawlessness by the nature of their employment in the black market and consequently denied the opportunity to be instead treated in a rehabilitation center. Without treatment, these mere dissidents' habits, hobbies and professions continue to revolve around an increasingly illicit livelihood; a California study carried out in 2005 showed that two thirds of parolees returned to prison within three years. Their lives are



fixed within this cyclical judicial system, wanting of treatment and trapped inside an evidently violent cage in which they easily adjust themselves to criminal life. At such an unacceptable point, they are, for the most part, unemployable and unviable in an already suffering American economy.

It is for these reasons that any person who may determine a correction to this method of handling offenders should have their suggestions acknowledged with considerable open-mindedness. Without a doubt, arriving at a solution is imperative. In the past two decades alone, our spending on state corrections rose 127 percent, while funding for higher education has risen but 21 percent. If these trends are allowed to

continue, our country can be expected to fall into a contemptible cycle which will prove to be gradually more difficult to break or cure.

Thus I will now modestly suggest my own ideas which I trust will not be met with the slightest opposition.

Though our country leads the globe in the number of overall crimes recorded, population of convicts and number of convicts per capita, we are ranked but fifth when it comes to criminal executions behind China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, in that order. Even so, the death penalty, reinstated in 1977, has done little to deter crime and violence since. I suggest a harsher deterrent, one that will render this country clean and free of crime, violence and cyclical deterioration - clean and free to flourish and

thrive under the influence of upright and outstanding citizens. The trend being that two thirds of criminals promptly return to prison within three years of parole and that these dissidents are guaranteed nothing but further moral corruption and want of sufficient treatment through correctional rotation, I offer that we simply establish a mandatory and immediate death penalty to all offenses, small and great.

The case being that at least 21 percent of these criminals do not get the supervision or the counseling that they require to be allowed a contributing position in society and are therefore constantly trafficking the

GAME CRAZY

A new website allows users to play video games with attractive girls for a modest per minute fee.

Ross Coyle

Reading Penny Arcade last week, I stumbled upon news about the Internet service GameCrush, which launched an online beta last week. GameCrush is an online escort service that men can use to play their favorite video games with foxy online vixens.

The service, which anyone can register for, provides what theMix Agency, GameCrush's hired PR group, calls an adult social networking service for gamers. According to PR spokesman Brent Bucci, GameCrush is targeted at "gaming vets who saw a clear need to connect users socially." The service is free to register for, but only women can play for free. Men (and only men, because no woman in her right mind would use this service) buy points through the service to use to purchase "Playdates" with women.

A "Player" on GameCrush buys 500 points on on the service for \$6.60, and then trades 400 of the points to a Playdate for an 8-10 minute game. The remaining hundred are suggested as a tip, or can be saved for more sessions. I wonder if GameCrush takes a percentage out of the tip. At the end of each Playdate, users can rate the girl on her levels of flirtiness, skill, and hotness. Girls then can

take their points and convert them to cash.

The problem with the setup is that it tries to tie in an escort service with video games, which almost fetishizes the hobby. GameCrush has cornered the market for men who want to play games while having sex. Bucci explained that the system is community

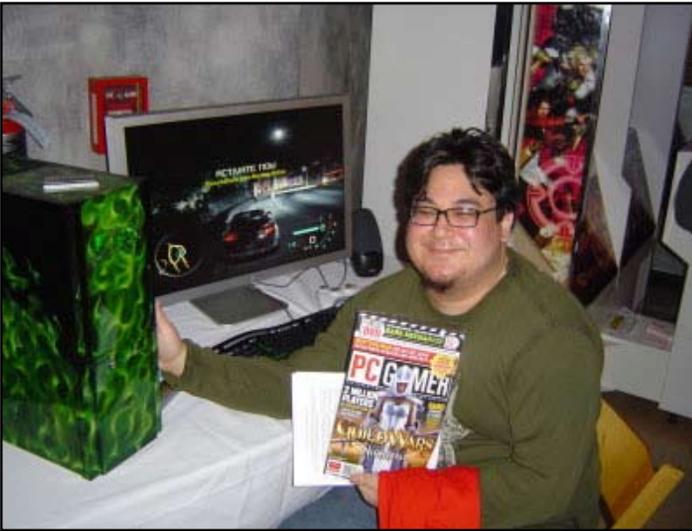
moderated, so users can decide what content is permitted within their chats. I imagine, judging simply by the content on other webcam services, that GameCrush will devolve into little more than an online titty-bar, only instead of a social network.

But now lets talk about the objectification of women for a minute

and the popular image of "gamers" (oh how I loath that term). I'm fairly indifferent as to how people that play games are perceived by the masses. What's far more concerning is that there's a serious investment in an escort service for games, thinly veiled as a social networking site. On a small calculation, a woman can make more than \$30 an hour by being a Playdate. That's \$30 an hour because you look good and can make a guy feel important. In spite of this fact, it's aggravating to see women objectified like this in an age where more than 50% of PC and 25%



GameCrush.com



This way she can't see your Mountain Dew sweat and your Cheetos fingers.

of console gamers are female. Hell, an article by Wanda Meloni with the M2 consulting firm noted that 40% of WOW players are women, with console numbers rising too.

So why is it that women game players are still thought of as some kind of rare, elysian creature that must be purchased for company? Bucci claims the service is built for both men and women, but a fast look at the GameCrush main page proves otherwise. Images proudly display pages filled with home-made glamor shots by girls on the service. No men are present in any of the promotional materials. So how does this “gamers’ adult social networking site” attract its female audience? Lesbians is the only answer. They have cornered the lucrative lesbian-machismo-shooter-gamer demographic.

The creators of GameCrush haven’t really brought anything original to the table, they’ve just streamlined what most men are looking for: tail in any way, shape, or form. According to numerous other online sources, the cost of buying credits on the site is based off the price of buying a girl a drink at a bar. As a man who doesn’t buy random women drinks on principle, I find it hard to understand how men feel that they have any chance of getting anything

more than an awkward conversation out of a 10 minute game session.

When I played Halo 2 online, every now and then there would be women on our team, but not enough to call it regular. If I had a dollar for every Halo game I played in which the girl was being white-knighted by every other man on the team, I could cover my drinking habit for the rest of the school year.

The behavior of picking up and meeting a girl online goes slightly beyond “creepy” and crosses into the territory of downright weird. There’s no denying that many of the men using GameCrush will be doing so looking for a romantic interest. How can they be respected at all when they are so desperate for companionship but so enslaved to the console that they’ll pay for company through GameCrush?

I can’t quite tell what’s more disturbing: that there is a service for men to “hire” women to play video games with them, or that the beta received more than 20,000 requests in five minutes, which led to its demise. But hell, if there’s a market of lonely men just dying to play games with hot women, and there are women willing to capitalize on that reality, go for it.

As Yahtzee with the Escapist Online Magazine said: “The nerd is a tiresomely predictable creature, to whom the promise of boobies is like a bacon sandwich to a starving wolf.” His statement may not be entirely true, but at least 20,000 gamers are here to prove him right.



Ross Coyle is the managing editor of the Oregon Commentator and plays with his joystick.

correctional system— costing the nation money and learning not their lessons but methods to increase their efficiency at breaking the law— I believe it would be an effective deterrent and a beneficial adjustment to social order to immediately eradicate the unethical and counterproductive agents of society.

This proposition would create a well defined channel for the nation to follow, making every individual's positive contributions to society more valuable to the collective strife for common good, not being inhibited by unfavorable conflict. Correctional facilities having been torn down, the plan would also bring an end to the embezzlement of funds to hopeless causes. More taxes could be spent on higher education and less on the housing, feeding, supporting and policing of detrimental beings. As the measure ages, society, being subject to efficient criminal deterrence, will gradually adjust to the moral channel provided as government organizations become less and less susceptible to corruption. Citizens and officials will have no other choice but to occupy their time, money and skill in legal, socially productive and morally generative investments, rather than harming or endangering the welfare of their communities. With morality flourishing, education improving, and government recovering, the United States will look forward to a better future, with the aforementioned events supporting and accelerating each other.

I will utilize the discourse of this proposal to also point out that those being executed immediately after having been proven guilty, will benefit in the fact that they avoid inhabiting the overcrowded and inexcusable circumstances offered by correctional facilities. The only end that such institutions accomplish seems to be the indirect assimilation of individuals to the norms of factious groups while they directly experience deplorable hardship. Such cruel,

unusual and counteractive punishment has no place in our society and should therefore be removed from employment.

I have described my solution to a considerable extent, listing the numerous advantages thereof; and I am unable to imagine any reason that one might hold to protest my solution. In the current procedure, revolving door policies culture moral deterioration; all those affecting and affected should acknowledge that if we are permitting this to happen, we might as well conclude the injurious task indefinitely and thereby set America on the right pathway to greatness. I recommend that opponents restrain their intentions of advertising measures including but not limited to: decriminalizing drug consumption and deeming it a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue, reducing the idleness that prisoners encounter in their limited community, classifying and separating convicts according to risk level, implementing and seeing through to the end more expansive rehabilitation and counseling of nonviolent drug offenders, refraining from re-imprisoning offenders for minor infractions while on parole, and offering more opportunities for the incarcerated to participate in community service projects or community supervision (e.g. electronic monitoring), as these measures would prove exceedingly difficult to put into practice compared to my more realistic suggestion.

Therefore I consent to no objections nor to allegations that my proposal be unfit for execution in the United States judiciary system unless that human taking such positions may offer some indication that society is taking a morally favorable path or promise the implementation and effectuation of a more practical or preponderant solution.



Nicholas Ekblad is the associate publisher of the Oregon Commentator and recently got a yacht.

Another Perspective

Chris McKee

It was a dark and stormy night, not exactly atypical of Eugene, Oregon, but it was certainly notable for the copious amounts of rain and for periodic thunderstorms that ripped across the sky and made an innumerable number of University of Oregon students wet their pants out of anxiety and fear, which was partially because of the storm and partially because of the fact that they had just returned from spring break and are dreading the anticipation of mounds of homework and reading assigned to them by crabby professors who have nothing better to do with their lives but scheme of ways to make their students even more miserable through trivial means.

It was on this night that I struggled with my latest Oregon Commentator article. The deadline was within 24 hours. I promised the editorial board that I would write a piece about the Tea Party movement – its supporters whom I affectionately referred to as teabaggers – but as the minutes etched on, I realized with horror how impractical this option would be. Panicking, I desperately went over in my head the possible alternative stories I could write about.

Really, there were many topics to write about. The ASUO elections were coming to a close. The New York Times published an article about the ever-growing U.S. terrorist watch list that has led to innocents being arrested at airports. A federal appeals court decision made on April 6 will allow Internet service companies to block or slow down access to specific sites and charge video sites such as YouTube to deliver faster content to viewers. And, of course, there are the teabaggers. All of these subjects are worthy topics of discussion, but the words needed to successfully articulate my feelings towards them failed to materialize in my head.

Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, an explosion went off in the middle of my dorm and sent me flying into the wall. The boom of the explo-

sion was deafening. It was as if the atomic bomb went off in my room rather than Hiroshima. Yet nothing was destroyed. I got up from the floor and stared at the most wondrous, most bizarre sight I ever laid eyes on.

It was a vortex.

It appeared in front of me as an enormous black swirl. Every few seconds lightning bolts would protrude from within, touching the rim of the vortex. A mild suction from the vortex pulled some of my unfortunate papers into its hole, but I was strong enough to remain in place as I gazed in awe at its magnificence. How could something so amazing, so fantastic, so infinitely complex appear sporadically in my dorm? Surely a creator must have placed it there, perhaps with the purpose of benefiting my life.

Before I could continue pondering the implications of the vortex's random appearance in my room, the suction suddenly increased in power, and soon I was not strong enough to remain in place. Inch by inch, the vortex sucked me into its trap. Struggling for survival, I fought it with all the strength I could muster, but the sucking was too much.

I knew I was fighting a losing fight. Eventually the vortex would pull me in. It already sucked in my TV, my PlayStation 2, my laptop, even my desk. That I continued to exist was by a sheer miracle. But even that miracle was short lived, as soon the vortex succeeded in pulling me in.

The author of this article was not able to complete his submission on time. What you just read was all that remained in his room. We decided to publish it as a sort of tribute to his brief career as the Another Perspective columnist. R.I.P.



Chris McKee is the Another Perspective writer for the Oregon Commentator.

SPEW...

and the News Feed

ON OSPIRG



Katie Taylor We won!!!!!!! The majority of students at the UO agree that OSPIRG should have funding!

9 minutes ago · Comment · Like

 Willy Tobelman likes this.



Moey Newbold no way?!?! do we have numbers?

7 minutes ago

-One of the random friends the Oregon Commentator has on its Facebook isn't aware that the University of Oregon has over 20,000 students. OSPIRG only received approximately 2,000 votes. Attention Mrs. Taylor: 2,000/20,000 is 10%.

"Katie says:

The Oregon Commentator stalks me on facebook, misquotes me, and they have no soul. Obviously I was talking about the majority of students who voted. And if you read my comment after I posted that I said just that. I wasn't going to engage in your petty blog. But its late and I guess I'm kind of bored. Wow a paper who's content consist of trashing people who are working their asses off to make social change....oh and lets not forget the beer, we can always count on the commentator to advocate for alcoholism, wow you guys called me stupid??? I think I'm going to cry. I would say don't bother responding because I'm not planning on reading any of your responses, but I think you all feed on this, so I know their will be some response. However, I would recommend that you get your silver spoons out of your asses, take a nice long look at the world we live in, and spend your time during something more worth while then trying to cause disputes. But, what do I know, I'm just a stupid girl who can't do math...."

-Katie Taylor sees the above image on our blog and leaves an angry comment. Stalking? Or reading something an individual purposefully posts on a social networking site for everyone to see? You say "tomato" I say "moron."

ON CONGRESSMEN

"My fear is that the whole island will become so overly-populated that it would tip over and capsize."

-U.S. representative Hank Johnson (D) speaking about Guam. I'm no physics major, but I don't think that's how it works, Hank.

ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

"The election of any group who calls for increased scrutiny of the incidental fee or ASUO funds doesn't understand that there is already huge bureaucracy and oversight."

-Student Insurgent co-editor Cimmeron Gillespie writes in a guest commentary in the ODE titled "Fiscal conservatism limits services" We agree. Fiscal oversight is bad. Let's just spin a big wheel and assign random amounts to certain groups. A politician's wet dream.



ON JOURNALISM

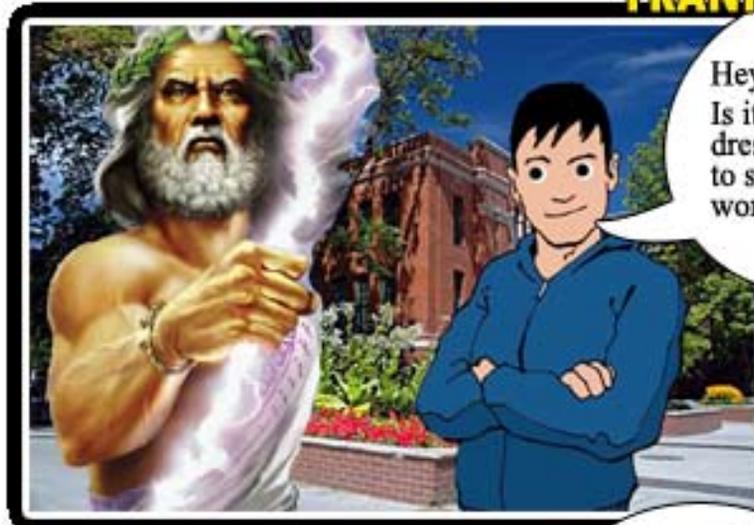


"Utilizing the facility at Washington-Jefferson Park. To assist those members of our community most in need by providing a structured, safe atmosphere that encourages physical fitness and self-reliant community organizing. The Oregon Vagabond Basketball League/Street Paper instills dignity, increases self esteem, and enhances public safety for the citizens of Eugene. We offer information about community resources through our publication, and a creative outlet for the homeless who write articles for the paper we distribute."

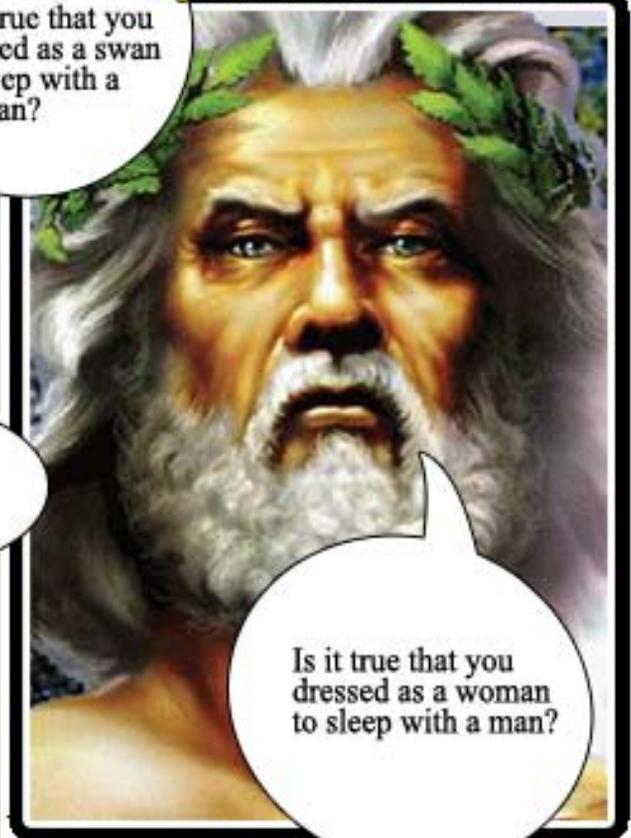
-The mission statement for the Oregon Vagabond, a self-described "street paper" written by hobos that we found in one of our distribution boxes. Knowing the cost of printing a paper, we wonder how many cases of Steel Reserve those hobos could have drunk with the money spent on a paper for the transient.

FRANK CONSULTS A HIGHER POWER

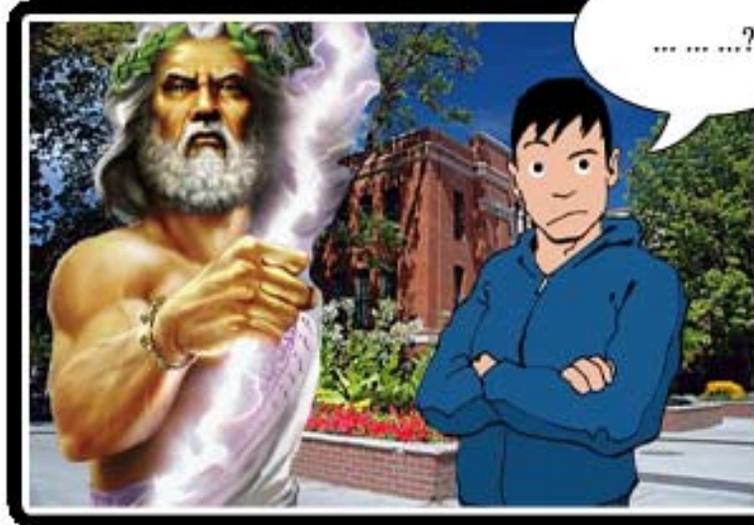
by Pete Freedom Lesiak



Hey Zeus,
Is it true that you
dressed as a swan
to sleep with a
woman?



Is it true that you
dressed as a woman
to sleep with a man?



... ..?



Touché...