

OREGON COMMENTATOR

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A Journal of Opinion



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get S.A.D.
get SUDS®*



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-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.

FROM THE INSIDE, OUT

The Pacifica Forum was founded in 1994 by Orval Etter, a longtime pacifist and Eugene resident. The Forum's purpose then, as it is now, was to "provide information and points of view regarding war and peace, militarism, pacifism and violence and non violence." The Forum was created to procure an open space for debate that was dedicated to freedom of speech. Sometime along the long and windy road some sixteen years later the Pacifica Forum has turned into a sideshow of unabashed bigotry, homophobia and anti-semitism.

As the members and motives of the Pacifica Forum changed their ideologies started to shift. The Forum started allowing more controversial topics and speakers to attend their annual meetings. Sometime this past decade the Forum became home to a small and vocal group of white separatists. The hate speech started flowing and student fears started growing. The group has created an environment on campus that has led to an overwhelming number of students from all ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations fearing that they are no longer safe on campus.

This is where the issue currently lies. The Pacifica Forum hides behind the First Amendment and Etter's professor emeritus status; while protesters believe that the lines of free speech have been crossed and have turned over to violent hate speech. The question at hand for the administration is whether or not the Pacifica Forum has crossed the line over into violence. The Forum is now in hot water due to threats from associates of the forum both in person and online directed to student protesters.

These allegations have become the forefront of the argument to kick the group off of campus.

While The Pacifica Forum was created to hear and discuss all different types of viewpoints it has become a group that has become synonymous with hate speech. It is the fear of the University and the students that this group is attracting hate groups and setting a precedence for white supremacist to enter the campus.

With that being said, it is time for the Pacifica Forum to take responsibilities of it's members and affiliates. At the Forum's meeting on January 22nd, spokesman Billy Rojas stated

"The question at hand for the
administration is whether or not the
Pacifica Forum has crossed the line
over into violence."

that there is no member list or qualifications to become a member. All you have to do to join and take part in the Pacifica Forum is attend the meetings. If you choose to become

a member of these meetings all it takes is attendance. Members are responsible for setting issues for discussions, topics for debates, and inviting people to lecture on certain topics.

During the meeting on the 22nd Rojas seemed blatantly ignorant of allegations that members and affiliates of the groups have been sending "threats" to students. If Rojas going to be the spokesperson for the Forum, he must be in control or at least be aware of the actions of your members. Rojas did not seem totally in control of himself or his group. After all, he did start off the Forum explaining how he incorrectly stated which side of the room Anti-Hate Task Force member Michael Williams sat at during a previous meeting. A simple right or left problem. The issue seems to be the leadership and organization of the forum. It's time to question who is really running

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In Defense of Free Speech

Dear Oregon Commentator,

We would like you to cover the Pacifica Forum debate that took place today. My friends and I went, but what we found was not the free exchange of ideas but a circus, a shouting match that ultimately ended in nothing of intellectual value. The Nazis stormed out in the first 5 minutes, and the leader of the Pacifica Forum was harassed for the continuing 25 minutes of so. While the Pacifica Forum member spoke (who was not a Nazi) the protesters made coordinated pointing motions with their hands that looked shockingly like Nazi salutes.

What I saw today was a horrible re-enactment of what the Nazis themselves did; silence unpopular opinion, appeal to the basest part of human nature, and ultimately a crime against free speech. I hate the Nazis, both those of Germany and the ones I saw today at the Pacifica forum, both protester and speaker.

—Nash Callaghan

P.S. When my black friend went up to speak to the forum leader afterwards a cop came up and asked him, out of everyone in the group if, “they were cool,” it was bullshit.

P.P.S. I think you guys have a great publication

In Defense of Free Speech, Part 2

Dear Oregon Commentator,

I attended the Pacifica Forum debate today to see for myself if the forum was a Nazi supporting hate machine or if what [the] ODE was saying was just liberal bias. I was presented with a 2-sided debate over the meaning behind the swastika symbol. Before the debate could even begin, however, the speakers were interrupted by a chorus of protesters who were so unruly that the debate could not be orchestrated. Throughout the event, protesters yelled, stomped their feet, and made hand signals disturbingly similar to “Heil Hitler” motion to kill the “hate speech” (which was actually a speech about how the swastika has been used for centuries in other cultures).

I was far more disturbed by their attempts to kill free speech than the debaters themselves (I included a Neo-Nazi). At one point a protestor screamed “FUCK FREE SPEECH!” and was met with a loud round of applause. I left the Forum meeting in tears. I am deeply ashamed of my fellow UO students for their inability to support free speech. I came to the University not only to get an education but also to expose myself to different people whose viewpoints do not mirror my own. What went on at the Pacifica Forum was mockery of the 1st Amendment and intolerance in its purest form. I do not support Nazis, Hitler or Communism but I do support debate and the opposing viewpoints that make healthy

debate possible.

My purpose to writing you is to ask that you write an article on the Pacifica Forum in an unbiased way, showing that different views, no matter how much we detest them, must be able to be heard. It’s our right.

—Deeply ashamed UO student

A Grateful Alum

Hi. I am an old Oregon Alum from ‘92. I wrote on the Commentator under the pen name J. Jordan Burke. It is really amazing to see all the work you guys have done and putting info on the internet is great. I chuckle at how the same old political games go on, just the names change. Keep up the good fight. What you guys are doing right now made a big difference to me (and saved me from liberalism)!

—Mike

You’ve been a very bad contributor

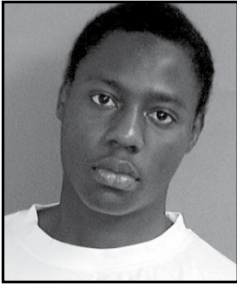
Hey guys,

So, I was somehow under the impression, until my roommate informed me five minutes ago, that it was Monday. I’m not exactly sure how this happened, seeing as I attended my Tuesday-Thursday classes with little issue, and in addition, seemed without any curiosity as to why I had before that attended school on what would’ve theoretically been a Sunday - but it did. Anyways, I’m sorry for having missed the meeting.



asks ...

What's your drink of choice?



Crotch Bomber:
Jail Juice.

Obama:
Busch Light



Michael J. Fox:
Martini - shaken, not stirred.



Ol' Timey Prospector:
Sarsapirilla!



Valdas Anelauskas:
Jew tears.



Diego Hernandez:
Adios motherfucker!



**UO PRESIDENT RICHARD "DICK" LARIVIERE'S
HATWATCH 2010**

**This Week:
Masquerade**

**"Keeping my
identity a secret
until the
Pacifica Forum
debate blows over."**



Sudsy Says:
"Free speech
is one thing,
but
nobody
better
restrict
my right
to free
drinks."



Decade Issue Corrections

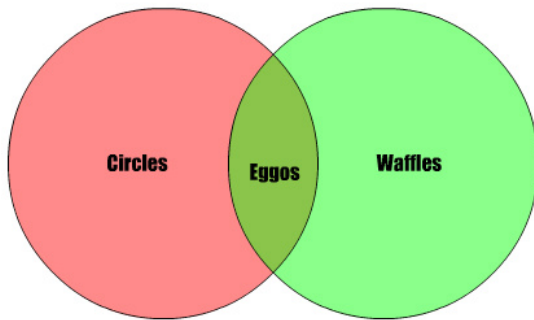
* In the "Stats" section of the last magazine, one of the entries read "0: Comments on the Daily Emerald Blog from November 9th, 2009." The caption was supposed to read "Comments on the Daily Emerald blog since November 9th, 2009." The *Commentator* regrets the error.

*Gordon Glass' "Hobo Cigar Review" inadvertently called Swisher cigars "black and sweet". The *Commentator* regrets the error.

Graphs and Comics

Drew Cattermole & Henry Jinings

Waffles vs. Circles



SIXPACK37: THATS CRAZY IM 16 TOO WE SHLD MEET IN PERSON
 EMILY22: REALLY? SEEMS LIKE EVRY 1 I MEET ON THE INTER-
 NET IS MY AGE EXACTLY
 SIXPACK37: YA I KNOW WEIRD WE SHOULD SRSLY MEET UP



**AN ELUCIDATION OF THOSE
 HAND GESTURES BICYCLISTS MAKE**



PLEASE STRIKE ME FORCEFULLY ON THE RIGHT SIDE
 WITH YOUR VEHICLE, ENSURING THAT MY PELVIS IS
 ADEQUATELY CRUSHED BY THE IMPACT.

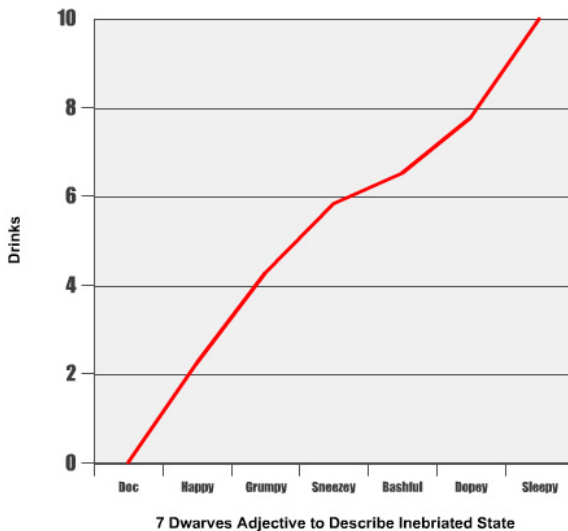


PLEASE RUN ME OFF OF THE ROAD AND INTO A
 NEARBY BLACKBERRY BUSH WHERE I AM SURE TO
 SUSTAIN CONSIDERABLE LACERATIONS.



PLEASE RAM MY BACKSIDE WITH ENOUGH SPEED
 THAT I AM HURTLED OVER MY HANDLEBARS AND
 SENT SKIDDING ACROSS THE PAVEMENT IN A
 SICKENING DISPLAY.

Drunken Dwarves



Bagels



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© They Doth Protest Too Much ©

Everything you wanted to know about the Oregon Commentator protesting the Pacifica Forum protesters but were too stupid to ask.

Nicholas Ekblad

It was Friday January 8th when this year's first Pacifica Forum was held in the Walnut Room of the EMU. Our very own Ross Coyle photographed the Forum with his camera and posted a blog about it on the *Commentator* website. The Forum's first meeting brought with it a dirty and ambiguous controversy, something that the *Oregon Commentator* was not going to pass up.

The following week, Pacifica Forum was accused of having ties to violent organizations and, subsequently, recent violent acts on campus. This was becoming increasingly interesting, particularly because there hadn't been any notices of a student being harassed on campus from DPS or EPD. Pacifica was attacked with cries of sexism and other bigotries. Apparently, the Forum was simply unable to conduct itself with any sort of

order, having been thoroughly interrupted by the acutely tolerant protest group. Naturally, the *Oregon Commentator* felt the need to investigate further. One Black Tea Society member indulged to Sudsy O'Sullivan, with whom she has been sleeping with for some time now, the details of a protest-organizational meeting. Sudsy appeared at the next OC meeting and made a statement concerning the protesters.

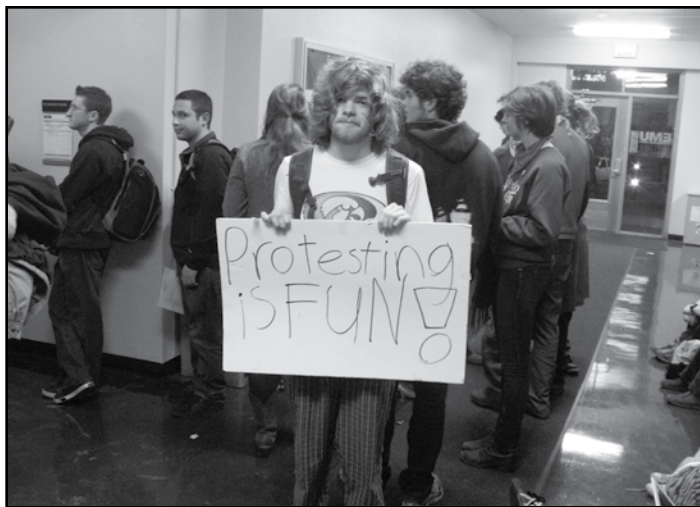
"So it's war, they want eh, Sudsy?" Editor-in-Cheif Drew Cattermole pressed our lovable mascot for more information considering the

protesters, their plans and their promiscuity. "Well it's war they'll get! Nobody threatens the First Amendment around here without first suffering a calamitous retaliation from the *Oregon Commentator*! Staffers, drop everything and start making signs! I don't care what article you are working on, I want this to be top priority! These protesters are horribly mistaken if think they can be the only rabbling nuisance on campus!" With those inspiring words, my fellow staffers and I got to work.

Henri Jinings and I took it upon ourselves to initiate reconnaissance missions, starting with the protest meeting that Sudsy had mentioned. We wanted to be sure that any plans that the protesters drew up would come as no surprise to the *Commentator*. T. Dane Carbaugh and Pete Lesiak made signs, buttons and t-shirts

that opposed the stance taken by those pesky protesters. Some of their catchy slogans included: "Teabag the Black Tea!" "Rabble rabble rabble!" "Down with bandanas!" and "Protesting is fun!"

Kiefer Ver Steegh, winner of the *Commentator's* December Beard of the Month contest, assumed the duty of tactical protester, offering to us his limitless knowledge on the many aspects of protesting. Kiefer described the protesters of the Pacifica Forum as being disorganized and psychologically insecure.



Kiefer VerSteegh protests the Pacifica Forum protesters alone

Advice for First Year Students

Henry Jinings

As the middle of the academic year approaches for college Freshmen, I thought I'd impart to the aforesaid some advice given to me by my friend Jeff Holf. Lest you wonder, he's a seventh-year senior, so he really knows his stuff.

- If you're supernaturally informed of your professor's childhood affectation, it is best that you wait until the end of the quarter before revealing it to him/her.
- Now that you're in college, you would be well advised to cease reliance upon pejorative high school epithets, namely: "mincing ass-dicker," "ultra-rapist," and the alliterative mainstay, "full-on flaming phallus fellator."
- Recently I discovered that my being sodomized behind a local Dari Mart was not part of this university's initiation canon, and that the individual who perpetrated the act was not a student as he had claimed to be. You are thus encouraged to be vigilant about inquiring as to the legitimacy of any and all initiation procedures you're approached with.
- If you or people you know adhere to an archaic form of the shamanic belief system, you would benefit from conducting all related ceremonies, including (but not limited to) blade smithing, vision quests, beach sand enemas, tree scaling, urine distillation, and Deadly Nightshade consumption in designated observation areas around campus.
- Be prepared, if you haven't experienced this already, for your professors to assign endearing nicknames to you: for example, in Comparative Literature my freshman year, I was known as "Jew Boy" because of my faith.
- If you attended a private preparatory school wherein you were routinely forced to hold your hand over a lit candle until it was snuffed out by your tears, know that, unless you're planning on eventually enrolling at Brown, the same will not be expected from you at any other accredited university.
- While you were often encouraged to print papers backwards in High School so that your instructor could read them in a mirror, I've found that any replication of this action in college is met with some irritation by whoever happens to be doing the grading. The same can be said with using saliva to bind hard-copied work rather than staples or a paper clip.
- Try and learn as much as you can about the deeply personal lives of your professors. Did you ever see Half Nelson? More often than not they're concealing an advanced addiction to crack cocaine which can be exploited to your benefit: buy them a few rocks and see where it gets you (right into graduate school is my estimation).
- While you're testing a Daedalus-inspired flying mechanism was often an acceptable reason to skip class in your formative years of schooling, you'll find that most of your college professors aren't so quick to pardon you unless you're still covered in sticky tar from when the visage melted. Conversely, you need little evidence besides the requisite MS 13 tattoo covering your abdomen to be excused on account of gang vengeance or turf wars.
- In case you haven't already noticed, some colleges conduct classes in a similar manner to that of a vaudeville act. If you're not particularly enjoying a lecture or, more importantly, a lecturer, throw full bottles of wine in their direction until they're hooked off of the stage by a giant cane to Scott Joplin's Wall Street Rag.



Henry Jinings is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and is working on his 6th bachelor's degree.



MEASURED RESPONSE



Joe Rouse

Proposition 66 & 67 has raised a lot of controversy in Oregon. On the surface it seems like a rather simple concept. Raise taxes on rich individuals and business's for the sake of our public services. Upon reviewing the ballot I was upset and disappointed with whatever government agency was responsible for the writing. The ballot was completely biased and supportive of the "yes" option. Shouldn't a ballot for an important vote that will have far reaching implications be presented in a completely neutral manner? Shouldn't the ballot convey a sense of nothing but the facts behind the situation? Truth is relative but facts do not lie, and all the ballot presented was carefully worded rhetoric designed to intimidate and steer you in circles.

Proposition 66 & 67 represents a debate that's lasted for decades; who should bear the brunt of our taxes? The forever battle between business, the wealthy, and the environment. Although I am no tree-hugger, fact of the matter is that the \$10 minimum corporate income tax hasn't been changed since 1931, the new minimum would be set at \$150 dollars. Although the \$140 dollar increase may not seem much, increasing taxes as a ploy to lure in new business is ludicrous. Oregon has been hoping in vain that its economy is going to change for the better but increasing taxes on business is not the method to bring about a positive revision.

Oregon has no sales tax and in the long run this has harmed Oregon's public services more than anything. Portland's schools suffer because the only thing that funds them is property tax (hence why shitty neighborhoods have shitty schools). Oregon cannot keep existing with one hand tied behind its back. Oregon has been on a downward slope ever since the end of the lumber

industry. How is that ever going to change until the state government does something controversial like legalizing and taxing marijuana or promoting the research of stem cells and/or nanotechnology? Oregon has already led the way with recycling and being ecological but it still has to do something to bring in the money.

However, despite the fact that my perceptions of voting in America were crushed over the course of a mere couple of hours simply because of the way a voting ballot was written, I still felt like I learned many things. For instance I learned that unemployment compensation is tax-deductible, and that every state has a credit-rating towards the federal government and should that credit rating be negative the cost of future borrowing by the state and local governments would increase.

In the end we will have no idea about the consequences of our actions; smooth-talking liberals act like they clearly see the future and conservatives keep preaching pro-business like a broken record. But the fact of the matter is this vote will affect Oregonians not now, but twenty years from now. Voting "yes" because your professor does so is not a proper exercise of your right to vote; neither is voting for whatever side has the "prettiest" commercial. If you gave a damn you would have googled the issue and tried to understand it from a fresh pair of eyes free from the subjectivity of your environment and upbringing. But because most of you are fine doing what people tell you, keep doing what you do!

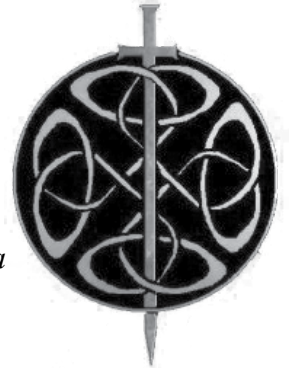


Joe Rouse is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and also votes "Yes" on 69.



Medieval Combat Comes to Eugene

Eugene's realm of the Belegarth Medieval Combat Society, Tir na nOg, lets students hone their skills in sword fighting.



T. Dane Carbaugh

You may have seen them on Sundays, battling for supremacy of the East lawn of the EMU. Dressed in everything from hoodies to chain mail, members of the Eugene realm of the Belegarth Medieval Combat Society, called "Tir na nOg", take to the grounds in between Carson Hall and the EMU.

The realm—or branch—of the society follows the rules found on the Belegarth website, www.belegarth.com. Members of the realm take part in what is commonly mislabeled as "LARPing" (live action role playing). "The Belegarth Medieval Combat Society is more about combat," says Field Commander Ryan Aniello,



Two fighters square off.



Walk softly and carry a big stick.

whose *Tir na nOg* name is "Demestes". In part, Belegarth rules of combat differ from LARPing in that there are no stats, storylines or spells. "It's not like Dungeons and Dragons," says Aniello. Instead, members of *Tir na nOg* are there to hone their skills in swords, maces and shields.

The rules of the game are fairly simple. Players take part in many kinds

of games from "pitfighting" — a round robin, king of the hill type one-on-one game—to large team battles with thirty or more people on either side. One game variant, called "Vampire" is a free-for-all which models a game type found in several video games. If a player is killed, they fall to the ground but keep an eye on their assailant. If their killer is then killed by another player, they regain the ability to fight. "Essentially, one player has to kill everyone else. It gets really fun when there's thirty or forty people," said Aniello.

One-on-one combat rules are fairly simple. Players are allowed their arms, legs and torso as points of contact. When limbs are struck, they must either tuck it behind their back or kneel if a leg is lost. If more than two limbs are hit, the player is considered "dead". Players are also allowed to call "graze" or "light" hits in which they were not fully struck by an opponent. "After 3 or 4 graze

hits, everyone pretty much agrees that you've lost that limb," said Aniello. The battles are based on an honor system, but there are referees called "Heralds" that make sure everyone plays fair.

Belegarth combat has become increasingly popular at the University of Oregon in recent years. The Facebook group for *Tir na nOg* shows almost 70 members, and turnout is usually pretty good when weather permits. Just last Saturday, the EMU lawn hosted a massive gathering when a realm from Portland came down and joined in the fun.

"We have about thirty people show up with regularity, sometimes more," said Aniello. *Tir na nOg* recently was afforded \$3,182 in a special surplus request from the ASUO Senate. The money, according to members of *Tir na nOg*, is so that anyone can show up at any time and play. "We're purchasing weapons this week with the money, so we will bring them with us every time we play," said Aniello. The society, which is currently "ASUO recognized" is moving towards gaining full ASUO status, with a yearly budget, "We missed the deadline to file for that this year, so we had to go through the surplus process instead," said Aniello. "Next year we want to be a real student group."

Indeed, members of the society were openly



An injured fighter (left) tries to thwart off an attacking challenger.

friendly to passers by when the *Commentator* was interviewing its members. One of our staffers, Nicholas Ekblad, even had a try at fighting, "I got my ass handed to me. They're really good," said Ekblad. Aniello said that the entire point of the society is to help each other get really good, "That way it's more fun."

Aniello himself has training in Aikido, "The martial arts classes at the Rec Center really help you out. Taking Aikido, you work a lot with a Katana [sword] and you learn the basics—footwork, offense and defense," he said. "It's not just a bunch of kids beating each other with foam swords."

If students would like to join the society or just play, *Tir na nOg* meets every Sunday at 1pm on the lawn of the EMU. "Anyone is welcome," said Aniello, "We really just want everyone to have fun and enjoy themselves. That's what it's really all about."



Many fighters rely on their shields to defend against attackers.



T. Dane Carbaugh is the publisher of the Oregon Commentator.

PRIDE AND PRECEDENCE

The Pacifica Forum has made its mark on the University of Oregon campus as protesters and administration try to remove the group completely.

Ross Coyle

Protesters of the Pacifica Forum turned out in the afternoon of Friday, January 15, in spite of rain and limited seating. Protesting was so disruptive that Jimmy Marr, one of the keynote speakers for the day, left after only 15 minutes of discussion.

More than 250 student protesters lined the sidewalk, clutching signs and taking refuge beneath umbrellas while Billy Rojas, the current spokesman for the forum, debated Marr on the use of the Swastika as a Nazi symbol. The rally began in the EMU, co-led by Cimmeron "Cims" Gillespie, an editor for the *Student Insurgent* and included picket making and Gillespie speaking out against the Forum. The mob then marched from the EMU to Agate hall, all the while with Cims banging his drum.

At the debate, students took all available opportunities to disrupt it, from shouting and jeering to stamping their feet, and even running an anti-Forum banner through the room. The students accomplished their goal of disrupting the meeting; Marr and an unidentified woman and man left the building giving "Sieg Hiel" salutes.

The protestors encompassed all parts of the community, ranging from community members, UO students, and middle school classes. Alex Connelly, a UO graduate and Spencer's Butte Middle School teacher, took his ecology class to the protest. Connelly wanted his class to see how a community interacts like an ecological system. "I don't want them to see the Nazis," he said, "I want them to see the people coming together and feeling a connection to one another".

Other protestors simply were in the right



Pacifica Forum founder Orval Etter speaks at the latest meeting.

place at the right time. Dianira Mendez and Isirido Zaragoza both heard about the protest while they were on campus Friday. "It sounded like a worthy cause and felt like we should join in," the two said. They also oppose the forum, feeling that "it's infringing on other people's beliefs and becoming hurtful."

Professor Emeritus Orval Etter created Pacifica Forum in 1994 as a speech and debate forum for controversial and extremist topics. Connelly said the group was significantly different when he was a student, "Back then, this group was left wing. I have no idea how it went from what it was then to what it is now." The administration removed the group last year from its usual meeting place in McKenzie Hall last year, citing concerns from History and Ethnic Studies faculty. Michael Williams, a writer and member of the Anti-Hate Task Force, has been a constant presence at Pacifica meetings, and has acted as a historian of Pacifica.

"I have attended every meeting, and

made sure I was the most informed person in the room, including the speaker,” Williams said in an interview, where he detailed the groups programs over the last year and a half. Williams claims that each meeting’s programming shifts like a tide. It will have a number of low key meetings, and then bring back Nazism. In recent years, Pacifica has become more controversial, culminating in Marr’s December 11th promotion of the National Socialist Movement, a known white supremacist group.

“I don’t know of any threats that have gone to the legal level, but there have been implied threats, and there has been intimidation,” he remarked when asked about the safety issue. “Just because a statement is legal doesn’t mean it’s not intimidating or threatening.” Williams is more frustrated at the forums one-sided programs than its actual neo-Nazi messages.

According to Williams, Etter has failed to create a dialogue, and instead simply defended programs that were anti-semitic as free speech. “There is no academic quality,” he argues, “because it presents a single point of view, and it cherry picks to do that.” Williams has compiled a list of Pacifica programs from the last year, each one marked with classifications of bigotry, anti-semitism, or neo-Nazism.

Billy Rojas, one of the groups principal speakers, argues against the Forum being painted as all neo-Nazis. Rojas, who has spoken many times at the forum, and has taught as a religious studies teacher for a number of colleges. Rojas claims that the Forum has held very few meetings covering Nazism and actively opposed Marr’s antics at recent meetings. Since the coverage of the Forum on January 8, Rojas has written three letters to the Eugene Weekly and UO administration.

His first letter reiterated the Forum’s composition as both pro- and anti-Zionist, as well as pro- and anti-Palestinian and attacked the Black Tea Society, the initial protest group, for not actually listening to the debate and only disrupting actual discourse. His second letter clarified events at the January 15 debate, and reiterated many of his previous points about the protestor activity. His most recent writing was



Protesters march through campus to Agate Hall.

an open letter to UO president Lariviere, laced with frustration at what he feels are unjustified allegations and condemnations of the Forum.

Gillespie disputes his points, “I think it’s a wonderful argument, but it doesn’t hold up here,” he said in response to the Forum’s protection by the First Amendment. He also claims the Forum has made comments, “that some women are ok to rape. Once you start going that far, then you are making threats.” Gillespie claims that the Forums comments are making students uncomfortable and afraid, which was Kallaway’s own reasoning for ousting the group from the EMU.

The protesters can’t seem to agree what part of Pacifica to protest. Some want it out for having hateful messages. “I’d say they’ve crossed the bounds of acceptable free speech,” said Cameron Kennedy, with the Anarchist Group Black Tea Society. Others, like Gillespie, want to boot it because it’s “creating a safety issue”.

Gillespie thinks that removing Pacifica from the EMU is just a start, “The University has an obligation to expel them from campus, because the University attracts especially students of color.” Gillespie worries that the Forum’s presence on campus is increasing the risk of violence against these students and other campus minorities.

The Forum is difficult to moderate because of its own, oftentimes contradictory, membership standards. “They say they have no members,

but then say they make decisions on consensus,” Gillespie said, trying to explain the group’s membership. Gillespie’s main concern is that the forum, “Brings people with a history of violence on to campus.” Gillespie claims that several confirmed neo-Nazis, shortly after being released from Lane County jail, returned to attending Pacifica Forum meetings.

The Black Tea Society is trying to remove the group on grounds of safety instead of free speech, which is strange because its members could do a lot more by bringing threats to the attention of administration than by having disruptive sit-ins on Forum meetings. Devon Schlotterbeck, a worker at the Women’s Center and member of the Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team, created an anti-Pacifica group on Facebook with the purpose of raising awareness about the Forum to remove it from campus, citing student safety.

Schlotterbeck said that a number of students have received threatening Facebook messages, and that an unidentified man at the Forum had an altercation with several students, telling them to “watch out at night”. “They’ve threatened us with rape, they’ve threatened us on campus,” she told the *Commentator*. She also claims ASUO President Kallaway received a threatening e-mail. Beyond this, students have mentioned attacks on campus, like one behind the Knight Law School several months ago.

Schlotterbeck declined to put the *Commentator* in touch with any of the victims of the Facebook threats. Similarly, the Eugene Police Department could not corroborate the claims of the Knight Law School attack. Even Kallaway said that her intimidating e-mail was simply a picture of her at the meeting with her quotes beneath it. “It’s more of an intimidation tactic than a threat,” were her remarks when speaking of it.

Schlotterbeck also has a questionable reputation with her own Facebook group. During a thread entitled “Safety Issues”, Schlotterbeck banned several students for questioning her arguments. “She basically said hate speech is equated to violence, which I question,” remarked one of the banned students. “I’d go for the more



Cimmeron Gillespie speaks at the Pacifica Forum

calm and rational approach, and let their ignorance reveal itself.” The same student said, when asked about Pacifica, “they should be treated like anyone else.” Tony, a philosophy student (who wished to have his last name withheld) was also banned from the Facebook page after posting on “Safety Issues”. He too takes issue with Schlotterbeck’s heavy handed moderation of the topic.

Tony told the *Commentator* that he debated with Schlotterbeck about group reservations at the EMU based on the emeritus privilege Orval Etter uses to reserve space in the building. A student has used the Swedish Film Festival as an example of what the University could prohibit without the emeritus privilege. Schlotterbeck, according to Tony, called the point invalid because “Pacifica promotes hate speech”. Tony replied that it was a valid point, but a bad example, of a

public institution rejecting a reservation based on content. "And that's a state institution stopping someone from exercising their policy based on their message. That would be saying the law doesn't apply to this guy (Swedish Film Festival) but it does apply to this guy (Pacifica Forum)." After his comment, Schlotterbeck banned Tony and deleted the entire topic, to the puzzlement of many people. But Tony has remained rational about the situation, and still focuses his efforts on Pacifica.

While he opposes Pacifica Forum and supports the protesters, he is against removing them from campus on the basis of their message, "Unfortunately, so long as Etter is there, they have a right to be here, and to interfere with that right, means interfering with that First Amendment right. It's not up to me, as an individual, to interfere with their right to speak their minds."



A DPS officer making sure the protesters stay orderly.

Tony agrees that Pacifica Forum promotes ideas that are in direct opposition to the University's goals, but leaves it to campus administration to make the call on when that time comes, "I didn't hear anything, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen. Now is the time, with the public spotlight on this group, to look for safety issues."

Tony's concern is setting a precedent of the administrative decisions of the next few weeks. He worries that a precedent will be set for a majority to silence a minority based on what they say. "There have been tons of laws passed for a very specific purpose, that may have been doing public good, that later get construed to do damage or harm." He worries that this will set a precedent to control speech.

Gillespie also worries that the groups presence on campus will mislead people into assuming it is endorsed by administration. "If somebody reads in the paper 'Pacifica Forum at the University of Oregon' without knowing they're not related," Gillespie points out, "they'll think that this is a scholarly group that's being promoted by the University, and that's not the case." University administration has condemned the Forum and is currently looking for a way to change the bylaws that allow the Forum to exist.

"It's frustrating to have to witness this," said University Vice President Charles Martinez after the Friday meeting. Martinez reports that the University is not trying to shut the Forum down, but it is trying to set terms of academic inquiry as opposed to what Martinez refers to as "hate-mongering". "There should always be venues for free speech," he says, but he also believes there needs to be standards and rules in place for emerita privileges.

"The statement we issued yesterday was not at all designed to be the final statement on the issue," Martinez explained after the Pacifica meeting January 22. The administration is committed to student safety, "Whether that's a real or imagined threat, the reality is that our students feel unsafe." The administration is looking at all avenues to resolve the issue in an

effort to maintain student safety and creating an understanding that Pacifica doesn't reflect the University, while not limiting free speech, "That won't be a stance this University ever would take."

"It's challenging, of course, the First Amendment freedom of speech rights, the sponsorship of an emeritus professor, and the whole issue of student safety," said Dean of Students Paul Shang. Administration officials are taking pains to clearly distance themselves and the University from the Pacifica Forum. Shang reiterated that until students feel threatened, administration is treating them like any other group. "I think there are times where they have crossed the line, such as saying people are too ugly to rape, or pleasant enough to rape. We're talking about people who aren't very coherent." Shang said the group is consistently close to language that sounds threatening, but isn't legally threatening.

ASUO president Emma Kallaway, along with Vice President Getachew Kassa, also helped coordinate the rally. "We wanted to create fear and anger in the forum, and we accomplished that today," said Kassa.

Kallaway's primary concern is the implied threats to students, "Anytime when students tell me they're afraid to walk to classes, that's where I have to step in."

"There isn't a line where hate speech invokes violence," Kallaway responded in an interview. Kallaway can't show hard evidence of violent threats, but she is afraid that the hate speech is creating anger in the community, "Saying you're too ugly to rape or too pretty to rape, that's where it moves into unsafety. Why are they targeting individual people?"

Kallaway is pleased with the administration's decision to remove the group from the EMU, "I don't want to be encouraging this type of dialogue that could err on the side of being unsafe." She thinks Agate Hall will be better for the group as well, as they'll have the same resources as in the EMU, and being on the ground floor will make it easier for Etter, who is confined to a wheelchair. She takes issue more

with the group's free use of campus space than their actual presence on campus. She respects their rights to say what they want on public land, but wants them to pay for the space and resources they use. Doing so would put the Forum under the EMU code of conduct, and allow it approve or disapprove a reservation. Effectively, if the Forum has to pay for their space instead of being hosted by Etter, the University administration could flat out deny them space on the grounds that the Forum acts against the University's mission.

"I'll be asking to provide feedback on those administrative rules," Kallaway said. She wants to review the administrations rewrite of the University bylaws concerning emerita, "We don't want to limit free speech."

While Rojas denies the Forum's involvement with white supremacist groups such as Stormfront and Volksfront, it's undeniable that Pacifica draws these groups with its current programming. "The attraction is the scary part," Kallaway said about the forum. She also believes members have connections to outside groups, if only through Marr.

The question of whether Pacifica poses a genuine threat to students is still in the air, and will probably remain there until proof of explicit threats can be shown. Tony, the student banned from the Anti-Forum Facebook group, made an important point in that regardless of what action is taken in the near future, it will set precedence for students in the next five years, even ten years.

The goal to oust hate groups from campus is a noble one, but the question boils down to who is more at fault: A group of white supremacists who want to sit in a room and talk to each other, or the group of students willing to compromise their civil rights in the name of "righteousness".



Ross Coyle is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator

MEANS TO AN END

The NSA and the FBI have been wiretapping American citizens illegally, infringing on our Fourth Amendment rights.



Kiefer VerSteegh



In my first few days in this world, probably sometime between cutting the umbilical cord and circumcision, I apparently signed a social contract which waived many liberties in order to gain security. They probably forged my signature, but I'll never know. Regardless of whether a baby's foot print counts as a binding signature, as an American I feel like I got shafted in the trade. As attention has shifted to important issues such as health care, Afghanistan and *Jersey Shore*, lesser known

issues such as electronic privacy have been swept under the rug while more and more liberties are taken away in the name of security.

On January 19th the *Washington Post* released information received in a set of e-mails detailing over 2,000 cases in which the FBI illegally obtained phone records between 2002 and 2006. A Justice Department audit of the FBI in 2007 of the same time period found only 22 inappropriate phone record requests (identifying ten out of 1,000 isn't too bad). The more shocking detail lies in the manner that they obtained the records.

As it turns out, the FBI was in the practice of fabricating terrorist emergencies to phone companies in order to gain access to most of those 2,000 cases. The Justice Department also recently released an audit report uncovering the same details with a little sugar coating, "The FBI's use of exigent letters and other informal requests for telephone toll billing records circumvented, and in many cases violated, the requirements of the Electronic Communications Protection Act statute."

The report also revealed that the Obama administration made a quiet ruling a couple weeks prior that stated it was legal for the FBI to have skirted federal privacy protections. This brings up two major issues. First, the government creating false crises as a means to an end and second, branches of the government not doing their job or overstepping their bounds.

The FBI creating a few fake terrorist situations in order to gain phone records may seem harmless to some, but

in reality this is the sort of thing that if allowed leads to far greater and worse actions. Operation Northwood was a project proposed by the CIA in the early 1960s in order to take care of our problem with Cuba. The project consisted of terrorizing American citizens in some fashion while disguising it with false evidence as a Cuban attack. From there U.S. government agencies would create a veil of imminent threat so that the United States would be justified in taking care of Cuba.

This was an actual proposed plan that was only declassified less than a decade ago. At the risk of sounding like Dale Gribble, one could conclude that if Operation Northwood with its proposed hijackings and bombings nearly happened half a century ago, then what other conspiracies of the same nature may have happened since? With many conspiracy theories holding very serious allegations, it's easy to understand how important this FBI case

"If I'm to follow this contract, then the government needs to hold up its end of the deal and not change the terms."



I'M FROM NEW JERSEY, SUCK MY BALLS



Pete Lesiak

Imagine you're at a party having a good time. After a couple drinks, you start talking to some people and the subject of where everyone is from comes up. Oregon, California, ect. ect. It's all the same as usual, but then it's my turn. I am from New Jersey. One girl immediately says, "Weird you don't have an accent. How bad is it living there?" To which I respond with, "What the fuck?"

Stuff like this happens all the time. Growing up in New Jersey I never really understood where this negative stereotype of New Jersey came from, but when I came to Oregon it all became very clear. TV hates New Jersey. I have seen it over and over again on multiple TV shows, and now with the invention of the monstrosity *Jersey Shore* I'm getting more flak than ever before and I've had enough.

First of all, everyone thinks New Jersey folk are supposed to have a heavy accent. Pronouncing the state as "Noo Joisey." You're retarded and it's even more retarded to listen to people try to tell me how to pronounce my home state. Normal people in New Jersey don't talk like that. I've lived there most of my life and never heard this supposed "Jersey" accent once. That heavy accent is from New York and Boston. What happens is every summer New Jersey beaches get flooded with out-of-staters who pollute the air with their excuse for the English language. It's really quite horrible.



Further more, despite what the *Jersey Shore* might say, New Jersey is not filled with "Guido's and Guidette's." The fact that these people on the show call themselves Guido's along with declaring themselves proud Italians has a lot of my friends upset. Real Italian-American's hate being called Guido's. It's not a good thing.

These jackasses on *Jersey Shore* give America the illusion that New Jersey is the Mecca of hair gel, fake tans, and douchebaggery. For the most part you can't tell New Jerseyans from any other area near a cultural center. So if we could please return this fake-tan trash back to MTV that would be super.

To further my tale of anger New Jersey is not one big turnpike, we are not dirty, and there are actually trees in the state. The idea New Jersey is the "Armpit of America" has long been a thorn in my side, because we're called the "Garden State" for a reason. New Jersey is beautiful.

Let's start with the beaches.

They are not disgusting and there are no hypodermic needles or trash lining our beaches. This myth originates from the 1980's when New York was dumping trash into the ocean and started washing up on some beaches up north. Well, we sued there punk asses and they had to come clean all of it up crying like a little school girl. Some of the beaches aren't that great because a lot has been built on them, just like I've seen a bunch of beaches in California

be disgusting from so much commercialism, but most are beautiful. Why do you think so many people go to the Jersey Shore?

My favorite beach is in Island Beach State Park and I consider it to be one of the most beautiful beaches I've seen, and trust me I've been to California and South America too much not to appreciate a good beach. Also the beaches aren't too crowded either. On some you can go the whole day without seeing a soul, but again if you go to a beach in a city, like Atlantic City, then it will be crowded.

A big pet peeve of mine is that everyone thinks New Jersey is one big city, but if you would so kindly direct yourself to the google map image I've included you can see that a huge chunk of the state is forest. See all that dark stuff? That's forest. What? A Forest? In New Jersey? That's right and not just any forest; it is the New Jersey Pine Barrens and is one of the most unique forests in the world. It's located on top of a completely



The darker areas represent the "garden" part of the Garden State.

pure underground aquifer, one of the biggest drinkable sources in the Eastern United States. It's so pure that in the earlier part of the century Joseph Wharton wanted to pump water from the Pine Barrens to Philadelphia as a source of clean water. This forest is also unique in that due to the pH level, thousands of rare orchids and Carnivorous plants are found there and nowhere else. We also have a pigmy pine forest. That's



One of New Jersey's famous diners.

right, full grown pine trees that are shorter than a man at times. I'd also like to include there are rattlesnakes...fucking rattle snakes!!

I could go on all day on why New Jersey is great and disapprove every myth ever created about New Jersey, but that would be a waste of time. Because I have what you ignoramous don't have: the Jersey Attitude. It's what separates us from every other state, and at the end of the day I know that I come from a state with fantastic 24-hour diners at every corner, water ice, and WaWa's, of which you will never know the secretive joys. So while your watching the *Jersey Shore* thinking you know Jersey, here's what I have to say, "You don't know shit, I'm from New Jersey. Suck my Balls."



Pete Lesiak is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and wants to know what you're fucking looking at.

3-D Television: A Pointless Future

Carly Erickson

With a brand new decade ahead of us, there has been quite a lot of talk about what the next big technological advances will be. One in particular that I keep hearing about is the 3-D television. A few major television companies plan to have theirs out this year. Expect them to be common home fixtures in five to ten years and 3-D TV without the need for glasses will grace the world in about fifteen. As a TV lover, this is one leap in technology that I am not ready for.

I believe that the 3-D TV is, put simply, unnecessary. When I'm watching *Lost* I don't need to feel like those jungle monsters are chasing after me. I don't want to feel like there's a football game going on in my living room. I definitely do not need a reality show cat fight happening in my face. It just takes it too far and makes it too real, to the point that it ruins the television experience. Part of the fun of watching TV is who you watch it with. There's nothing like drinking a few beers and making fun of idiots on TV. Seriously, they'll put anyone on TV and let them make complete fools of themselves. How am I supposed to laugh at them with my fellow TV lovers if we're all sucked into our own three dimensional TV worlds? It isn't possible. You can't even look away from the television while wearing the glasses without giving yourself a

headache. I'll admit I'm not the biggest fan of technology to begin with, but this one is just too much.

I suppose that the 3-D television could be ok for movie watching. Watching a 3-D movie at home is currently a complete joke. It just doesn't translate well. I guess it could be nice for all you avid video game players as well. However, it's not something that I want. It's a waste of time.

If I want to see a movie in 3-D, I go to the theater. Video games are probably addicting enough as it is, and the 3-D world will just make it harder to pull yourself away from the game.

The day that I walk into somebody's house and there are 3-D glasses sitting next to the remote, I will be grossly disappointed. I hope that the audiences

testing these products tell the companies that they're wasting their time. I wish it was just all up to me, really. Unfortunately, none of this will happen. The 3-D TV will be here before I know it, but I still won't stop complaining about it.



Carly Erickson is a staff writer for the Oregon Commentator and is waiting out on 4-D TV

Milkis visits campus, reports a new age in national politics

Kiefer VerSteegh & Nicholas Ekblad

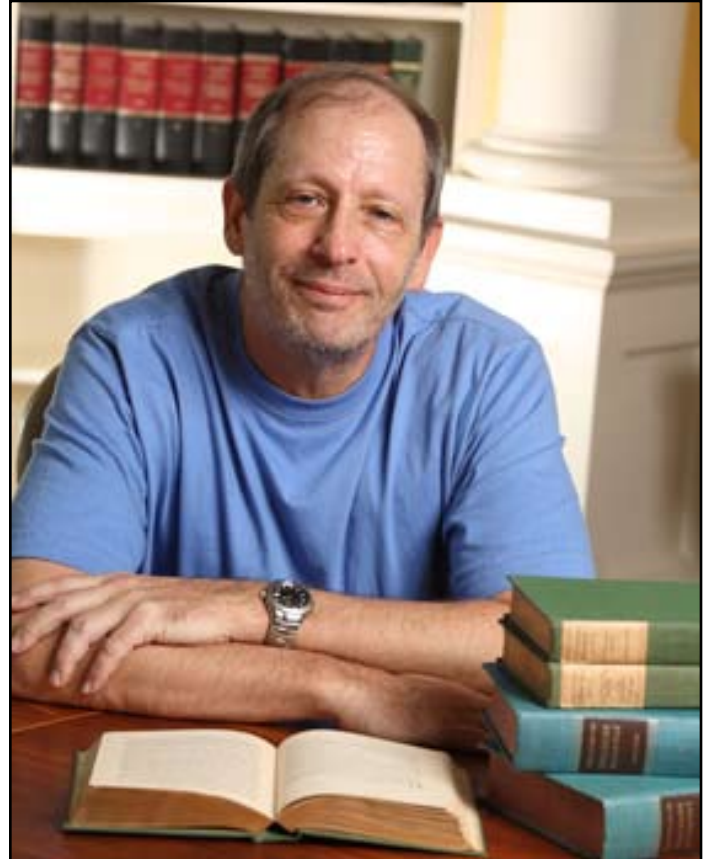
On January 13th Sidney Milkis, a professor from the University of Virginia, came to campus to speak at an event hosted by the Political Science department entitled “Great Expectations: Obama and the Politics of Reform.” We thought this would be an even breakdown of Obama’s political moves in the past year, and for some reason we weren’t quite expecting a worship session of the messiah. But it came fairly close. Yes indeed, a year post-election and we’re still talking about “Hope and Change”.

For a large portion of the time Milkis spoke on the subject of multiculturalism (as if we aren’t beat over the head with it enough here in Eugene). According to Milkis, Obama was a multi-racial man who consciously chose to be African-American, and he reaffirmed his intentions of remaining African-American by marrying Michelle Obama. Clearly, it was news to us that one has such reign over their ethnicity; nevertheless the speaker seemed to be suggesting Obama was brave for making the choice.

He then continued on with his multicultural theme, talking about the ability of Obama to represent America, despite being black. Apparently Obama is, “The first African-American to truly embody America’s values.” (MLK only does so on the third Monday of January each year). Somehow Milkis deduced that Obama being elected despite America’s xenophobic treatment of his middle name, Hussien, is iconic of everything good and righteous in American politics.

It was about this time when we started to notice the rising smug levels in the room. Milkis went on to discuss the successful minority voter turnout and said, “It was delicious that Sarah Palin made fun of Obama’s experience as a campaign organizer.” As the crowd chuckled we’re fairly certain we spotted someone over in a corner sniff their own fart.

It was easy to agree with the professor when he said, “He [Obama] was dealt a difficult hand.” Milkis wasn’t so quick in gathering our support when he started in on his Progressive charade. According



to the speaker the biggest “serpent in the Obama Garden of Eden” is foreign policy, particularly the righteous and good war in Afghanistan. Milkis tried to explain this would no longer be a problem because we are in an era in which everyone will understand that “Big government is not an obstacle of freedom.. Big government in our time is necessary to our protection.”

More importantly, Milkis tried to argue that the only reason the Right is opposed to health care is that, “They know this would be a great accomplishment.” Overall the seminar was a little smug for us. Then again, we’ve never been ones to worship the Gods.



Kiefer VerSteegh & Nicholas Ekblad are the distribution managers of the Oregon Commentator and don't understand that they are paper boys with a fancy title.

Budget season sees cries of racism, improper usage of student funding

The Multicultural Center's program advisor calls the Program Finance Committee a "white male boys club" while the Student Insurgent uses student funds to party in San Francisco

T. Dane Carbaugh

The budget funding season started off with a bang in January, with *Ethos* magazine gaining a 300% funding increase. To add to the fireworks, the cries of racism erupted just a few days into the second week of hearings. On January 10th, the Multicultural Center's program advisor (non-student) sent an e-mail to now PFC chair Kamal Ararso asking how to appeal the MCC's budget, which had been heard the previous week. Morozumi was quick to jump to allegations of racism, "It felt like a predominantly white male boys club preordaining no further increase of support for our arduous efforts... We are concerned that it does make the [sic] pfc not look so good..."

Morozumi's placement of the Race Card lacked foresight and proper precedent. Indeed, at the MCC's budget request hearing the week earlier the MCC, including Morozumi, had been told that the PFC would be adhering to their current funding benchmark of 3.5%. Morozumi was told during the hearing that most budget requests above the benchmark would not be funded in full (save for *Ethos*). However, the MCC and Morozumi were told that they would be allowed to file an appeal. In fact, in the case of the MCC they were encouraged to file an appeal as most PFC members felt the MCC is an underfunded organization.

Despite already having knowledge of all of this information, Morozumi decided to use the issue of race in an effort to simply bully the PFC into granting them more funding.

Ararso responded cordially to Morozumi's e-mail reminding him of his own support and the situation at hand, "I believe MCC didn't get what it asked for. However, from three meeting nights we held so far, MCC was given highest amount... Right now [the] PFC is using model to stay within what it is capable of allocating."

When contacted about Morozumi's response, PFC Vice-Chair Nicholas Schultz told the Commentator that he felt Morozumi's comments were, "Inappropriate" and "made out of frustration." The issue of the "white male boys club" came up rather quickly. By any count, the PFC is made up of a majority of non-whites as four members out of seven are "non-white".

Despite the calamity raised by Morozumi, Schultz told me, "I don't believe he [Morozumi] speaks for the entire MCC." Ararso and Schultz planned to meet with Morozumi to address his concerns, but Schultz said Morozumi never actually contacted them, "He hasn't called us or filed an appeal." Programs only have 14 days after their initial budget hearing to file an appeal, and the MCC has missed their deadline.

The PFC retains the right to recall programs as well, and has told several programs that they will be recalling them whether or not they file an appeal. The MCC is not one of those programs, "They aren't very high up on our recall list at this time," said Schultz.

The budget season became more of a circus when the *Student Insurgent*, a campus magazine and "anarchist collective", had

their budget meeting January 12th in which they asked for a mere \$23,519. Unfortunately for them, they had to settle for just \$22,222.

There were several crucial moments in the hearing, most of which hovered around the *Student Insurgent's* rather dubious delegation of their funding. The *Insurgent* admitted to printing only 7 issues last year (actually, they guessed because "no one could remember". We personally think it was more like 5) on a budget of \$21,427 – a whopping \$3,061 an issue. They vowed to increase their production this year all the way up to 9 issues, meaning each issue for next year will have a reasonable price tag of just \$2,469.

If you'd like a little comparison, the *Commentator* expects to produce 15 issues this year at an average cost of about \$1,500 an issue (the *Commentator* received roughly \$9,000 less than the *Insurgent*).

A question was then raised about the conduct at the Anarchist Book Fair in San Francisco. Sen. Lyzi Diamond mentioned a letter from a non-*Insurgent* staffer that was printed in an issue of the *Insurgent* last Spring. In the letter, Diamond mentioned that the student had reported "Not attending the fair and that all they did was

party". Abby Bluth, an *Insurgent* Co-Editor noted that, "It goes against what we are to control what people are doing [at the book fair]."


The other concern about the Anarchist Book Fair was the *Insurgent's* decision to print the aforementioned letter in their magazine. Several members of the PFC agreed that publicly displaying that kind of information was "probably irresponsible".

Another concern that was raised at the meeting was the *Insurgent's* practice of distributing articles to prisoners and other "subscribers" off campus. It was noted that out of an average of 1500 copies printed for each issue, approximately 600 of these were sent off campus. In case you're bad at math, that means that 40% of the *Insurgent's* copy doesn't go to students. You know, the people who pay for the *Insurgent*.

Budget season continues throughout Winter term, although it's hard to think it will be as much fun to cover as the first few weeks.




T. Dane Carbaugh is the publisher of the Oregon Commentator and is a history major.



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 EDITORIAL, FROM PAGE 4

the show at the Forum. Is it Etter, Rojas or even worse, Marr?

If the protesters wish to bring change to campus and make this University a safer place they need to take control of the Forum. The shift that created the Forum to what it is now can be reversed. The efforts of activism that the students have shown can be used to bring back the Pacifica Forum to where it belongs. The Forum can once again be turned into a place where fear is not created and hate is no longer mongered. Free speech no longer has to be put into jeopardy.

If change is needed it needs not to be where the forum is allowed to congregate,

 EKBLAD, FROM PAGE 9

"We will use their weakness to our advantage," Kiefer said. "With this knowledge, we will be able to build a protest crowd of far superior disorganization. I have some ideas, but you guys have to be sure to keep this confidential. Plan to have a silent protest, but at the last minute we will decide to yell and scream Carbaugh's slogans at them. This will surely throw them off. Also, try making phone calls during their lectures, which is very rude, disruptive and guaranteed to hurt their feelings. Before we leave, we will turn our backs to those we are unable to tolerate. This will be a sign of our unwillingness to cope with the outlandish things that they say and represent."

"One last thing," Kiefer said. "If the press should, at any point, approach you with questions about what injustices the protesters did to us, make doubly sure to be as vague as possible. Don't give them any information that would help the public derive their own conclusions from this clusterfuck." With our objectives set and our orders clear, we got to work.

Later that week, Henri and I met up and strolled down to Cafe Roma where we joined the protest meeting. Their leader was *Student Insurgent* Co-Editor Cimmeron Gillespie, a campus activist and malnourished Michael Moore

but who congregates within the forum. It's an internal problem that has risen out of the belly of the beast and became an external fear of the students. Pandora's box was opened by bigot's and it has the power to be closed by will of the students. It is our campus and we should not walk around in fear anymore.

The Pacifica Forum should be a place where conflicting ideologies can be discussed in an open and civil manner. It should not be a place that attracts neo-nazis and white supremacists. At the same time it should not be host to uninformed and anger-driven diatribes that are shouted from a dissenting crowd. Most importantly it should not be a place where the opposition is silenced for their point of view.

look-a-like. Henri and I took notes in a corner and corresponded with each other certain tactics we intended to steal or even sabotage. We became embroiled in a heated debate about whether we should slip roofies or LSD in their water bottles before their protest. Henri and I had just agreed to a half-and-half attack when Gillespie approached us. "What are you guys doing here?" he asked.

"We are concerned citizens with the Non-Traditional Student Union," Henri responded, but not in time. Before he could utter a syllable, I slipped up, "We're with the *Oregon Commentator*."

Suddenly, the protesters in the meeting were all staring at us with the deepest, darkest form of disdain. As to what happened after they had begun pummeling us with their coffee mugs, I am not completely sure. I woke up six days later in a dumpster behind 13th Avenue with a tremendous headache and an article to write. It was imperative that Kiefer fill me in on the rest of the story. Apparently our whole plan had failed and the entire OC staff had been disregarded as a viable threat to the protesters.

In addition to the two missing contributors, The Rabbling *Oregon Commentator* Rabble (as Dane and Pete's snazzy new t-shirts and buttons say)

 TURN TO NEXT PAGE

EKBLAD, CONTINUED

had suffered devastating losses to its conceived strength in numbers. Publisher T. Dane Carbaugh had evidently forgot to inform the rest of the staff that he had to wash his hair that night and was unable to attend.

Sudsy O'Sullivan was standing in line outside of Agate Hall when he announced, somewhat arrogantly, that he was late for his Friday night stupor. Concurrently, Drew Cattermole had caught a ride to Las Vegas with two rowdy Zionists he met in the parking lot. Guy Simmons had contacted Ross Coyle early so that they could meet up before the protest, however, on the way to Agate Hall the two were absentmindedly arguing about the most efficient

way to instigate a riot at Pacifica when they ran a red light, clipping the bicycle on which OC staffer Pete Lesiak was riding.

Pete's bike was severely damaged and his kidneys terribly bruised. Guy and Ross took Pete to the hospital where he was treated for alcohol poisoning. Sadly, the three of them were unable to make it to Agate Hall in time. In the end, the only staffer that could make it was Kiefer Ver Steegh, the last remaining member of The Rabbling Oregon Commentator Rabble.



Nicholas Ekblad is a Distribution Manager for the Oregon Commentator and hates protesting but doesn't know how to show it.

VERSTEEGH, FROM PAGE 19

is. The government cannot be in the practice of fabricating evidence to its citizens, and to see the Obama administration participate in a cover-up and gloss-over is frustrating to say the least.

While Obama isn't using his power to prosecute and illuminate the previous wrongdoings, he is instead pushing the boundaries of the executive branch so that it has more control over the others, and even has control over the past. In 2005 AT&T's special relationship with the NSA was uncovered, and both the NSA and AT&T were clearly involved in illegal wiretapping and information interception cases. Bush urged congress to pass some form of retroactive immunity for AT&T, and what do you know? They did.

The surprising thing is that when nearly 40 court cases were brought against AT&T for its illegal involvement in wiretapping its own customers, the Obama administration was instrumental in making sure that none of these cases saw their day in court. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker cited the law passed by Congress as means for him to not hear the case, and instead the ex-post-facto immunity given to AT&T stands. That, coupled with the recent hush-hush FBI immunity ruling raises some attention. Why didn't these citizens get their day in court?

What's the point in having a judicial branch that supposedly governs over constitutionality, when it simply dismisses important cases concerning the Fourth Amendment?

I understand that I'm bound to a social contract that I had no say in making or even a choice of signing, but if I'm to follow this contract, then the government needs to hold up its end of the deal and not change the terms. The argument that "the end justifies the means" does not apply in enforcement of the law, especially when it comes to our civil liberties.



Kiefer VerSteegh is a Distribution Manager for the Oregon Commentator and does not own a cell phone.

Another Perspective

Chris McKee

Another Perspective is the place the OREGON COMMENTATOR gives to students who are not connected with any campus media outlet a chance to make their voice heard, regardless of political affiliation, race or religion. We do not edit the submissions--they are printed as they are received and are accepted even if your ideology differs from ours. If you would like to write for AP, please e-mail us at ocomment@uoregon.edu

On Jan. 19, Republican Scott Brown defeated Democrat Martha Coakley in Massachusetts' special election to replace the late Ted Kennedy in the United States Senate. Brown won 52 percent of the popular vote, while Coakley won 47 percent. Brown's margin of victory was only slightly more than 100,000, or 5 percent of, voters.

According to the Associated Press, Deval Patrick, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, honored a request made by Kennedy before his death that anyone appointed to his seat not run for the seat in the special election. This prevented appointee Paul Kirk from running and kept the seat open.

Early polls taken in 2009 suggested an easy victory for Coakley, with as much as 58 percent of the popular vote. However, by the time the New Year began, polls began to display mixed results, and most showed the race to be competitive for both candidates. Only a few days before the election, polls began to show a consistent trend favoring Brown.

Nobody can deny the significance of this election. However, its significance can be easily misunderstood if the wrong people are allowed to distort it. The obvious meaning behind it is one that will have enormous consequences in November: the GOP is back from the dead.

How does an obscure Republican state senator from suburban Boston trump the Democratic Attorney General - who was initially the favored candidate - in literally a matter of weeks? This will be discussed later. But the implications for both Democrats and Republicans are gargantuan, confirming a trend that could be seen in Virginia's and New Jersey's gubernatorial

elections last year. If Brown can succeed the "Lion of the Senate" to represent one of the most liberal states in the nation, then Republicans can stand a chance in almost any 2010 that does not feature a popular Democratic incumbent. To quote Tom Schaller of FiveThirtyEight.com, Brown instantly emerged as a "rising star in a party desperate for fresh faces," and certainly has more to claim than Sarah Palin ever will.

Already, polls from organizations such as FiveThirtyEight.com, CQ Politics, and the Cook Political Report predict that key Senate races in Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, North Dakota, Nevada, and Pennsylvania - all of which have Democratic incumbents - to at least be tossups. Of these states, only Arkansas and North Dakota voted for John McCain in 2008 (and only Arkansas did so by more than 10 percent of the popular vote). If Republicans win all seven of these seats, then Democrats will control only 50 seats - not counting two independents who caucus with the Democrats: Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, and Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Even back in 2008 it was safe to say that based on history Democrats would be on the defensive in the next election cycle. After all, the Republican Revolution occurred in 1994, only two years after Bill Clinton's election to the White House. However, to see such a massive potential swing after Democrats swept both Congress and the White House in merely two election cycles is in no way insignificant.

However, the same polling organizations mentioned above also place Senate races in Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Ohio - where Republican incumbents currently sit

– as tossup states. If Democrats and Republicans swap these races, then they will lose only three seats, and retain a 54-seat majority in the Senate, plus the two aforementioned independents. Obviously this would not be a filibuster-proof majority, but Brown's upset victory already ruins this majority.

The disappearance of the filibuster-proof Democratic Caucus in the Senate means the end of the party's ability to pass legislation without negotiating with Republicans, meaning that promises made in 2008 will have to be compromised if not dropped in their entirety, including health care reform.

Some mistakenly say that Brown's victory was a rejection of proposals for universal health care. Mitch McConnell, the current minority leader in the Senate, stated in a press release that there was "a reason the nation was focused on this race. The American people... don't want the government taking over health care."

Sure enough, a Jan. 19 Rasmussen Reports survey of 1,000 Massachusetts voters found that 56 percent of those surveyed named health care as the most important issue. However, while 52 percent of Brown voters named health care as the most important issue, 63 percent of Coakley voters named it as the most important issue. In real numbers this amounts to 607,416 voters who picked Brown for his stance on health care, and 666,970 who picked Coakley for the same reason. Admittedly this is still a close election, but it shows that Coakley's defeat was not a public rejection of health care reform.

Also, data taken by Rasmussen on Jan. 4 shows that many of the reforms in the plan enjoy broad popularity when looked at individually. Two proposals in particular enjoy the support of more than 70 percent of those surveyed: a new national health insurance exchange, and requiring health insurance companies to accept applicants with pre-existing conditions. What starts to turn voters against the plan, however, are good old finances.

The House version of the health care bill, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, pays for its provision by imposing a 5.4 percent surtax on

individuals whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$500,000 (\$1 million for married couples filing joint returns). However, the Senate counterpoint, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, would impose a 40 percent excise tax on the most expensive health insurance plans provided by employers (labor unions would be exempt for five years, and even after this would continue to pay less). While 64 percent of those surveyed by Rasmussen support the surtax on the richest Americans, only 32 percent support the excise tax on health insurance, even without the exemption for labor unions (support drops to 27 percent with this exemption).

Another aspect of the health care bill that voters are antsy about is the cost, specifically how it will impact the deficit. Both the House and Senate versions are estimated to cost around \$1 trillion, more or less. Voters have every reason to fear increases in the deficit; according to a report by the Bureau of the Public Debt, total debt during the second Bush administration increased from \$5.6 trillion in 2000 to \$10.7 trillion by the end of his presidency.

However, health care reform is more likely to reduce the deficit in the long run than it is to increase it. Sure, the trillion being spent now is a nasty spike, a CNN report from Dec. 19 states that the Congressional Budget Office would decrease the deficit by \$132 billion over the first decade, and by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, thus erasing the spending necessary to create it.

But if Democrats expect the public to buy into this, they must educate the public about it, and address other points of concern such as the aforementioned tax controversy and potential cuts in Medicare benefits. They can no longer simply expect the public to trust them with the nation's most important issues, as the Republicans have once more put them on the defensive. This is the message that voters from Massachusetts sent to Congress, not a rejection of health care reform.



Chris McKee is the AP writer for the Oregon Commentator

SPEW...

and free speech...

ON GETTING THE PINK SLIP

"Me being on Senate won't happen, because I am too vocal, too honest; liberals think that it's not progressive to call people out on things they have no understanding of."

-Recently fired Multicultural advocate Diego Hernandez as quoted in the Daily Emerald 1/19/10. We have been calling you out on not understanding what you're doing for years, maybe it's because we're conservative.

"They also say that I wouldn't be confirmed because I have a history, and my reaction to this is what history?"

-Diego Hernandez writes about his recent firing on his Facebook. Diego has a tasty, rageful history.

"Lastly, I am not going to quit, just because Getachew and others think I should, if you want me gone then you're going to have to fire me."

-Ibid. Ok then.



ON ABUSING HIS MEMORY



"Finally! Democrats will no longer talk about getting 60 votes (super-majority). It's what Sen. Ted Kennedy would have wanted."

-Mohamed Jemmali writes to the Emerald about congress on 1/21/10. It only took him two sentences to make a Ted Kennedy reference. Drink!

ON THE PACIFICA FORUM

"I'd say they passed the boundary of acceptable free speech."

-Cameron Kennedy, a member of the anti-facist Black Tea Society in the Daily Emerald 1/19/10. Anti-facists say the darndest things.

"Shortly before the 3 p.m. meeting, the crowd marched across campus to Agate Hall chanting, 'Whose campus? Our campus!'"

-An account of the Pacifica Forum protesters in the Daily Emerald 1/19/10. Why do they have to ask if they already know the answer?

"Fuck free speech!"

-A protester at the Pacifica Forum meeting, 1/15/10. Shouldn't I at least take free speech out to dinner before making a move?



ON A NATURAL DISASTER



"[America should] Apologize to Haitian people everywhere for Pat Robertson and Rush Limbaugh."

-A guest opinion column in the Daily Emerald written by the UO Students for Global Health, 1/20/10. Also, we'd like to apologize for stretch pants, Nickelback, Dane Cook and Larry the Cable Guy.

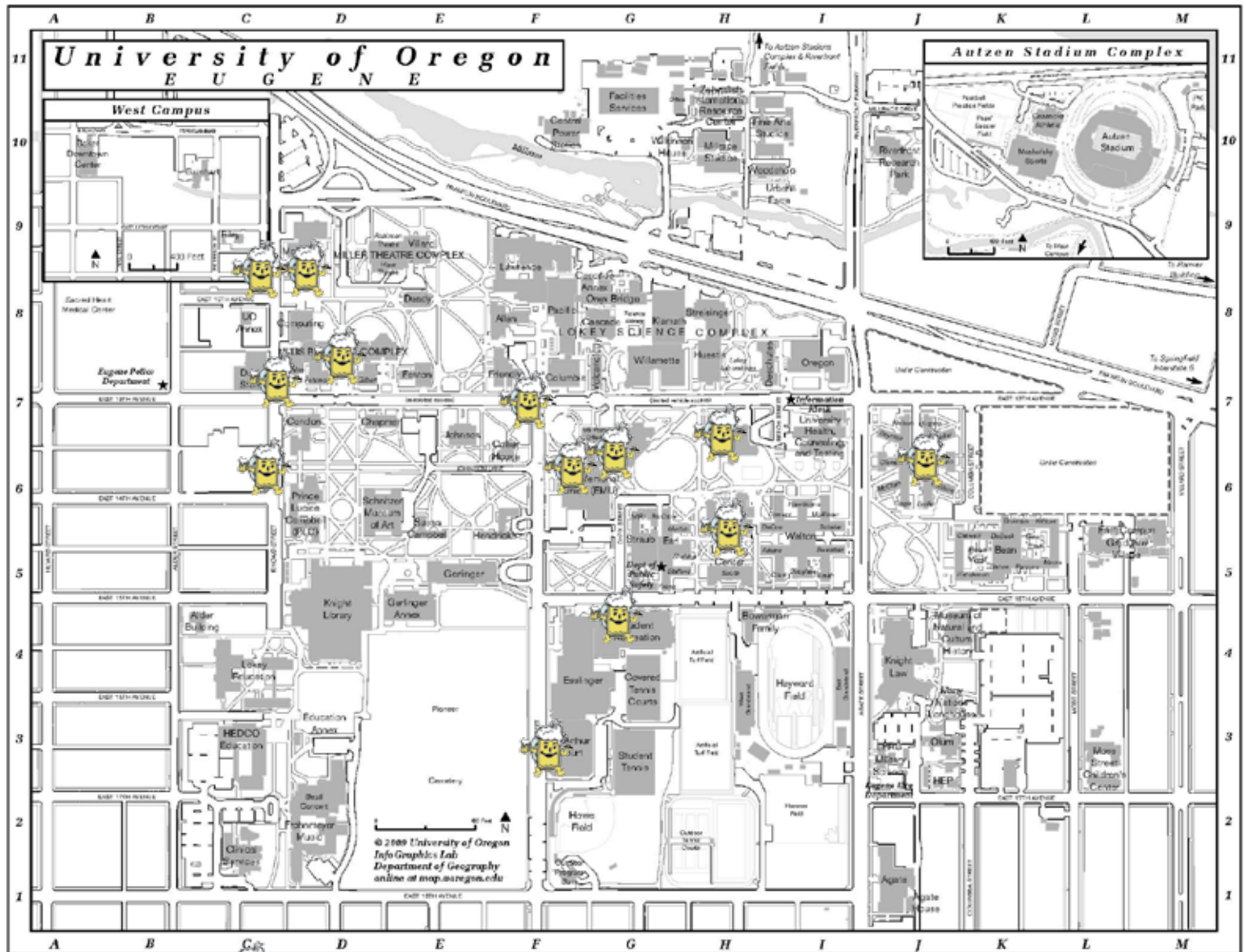
"[America should] Require the forgiveness of debt from all of Haiti's international creditors."

-Ibid. The World Police regrets to inform you that despite a promise from your debtors, they will not be, in fact, repaying the requisite sums. If you have any further questions, please feel free to cry about it to the UN while we do whatever the fuck we want. Thank you.














Where did this magazine come from?

A handy guide to locating the

OREGON COMMENTATOR



Each Sudsy marks the spot of an *Oregon Commentator* distribution rack or newspaper box.

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|  13th and Kincaid |  Corner of 13th and University St. |  MacArthur Court | |
|  Rennie's Landing |  EMU, West entrance |  Carson Hall | |
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