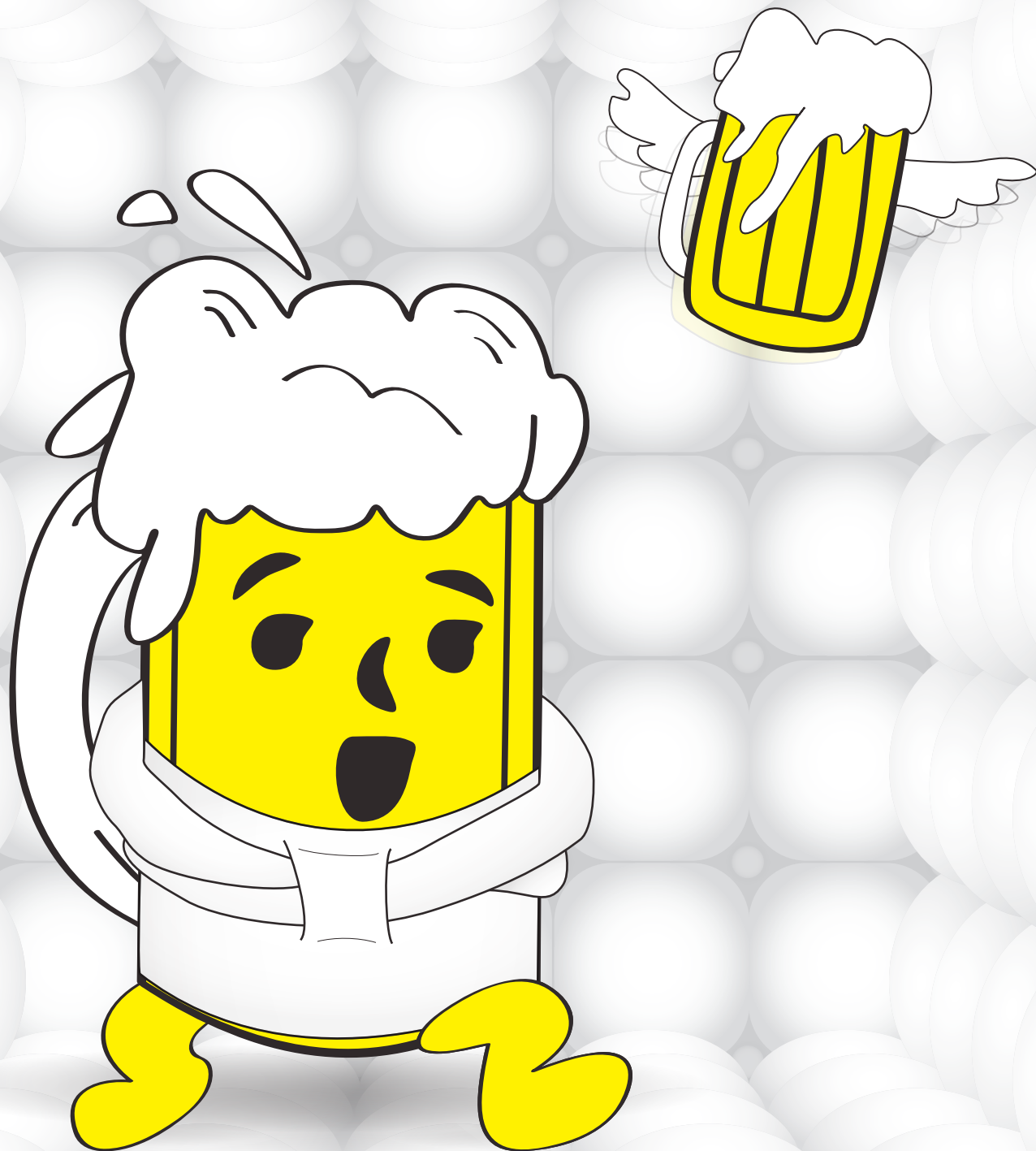


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We reserve the right to edit material we find obscene, libelous, inappropriate or lengthy. We are not obliged to print anything that does not suit us. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submission constitutes testimony as to the accuracy.

E-mails sent to individual authors that are directly related to the Oregon Commentator may be reused by the Commentator as it sees fit.

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.

MARCH MADNESS

Just because the sun is shining doesn't mean students have it any easier.

Every March a pandemic of epic proportions affects college students across the nation. The symptoms include: paranoia, sleep loss, overeating, dizziness, hair loss and the general feeling of being burnt out. This often undiagnosed illness has been overlooked by the community, which is why we are here to share with you the knowledge of March Madness.

March Madness is an unbearable illness that often affects seniors and freshmen the most on the University of Oregon campus. In previous years this was diagnosed as Seasonal Affective Disorder caused by the sunshine of spring prairie-dogging

Freshmen can also succumb to March Madness at the UO because of the relatively low retention; when their best friends transfer to other schools, the symptoms can be almost immediate.

March Madness can also be caused in the following ways. Upcoming "Super Seniors" can feel a drop in relationships as their friends slowly start to graduate and move away. Students in general can contract the disease as they realize they only have one more week to finish that term-long project they have been putting off. Upcoming finals can also put a normal student in a March Madness spell as he or she will spend sleepless

Symptoms include: paranoia, sleep loss, overeating, dizziness, hair loss and the general feeling of being burnt out

its head until eventually winter dumped rain all over the place.

Senior onset March Madness is created by a fear of the future. After registering for the last classes of their collegiate lives, seniors realize their stay in the land of college is quickly coming to a halt. Fears of facing unemployment and a life out in the real world, escalating debt and oncoming deadlines to pay off student loans are the leading factors in contracting March Madness. This is often mixed in with the depression brought on when the subject moves back into his or her parents' house.

Often misdiagnosed as senioritis, March Madness is not a case of students becoming lazy. Laziness in this case is caused by the students' attempts to prolong their college careers.

Freshmen can contract March Madness from their anxieties about next year. Their lives in the dorms are coming to a close and they must pick from a wide array of friends established months ago to choose whom to live with for a year.

nights in the library; these people look to Adderall as a cure, which only heightens the process.

There are many people who believe they have a cure for March Madness. Like the hangover cure, these remedies differ for everyone. Some put their faith in a paper bracket based on uneducated guesses and athletes they will never meet. Sadly, this is only a brief remedy for the illness. Others, known as "overachievers," already have their post-college plans set; these people are secretly despised by their friends.

If you are affected by March Madness do not worry. Many of your fellow classmates and friends are going through the same ordeal. We are all in this together, in health and in happiness.

We at the **OREGON COMMENTATOR** have found a possible cure that will be available to all UO students in the upcoming weeks. It's a healthy dose of Spring Break mixed in with relaxation and some ice-cold brews. Get no rest, and drink plenty of fluids. Preferably 100 proof or above.



Departments

Editorial.....	3	Mail Call.....	5	Nobody.....	6
Jump.....	19	Another Perspective.....	20	SPEW.....	22

Features

Beard, Interrupted..... 8

Jimmy Marr shows up on campus to be a racist asshole.

Appearing the Protector..... 10

UCSD silences its student journalists.

DeBevoise to get the cold shoulder..... 12

One of the UO's best professors will soon be leaving us.

Bias in the Classroom..... 14

The struggle for viewpoint neutrality at the University of Oregon.

Webstars..... 16

The Internet, a webcam and an hourly rate.

Campus Customer Service..... 18

Friendly advice on how to interact with servicepeople.

"I wouldn't recommend sex, drugs
or insanity for everyone, but they've
always worked for me."



Presidential Controversy

Regarding your recent post promoting Peter Lesiak for ASUO President-

While we as the elections board are glad that your publication wants to be involved with the ASUO Elections by supporting your candidate, we have had multiple complaints regarding your recent post endorsing Peter Lesiak for ASUO President. In order to prevent further actions being taken against Peter, it is in his best interest that the "poster" portion of your recent post be taken down by tomorrow morning. Please look at section 6 of the Elections Rules, and feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding this issue.

Thank you, and we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

ASUO Elections Board

The OC responds:

Regarding your complaints about the post on our website. We assume you are calling to question with regards to ASUO Elections Rules, section 6.7 A (vii) "Publications produced with University and/or student funds; But does not include publications where student funds are used for a subscription of a given publication which include, but are not limited to, the Oregon Daily Emerald" as well as ASUO Executive Rule 82.4 "No incidental fees may be spent to support the campaign of any individual, or party, for public office. Fees may be used to promote appearances and discussions between several candidates for public office, in order to increase student knowledge of the issues of candidates."

You may also recall a situation two years ago in which Con Court decided that campaigns cannot pay for ad space. We then decided to donate an ad, which is not against the rules, to a campaign. You can read all about it in our editorial from that issue, titled "Con Court can lick our collective nuts". You can find it on our website.

In any case, you're in luck be-

cause the Oregon Commentator website — the place in which Cpt. Lesiak's poster is hosted — is a privately-run website, free of Incidental Fee money. You don't need to worry your pretty little head about the website because it is not paid for by any student funding.

Thanks for playing along. Maybe next time.

*Sincerely,
The Oregon Commentator*

The ASUO Elections Board responds:
Dear Oregon Commentator,

We understand that your online publication is a privately run website, and while we understand that the Oregon Commentator can not be held accountable for this post, Peter himself CAN be. Please read section 1.2 and 1.3 to better understand the definition of campaigning. Also, we recommend you look over sections 6 and 7 of the Elections Rules again, focusing on section 6.12 and section 7.2. Part of our job is to make sure that every candidate has a fair opportunity in this election, and by posting the campaign poster on your website, we believe you are giving an unfair advantage to Peter, which is unacceptable. Again, while the Oregon Commentator can not be held accountable, the individual candidate can. Furthermore, your article of the Con Court ruling holds absolutely no merit in this situation, because the issue we are concerned about is the fact that the candidate is campaigning before the time designated for campaigning. Which is in direct violation of the current Elections Rules.

Again, we ask that you remove the poster portion of your post by tomorrow morning. If this is not done, the individual candidate will be contacted to discuss the issue.

Thanks for your cooperation.

*The OC responds:
ASUO Elections Board,
We would like to point out that Mr. Lesiak is*

What do you do with a drunken sailor?

not doing any campaigning, nor is the website a campaign in itself. From a technical standpoint, announcing your candidacy on our website is no different than other candidates announcing their candidacy in the Daily Emerald.

Of course, you can use your rules however you want. We don't really care. The elections board is out of its mind and its jurisdiction. The posters will not come down from the website, for reasons previously stated.

In the words of Cpt. Lesiak, "Yarrr! We must first battle the squalls to find the calmer seas, littered with the treasure chests of a thousand plunders!"

*Sincerely,
The Oregon Commentator*

The ASUO Elections Board responds:

Oregon Commentator,

Because you refuse to comply with our request, we will be notifying the candidate of the potential violation and consequences of your actions. Our only goal is to make sure the upcoming elections run as smoothly as possible, and that the elections are run fairly. Again, feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the Elections.

Your professionalism has been greatly appreciated.

The OC responds:

Avast!

You'll never make me walk the plank, you scalywags! I'll surely join the depths of Davy Jones' locker by plunging myself into the blue before I let you dogs push me end on end! Full about, broad side sweeps o'er their bow before we prepare to board, men! Their elections rules are no match for our 50lb. grapeshot! Aim for their masts! They'll never take us alive!

*Sincerely,
The Oregon Commentator*



asks ...

What are you in for?



LaMichael James:
Unnecessary
roughness.

Evangelicals:
Didn't know Haiti
had anti-kidnap-
ping laws.



Ol' Timey Prospector:
Claim jumping.

Hamburglar:
Sexual assault.
I just couldn't keep
my hands off those
buns!



OJ:
Not what you think...

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

**This Week:
Police Hat**

**"Excuse me, ladies.
I've been getting
noise complaints.
I'm going to have to
lock you up."**



**Sudsy
Says:**

**"Going
commando
means I'm
always prepared."**

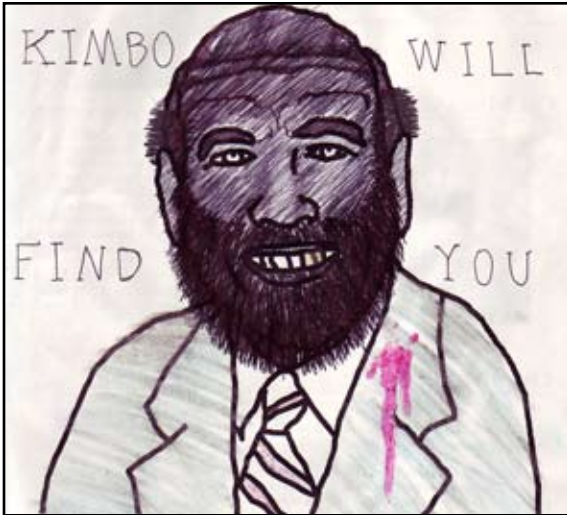


Blue Period Corrections

*The article "Osama bin Laden Global Conservationist" showed a picture of Bono and bin Laden shaking hands. Bin Laden has since severed his ties with Bono saying, "Even I can't be friends with that asshole."

*It has been brought to our attention that an article by Gordon Glass borrowed a disproportionate amount of material from another source, Mr. Ben Crowshaw. As a result, Mr. Glass is no longer a member of the Oregon Commentator. We would like to extend our apologies to our readers and Mr. Crowshaw.

DRAW A DICK WINNERS



1st Place - Ben Rosenberg

"Kimbo Slice-a-Dick"

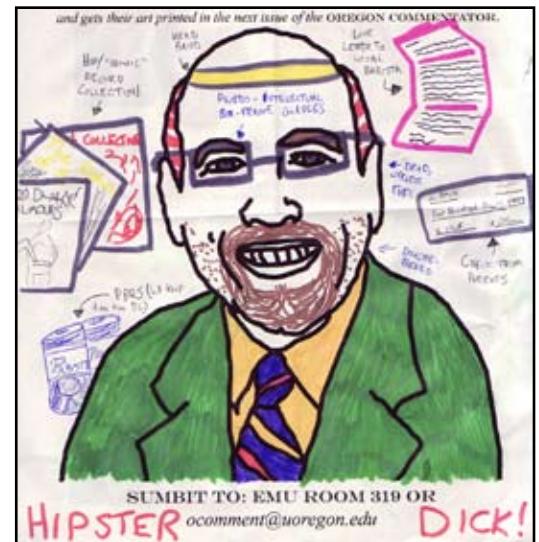
Prize - Sudsy Tee



2nd Place - C.W. Keating

"Hipster Dick"

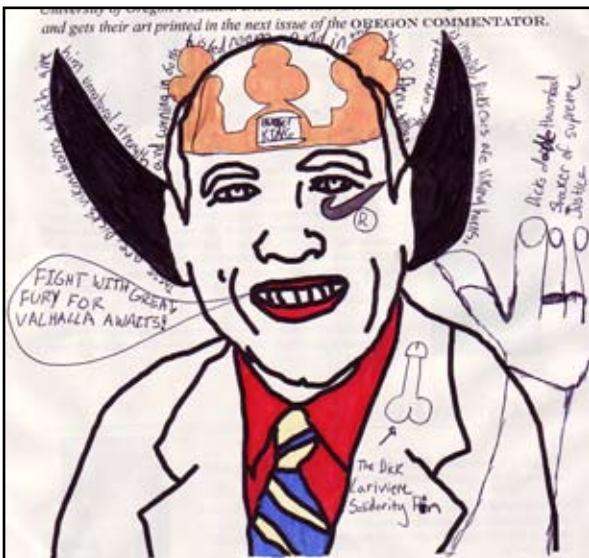
Prize - By the Barrel



3rd Place - John Calhoun

"Vampire Dick"

Fox News Hat



BEARD, INTERRUPTED

Jimmy Marr, campus neo-Nazi and local nutjob, makes an ass out himself at a University of Oregon Debate and Speech team event.

Nicholas Ekblad

Jimmy Marr, a man who once Sieged Heil at a Pacifica Forum event on campus, is not a student, staff or professor here at the University of Oregon. Despite this fact, Marr seems ever present at events with highly controversial subjects on campus.

That's why I wasn't surprised to see his beard on Tuesday, March 2 during a debate held by the UO Speech and Debate Team in the Gerlinger lounge. The question for the debate was, "Should the University of Oregon adopt a hate speech code?"

Arguing as proponents of the hate speech code were Matt Gander and Tom Shalley. On the side of opposition were Hailey Sheldon and Henry Field. The judges were Nick Gower, Tyler Griffin and AJ Eaton (It should be mentioned that sides in this debate did not necessarily reflect the personal views of the debaters).

During the debate, Gander mentioned that, "Denying the Holocaust is something that is probably counterproductive to education." Against the will of the moderator, David Frank, Marr decided to speak up. "And why is it counterproductive to education?" he boomed.

"SSHH!" "Quiet!" "Shut up!" yelled several people from the audience.

"It's absolutely not [counterproductive to education]," Field countered. "And in fact, I would argue that's exactly what is allowing me to gain this education, because I get access to all different types of viewpoints, which allows me to point out the fallacies behind them."

The intention of hate speech was a key

point for Gander and Shalley. Comparing intention to defamation and libel, Shalley brought to question the connection between swastikas and their implication to violence and intimidation. "Hate speech fuels violence and the motivation for actual conflict against individuals... We are smart enough to make these distinctions," he said.

Jimmy Marr spat back at Shalley, "Hey kid, can you tell me who said 'Heil Hitler?' Who said 'Heil Hitler?' I'm the guy that Sieged Heil!" He raised his hand straight in front of him toward the front of the room. "Show me who said Heil Hitler!"

His interruption was met with a huge wave of cat-calls and rustling from the crowd. One man in the front turned to Marr and said, "I'm going to shut you up pretty soon," to which Marr replied, "Do



Jimmy Marr wears a kilt to go along with his crazy.

something!"

Shalley ended his argument shortly after saying, "Hate speech does not contribute to a rational exchange of ideas - it contributes to the bigotry of individuals."

The debate was back-and-forth, as each speaker was allowed six minutes to state their argument, counter their opponents and make final statements. None of the four speakers faltered during the two interruptions.

At this juncture, the crowd applauded and Mr. Frank invited the judges to the microphone to give their decisions. Nick Gower approached the podium and introduced himself. He stated that, as ASUO Senate President, he had voted against the Pacifica Forum resolution, taking a legally-motivated stance by applying the First

Amendment. Although judges Eaton and Griffin also voted for Gander and Shalley, Gower summarized their votes best, "[In] this debate, however... I end up voting for the affirmative in support of the hate speech code for various reasons. Defamation is the same as racial defamation... which causes exclusion. It doesn't allow them to break the barriers of oppression that currently exist in our society. I don't think that argument was responded to very well."

Interestingly enough, it was during the judgment that a police officer walked into the room and stood next to Jimmy Marr. After judgment, ten minutes was allowed for audience discussion. Several members of the audience stood up and asked questions, with debaters fielding answers.

After the speakers had finished their responses, Marr stood up. "May I approach the microphone?" he asked.

"No," said Mr. Frank plainly.

Another member of the audience was given the opportunity to speak, when he was finished, Jimmy Marr asked to approach the microphone again. Mr. Frank repeated himself

and Marr sat down next to a sleeping Orval Etter.

After discussion closed, I walked over to Marr and introduced myself, asking him what he thought of the debate. He replied, "Well let me ask you. What do you think about my being barred from the microphone? And the guy responsible for this debate is a Jew. They talked about libel. The Holocaust was the biggest blood libel in history. I'll make my case against it. I'll disprove it and I'll show you it's a crock of shit on the twelfth of March, Agate Hall. Simple logic. I've got nine hours of material. It's a libel and it should be outlawed."

He turned to Orval Etter and was about to wheel him out, but before he did he turned back and added, "And it's the leading cause of war if you haven't noticed."

"What's that?" I asked.

"The Holocaust and the Goddamn Jews of Israel. All that Arab land," he frothed.



Nicholas Ekblad is the associate publisher of the Oregon Commentator and has decided against growing a beard.

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APPEARING THE PROTECTOR

The student body president of the University of California San Diego decides that blatant censorship of students doesn't violate the First Amendment.

Ross Coyle

As though the issue of hate speech on campus hasn't been covered enough, ASUCSD president Utsav Gupta pulled funding to 33 campus media outlets on Feb. 20, coinciding perfectly with the dying Pacifica Forum outrage.

"Jigaboo Jones," a local radio shock-jock, organized a party he called the "Compton Cookout" with the help of several UCSD fraternity members. Jones, in his own off-color way of celebrating Black History Month, used the ghetto for the party's theme. The facebook ad encouraged attendees to dress ghetto style, telling men to roll with their "Jersey's, stuntin' up in ya White T" and women to "have short, nappy hair." No fraternity houses hosted the party, although

that allow the president to dissolve any media that breeches its contract.

Gupta says he was prompted to dissolve SRTV because he found out that the *Koala* program was produced illegally. "We [ASU President and VP] have authorization in cases of noncompliance to pull funding from programs," he says.

He additionally froze funding to 33 media organizations to review their content and look at whether the ASU is funding publications that harass and target community members. "The past few days here at UCSD have been intense," he says.

Gupta explained that the freeze is not permanent but temporary. "The 33 program list is

Trying to enforce decency in a public institution, no matter how noble the cause, is still illegal.

several members of the UCSD Greek community helped organize it.

Days after the party, outrage of the offensive stereotypes swept UCSD. In politics, you cry to state litigators instead of mom and dad. Legislative pressure prompted UCSD authorities to launch an "aggressive investigation" (Why hello, Joe McCarthy) of the students involved in promoting the party.

A UCSD publication, *The Koala*, known for patently racist and provocative content, aired a public statement on SRTV objecting to the investigations. The statement used the words the words "ungrateful niggers" among other racial slurs, according to Adam Kissel of FIRE, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

In response to the advertisement, Gupta dissolved SRTV based on contractual permits

actually inflated," he claims. Of the 33 programs listed, 14 have already published issues and have funding to finish their publications for the term. Gupta says the ASUCSD plans to review the publications and return funding when they have determined that the publications serve a public interest.

The fraternities suspended their members responsible for advertising the party and the university launched "aggressive investigations" of the students. University Chancellor Mary Anne Fox was unavailable for comment on what the "investigations" were for. Considering how disciplining students for their actions would snap the First Amendment neatly in half, I imagine they are investigating "whether or not the students did something mean." What they'll do after finding that students have prejudiced views is beyond



Unfortunately, nobody censored Gupta's use of hair gel.

me.

In the meantime, the University has set up a website, battlehate.com, to keep the public updated on what has basically become a massive PR circlejerk centered around taking down "hate-and bias-related events." The link to Utsav Gupta's reasoning for shutting down SRTV was conspicuously broken, and the rest of the site seems to be about everyone giving each other back rubs and fighting the haters.

Forces beyond the university are also calling for punishment of the students. According to FIRE's release, members of the California State Legislature are calling for names, suspensions, and possibly expulsions of the involved students. Such members include Speaker-elect John Pérez, Speaker Karen Bass, and Assembly member Isador Hall III.

Naturally, FIRE jumped all over the issue

and sent two letters to the university on Feb. 22. The first was directed at President Gupta regarding his media freeze actions and the second at Chancellor Mary Anne Fox regarding the investigations.

FIRE alleges that the university's actions of investigations and media freezes are unconstitutional, and that they are motivated by pressure from state legislatures to penalize students for protected speech. In their letter, FIRE said that "[UCSD] has violated the procedures for handling SRTV complaints and non-compliance issues as given in the Standing Rules" and issued a list of requests to reinstate the media. As of press time, the UCSD administration has yet to respond to FIRE.

The list followed with reminders that the ASUCSD is still an agent of the university and subordinate to university administrators, who are obligated to act in the interests of the First Amendment.

In light of the anti-fascism rallies at the U of O, the ASUCSD shutting down all campus media in response to hate speech comes at an ironically appropriate time. Maybe UCSD administration should consult legal aid before they bend over for a handful of zealous state legislators.

As has been the case too many times, student bodies have tried to defund speech they find offensive and hateful. Perhaps Utsav Gupta should read up on Southworth V. Univ. Wisconsin Board of Regents, in which the Supreme Court established the unconstitutionality of allocating student fees based on content.

The world is not a happy and good place. Anyone who has ventured beyond the politically correct walls of education knows this. Although *The Koala* students have proven their own poor taste, trying to enforce decency in a public institution, no matter how noble the cause, is still illegal. People don't become nice through the regulation of what they say.



Ross Coyle is the managing editor of the Oregon Commentator and is getting ready to join a frat.

DEBEVOISE TO GET THE COLD SHOULDER

The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind ~Kahlil Gibran

Joe Rouse

As a student who has learned from a variety of different teachers in numerous countries and schools, I have come to understand when someone is an outstanding educator. My time here at the University of Oregon has exposed me to some top-notch instructors that I wasn't expecting to find my first year here.

Some don't give a care whether you pass or fail. Others are quite helpful. Yet all understand that learning is not limited to the classroom. They are the kind of teachers that push you to push yourself. We have all met people like them and if you have not, God help you.

Unfortunately, our school's professors often get paid considerably less compared to other universities. In broad terms, this means that the odds of having a good, enthusiastic professor as an instructor is lower here than elsewhere. So why is it that every year we end up with less gifted instructors and more administrators and researchers?

The University of Oregon student body grows at the rate of roughly 900 people. Every year, professors who are not tenured continue to dwindle in number to be replaced by researchers, not educators. Ken DeBevoise is a man currently facing the Political Science department's awesome wrath. The details are far and few between; the issue at hand always changes, but in my opinion he is being phased out of the Political Science department because somebody out there doesn't like him. I don't know why someone has a bone to pick with DeBevoise but frankly it's not important. What is important is how the priorities and preferences of one person became more important than the priorities and preferences of the community.

Let me introduce "Ken" properly. He has worked at the University of Oregon for 20 years. His classes have become the stuff of legend, with insane workloads leading to an even greater intellectual

payoff for students. His teaching style is unorthodox; he likes to make fun of his students if they ramble or are unable to present their thoughts in a coherent manner. Despite this, many University of Oregon students have "majored in Ken" almost exclusively.

Every day, a student in any of his foreign policy classes can expect to receive at least three densely packed emails from him. The amount of effort that Ken goes through to gather, assess and present staggering amounts of information about any news of interest occurring throughout the entire world is amazing. Ken loves exposing his students to new, old, and controversial ideas and goes above and beyond to educate as many willing people in his own way. He even refused tenure a number of years ago because he felt that research would distract him from his students.

During Ken's career he has upset some people. Some faculty members don't like him teaching political science without a Ph.D. in the subject, others don't approve of his unorthodox teaching style. On several occasions, Lars Skalmes, head of the Political Science department, has interfered with Ken's teaching style numerous occasions in an attempt to steer him towards a more traditional teaching format.

When the department says they will be "phasing out" Ken, they intend to take away his full-time faculty status and make him a half-time faculty member, even though Ken will still be teaching a full work load. DeBevoise will essentially work just as hard for half as much money. The year after that Ken will probably be fired. To prevent this, several students have started a "Save Professor DeBevoise!" Facebook group. One of the



Lars Skalmes
PoliSci Dept. Head

administrators of the group, Deborah Bloom, told me that the money used to pay for a DeBevoise's "senior instructor" position would then go to a researcher's tenure or into a bureaucrat's pocket.

Skalnes claims that, "Ken's fate rests outside my hands." In this writer's opinion, if Skalnes made the smallest modicum of effort, Ken's position within the school would be secured.

Another person who has jurisdiction in the matter is University of Oregon Provost Jim Bean. Despite the fact that letters, e-mails and threats of withholding donations have flooded Johnson Hall, the school still responds to pesky questions with the time-honored technique of leading concerned parties in circles until they forget what they were looking for.

Most of the student body will have no idea who Ken is or why he is important for our school. But potential students are about to face a travesty. Many students prefer his small discussion-styled classes rather than pretending to be a sardine in Columbia 150.

I highly recommend taking one of Ken's classes (the Palestine/Israel course is especially juicy). However, be warned that his class does weed out the slackers, so be prepared to work. A good educator will inspire you, and you in turn will teach those around you. With Ken's departure, this university's administration will have unfairly made a decision without properly considering the weight of communal opinion.

For students, it's time to be aware of the fact that the forces that guide our school often do not do so in the public's interests. Anything made with school resources is technically a "public document" but go see how hard it is to get your hands on what the administration thinks is theirs. In the case of Ken DeBevoise, the loudest voice is undoubtedly that of this university's administration. Instead, it should be the voice of our students to stand up and tell them that Ken DeBevoise should remain at this university.



Joe Rouse is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and is just trying to boost his grade in his Ken class.

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BIAS IN THE CLASSROOM

Learning to deal with bias in a university setting can be difficult, but is often necessary for academic advancement.

T. Dane Carbaugh

It has long been discussed the political ideologies of university professors and the roles those ideologies play in course structure, lectures and syllabi. More and more, students with opposing views to their professors are finding it difficult to deal with much of the material they are presented with, either through text or through lecture.

But to what end does this affect our academic experience? If we are presented with biased material, on whom does the burden of proper examination fall, the student or the professor? For the answer to that question, I interviewed Alexander Dracobly, a history professor here at the University of Oregon.



Alexander Dracobly
UO History Professor

"We all make assumptions, especially with history," he said. "Things always have a structural bias - methodologically and otherwise - that will produce certain outcomes."

When asked if he had experienced claims of bias from his own students he responded, "Are you kidding me? All the time! I teach military history, so it comes up quite often."

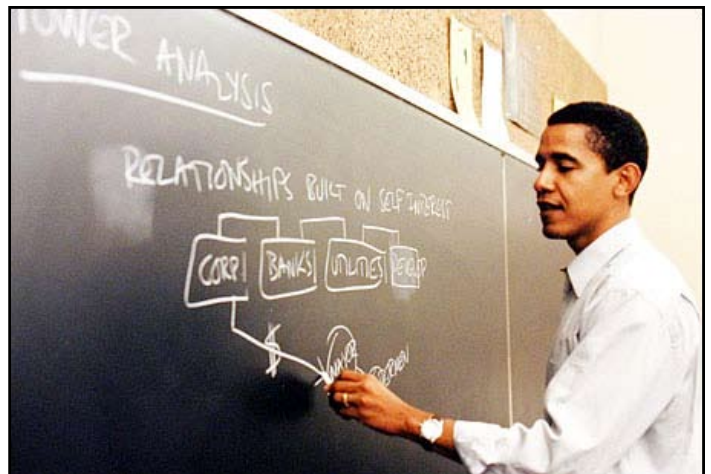
Dracobly urged that bias was to be expected, if not for the basic nature of human interaction with history, "Bias only becomes too much for me when the rest [the conclusion] becomes too predictable."

Bias, according to Dracobly, is something that will always be present, at least at some level. It is up to professors in their selections for syllabi, and students in their own filter of

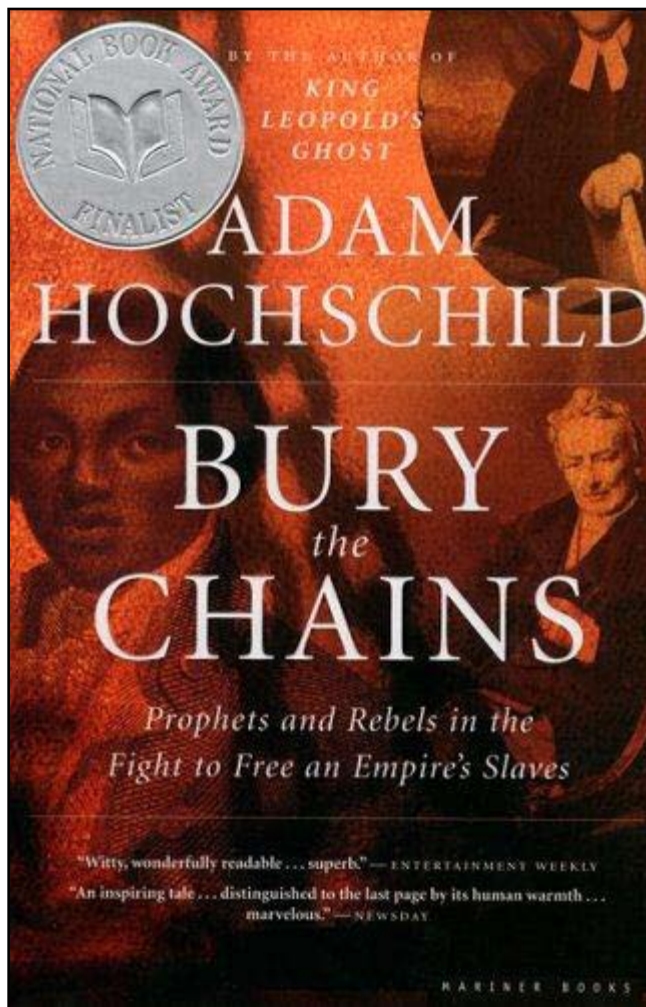
those syllabi to decide how much bias is "too much".

Of course, the opposite side of the argument arises when bias becomes obstructive to the learning process. Such an example can be seen in Adam Hochschild's *Bury the Chains*, a book detailing the work of 12 abolitionists in Britain during the turn of the 18th Century. Hochschild's book combines excruciating research, and a highly interesting narrative, alongside some rather unnecessary asides that highlight the author's own bias on certain political topics - entire paragraphs on the subject of global warming - that seem rather misplaced and unnecessary in the context of the book.

Yet despite this example, an academically-minded individual reading Hochschild's book is able to gain considerable knowledge from the text. Despite his asides, Hochschild's few pages of indulgence doesn't



If this man is at the head of your class, you may experience some political persuasion.



negate his extensive work on researching the subject. At the most, Hochschild's extemporaneous material may correlate to further methodological issues regarding his selection of source material.

Of course, students understand that these are the issues which face us in an academic setting at all times, even if the author of the book does not stop at seemingly random times to write about global warming. But what about our own professors' acknowledgment of that bias? How are University of Oregon professors acting to balance the content in their classes?

"You have to make a selection, as a professor, about your course material," says Dracobly. One response is for a professor to present two sides of an argument. Indeed, I have found from my own coursework an example where a professor, in an effort to

open the discussion about cholera in the American West, provided us with two papers on opposite sides of white settlers' weaponization of the disease.

Examples of like-minded self-awareness can be found outside the history department as well. Political Science professor Ken DeBevoise acknowledges the idea of bias in his "universal syllabus." In a section titled "My Opinions" DeBevoise says, "I have my own opinions about things just like y'all but they are TOTALLY irrelevant to your grade... I'm trying just like you to figure out what I really think about these issues. You can help me most by arguing your own position honestly."

But despite the complaints of many students and the efforts by professors to maintain neutrality, it seems that bias is something that university courses are hard pressed to escape. "It's axiomatic of the nature of history. Anyone who doesn't believe that is just blowing hot air," said Dracobly.

Entering into this, or any, university setting with the hope of complete neutrality is a far too utopian ideal. Instead, students should be looking for professors who are openly conscious of their own bias and the bias of others. Likewise, a good professor should be aware of their own bias and teach accordingly. Professors, authors and students will always color objective material with subjective tones. As is often the case in academia, the discourse over material with obvious bias can be helpful in students drawing their own conclusions on a subject.



T. Dane Carbaugh is the publisher of the Oregon Commentator and thinks neutrality is some kind of tropical fruit.

WEBSTARS

The Internet has opened the doors for many young women to exploit their bodies for financial benefit.

Celia Darrough

Young women have been turning to jobs in the sex industry in order to support themselves for a long time. Tyree Harris, an opinion writer for the *Daily Emerald*, wrote recently about a friend of his that was a stripper, the most common and mild “industry” job. But a lesser known job in the industry is that of an adult webcam model. These performers are usually young women in their 20s but can also be older women, men and occasionally couples or groups.

So, how does this work? A performer sits in front of a webcam either at home or in a room provided for her by her boss. The first step is a free chat area. In this part of the chat room, anyone can view the performer online for free. She generally talks to guests through her webcam and also types to them. The customers can only type to her. The free chat area is a place for customers to figure out whether or not they want to pay to see more of the performer and if she is willing to do what they want her to.

In order to go farther with the performer, a guest must be a member of the website. It is free to become a member, though a credit card is required. The only time a member is ever charged is when they enter a private or exclusive room that is clearly marked with the per minute price.

The next step is to enter the private room with the performer. This is essential for the model because this is where she begins to make money. Rates range from \$.99/minute to \$4.99/minute to enter the private room. Here, the entertainer gets completely naked. Members watch her while

asking her to perform various sexual acts. Several members can be in the private room at a time.

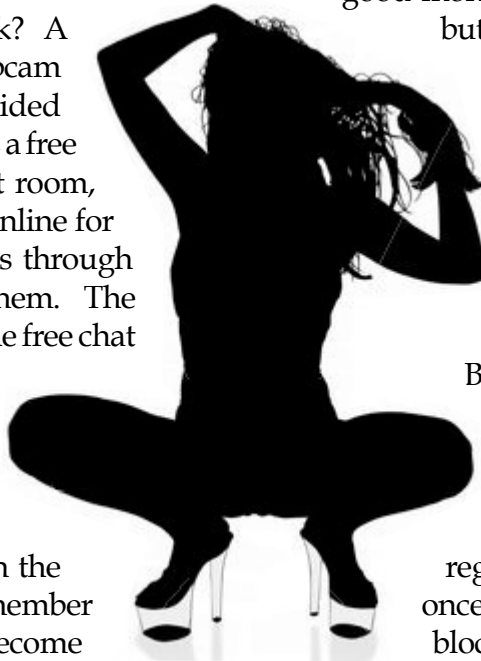
If a customer wants some one-on-one time with the performer, he or she can enter exclusive chat with the performer. This is, naturally, at a higher rate than private chat. I interviewed one such performer to get her take on her profession.

“Destiny” has been working as a webcam performer for only a month and is already making good money. She does not work from home

but actually leaves her house to go to work. Her boss owns a four-bedroom house specifically for running a webcam business. The ladies set their own schedule and get paid weekly. Destiny is already one of the top five girls out of the 50 that she works with.

Beginning at \$3.49/minute for private chat and \$4.99/minute for exclusive, Destiny immediately built a rapport with customers who keep coming back. Some regulars come back every day, others once a week. One guy even pays for a block of 30 minutes in exclusive. That’s \$150. Destiny and the other girls make 20 percent of the amount paid. She averages about \$700 a week.

However, not all of the performers make that kind of money. Destiny is popular on the site while some girls rarely have anyone even in the free chat. “I think it’s because of my personality,” said Destiny. She is talkative and responds to everyone, yet she sticks by her personal rules and gets an attitude when someone tries to get her to do something she



doesn't want to. While she never does anything she isn't comfortable with, she says she is always nice about saying no. "Some girls can be rude about it and some try to get customers into the private chat immediately," she said. Destiny spends time in the free chat getting to know guys, which makes them more willing to pay to see more of her. "I actually wants to make them happy," she says.

The rules of the website state, "Performers are not obligated to do anything you ask, but most are willing and happy to put on a show for you. The guest chat is the perfect place to find out from the performer what he or she will and won't do. These are real people broadcasting from their homes, and they will have different likes and dislikes." There are also rules against anything having to do with urine, feces, or menstruation.

As she rose to the top, Destiny's boss gave her a "raise." Her private chat is now \$3.99/minute. She only uses fingers in private and uses toys in exclusive only. A lot of customers like exclusive because of the one-on-one time. One guy even paid just to watch her rub lotion on her breasts, while another asked her if she would fart for him.

Surprisingly, Destiny also makes good money because she is American. Many performers on the website are from various foreign countries. Fifty percent of the website's traffic is from the United States. Customers usually prefer an American as they can relate to her easier.

Obviously, the question of self-degradation arises along with the pornographic career. Destiny doesn't think so it is degrading. "I don't think it is because I never do anything I don't want to do. When I first started working, I was told that a lot of girls feel bad about themselves because they do things they don't want to do for the money. I don't do that. I never leave my comfort zone," she said.

If anything, she thinks it can be a self-esteem booster. "Guys are telling me how hot and sexy I am for six hours a day, six days a week," she said. Destiny estimates she has one to two marriage proposals a day. One guy said he, "Wanted to impregnate her."

They send her pictures of themselves and

ask to meet in person. A few guys have told her she has small boobs or needs to go to the gym, but she just brushed the insults off.

Destiny has a completely fake identity online. She uses a fake name and gives out a fake location. While she talks to the guys in order to keep them coming back, she says she never plans on meeting up with anyone. "I can see why some girls would do it because it would be a chance to make so much money. But I would never do that," she said.

However, questions and whispers follow Destiny wherever she goes. Nobody lives at the house where she works, and the neighbors know something is going on. With girls walking up the driveway at all times of the day, neighbors obviously stare and whisper between each other. It is located in a nice neighborhood and looks just like a regular house. There are four bedrooms and a closet in each room. Therefore, there are eight computer stations for girls to work at. No one wants the closets because they only have a chair instead of a bed and are less comfortable. If a girl is in the closet working and finishes, she may walk in while the girl who has the bedroom is naked and working. Bosses also come in while the girls are busy.

Within the house, there have been quite a lot of boss/employee relationships. Destiny can account for at least three of the girls who has had sex with the main boss and one who has had sex with the house manager.

Destiny lies to almost everyone she knows about her job. She tells her parents, family and friends she has a job that doesn't exist. She concocts full tales about events at work and what she does. A few people know, but only those she feels comfortable telling. "It has caused some problems with the people I've told," she said.

She doesn't believe she will ever been seen by someone she knows on the site. She denies the fact that her dad or another male relative may stumble



Campus Customer Service

Helpful tips for interaction between those on opposite sides of a cash register.

Cpt. Peter Freedom Lesiak

On this campus we are privy to myriad services like DDS, DPS, campus restaurants, and who can forget those offices in Oregon Hall? All of these involve face-to-face interaction with real people and I feel a lot of the time we treat these customer service people with disrespect.

The tricky part about campus customer service is that most are students. These are dangerous people. They do not have to put up with the shit and nonsense that disrespectful students throw at them. These student workers will not hesitate to screw you over if you give them hard time, even though it might mean their job. People who “don’t give a shit” are always ready to “fuck you over,” so if there’s something you really want (appointment, class registration, or a cheesy grill-er) here’s some tips to get the best customer service on campus.

#1. Know what you want

You don’t know how many times I’ve had students call my office asking for an appointment and when I ask them when they want it, they ask me to hold. Main reason? They don’t know their schedule. This frustrates me because what could be a one minute phone call turns into five. Meanwhile, other phone lines are ringing and people are standing around my desk waiting for me to get off. This goes for ordering food, too. When there’s a long line and you hold it up, that really pisses off the server because now everyone behind you is going to be pissed at the server for the wait time. Especially when you could have thought about it while waiting. So to sum it up, know what you want and have a back up plan. A quick smooth transaction makes everyone happy.

#2. Listen

All the time while at work people call and ask when the next appointment is, I tell them the next available is a certain day next week. They then proceed to ask, “Do you have anything earlier?” and I always answer “No,

the next appointment is <insert date> like I said the first time.” In ordinary conversation having to repeat yourself is the most frustrating and easily preventable occurrence. What makes talking to a service representative any different? When we say that we don’t have something, 100% of the time we don’t have it. Saying “Really?” won’t magically make it appear from when we told you we didn’t have it. If you listen, we might be able to work with you to get something just as good, but not if you’re a condescending douche about it.

#3. Personal space

There is nothing more frustrating than an invasion of personal space at work. I often have people leaning over my desk to look at my computer screen and I have to hold up my hand to get them to move back. It feels as if they don’t believe what I’m telling them and need to check for themselves. Big mistake! By trying to double check a service representative, you immediately break the unspoken trust agreement of “Trust me, I’m here to help you.” It comes across as, “You don’t know how to do your own job, you need someone to watch over you.” Now doesn’t that piss you off? So take a step back and let the professionals do their jobs.

#4. Attitude

If someone came up to you on the street and said, “I want this, you’ll give it to me, and I want it now.” What would you say? You’d tell them to fuck off, right? I don’t understand why common decency vanishes when you’re talking to someone who’s scheduling you or getting your food. Ordering someone around, who you have no authority over, is just a recipe for disaster. I suggest dropping the attitude and asking questions with “please” and “thank you.” I for one, will go the extra mile to help someone, especially if they’re smiling when they do it.



Cpt. Peter Freedom Lesiak is the Senior Editor of the Oregon Commentator and is searching the seven seas for gold doubloons.

WEBSTARS, FROM PAGE 17

upon it because she says, "They wouldn't go to this kind of site." She also said if an acquaintance from school sees her, she could simply ask them why they were on the site in the first place.

For me, even watching the free chat is disconcerting. While understanding that Destiny is comfortable with everything she does, it is hard to observe and believe she will never regret what she is doing. Destiny holds a policy of "no regrets" but will that last her whole life?

Seeing a 20-year-old woman obey requests to "turn around bb let me see that ass please" is hard. The way the customers talk to her is not generally respectful. They ask Destiny if she is horny, wet, or shaved. They ask if she likes to be "ass fucked." They ask, "What's your fav bj, anal, tittie bj?" She stands up and shows her body when they demand it. This is all in the free area.

In private chat, it is even worse. There, the customers can direct Destiny on what to do. They want her to beg them to come on her face. They want her to tell them how bad she wants to "suck

me off." Destiny says that, "The only thing that's uncomfortable is when they ask me to call them Daddy."

Every woman needs to support herself. Some get jobs at Taco Bell, the campus bookstore, the mall. Others strip or perform on webcams. While Destiny can insist that it isn't degrading, for others it almost certainly is. Personally, it makes me sad. I understand how lucrative the job can be, but at what cost? While it's not my right to comment on the personal decisions of others, I believe that for Destiny, regrets will hit the performers hard when they get older.

When asked how long she plans on doing this work Destiny replied, "As long as I can. Until I'm old and ugly."



Celia Darrough is a copy editor for the Oregon Commentator and she can be seen at www.oregoncommentator.com

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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

For the average American viewer, it is hard to watch news with any political flavoring whatsoever and not hear the words “liberal” or “conservative” spewed out of the commentators’ mouths. Which word is used positively and which word is used negatively depend on the commentator and his or her bias, but almost always there is some sort of hard feelings attached to the accusations.

One only needs to turn the channel to Fox News and watch *The O'Reilly Factor* to see the show's host, Bill O'Reilly, assail any – perhaps every – liberal known to the public, from Al Gore to Rosie O'Donnell. Likewise, conservatives get an equal bashing on *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*, where the eponymous host shouts down right-wing starlets such as Sarah Palin and Scott Brown, the newly elected Republican senator from Massachusetts. Yours truly is confident enough on these assertions not to cite specific incidences and would like to emphasize that these are only a couple of such shows out in the media market.

What is interesting to note is that these labels have become derogatory to the point that even the pundits distance themselves from the labels others attribute to them. For example, in page 18 of his book *Culture Warrior*, O'Reilly says, “I guess I have always been a traditionalist.” Also, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* quoted Olbermann on Dec. 12, 2006, as saying, “I'm not a liberal, I'm an American.” It seems convenient that Olbermann would regularly attack conservative figures on his show while falling back on the American public rather than on a political ideology, as the quote suggests. The same could be said of O'Reilly on liberal figures.

Two lessons can be derived from this, both with equal merit. The first, already suggested, is that people increasingly use political labels as insults and slander while avoiding any meaningful discussion

of what their targets actually represent. This kills dialogue and discussion before they can even emerge and two people who might actually agree with each other on some or many issues are forced to assume they must be polar opposites and enemies of the other. Naturally, people such as O'Reilly and Olbermann would want to avoid specifically attributing themselves with either of these labels for this reason.

Another explanation is that perhaps O'Reilly really is not a conservative and likewise, Olbermann is not a liberal. How is this possible? Is it not agreed upon that O'Reilly represents the values associated with conservatives? Could not Olbermann be stereotyped as a typical example of what it means to be a liberal?

Well the truth is that liberal and conservative represent more ideas than most Americans, the media, or many politicians are willing to recognize. Let's look up each word on Dictionary.com and see what we come up with for each word.

Under “liberal,” the first two definitions fit in perfectly with popular perceptions of its practitioners. The first one defines liberals as “favorable to progress or reform, as in political or religious affairs.” Right below, the second definition re-characterizes the word as “noting or pertaining to a political party advocating measures of progressive political reform.” Many other political definitions exist as well.

However, further down the list are definitions that lack a specific political context, and can be broadly applied to those of many persuasions. Definitions seven and eight use the word liberal to describe someone who is “free from prejudice or bigotry,” and “free of or not bound by traditional or conventional ideas, values, etc.”

If one thinks that these attributes cannot be applied to a self-described conservative, then one is

mistaken. On page 18 of the Nov. 28, 2009 issue of the OREGON COMMENTATOR, which many students associate with the UO's right wing, Evelyn Cooper writes, "the dragging along of the poor religious population of middle America and their ideals [by the Republican Party] is old thinking." Note that this is within the context of religious fundamentalism.

Liberal can also be used to describe someone or something that is "characterized by generosity and willingness to give in large amounts," or "not strict or rigorous." While these could be used to describe political liberals, they could also be used to describe, say, a conservative who favors large tax breaks. Or they could be used in an apolitical context, such as in a liberal interpretation of the Bible.

Now let's look up "conservative" on Dictionary.com. As an adjective, a conservative can be someone "disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc., or to restore traditional ones, and to limit change." Surely this would remind everybody of the basic principle behind the ideology of conservatism.

But conservative has plenty of practical applications for everyday life. Conservative can describe an estimate that is "cautiously moderate or purposefully low." If somebody is dressed in a way that is "traditional in style or manner; avoiding novelty or showiness," they could be said to be dressed conservatively. It would be a challenge to find a politician, Democrat or Republican, who isn't a conservative under this definition!

Even if one is to assume the political meanings behind liberal and conservative, all it takes is a little bit of research into political theory to find out how meaningless these terms are. To assume that millions of voters can be defined entirely by a single set of positions, let alone that an entire nation can be defined by two or three sets, is ludicrous. To misunderstand and simplify these philosophies is to add insult to injury, to use an old cliché.

Take liberalism, for example. We all know the ideas behind that political philosophy: big government facilitated by the welfare state, public services designed for the poor, and intervention in the economy to stimulate growth. Right? Not necessarily. This might describe social liberalism, of which the Democratic Party is a typical example. But

there is also classical liberalism, whose fiscal agenda has more in common with that of our self-described conservatives. In fact, when someone who favors a strong public sector is described as a "European liberal," this is an oxymoron; most of Europe's liberal parties, such as Germany's Free Democratic Party and the Netherlands' People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, adhere to the classical liberal tradition, and are most similar to what we would call libertarians.

In turn, with conservatism, important distinctions need to be made between differing viewpoints, as is the case with liberalism. People who describe themselves as conservative may in fact mean its social, traditionalist context, and could be as enthusiastic over "big government" as the stereotypical social liberal. Or they could mean in a fiscal context, and be as supportive of a limited government as the classical liberals of Europe. So why have different words for the same thing?

Some people describe themselves as "moderate" in order to escape the liberal vs. conservative feud. This is even more meaningless than the other labels. Moderate derives its meaning from being at the center of two warring ideologies. It cannot stand on its own as a political theory. When liberalism or conservatism disappears, from whence does moderation come from?

Certainly liberalism and conservatism are even more complex and multi-dimensional than this article suggests, and let's not forget the existence of other ideologies such as libertarianism, social democracy, and Christian democracy, which in turn mingle with and complicate the liberal vs. conservative debate. So why use labels and insults when, depending on the context, you could be saying the same thing?

Sure, it would be a mistake to assume that O'Reilly and Olbermann have much to agree on. But both seem to recognize how misleading liberal and conservative can be, and how meaningless they are without further qualifiers. Perhaps it is about time that the rest of the nation does the same.



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

SPEW...

and Facebook statuses...

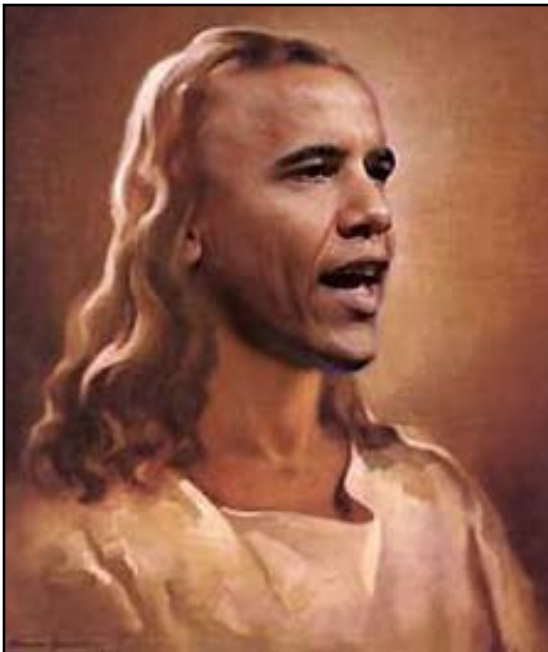
ON THE BUS

"I urge LTD to step back from cutting routes and please reconsider other possibilities. Cutting bus service can't be the first choice."

-Pam Dillehay writes to the Eugene Weekly about LTD cutting bus routes. Of course, what Pam has overlooked is that the first choice was probably to have enough money.



ON MORALITY



"We have the right to acquire as much wealth as we can. But we must never forget that our creator has rights also. Our creator has the right to strip our souls from our mortal coil and judge us by our deeds. Those who helped the sick, hungry, homeless and poor will receive all the eternal riches of Heaven.."

-Michael T. Hinojosa writes to the Eugene Weekly. God is probably just jealous of all the stacks of cash we have here on Earth.

"The debate over health care is as simple as that. We as a people and as a government must follow the Golden Rule rather than let gold rule."

-Ibid. If Obama is Jesus, does that mean Pelosi is Judas?

ON SARAH PALIN

"In fact, the more she showers her audience with endless banalities and confirms their belief that she is truly brilliant, the more she confirms my suspicion that Republican politicians are mere lobbyists, instruments of a shadow government identical to what we suffered under President Cheney"

-Tom Erwin writes to the Eugene Weekly about Sarah Palin. President Cheney? I don't remember any President Che-- oh... I see what you've done there. Very clever.



ON "WEAK ASS SHIT"

"how the fuck you kick kinko off the team,,, (sic) on some weak shit, niggas always faded he slipped up and ive (sic) been slippn (sic) up, and I'm still here, that shit weak buf cuh could have done damage for the ducks, that shit is weak, weak ass fuck, quote me"

-Jamere Holland discusses his frustrations over the decision to kick Kiko Alonso off the football team through his Facebook status. Ok Jamere, we will quote you. On some weak ass shit.



"chilln (sic) thinking of another status to fuck with the readers (sic) heads, I wish I could block whites as friends and only have blacks LOL, cause apparently I'm misunderstood"

-Holland posting a facebook status to show his displeasure of having white friends. I'm pretty sure the last Facebook update made it so you can block white people. Check your privacy settings, Jamere.

LEST WE FORGET..

