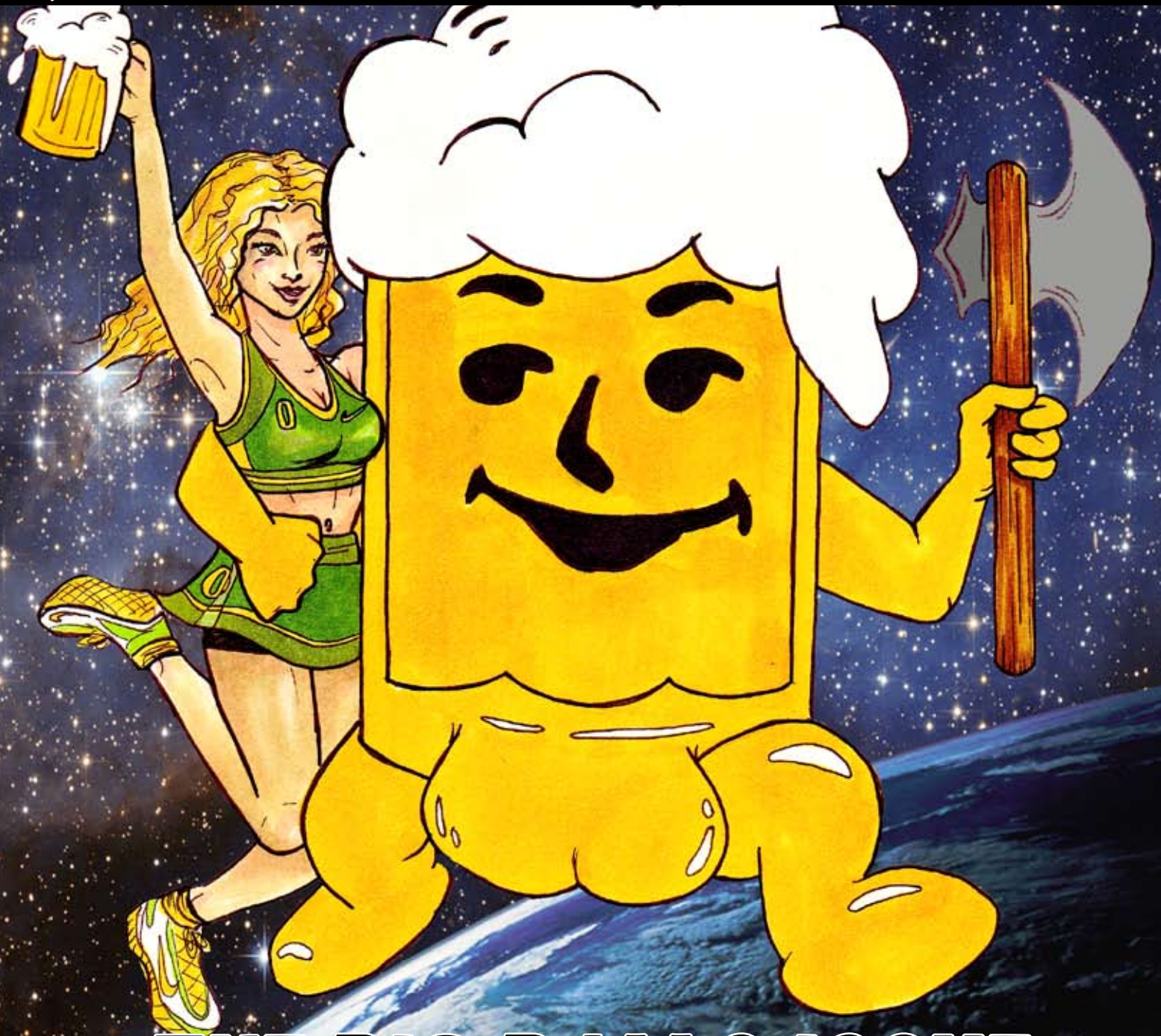


OREGON COMMENTATOR

January 12th, 2011

Volume XXVIII Issue VI

Free Minds, Free Markets, Free Booze



THE BIG BALLS ISSUE



Founded Sept. 27th, 1983 Member Collegiate Network, SFPA

Editor in Chief

Lyzi Diamond

Publisher

Ross Coyle

Managing Editor

Rockne Andrew Roll

Associate Editor

Sophie Lawhead

News Editor

An Tae Sik

Distribution Manager

Nicholas Ekblad

Operations Manager

Joe Rouse

Editor Emeritus

Drew Cattermole

Publisher Emeritus

Guy Simmons

Copy Chief

Alex Tomchak Scott

Copy Editors

Ben Maras, Adam Hurlburt, Zack Kaplan, Jesse Lerch

Production Director

Audrey von Maluski

Artists

Maggie Brees and Nick Dreyer

Contributors

Colin Bowman

Molly Metzsig

Board of Directors

Pete Lesiak, Chairman

Ross Coyle, Vice Chairman

Lyzi Diamond, Director

Alumni Advisory Board

Charles H. Deister '92, R.S.D. Wederquist '92

Scott Camp, '94, Ed Carson '94, Mark Hemingway '98,

William Beutler '02, Tim Dreier '04, Olly Ruff '05, Tyler Graf '05

Board of Trustees

Richard Burr, Dane Claussen, Thomas Mann

Owen Brennan, Scott Camp

The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion. All signed essays and commentaries herein represent the opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the magazine or its staff. The Commentator is an independent publication and the Oregon Commentator Publishing Co., Inc. is an independent corporation; neither are affiliated with the University of Oregon nor its School of Journalism. And, contrary to popular, paranoid opinion, we are in no way affiliated with either the CIA or the FBI, or the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Oregon Commentator accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at the University of Oregon, or anyone else for that matter. Letters and commentaries may be submitted personally to Room 319 EMU or placed in our mailbox in Suite 4 EMU; phoned in to (541) 346-3721, or e-mailed to editor@oregoncommentator.com

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 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.

Departments

Editorial.....	4	Nobody Asked Us But.....	5	News Briefs.....	8
Jump.....	18	Mail Call.....	19	Spew.....	20

Features

Ellen Degeneres Loves Sombreros.....	9
<i>Natty tickets, “fiesta” attire, and a chance to be on television.</i>	
Student Insurgent Answers for Actions.....	9
<i>And receives a significant pay cut.</i>	
This. Is. Commentator.....	10
<i>Joe Rouse takes on campus media. All of it.</i>	
Don’t Grope Me, Bro!.....	11
<i>Sophie Lawhead takes on the TSA’s new security regulations.</i>	
Point/Counterpoint: Marijuana Legalization.....	12
<i>Ben Maras and Nick Dreyer go toe to toe.</i>	
Net Neutrality Demystified.....	14
<i>Ben Maras explains net neutrality and why the FCC totally sucks.</i>	
Bill Hillar: Not Qualified.....	16
<i>When a UO professor lies, someone will learn about it. Eventually.</i>	
In Defense of Starbucks.....	22
<i>Molly Metzgi defends the chain, the coffee and those sexy red cups.</i>	



“I pride myself on efficiency...I need about an hour & a half at the mall & I’m boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. And I’m out of there.”

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF WINTER TERM

Nine out of 10 University of Oregon students agree*: winter term is terrible. Shorter days, crappier weather and more clothing help to characterize these 10 weeks as the least-anticipated quarter of the year. There is, however, another factor that looms over Commentator staffers more heavily than the pouring rain or the limited sunlight: ASUO budget season.

During the 10 weeks of winter term, our student government's finance committees spend hundreds of hours crunching numbers, grilling student programs and negotiating contracts, ultimately determining the following year's incidental fee (the ~\$600/year students pay in order to have access to football tickets, the LTD bus system and free rides home in the form of the Designated Driver Shuttle and the Assault Prevention Shuttle, as well as hundreds of other programs and services). They haggle over \$20 here and \$50 there, stomach heartfelt pleas from students who absolutely **MUST** have the extra \$1,500 for their student group's retreat in Sun River and deal with a level of bureaucracy usually reserved for the federal government and certain circles of hell.

By the end of it, everything ultimately stays the same. The incidental fee grows or shrinks by mere dollars, student groups remain upset about losing money or receiving funds that are not up to their standards and life for almost every UO student goes on as if the whole process never existed.. The only people who really care about the minor changes are those

who are involved with the funding process: almost exclusively elected and appointed members of the ASUO.

So instead of wasting your time talking about the ins and outs of the funding system, or which groups are more or likely to get less money (you can read all about this on our blog at www.oregoncommentator.com), we

“Deal with a level of bureaucracy usually reserved for the federal government and certain circles of hell.”

are going to wax poetic on a much more important

subject: Chip Kelly's enormous testicles.

Here is a poem we composed. An ode, if you will. It's called “Win The Day,” and it goes like this:

Going for it on 4th and 3
That's the way to victory
12 and 0 before this week
Refusing to accept defeat
Faking punts and running wide
Switching plays from side to side
To praise the man, no that's not all
These vict'ries rest on Kelly's balls.

Yes, we know “week” and “defeat” don't rhyme. We don't care. Go Ducks.

* We made this number up.



Hi there, and let me tell you a thing or two about myself. My name's Chip Kelly's Balls, and living in the Oregon football coach's underwear, giving him football advice, and courting encomiums for my immense size is my business. Whatever he makes, money-wise, I make, so yeah, it was a good year for me, what of it? I'm not particularly honored by having an issue of the Oregon Commentator devoted to me, since, to my mind, my achievements this season deserve commemoration in a more august publication, possibly *Great Expectations* if that still exists. Yeah, the novel. Heard of it? However, when the editors approached me about doing an advice column, I was like, maybe. But then it got to fourth and long and I was like, "Fuck it, Chipper, let's do it!" Plus I think my gravitational field may have killed Kellie Bramstone, the regular advice columnist.

Dear Oregon Commentator,
I have a gluten allergy, but my mother insists on serving her homemade pumpkin pie for holiday gatherings. It is definitely not gluten-free, but my mother gets offended if I don't eat it, and cries, but if I do, she is enraged by the consequences (flatulence). As pumpkin pies go, hers is atrocious. I'm pretty sure it contains metal shavings, since they seem to appear in the kitchen

before holiday dinners, and because of the taste. I need help imminently because the next holiday, my name day, is coming up on the 22nd.

- Concerned I'm A Gluten Nazi

CKB: Gluten? You're worried about gluten? Pfft. I'm used to giving advice to people whose problems involve two tons of defensive line, so this one seems pretty minor. It's certainly nothing an old fashioned fullback plunge can't solve, but let's try something more adventuresome: Bake your own pie, gluten-free, and bring it well before the party, in whatever flavor you want. How touching is that? Solves everything, right? But here's the extra Chip Kelly's Balls touch: include metal shavings. So many metal shavings she'll never be able to swallow again. Now that's ballsy!

Dear Oregon Commentator,
So nobody likes my restructuring proposal. I thought it was really innovative and some people tell me they like it, but I feel like they're just patting me on the head. And I'm like, hey girlfriend, I've got an advanced degree in Sanskrit! That's Dr. President to you, bitch. I'm paid! I got that complimentary crib, complimentary ride, complimentary Nikes, ya dig? I be on the evening news for growing a mustache just cause I ain't want to shave and you can't even get a

column inch written about that accident on your head. And you're dissing me in front of my people? Sorry, that was a bit mean. I'm just a little confused. How do I silence the haters, or should I just pack the plan in?

- Does Instigating Change Kill Everybody Legitimately?

CKB: Well, DICKEL, looks like you are back to square one. The conventional solution would be to trust in the legislative process and that your plan will float or sink on its own merits. I don't buy that, dude. What you need to do is bring an army of the world's most sadistic battle robots, each armed with some exceptionally angry hydrogen bombs, to this knife-fight. I've always thought, if you really believe in your principles, you'll be willing to take your opponents' children hostage to defend them. So wear a mask, and a boater hat, break into the houses of anyone who opposes you, and pistol-whip them into agreement. This reminds me of all those times I advised the Chipper on fourth and long. I was like, hey dude, all you need to do is line up with thirteen players. Nobody will notice and you'll totally make up the yards. And if your runners get stopped, just tell them to run a forward pass. Just think how unbeaten the Ducks would be if he'd taken my advice. I'll tell you how unbeaten: retroactively unbeaten.

Dear Oregon Commentator,
I'm two points behind from the first half and it's fourth and two on our 30. Should I kick?
- You know who

CKB: Fake Punt! Fake Punt! Fake Punt!

Chip Kelly's Balls are a special contributor to this issue of the Oregon Commentator and are respected more for their spirit than for their tactical know-how.

The Biggest Balls of 2010

Julian Assange

No explanation needed

Wyclef Jean

It takes a hefty pair to actually want to lead a country that Mother Nature raped and human rights forgot, especially with zero political experience.

The Chilean miners

They could've gone all Lord of the Flies while trapped together for 69 days and bashed up the nerdiest miner in the bunch, but they carried on Skyping with their mistresses, confident they would live to cheat another day.

Coco going solo

When Conan O'Brien announced he was leaving The Tonight Show many feared it would mean losing Coco from TV forever. But our favorite daywalker went rogue and got his own show on TBS instead. Fuck the man!

LeBron James' "The Decision"

Only a man with giant testicles could devote an entire hour of the nation's attention to his decision to betray Cleveland for the warm embrace of Miami. The last time anyone cared this much about a person switching teams was the outing of Ellen DeGeneres.

The JetBlue Flight Attendant

When flight attendant Steven Slater told the passengers of JetBlue flight 1052 to "go fuck themselves," grabbed two Blue Moons, and slid down the emergency slide to sweet, sweet freedom, he didn't know he was also becoming an American hero. One can only be hit over the head some bitch's luggage so many times.

The Barefoot Bandit

Colton Harris-Moore, a.k.a. the Barefoot Bandit, stole five planes, two cars, a boat and burglarized more than 100 private residences before the age of 18. And those are just the ones they can pin him on. Although he did not evade authorities for long, Harris-Moore's ballsy escape to the Bahamas in a hot Cessna earns him bragging rights to one of the largest sets of 2010.

PILFs (and GTFILFs)

PILFs and GTFILFs: They're like assholes. Everyone has one, but no one wants to hear about it. We've compiled a sample of three sexy scholars on campus here in one convenient location, a one-stop-shop for all your carnal needs. If you don't see your crush on the list then let us know who's hot at editor@oregoncommentator.com or Faceybookey.



Assistant Prof Karrie Koesel

In a field that is normally dominated by old men in tweed jackets, Karrie is a breath of fresh air. Fresh, sexy air. Besides speaking three languages and being a graduate of Cornell, Karrie also enjoys kicking back with a cold Deschutes Pale Ale on the banks of the Willamette.



Jacob Dittmer

Many people have nominated Jacob Dittmer as a GTFILF, and one look at his picture will tell you why. Aside from owning one sexy schnoz, Jake is a cornfed Illinois farm-boy who has spread his seeds of knowledge from the banks of the Mississippi to the streets of D.C. before settling in Eugene. His students describe him as a "smoldering dynamo of journalistic genius and wit," and also "totally hawt."



GTF Ben Lenoir

This Digital Arts GTF is an accomplished artist who's luscious videos and print books are bound to seduce you, if his hot booty doesn't get you first. He can also chug six cans of beer in a row and is a native of Delaware, just like Christine O'Donnell!

The Holiday Issue: Corrections

* An article in the Dec. 8 Commentator mistakenly used the phrase "two Four Lokos." The correct terminology was "Eight Loko." The *Commentator* regrets the error.

*Another article in the same issue implied that Meriweather Lewis and William Clark were drunk when they were in the Eugene area during Thanksgiving 1805. Lewis and Clark were actually on PCP. The *Commentator* regrets the error.



asks ...

Who would you teabag?

Chip Kelly:

Whoa, you could crush some-one with those!

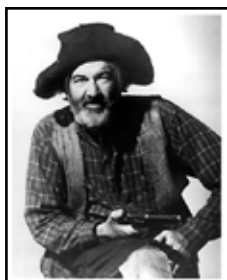


John Boehner:
Nancy Pelosi.

LTD:
LTD Nutsack Guy.



Julian Assange:
The unwilling.



Old Timey Prospector:
Whooooooooores!



Robocop:
If you'll notice, there was not a Tea Party joke in this entire section.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RICHARD LARIVIERE?



Surrounded by balls!

BARTENDING SCHOOL

with Sudsy O'Sullivan
An Oregon Commentator original recipe

Dirty Water

6 parts vodka
Splash of Diet Pepsi
Pour over ice and enjoy your full and interesting life

Sudsy Says:

"Let's play 1400:
women
only speak
when spoken to."



Editor's note: The author of these articles, An Tae Sik, is a transfer student from Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang, North Korea. There, he studied journalism, gaining an internship at Rodong Sinmun and beginning a thesis that passionately defended the principles in Kim Jong Il's seminal journalism textbook Guidance for Journalists. The newspaper sent him to South Africa to cover the soccer World Cup, but while he was there, he was convicted in absentia for sneezing in a way deemed "counterrevolutionary."

Tae Sik still argues to the death that his conviction was just, but nevertheless, he elected to emigrate to the United States and finish his education here in order to escape the gulag. His experience with media in his home country means we are glad to have him as our news editor, but we have made a practice of noting before his articles that he refuses to disavow many of the tenets of journalism espoused in Kim Jong Il's text. These tenets, to put it mildly, anathematize the very traditions we cherish most in American journalism. For instance, the book advises that "newspapers carry articles in which they unfailingly hold the president in high esteem, adore him and praise him as the great revolutionary leader."

Also, it has come to our attention that previous forewords ascribing to Tae Sik more journalistic experience than outlined above came about due to a misunderstanding between Tae Sik and his translator. Tae Sik suggested the translator be sent to a gulag, but we talked him down.

Oregon Education "Chancellor" Dismissed

EUGENE, January 9 (OC) — The "government" of Oregon reportedly began preparing on December 5 to dismiss its "Chancellor of the Oregon University System" George Persteiner who had great involvement in the "suspected ultra-fine parachute-guilding



reciprocation scandal."

George Persteiner was the favored lapdog of the pigs in the Oregon "government." His position became untenable under the new Oregon "government," whose attempt to "build Oregon's future" is an open farce to anybody who cares look and whose attempts to bridle the glorious Waffle Sole idea and Ducks First politics will invariably encounter demise.

George Pernsteiner's dismissal comes alongside those of many other "high ranking ministers" in the new "government," whose attempts to stem the tide of history by standing athwart the path of the University of Oregon and its peaceful independence will inevitably be exposed for their foolhardiness.

The Student Party of the University of Oregon has a will as strong as iron and as true as a candle in the darkness and drives the train of history as if hurtling toward a bowl of delicious, savory grass gruel and a warm, party-approved cotton overcoat in one of three presidium-tolerated shades of dark blue after a backbreaking, frigid day in the paracetamol factory. The Waffle Sole idea of Glorious Leader Phil Knight drives this train and the Ducks First politics of First Commisar of the SPUO Richard Lariviere guide it.

LaMichael James, Best Athlete in Oregon

EUGENE, January 9 (OC) — LaMichael James, 21, is the top player for the football team of the University of Oregon, which earned a berth at the 2011 Men's Football Championship in Glendale, Ariz.

He was named the best player at the running back position, nationally.

He greatly contributed to the Ducks' winning the Pacific-10 Championship both in 2010 and 2009.

He, who began playing football in his home state of Texas, was considered an up-and-coming player of football with good pace from a very young age.

He, belonging to the Liberty-Eylau High School football team, has earned the title of Study Hero and Duck Sportsman. First Commissar of the Student Party of the University of Oregon Richard Lariviere was said to be pleased.

New UO Secretary of Law Studies Appointed

EUGENE, January 9 (OC) — A decree by the presidium of the Student Party of the University of Oregon promulgated the appointment of a new Secretary of Law Studies for the UO, replacing the previous holder of the title when she retires.

In place of Margie Paris, who was relieved of her post as Secretary of Law Studies, was appointed Michael Moffitt. The Secretary of Law Studies for the UO heads the Knight Law Study Institute at the UO, named after the Great Leader Phil Knight, author of the Waffle Sole Idea. Michael Moffitt has taught at the UO for 10 years.

FIESTA ATTIRE ON “ELLEN” RUFFLES SOME DUCKS’ FEATHERS

Rockne Andrew Roll and
Ross Coyle

EUGENE — In honor of the Ducks’ participation in college football’s national championship game the following week, University of Oregon students gathered to make a spirited appearance, via satellite, on the Jan. 7 episode of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

DeGeneres encouraged students to arrive at the EMU Amphitheater ready “for a fiesta,” but when some students arrived sporting sombreros, not everyone was pleased.

“I noticed they all took their sombreros off before they started filming,” said UO student Sarah Abadi, who attended the rally.

Student Andrew Seistrup said he was asked to remove his sombrero and fake mustache to, as he said, “avoid stepping on any toes.” DeGeneres’ staff



declined to comment on the matter.

Cory Kirshner-Lira, a graduate student in education, was concerned that people would interpret the sombreros and other costumes in a way that “reduced Mexican culture to stereotypes.”

“I don’t think it would ever be OK for me to dress as a white person... but today it’s OK to dress as a Mexican,” Kirshner-Lira said.

Others did not share her viewpoint. “As a Latino, I don’t see how it’s

degrading,” said Allan Benavidas, who attended the event dressed in a foam taco costume. “It’s just fun.”

Student Bryan Aubineau said he thought the costumes were “all part of the spirit” surrounding the event and the national championship game.

Footage from the event, which drew more than 1,000 students and community members, appeared on the Jan. 7 episode.

PFC SLASHES STUDENT INSURGENT’S BUDGET

Rockne Andrew Roll

EUGENE — The ASUO cut a fifth of the Student Insurgent’s budget for the coming year after questioning the group’s habit of sending issues to prisons and its use of money allotted for travel.

The reduction wasn’t unexpected, but its size was. ASUO President Amelie Rousseau formally recommended a 10 percent reduction in its budget, but the Programs Finance Committee, which approves the allocation of money to student groups, went further, cutting off 20.1 percent at its Jan. 6 meeting.

The Insurgent’s past trips to San Francisco’s Anarchist Book Fair were a point of contention for many committee members.

Questions were also raised about the mailing of copies of the magazine to prison inmates and others off campus, the publication’s poor fundraising and the number of issues printed so far in the year — one.

Sen. Laura Hinman said she was “honestly shocked” that the Insurgent had raised less than \$100 in the past year.

Insurgent staff explained to the PFC that they had lost a large number of staff members in the last year and were rebuilding their operation. Further, they argued that by sending issues to prisoners, they are able to show the plight of an oppressed class in society by printing the letters they receive in reply, contributor Cimmeron Gillespie said.

The biggest problem cited, though, was the Insurgent’s conduct during its members’ trip to San Francisco’s Anarchist Book Fair in 2008. Afterward, one person who had gone



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

A Brief Reminder of This Publication's Aims

Joe Rouse

There's a certain unity of voice at the University of Oregon when it comes to political issues. University administrators, many student groups, the vast majority of campus publications, and student government share this singular perspective, and while dissent and alternative viewpoints might not be suppressed, they are certainly not encouraged. This was the case in 1983 when, as the story goes, a "group of concerned student journalists" decided it was time for another voice to enter the fray of the university's political discussion on issues of both local and national import. This story is, of course, that of the Oregon Commentator.

There seems to be a lot of misconception about what the Oregon Commentator stands for. I was under the impression that our mission statement on the first page of every issue explained very well what we represent. But this is apparently not the case. My girlfriend was upset with me when I explained that we were the most conservative student organization on campus (which isn't saying much). But that in itself is not a reason to approve or disapprove of the Oregon Commentator. In the interest of clarity, let's revisit the Commentator's mission statement (quoted herein).

"We believe the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate," not a stagnant pool of ideas in which everyone agrees with whomever has the longest dreadlocks, the bushiest beard, or the most prominently displayed peace symbol. The pursuit of wisdom is the highest human endeavor; things like "ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality" hinder efforts to create a society of intelligent, free-thinking individuals. We firmly believe that nationalism is poison (as opposed to patriotism [the dictionary is your friend]). We are more than comfortable talking shit about America; we do it because we love this country. If America fucks up, it's the patriot's duty to call it

out. We want the U.S. to be the best it can be, and if mistakes aren't acknowledged, they'll be repeated.

It's a fact that we enjoy writing articles that offend people — you can't break new ground without digging in the dirt. Our editors rarely (if ever) censor because we believe in the First Amendment to the full extent. We dig the First Amendment so much that we've even defended the work of the Student Insurgent on The O'Reilly Factor when our rival publication was too frightened to do so itself (the Insurgent published a series of illustrations depicting Jesus with a boner in March of 2006, while Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten was still under heavy fire for publishing political cartoons featuring the likeness of Muhammad). Freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of the press are distinctly American liberties that are not cherished enough. We'll be damned if we're going to piss them away by mincing around playing nicey-nice..

"There is no Republican or Democratic way to fix a pothole." The increasing polarization of American politics has brought about intense friction in the government and the American people. Politics has become a prickly topic that almost no one can talk about pleasantly. America is a bit bearish these days, maybe you've noticed? Our elected officials need to work together to transmogrify that bear into a bull, that shit ain't easy. It'd be nice if our politicians could do this with some grace, but more likely than not they'll bicker like two toddlers with one crayon the whole damn time. South Park got it right when its creators wrote the line, "every election is between a giant douche and a turd."

But what really upsets us, and what we strive to fight the most, is ignorance. Back in the day America's morons naturally avoided the spotlight, but today they're routinely handed positions of high influence in the media. Fox News is not the only organization guilty of this. MTV, CNN, and the Oregon Daily Emerald constantly spew garbage that makes me feel a little dumber each time I'm exposed to it. (Editor's note: Though we try not to, we'll admit we do it too.) When was the last time you saw a reporter aggressively challenge an idiot's blatantly wrong "facts"? These media outlets say they're providing balanced views, but since when has stupidity and ignorance amounted to balance? This kind of irresponsible journalism has damaged America far more than terrorism. The fact that a wholesale imbecile like Sarah Palin had/has more than a sliver of a chance at the White House is all the proof we need.

Morons be warned: we've declared war on idiocy, and we are coming after you. Even if we're idiotic ourselves sometimes.



Joe Rouse is the operations manager for the Oregon Commentator and yes, that is a photo of him above his name.

BIG BROTHER IS GROPING YOU

Sophie Lawhead

When Transportation Security Administration implemented its notorious new security measures this November, the American public, more specifically the Internet, collectively shat its pants. The new measures consist of two options; the first is a full-body x-ray scan that shows a virtually nude 3-D image of its target. The other, if the traveler opts out of the scan, is an “enhanced” pat down with touching of the breast, genital and buttock areas.

One can only wonder why the TSA thought Americans would go for this. Everyone knows the only people who are allowed to touch privates in airports are celebrities, and they are only allowed to do this to each other. Both prongs of the new measures have brought a sea of concerns about a citizen’s right to privacy and how much actual safety these new methods bring.

The scanners, which are currently in 68 airports nationwide, emit a type of ionizing radiation that damages chemical bonds, such as the ones in the cells of a human body. While a properly working scanner only puts out low, non-harmful levels of radiation, a malfunctioning scanner could cause significant radiation damage.

A brigade of organizations was brought in to ensure the scanner’s safety, including the Food and Drug Administration, the army, and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, but none of them have continued to routinely inspect and test the machines that sit in airports today. The TSA itself only gets the scanners inspected once a year.

In addition to these health concerns, the effectiveness of the scanners has been called into question. Physicists Leon Kaufman and Josef W. Carlson of the University of California, San Francisco, tricked the scanners using flattened “pancaked” explosives, which allow the bombs to become invisible when taped to the stomach or back. The pair also found areas where a box cutter, knife, or small gun could be concealed and passed through security.

Shoddy safety policies and a general lack of concern for the average citizen’s welfare? This sounds like a Bush-era invention. No surprise, the man

behind the scanners is none other than Michael Chertoff, who led the TSA as Bush’s homeland security secretary, and whose security company also worked for Rapiscan, the very same company that received a \$173 million contract to create the scanners.

So we, the public, are forced to submit to 3-D nude pictures, in machines that may or may not be properly working and which cannot detect all types of bombs and weapons, so that the Crypt-Keeper can get a new private jet? Oh, of course, there is the other option: getting to second base with a TSA screener as your fellow passengers watch and/or take videos. There are dozens of stories, pictures and videos of gross personal violations that could have been avoided with a little common sense, but common sense has never been a strong suit of the TSA.

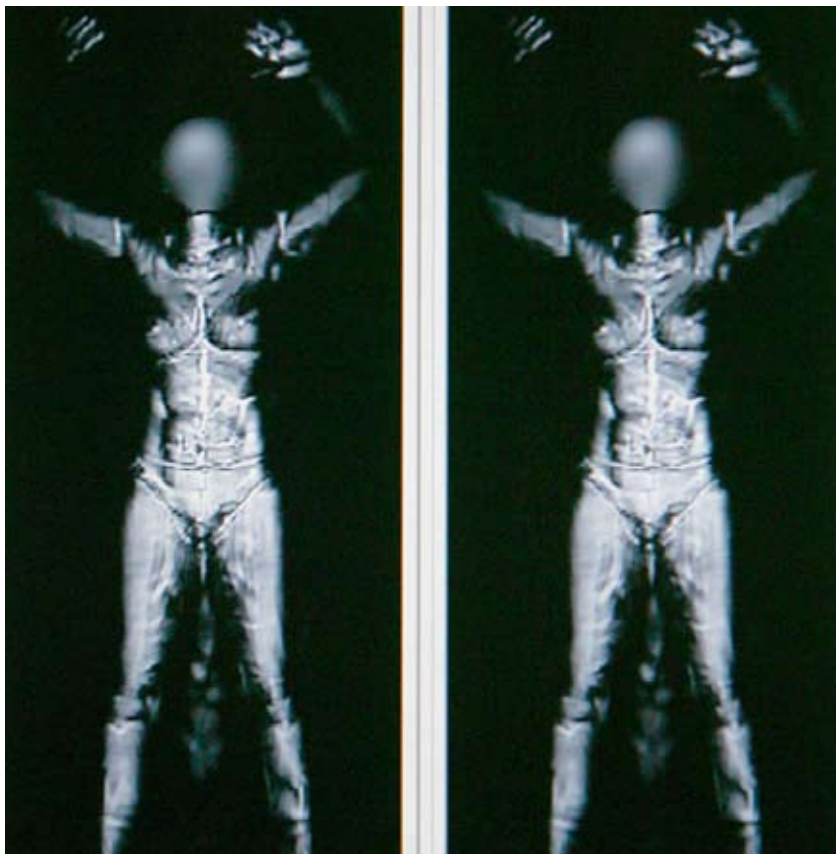
Since its creation in 2001, the TSA has been a reactionary safety blanket that the government uses to appear

“one step ahead of the game.” In reality, all it does is force would-be terrorists to get more creative. Technology will always be usurped by newer technology. However many ways we create to detect bombs, bombers just will create explosives that evade detection.

Sadly, it seems that more human means of security, namely the TSA’s “behavior detection officers,” are just as ineffective. Fewer than 1 percent of individuals singled out by detection

TURN TO LAWHEAD

PAGE 18



MARIJUANA

MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGALIZED

Ben Maras

The reasons for legalizing marijuana are about a lot more than “wanting to smoke weed, man.” There are reasons of economics, medicine, social welfare and the environment, all of which point towards responsibly legalizing cannabis use.

It's not just about legalizing use, but the things that legalization would bring as a result. Habitual pot-smoking isn't necessarily healthy by any means. But what was the last time that stopped us from doing anything else?

The first thing to keep in mind when talking about marijuana legalization is that in the history of its use as a drug, the illegality of it, is a pretty recent thing. Unlike harder drugs, which became illegal shortly after they were invented, cannabis has been used for centuries in just about every culture where the plant can grow. There was little problem with it until it became illegal and the black market got involved.

It was a common crop for the founding fathers, and the Declaration of Independence was drafted on hemp paper. As a fiber it was celebrated, since it yields more material per acre when properly farmed than can be produced by many alternatives, and grows back annually.

And for a while, it remained just that, with comparatively little attention given to the fact that smoking it had fun side effects. Then, in response to pressure from timber and nylon industries came the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937.

It was intended to regulate the sale of cannabis via “tax stamps,” but effectively was de facto criminalization, since only a handful of tax stamps were issued. It was opposed heavily by the American Medical Association because it affected the AMA's ability to prescribe cannabis as a medical treatment. Some even contended that the reason the Spanish slang term “marihuana” was used was so that lawmakers would vote for it without knowing they were outlawing what was more commonly known as cannabis.

It was later ruled unconstitutional under the Fifth Amendment, on the grounds that applying for a tax stamp amounted to a catch-22 of self-incrimination because to apply for a tax stamp – and make a quantity of pot legal – it had to be in hand to be weighed, even though possessing it was illegal without a stamp. The act was replaced by newer prohibition laws that we know today.

But now, after years of policymaking at home and abroad, prohibition has backed America into a corner that is costing us a lot of money and resources and showing no sign of slowing.

Our war against pot is costing us somewhere in the range of \$40 billion each year by most estimates, nearing the cost of the money-sucking vortex that is the Iraq war. That number leaves out the cost of incarceration under mandatory minimum laws, and completely ignores the who-knows-how-much money taxation would bring in, especially in places such as Oregon where marijuana grows readily.

Legalization would open the door to more medical research — currently restricted to the illegal status — as well as allowing doctors more freedom to prescribe it in place of more dangerous chemical, such as the opiate painkillers vicodin and oxycontin.

It would also serve the purpose of putting drug dealers out of work by giving users an alternative route by which to buy it. Oregon may not be dealing with violent drug cartels moving large amounts of product, as some places are, but there's no doubt that pot is a source of income for drug dealers. So instead of trying to affect the demand for the product, why not do it by offsetting supply with a legal alternative? Even some of the most vehement proponents, though, would be forced to adopt a new attitude that reflected the changing times.

Popular opinion is yet to catch up with the idea, but time will change that. When prohibition agent Elliot Ness was asked what he would do when prohibition of alcohol was over, he famously replied: “I think I'll have a drink.” Prohibition has universally led to violence by people who are forced into conflict over it, even when they have no personal reason to be against it. But opinions will change, much as they did about prohibition, when the positive effects that legalizing cannabis would have for everyone, smokers and non-smokers, become apparent.



Ben Maras is a copy editor for the Oregon Commentator and he has never smoked. Anything.

LEGALIZATION

MARIJUANA SHOULD REMAIN ILLEGAL

Nick Dreyer

The legalization of pot? What a novel idea! I haven't heard that one before on the University of Oregon's campus!

Sarcasm aside, I have no problem with legalization. Trepidation arises upon the thought of regulating everyone's second favorite drug. I have this vision in my head of a world where pot is legal; everyone is high, Obama punctuates his speeches with a drag from a blunt and there are orgies in Kinko's.

I foresee a few hindrances between now and paradise, specifically what might become of weed if reborn from the warm uterus of illegality and christened a free-market commodity.

Friends, let's talk dosage: Remember Salvia? That shit you and your boner head friends in high school bought at a head shop when you couldn't find any pot? The shit that makes you act like a bird in a public park while a firefighter writes down your license plate number? Remember when that firefighter tells you he's not really a firefighter but some asshole neighbor who just called the cops on "you goddamn stoners"? The shit that made you piss yourself in the back of your friend's Chevy when someone said, "Dude, that firefighter was a DICK." Yeah, that shit.

Potency ranged from 5x upwards (I never saw anything over 80x myself, though I heard tale of 120x, which must feel like Beelzebub corkscrew fucking your soul without protection). The point being if marijuana is distributed via corporate scheme, its manufacturers could in theory control the potency. Ten dollars for a pack of "Marj Lights" or \$20 for "Marj Full Flavour" to actually get high.

You probably wouldn't just be smoking pot. Factory-manufactured marijuana is likely to be processed with chemical additives and combustible

filler material. This could include artificial flavours ("We call it Blueberry Yum Yum because it's fucking BLUE."), an addicting agent like nicotine, or a bunch of THC-less hemp to even out your bag.

You could probably still buy good old-fashioned, home grown pot ("Like Grandma used to grow!"), but for a ridiculous markup. Look at the food industry. You can eat a hamburger that tastes like it was scraped from a fat-sex-soaked mattress for 99 cents or you can eat a cow that lived a better life than you for six times that price.

That is, of course, assuming that currently illegal grow operations won't be able to function once the drug is controlled. Given that owning alcohol sills is grounds to seize your property, it is probably a good chance that current illegal grow ops will remain illegal. They will either continue their production and distribution of cannabis as an underground alternative to the mass-produced product prophesized above which would limit the taxable possibilities of the drug, or they will become a bigger target of law enforcement because of their economic threat to McDitchWeed.

Everyone wants to have his pot and smoke it too. You either get cheap I-am-going-to-kill-myself-by-eating-every*-goddamn-popsicle-sticky-ickyganja with notaxable benefits or I-may-as-well-have-stuck-to-tobacco-you-dickless-cowards-ho-hum Buddha with, perhaps, a new hospital in town.

Think about the children. The children who want to get HIGH.

*As in, "All the popsicles."



Nick Dreyer is an artist for the Oregon Commentator who can no longer see a fire station without wetting himself.

WHY WE NEED NET NEUTRALITY (AND WHY WE SHOULDN'T TRUST THE FCC TO GIVE IT TO US)

Ben Maras

Since its inception, the Internet has functioned as a single, living entity, growing and evolving in response to changing technologies and new content. The introduction of images and video opened up the doors for new kinds of media users could access, and drove demand for Internet access to skyrocket.

As much as it has changed, though, some things have remained constant. Most important of these is that the Internet has always been one entity. There is no American or Canadian Internet and it doesn't matter how much a user paid to access it. Under these conditions, the Internet flourishes and has become what it is today.

Despite this fact, only one in five people support the idea of net neutrality, according to a new Rasmussen poll. After looking at the questions, one can see the reasons for their opposition: a term most people are unfamiliar with, and an exceptionally poor framing of the issue.

The poll had four questions:

- 1.) How closely have you followed stories about Internet neutrality issues?
- 2.) Should the Federal Communications Commission regulate the Internet like it does radio and television?
- 3.) What is the best way to protect those who use the Internet—more government regulation or more free market competition?
- 4.) If the Federal Communications Commission is given the authority to regulate the Internet, will they use that power in an unbiased manner or will

they use it to promote a political agenda? If you answered “Not very” to the first question, the others might be a bit misleading. Actually, no matter what you answered to the first question, the rest of the questions might seem a bit misleading, thanks to inadequate media coverage. But in this case, the idea of “regulating the Internet” mentioned in question two has more to do with protecting online freedoms than it does limiting them.

Basically, net neutrality is the principle that Internet Service Providers (like Comcast) aren't allowed to differentiate between types of Internet data even though it's delivered via wires and tubes they own. This means subscribers get the

“whole” Internet, without discrimination based on format or content. Doing this prevents ISPs from charging more for certain sites, blocking sites of their choice, or slowing down internet speeds based on what a user is doing with it.

The term may be new to a lot of people, but net neutrality itself isn't a new idea. It's a new name that's been tacked on to describe the way the Internet has functioned since its birth up until pretty recently, and it stands at the core of the Internet as a cultural driving force.

In the early days of the Internet, it wasn't so much an issue because the technology that allows “deep-packet inspections” – intercepting and analyzing a user's data – didn't really exist yet. Besides, there wasn't enough on the Internet to be worth regulating.

All of the content that was put on the Internet was free, and open for anyone to access. All you needed was a phone line and an ISP subscription, and the entire Internet was at your disposal: a virtual wild west for information junkies.

And then there was porn. And with porn came money. Whether a good or bad thing, it drove the expansion of the Internet since the very beginning and helped spur new advances in Internet video and images. Soon people were sending pictures and video to their friends, and more and more people were getting online. (Random cool fact: Even before it was possible to send images, people were sending text-generated ASCII porn to their friends. It goes that far back.)

Fast forward 15 years or so to today, and the Internet is a giant hub for the free exchange of information. Now we have Wikipedia, YouTube, Google (in all its various forms), iTunes and the entire peer-to-peer file-sharing universe, together comprising the biggest library in all of human history. You can read a 2,000 word entry about the use of the umlaut in heavy metal on Wikipedia, watch a documentary about the creation of the solar system on YouTube, then download every book Mark Twain ever wrote and the entire Clash discography in a few mouse clicks as to count on one hand.

The best part? So can anybody else with open access to the Internet. Regardless of nationality, social strata, race, religion, or any other divider, so long as one has access to an Internet terminal, they can access the same content. Sharing these cultural experiences shapes our outlook and acts as the glue to society, and the more people who can share them, the stronger the bonds.

This also means a community can share information about what's going on around them and become a more informed voting populace. This is bad news for governments and other systems of control, which learned a long time ago that the best way to keep people docile is to keep them ignorant.

Would media organizations have the power they do if there were tiered Internet subscriptions like the ones the

new so-called “regulations” allow, so that certain sites were only visible to those who paid extra for them, or worse yet, if ISPs were allowed to block access to content that they, for whatever reason, deemed inappropriate, much as the Chinese government does? Slowly, the poorest members of society would have less access to news, becoming exactly what newspapers were founded to present.

Look at the recent Wikileaks debacle to see how little fight big businesses put up when faced with any amount of political pressure. Bank of America, PayPal, Amazon, Apple, Visa and MasterCard have all caved in recent months, whether it was refusing to accept payments to the company or dropping a certain controversial application from a certain online App store.

While this comparison isn't meant to imply a slippery slope between the two, it should highlight the urgency with which open access to information must be treated, as it democratizes cultural information, especially that which oppressive regimes would seek to squelch. It's a little window in to the zeitgeist, right in your living room.

The really troubling part about the new regulations is they also open up a doorway to a tiered Internet, where users pay extra for access to certain content or types of media, or what amounts to an Internet “fast lane” and “slow lane.” Want to watch a video in the slow lane? Watch out, you might get charged extra for it. And if you do, it'll be time to kiss the idea of one, open Internet goodbye.

With the passage of the new regulations, ISPs are now forbidden from blocking access to lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices on landlines, but wireless is still regarded as a slightly different ball game. If you access the Internet via a regular computer terminal, you've got more rights than if you use a smart phone or similar device.

The argument that “the Internet is fine” and doesn't need our help doesn't take into account how much technology has changed since the Internet was invented. It used to be fine when net neutrality was just the way the Internet worked. But keeping the Internet the way it has been means making sure the Internet functions openly, and enforcing real net neutrality instead of the half-hearted regulations passed by the FCC that don't go all the way to protect users. It might not be politically popular, but it's the only way to keep our Internet – and our society – open and free for everyone.



Ben Maras is a copy editor for the Oregon Commentator and enjoys ASCII porn more than the real thing.

HOW I GOT DUPED BY PROFESSOR BILL HILLAR

A Tale of an Academic Con-Man

Colin Bowman

Wow. This guy has balls. Big balls.

That's what I thought after my first encounter with Bill Hillar. Hired as an adjunct professor by our dear University of Oregon, Bill Hillar came here in 2008 and 2009 to teach a Substance Abuse Prevention Program class called "Prevention through Leadership." Those of us who attended the class were led to believe we were to be lectured to by a real-life Jason Bourne.

I sat enraptured as this dapper all-American fellow recounted his perilous covert operations as a member of the US Army's elite Delta Force unit. This guy was the real deal, I thought: he was a decorated retired army colonel and the movie *Taken* was based on his life experience. That's right, the one where Liam Neeson plays a deadly retired Army ninja on a mission to rescue his daughter who has been abducted by sex traders in Europe. Hillar spared no grim detail of the real-life story of his daughter's murder at the hands of Asian sex traffickers and I sat amongst the teary-eyed throng who listened to this man's harrowing quest to make the world a better place despite the unimaginable losses he suffered along the way. It was one of the few times in my life I felt genuinely in awe of someone.

Recently some enlightening information has surfaced

about Bill Hillar, and it has changed my opinion of this man more than a little bit. The only thing that hasn't changed about my perception of Hillar is that I still think he has huge balls. Huge balls because he can go from university to university all over the country telling outrageous lies.

After Hillar spoke in September 2010 at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where he is also an adjunct professor, a US Army Green Beret who was in attendance noticed something off about the supposed ex-Delta Force member: first and foremost being that he had never heard of him. "For someone to have risen to the position of colonel and to have such history as Bill Hillar claims to have had and for us to have never heard of him is, well, unheard of," says an ex-special forces operative who wishes not to be named for this article. His suspicions were verified when he did a little research on Mr. Hillar and found that the military record that he purported was grossly exaggerated.

In fact, Bill Hillar spent not a single day of his life in the army, much less as a colonel or a member of its elite Delta Force unit. Hillar was in the US Coast Guard from 1962 to 1970. Perhaps the most ironic gem on Hillar's dreamed up resume is a doctorate from the University of Oregon, which, you guessed it, he doesn't have. I'll get to this in a moment. But the most pressing mystery that no one seems to be able to figure out is: did he really have a daughter and was she really murdered by sex-traffickers? I don't

want to touch that one with a 10-foot pole of speculation, so maybe I should just ask Hillar myself.

Well, I can't. No one can. Bill Hillar has used the skills taught to him by his imaginary Special Forces drill sergeant, and vanished from the grid. Since these allegations have come to light his website has been taken down, phone calls and emails go unanswered, and he hasn't shown up at his recently scheduled speaking events. At this point it goes beyond



Bill Hillar: Does this look like Liam Neeson shooting Albanian kidnappers in the face to you?

“innocent until proven guilty” — he’s guilty of a significant amount of misrepresentation — but an explanation is not too much to ask.

But Hillar isn’t the only one who has some explaining to do. How about our university, which hired a fraud to teach us and charged our student accounts for it? A fraud, it is important to note, who said he received a doctorate from the very institution he scammed. And no one at the administrative level bothered to check this? It raises some serious doubt as to the capabilities of the gatekeepers at this university who decide who gets to “educate” UO students.

While most of us who attend this university don’t delude ourselves into considering it the pinnacle of higher education, it is higher education, and that classification inherently implies education with integrity. The UO and all the other colleges that hired Bill Hillar jeopardized that integrity. I have been getting disappointed by things I thought were real then turned out to be bogus for years — the letter from Hogwarts never came when I turned 11 — so this isn’t the reason I find this deceitful campaign so heinous.

“Hillar isn’t the only one who has some explaining to do. How about our university, which hired a fraud to teach us and charged our student accounts for it?”

The truth is I can be no more offended at Hillar for telling fantastic tales and passing them off as reality as I can be at the UO for letting him tell them to me. He didn’t merely twist or distort facts, but simply made them up. This shouldn’t be allowed to happen at a university. It is the duty of universities everywhere to have a functioning bullshit detector when it comes to professors. This incident makes it look like if you can put on a believable performance and fabricate a resume

you’re good enough for the UO. The package Hillar sold to this university looked so pretty on the outside that no

one imagined it would be full of hot air. UO got duped, and they made it so easy.



Colin Bowman is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and would like you to know that the main character in the movie Godzilla was based on him, he really did smash Tokyo once, and he is set to start work in the UO’s planning, public policy and management department in fall 2011.

*Serving Campus
Since 1981*

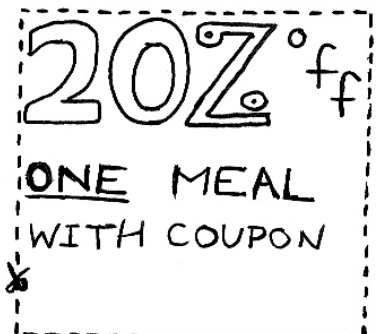


*Breakfast,
Lunch, & Dinner*



Natural, free-range eggs & 100% antibiotic & hormone-free BEEF!

*Open:
Weekdays:
7:30-2:00AM
Weekends
9:00-2:00AM*



1214 Kincaid Street

541-687-0600

Free WiFi!

DOESN'T TONER
SUCK?

WANT TO
COMPLAIN
ABOUT IT MORE?

DON'T

Join the Oregon
Commentator.

Now hiring:
-Artists
-Editors
-Photographers
-Writers
-Designers

officers actually warranted their pat-downs. The only direction left to go in is advanced passenger screening, which flags passengers who display certain traits such as one-way tickets, paying in cash, and no luggage, but this is another method that can be easily fooled.

The Eugene airport does not currently have a body scanner, though "enhanced pat-down techniques" have been used at all Oregon airports since October. While its true that we may never find a way for flights to be 100 percent safe for every passenger, it should be noted that the chance of being in an airborne terror attack is, according to Nate Silver of Business Insider, 1 in 16.5 million. The odds of being in a fatal car accident are about 1 in 140. The looming horror of terrorist plane attacks may be a little more than exaggerated.

We need to stop wasting energy and money on an expensive, illogical security system that doesn't work and is, in the words of Atlantic writer Jeffrey Goldberg, "a security theater" at best.

Consider our track record since 2001: we have prevented about 40 terrorist plots, but 21 successful acts of terror slipped through the cracks. Only one involved an airplane, which was flown into a Texas office building by a leftist software engineer using his own Piper Dakota. Clearly the biggest threat to American security is the desire to own a private plane.

So whats the next step, TSA? Strip searches complete with anal probes? Will we have to stand in line, naked and lubed up, while Big Brother reminds us to "Spread em' for safety!?" The United States won't stop being bombed, shot at, and generally hated until we develop better foreign policy, and no amount of tax payer money will change that. Our current TSA is a pacifier- a mutli-million dollar, potentially carcinogenic, highly invasive pacifier, and it's time we grow up and throw the binky out.



Sophie Lawhead is associate editor of the Oregon Commentator and travels only by apprition.

INSURGENT, FROM PAGE 9

on the student-fee-funded trip wrote in to the Insurgent to thank them for the "naked good time."

Speaking on the Book Fair scandal, one of the Insurgent's co-editors said it was "an inappropriate thing to do... we can't apologize enough."

After a further discussion, in which all members of the PFC indicated their wish to see the Insurgent engage in further fundraising efforts, Hinman moved to amend the proposed budget to remove half of the estimated amount the Insurgent spends on publication and distribution of issues destined for off-campus circulation, as well as a reduction in the travel budget.

This revised budget was passed unanimously at a final total of \$17,645, down from last year's budget of \$22,222. PFC Chairperson Noah Wolf-Prusan, joined by other committee members, encouraged the Insurgent to publish another issue and increase its fundraising efforts, saying that the group might be recalled and be granted additional funding based on those efforts.



Rockne Andrew Roll is managing editor of the Oregon Commentator and is asking PFC for a 1,000 percent budget increase.

Ellen DeGeneres came to campus last Thursday and told people to “put on your best outfit for a fiesta.” Ellen says “fiesta” in a tweet and it makes everyone think that they need to come dressed up as Mexicans.

My friends showed up, called out some for their racism and were told to “shut up,” “stop bringing hate and negativity,” and “Go home.” Well, here’s a newsflash for white people dressed up as Mexicans: We, my fellow brown people and I, have put food on the tables of America, we have taken care of American children, we have cleaned your American house built by brown people, and we have chauffeured your foreign cars. Brown hands have harvested, packaged, cooked and served your food to you.

Today, thousands of Duck fans are in Arizona disregarding the ways bad policy affects us all. NPR recently reported that campaign finance reports, lobbying documents and corporate records show “a quiet, behind-the-scenes effort to help draft and pass Arizona Senate Bill 1070 by an industry that stands to benefit from it: the private prison industry” But what does this have to do with Oregon students?

Well, many spend time lobbying our legislators to lower tuition. Oregon has waged a war against higher education. Money that should be going to education is now being funneled to prison because all of a sudden it seems like more

crimes are being committed. Wrong. More crimes are not being committed and instead we’re seeing people profiting from keeping people incarcerated rather than keeping all of us educated.

The Oregonian reported on Sept. 29 that “Oregon was spending \$36,060 annually per inmate, compared with \$30,168 in Washington, \$16,319 in Idaho and \$8,128 in Alabama.” Furthermore, the article cited a PEW Center study saying, “Oregon spent a greater percentage of its general fund on corrections in 2007 than any state in the country.”

Our reality has shown us that we’ve been duped. Our tuition rises, our educators and staff are asked to take pay furloughs, the budgets for K-12 and Higher Education are continually slashed, but somehow, somewhere, we find money to fund prisons — or and incarcerate more people using thinly-veiled racist immigration rhetoric.

Because efforts by University affiliates failed to move the BCS game from Arizona, there’s not much I can do to stop the entourage of advisers, coaches and trainers, the band, and our administrators that will accompany the football team to Arizona. I’ll I’m asking is for you travel to Arizona consciously, if you travel at all.

— Lidiana Soto Morales

16 Tons

100% Amateur.

~Billy Childish

Beer & Wine
Bottle Shop | Tasting Bar
Corner of 13th & High
www.SixteenTons.biz

On Annoyances:

“WTF Oregon Commentator, the Emerald puts out issues every day, its really hurting your rep only coming out once every two weeks.”

-The most recent of our many shout outs in the *Oregon Voice*. It really hurts our brains when you publish, ever. Also, why do you only love Lyzi? What, the rest of us aren't good enough for you?

“Since the Oregon Voice so famously likes its “skinny jeans” we invite our readers to join us and read how to: taper your pants.”

-The most recent in the OV's series on “How To Be A Big, Dumb Hipster”.

“But I think people have been educated about the issue since grade school. The problem isn't education, it's choice.”

The OV's Andrea Saylor waxes poetic on why people smoke. How do you know a story is completely and totally dead? When the *Oregon Voice* is writing bout it.

On Fighting Oppression:

“No, Cosmo, I'm not going to spend all my money on expensive hair products because men love the ‘bad girl bump.’ And NO, Cosmo I'm not going to belittle myself by changing to please someone else... So I re-subscribed to National Geographic, and I cancelled [sic] my subscription to Cosmo.”

- Joanna Wendel courageously fighting patriarchy by putting down one magazine and picking up another. (“Ditching Cosmo a smart change,” ODE Jan. 4, 2011)

On Pure Irony:

“The private sector does not give us freedom. Instead, it’s just another form of enslavement, where we are all beholden to the “invisible hand.”

-Cimmeron Gillespie, explaining the dangers of University privatization in a newspaper funded by ad revenue that operates in a Nike-sponsored University system. (“A privatized university will violate commitments to the state,” ODE 05 January 2011)

On What’s Really Important:

“With the BCS National Championship game only three days away, the University has effused an increased sense of school spirit in preparation for the highly anticipated game against No. 1 Auburn. Yesterday, one other person shared that same school pride.”

The first section of “Ellen Extravaganza” in the Friday January 7 edition of the *Ol’ Dirty Emerald*. Glad to see reporter Darin Moriki is willing to reduce the whole world to Ellen DeGeneres.

On Just Plain Stupid:

“Let the ruling class tremble in their Christmas stockings! Let the sound of our collective voices batter the eardrums of Kitty Piercy and the Eugene City Council! Together lets decorate the Christmas tree of equality with the ornaments of class consciousness!”

-The Black Tea Society, from The Student Insurgent’s blog. We could not make this shit up



RAGE AGAINST THE STARBUCKS

Young Culture's Misplaced Hatred of Commercial Coffee

Molly Metzиг

I'm writing this article in Starbucks. And to answer your question, yes, I am using a Macbook and wearing super trendy glasses. Even if you don't know me, you can picture me. If you've been conscious for the last decade, I should be in your memory somewhere. The Boston Globe's Alex Beam knows all about me.

"I'm always amazed at the high-class hobos who clutter up Starbucks," he wrote in 2008, "the MacBook 'novelists,' and the Bluetooth-enabled 'consultants,' nursing their lattes and milking the Internet." It's a stereotype peculiar to America, where people are defined largely by where they spend their money. My question for Beam, and for all the haters (and there are many) is this: Why do you hate Starbucks so much?

Is it because it's trying to take over the world? If so, consider the possibility that people in other countries want Starbucks no less than American women want Topshop.

Is it because it doesn't allow its employees to unionize? If so, start a business, and then decide how you would deal with the possibility of your employees unionizing.

Some people hate Starbucks simply because they think it's overpriced. But price judgments are very subjective. Some people are willing to spend \$4 on a beer. Some are willing to spend that on a magazine. Some are willing to spend that on

a paper cup filled with pumpkin-flavored syrup and espresso. And some people will tell you that all of those things are overpriced. But enough will pay \$4 that it makes sense to keep the price there.

Anyhoo, if Starbucks were any cheaper, the stores would be packed with customers, and the goal of creating a "third place" between home and work or school would be shot to hell.

Fellow undergrads, you get a free pass. If you hate Starbucks, I'll assume it's because you just love to hate; it can take years for teenage angst to dissipate. But the reason for Beam's disdain is one that's fairly common: Starbucks is snobby, its customers out of touch with the struggles of Real Americans. "The Dunkin' Donuts outlets in my neighborhood offer a glaring contrast [to Starbucks]," he writes. "I hit Dunkin' a few mornings each week after exercising. It's the only time of day when I interact with men and women who actually work for a living."

Beam may be amazed by me (a high-class hobo) but I'm amazed by him. He's a conventionally successful baby boomer who gets off on tossing crumbs to the hard-working folks below his class (see also: John Edwards). Specifically, Beam frames his going to Dunkin' Donuts, when he could easily go

to Starbucks, an act of grounded nobility.

One time (yeah, one time) I became friends with a UO student, and we got on the subject of jobs. “I work at Starbucks,” he said, looking down. “Sorry.” I told him he didn’t need to apologize. Starbucks isn’t Wal-Mart or Halliburton or Phillip Morris. It’s one of the most socially responsible corporations in the U.S. But to be a corporation in this country is to be guilty until proven innocent.

“If one strips down Starbucks to the core, all it consists of is overpriced coffee, available newspapers and somewhat comfortable chairs,” writes HubPages’ Anthony31587. “Dunkin’ Donuts, on the other hand, has cultivated an even bigger fan base because it is devoid of arrogance, elitism and embraces the common man.” When did the debate over where to get coffee get so political? You’d think we were talking PCs versus Macs.

Alas, Eugene has no Dunkin’ Donuts. When I moved here four years ago I, like every other coffee-drinking freshman, was faced with the choice between Starbucks and Espresso Roma (It would be years before I discovered Barry’s). Every day I saw the soccer moms and Uggh-heads going in and out of Starbucks. I saw the sweet-looking people going in and out of Espresso Roma, the independent-looking cafe next door. Naturally, I pledged my allegiance to the latter. I loved the free water and the feeling of moral superiority that patronizing local businesses, even inferior ones, endows (Maybe I’m not so different from Beam after all). But there was a problem I couldn’t put out of my mind: the inconsistent quality of the drinks I was getting.

Roma, I love you, but you’ve sold me several lattes that can only be described as “chalky.”

At the Starbucks next door, for the same price, I know what I’ll get and I always get what I expect. Fortunately for the Espresso Romas of the world, many people think that’s the beauty of a less corporate coffee shop: every latte is a little different from the last. Starbucks aims for consistency in their drinks as well as their environments. I’ve never been to a Starbucks that didn’t feel like a Starbucks.

Why do you think so many American college students choose Australia, when they could study abroad anywhere in the world? We like places that offer a sense of familiarity. For a coffee shop, this is really important. People use coffee shops for all kinds of purposes besides looking like high-class hobos. They’re the go-to places for people who don’t know each other particularly well, and Starbucks is an obvious neutral territory. That aspect, in addition to quality products, is a reason for Starbucks’ success.

But, as my extremely bourgeois grandma likes to say, “America punishes success and rewards mediocrity.” At first I discredited this as the perspective of someone who despises the progressive income tax, the capital gains tax, the dividend

tax, and the death tax just because they’re inconvenient for her. But the more I think about it, the more truth I see in her statement.

Americans tend to honor entrepreneurs who profit modestly, but almost inevitably vilify those who achieve long-term success. It’s a thread that runs through more realms of life than just business. Take sports, for example: everyone hates the Patriots. Everyone! Or other countries: China and Brazil were cute when their economies were struggling, but now they might eclipse the U.S., and that’s just not okay. Music, too: a band can be great – think Blink 182 in 1996 – but once their popularity crosses a certain threshold, we’re hesitant to admit we like them. And if we do, it’s with a qualification: “Oh yeah, I love Blink 182 – but only the first three albums.” Once you exceed a certain level of prominence, be it in the form of profits or staying power, America will betray you.

I’m in Chicago now, and this city had 500 Dunkin’ Donuts at last count. Yet I never hear anyone talk smack about Dunkin’ Donuts, or Caribou Coffee for that matter. Interestingly, these are also the two coffee places where I can almost never understand the cashiers. But the people at Starbucks are a different story. They keep lines moving, they seem happy to be working, and I never have to ask them to repeat themselves.

I’m starting to get it though. Starbucks is evil because the people who go there have disposable incomes and college degrees. Dunkin’ Donuts is beyond reproach because its customers are men and women who actually work. The people lining up at Dunkin’ have real problems, and we need to focus our criticism on those who don’t. You know, to level the playing field.

Starbucks is the only coffee chain out there that’s good enough to be hated. Dunkin’ Donuts does serve good coffee, but I’ve never been to one that was clean, or offered Internet access, or decent baked goods, or had a hottie behind the counter. Roma offers the classic cafe experience but not a quality product. Dunkin’ has a quality product but no one goes there for the experience. Starbucks doesn’t sacrifice either, and that’s a real achievement. So if you harbor a juvenile hatred for Starbucks and everything it represents, I suggest directing your rage elsewhere. There are so many better targets.



Molly Metzger is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and secretly drinks Folgers when no one is looking.

OMG!

In 2007, Oregon Commentator Teditor Emeritus Edward Neidermeyer had a vision. A vision to bring Commentator mascot Sudsy O'Sullivan to life.



ASUO Senate Surplus Funding Proposal

Criteria and conditions:

- There is currently \$800,000 available in unexpended funds. The ASUO Senate Appropriations Committee has been formed with the intent of studying input on how this money can be spent to enhance the cultural and physical development of the UC. Every proposal will be reviewed in the coming year. Those proposals will be submitted and presented to the University community in Spring Term. For more information, contact the Appropriations Chairman, David Daniels, at the ASUO Committee by email or call (503) 346-3724.
- The funds must be allocated towards a project or department recognized by the ASUO University.
- Each proposal may only be for one, one-time allocation; however you may have to make this one proposal.
- Completed proposals must be submitted to the ASUO Office, Suite 404, by the end of the week of winter term. Proposals or late proposals may be returned to the contact person.

PART I

Please type or print

Name of primary contact person: Ted Neidermeyer
Email: commentator@uoregon.edu Phone: 346-3724
Department or Program: Oregon Commentator
Project Title: Sudsy Costume Today's date: 2/1/07
Total Estimated Cost of Proposal: \$ 10,000
Total Request of Surplus Funds from ASUO Senate: \$ 10,000

**VISION ACTUALIZED,
BITCHES!**

THE
PIONEER MOTHER