

SETA EXPOSED Inside the only student group funded to break the law

O R E G O N

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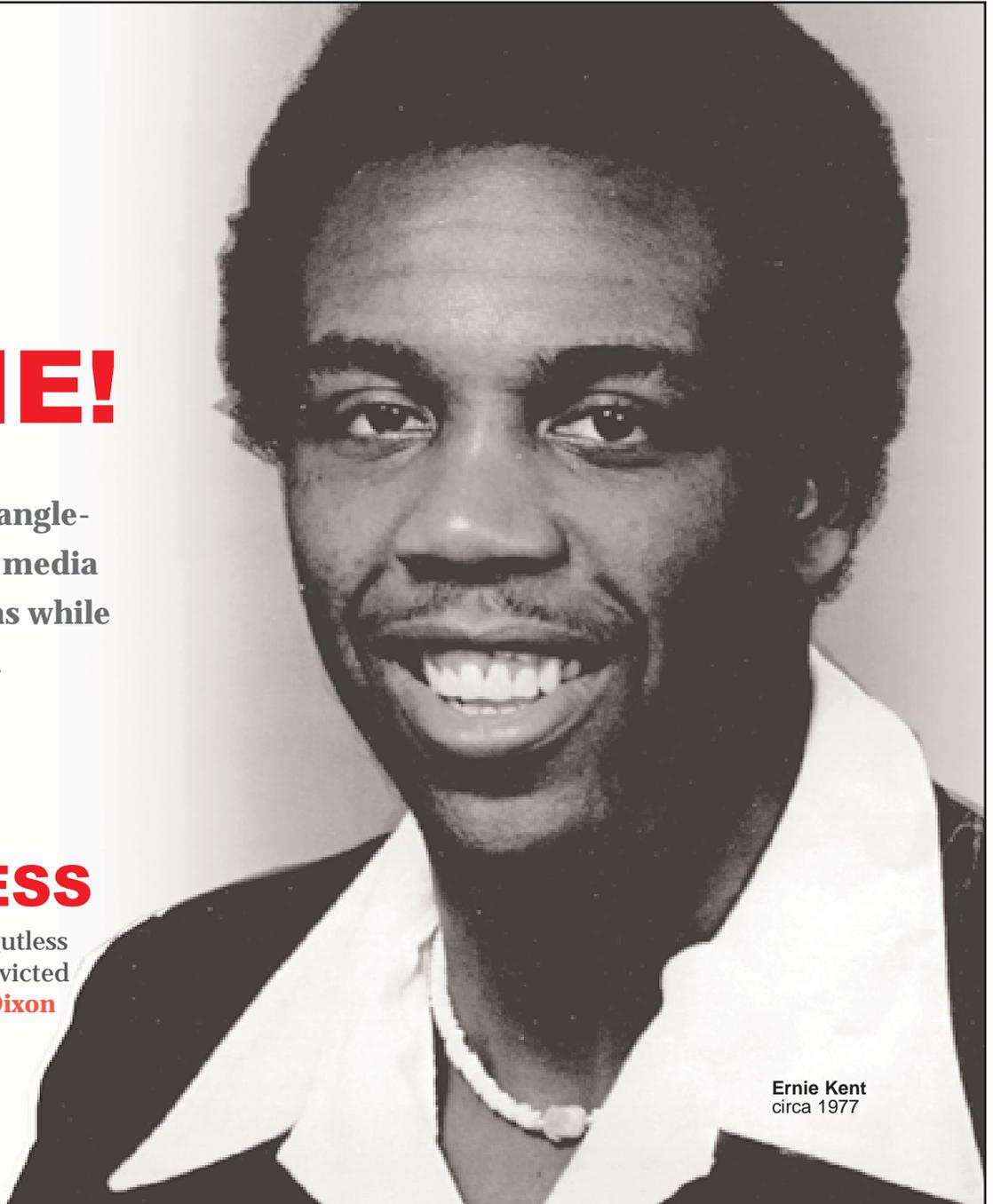
HEY ERNIE!

How the **Athletic Department's** stranglehold on the local media sustains programs while hurting students.

SPINELESS



The **Emerald's** gutless coverage of convicted felon **Michael Dixon**



Ernie Kent
circa 1977



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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 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 sixteen-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.



Gun Shy

When the Emerald broke the biggest story of its 100-year existence with its coverage of Student Senator Michael Dixon's felonious past, the editors failed to go all the way by not using Dixon's arrest mug shot. **By Andrew Oberriter.**

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Ralph Nader: Special Interest Tool?

You may know Ralph Nader as a tireless crusader advancing the "public interest" over corporate special interests. But do you know Ralph Nader, the shameless shill for the Trial Lawyers of America, one of the most special interests of all? **By Jonathan Collegio.**

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Animalistic Cruelty

It comes as no surprise that Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals protests the University's animal research, often with threats, harassment and destruction. What is surprising is that, despite these illegalities, the University has done nothing to stop the group and the ASUO continues to fund SETA's actions. **By Andrew Adams.**

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Beyond ErnieDome

Hey Ernie! Things are not all licorice trees and gum drop houses. The Athletic Department may have a spin machine Bill Clinton would be proud of, but some of the kids are fed up with you anyway. **By Melissa Logan.**

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DOUBLE EXPOSURE

The Athletic Department, SETA, and Michael Dixon have darksides which eclipse the images painted of them by the cowardly local media.

There are two sides to every story: the side you hear and the truth.

Nary a bad word is ever said about the Athletic Department by anyone, especially the local media. According to every media outlet that covers Duck athletics, including the Emerald, everything is peaches and cream in AD-land, a place where no one ever fights, no one ever cries and Uncle Ernie lulls his players to sleep with bed-time stories.



What no one realizes is that this rosy image is the result of a ruthless, sophisticated spin machine — a machine dedicated solely to preserving its programs' post-orgasmic glow.

It is for this reason alone that you haven't heard about the strife within the basketball program since Ernie Kent's take-over. Fights in the locker room, revocation of juice-machine privileges, key players leaving due to conflicts with Kent and even a player being forced off the team are hushed by the Athletic Department. Media Services — the AD's frighteningly Orwellian Ministry of Truth — cranks out press releases by the barrel load to cover up for unflattering reality, sometimes with flights of pure fancy.

With the extreme actions that Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals takes against the University's animal researchers, you'd think they would sorely need a Media Services of their own. Luckily, SETA escapes the need for spin of any kind, if only because both the

University and the ASUO have turned a blind eye to their destructive antics.

Due to this, the only exposure the average student has with SETA is from the group's own basically benign activism: handing out leaflets, organizing petition drives and pathetic protests such as their annual cage on 13th Ave. It is through this sort of activism that students derive a picture of SETA as mainly harmless, if a little annoying.



Students would certainly be surprised if they knew of SETA's Jekyll & Hyde nature. Professors who are the targets of their "activism" report fearing the destruction of their research at SETA's hands, being intimidated on the streets when recognized and being harassed both at work and at home. It is this SETA — the group that may very well be crossing the line between protest and criminal menacing — that only a handful have seen but everybody should be aware of.

There are no questions about the criminality of Michael Dixon's activities. Nevertheless, the story Dixon and his ardent supporters in student government and programs are telling is that Dixon is a wonderful guy and a dedicated student leader who has been unfairly and randomly maligned by an irresponsible Emerald. To his credit, Dixon also makes no bones about the fact that he did, indeed, get himself into serious trouble. He and his friends also say that Dixon has learned a lesson



and is on the mend.

So which is it? Either he's an absolute gem of a human being who one day woke up and suddenly decided to abuse a position of trust he held within University Housing (an abuse that totaled over a \$5,000 loss to the University) or he's a fellow with a checkered past who now holds the keys not just to a few dorm rooms, but to \$6 million in student fees.

You're being screwed everyday by people in power promoting personal agendas by masking truth and withholding accountability. Every organization on this campus that has any influence at all has a fair number of dirty secrets it is trying to keep from your eyes and ears. For the love of God, get confrontational, shoot from the hip, do whatever it takes to make the spinmeisters aware of the fact that you know the score.

Call the ticky-tack fouls, send those boys to the line and make them prove themselves at the charity stripe — they will be so used to battling dirty on the inside and getting the easy put backs, post-ups and slam dunks that they will be uncomfortable at the line with nothing stopping them but their own flaws, inhibitions, and lies.

What will they do when they are removed from the physicalities of the game and forced to stand naked at the line of honesty?

What will you do when you realize that your foundational ideas and beliefs can't capitalize when the game's on the line?

NOBODY ASKED US, BUT...

OC Record Search Proves Conclusive: Emerald staff rife with scandal, corruption

Michael Dixon might be a felon, but the *Emerald* staff isn't a paragon of virtue either. Since turnabout is fair play and Dixon doesn't have his own daily paper with which to smear the names of his fellow students, we thought we'd do it for him.

Amid the various minor in possession tickets and speeding violations that one might expect from just about any group of college kids, there are two cases that stand out: those of Editor-in-chief **Ryan Frank** and former Community Editor **Michael Hines**.

Frank's brush with the law is easily the more shocking of the two crimes. Frank, an avid sportsman, often enjoyed fishing expeditions to Oregon's scenic streams and rivers. All this came to an ignoble end in 1992 when Frank was found to be fishing with an expired license. He was cited for violating Oregon's hunting and fishing laws—laws that are the only thing separating us from dumb animals, both figuratively and literally.

In contrast to Frank's obvious disregard for the principles upon which this country was founded—principles millions of brave men have died to protect—Hines' infraction is relatively benign. In 1984 Hines was charged with felony Theft 1 following his arrest for stealing approximately \$4,500 of property.

All this leaves us to wonder how either of these two attained any position of authority within the campus community. One is left with jaw a-gape that the *Emerald's* Board of Directors continues to allow these two scofflaws and blaguards to shape the *Emerald's* editorial policy. While Hines' youthful indiscretions can be excused, the infamy of Frank's offense casts a dark shadow over the *Emerald* and undermines its ability to truly be the "voice of the students."

Ha! The joke here is that, while these cases are real, the men implicated in them simply have the same names as the Ryan Frank and Michael Hines who work at the *Emerald*. Editor-in-chief Frank couldn't catch a guppy in a goldfish bowl with a crate of dynamite, let alone the wily salmon in its natural habitat, and Community Editor Hines would have been about seven years old when his felonious counterpart was convicted on theft charges. Laugh! Laugh at this folly! C'mon, laugh.



Dedicated to the Muffer

An egg muff filet? I thought the only McDonalds filets were fish! Oh wait...

Commentator Correction:

In double issue VIII & IX — Rotten to the Core — **Julia Fox** was referred to as a tenured sociopath who washed her hands of professional integrity and jeopardized the coveted "free and open exchange of ideas" with her warped personal agendas.

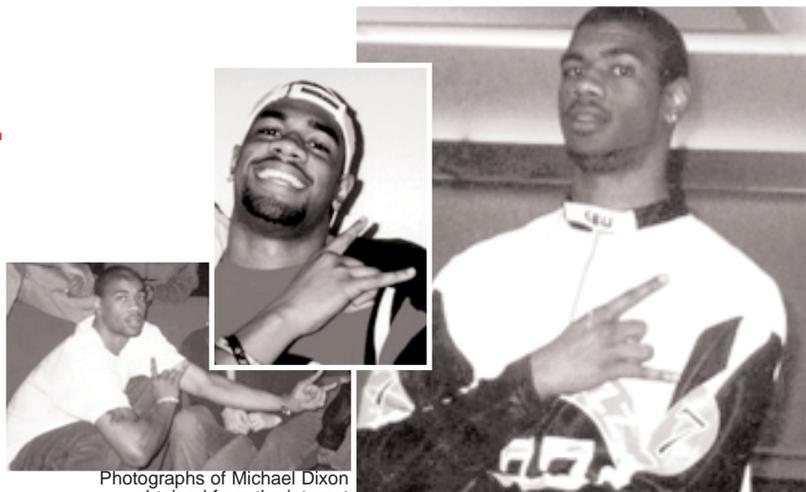
It has been brought to the *Commentator's* attention that Julia Fox is not tenured — her job is not secure and she can still be fired very easily. We apologize to the entire Sociology department for so closely linking Ms. Fox to them.

(The Commentator will make available the Fox article with the aforementioned correction upon request)

Gun Shy

Is the *Emerald's* coverage of the Dixon case an unnecessary foray into self-censorship?

By Andrew Oberriter



Photographs of Michael Dixon obtained from the internet

At least once a year the *Emerald* rises above its own mediocrity and spawns a good old-fashioned controversy. In recent years, those controversies have most often centered on the paper's allegedly racially-biased reporting.

Most recently, an *Emerald* editorial said that the student unions were defeating their own goal of bringing a message of tolerance and an open dialogue about race to the campus by practicing tacit exclusionism in not welcoming non-minorities into the EMU's "multicultural wing." A storm of protest from the student unions followed, resulting in an apologetic editorial from the *Emerald* Editor-in-chief, staff members resigning in tears and the creation of a position devoted solely to "multicultural reporting."

Before that, the ire of the student unions was aroused by the *Emerald's* coverage of the story of Kylee Justin Brooks, who was charged with rape while a University student and member of the football team. The *Emerald* used police mug shots of Brooks, who is African-American, in the coverage of his story. Again, advocates for students of color on campus were up in arms. Many felt the *Emerald's* coverage of the Brooks case was biased and the use of his mug shot was unfair in that it perpetuated a stereotype of African-American males as thuggish rapists. For days afterwards, letters to the editor of the *Emerald* were dominated by students decrying the paper's treatment of the story.

In 1999, times have changed while somehow staying the same. This year's

Emerald controversy also revolves around an African-American student accused of wrong-doing, but the groups that have traditionally raised the standard against reports critical of students of color are curiously silent. On the other hand, the *Emerald* may very well be guilty of the same sort of censorship it defended itself against in the past.

Michael Dixon is a 19-year-old University student and a senator — occupying Student Senate seat #17 — which puts him squarely in the territory of a public official. It is because of this that the *Emerald* decided to undertake a public records search of Dixon — as well as all other candidates for elected office who made it through the ASUO primaries — to see what, if any, crimes he had been accused or convicted of in Lane County.

What they found was startling: Dixon was charged with two counts of burglary and one count of theft. He later pleaded guilty to all counts. The *Emerald* went ahead with the story with the vim and vigor of Woodward and Bernstein, exposing the literal trials and tribulations of Michael Dixon. Strangely, though, the editors of the *Emerald*, who saw fit to make Dixon the subject of no less than four articles — one of which was an editorial calling for his resignation — never printed a mug shot of the man they were lambasting.

"We didn't even talk about it," said *Emerald* Editor-in-chief Ryan Frank in an interview with the *Commentator*. Frank seems to be defending the *Emerald's* stance regarding the use of Dixon's mug shot as not so much a decision as a non-

decision, rather than the result of years of not-so-subtle intimidation. Of course, later in the same interview, Frank said that he did discuss use of a photo with Jason George, the *Emerald* reporter covering the Dixon case.

"Jason [George] asked if we were going to use a photo," said Frank. "I thought he was talking about an action shot of [Dixon] walking down the street." George's question was as far as the initial discussion of using Dixon's mug — or, indeed, any photo of Dixon — went.

But Frank goes on to say that logistic factors impeded the *Emerald* from making use of a Dixon photo in later stories. "It was a late story," Frank said of Dixon's subsequent trial. He also feels that the use of mugs should be reserved for use in stories involving people who are deemed a physical threat to the community. "Personally, I think that if it's someone who poses a physical danger, it's a different story," he said.

The last ten years of *Emerald* coverage seems to back Frank up. Since 1989, the paper has reserved the use of mug shots for instances of assault, such as the case of Kylee Justin Brooks and charges filed last year against student athletes Saladin McCullough and Akili Smith stemming from a bar fight. The standard seems to be more arbitrary when dealing with non-students, but this hardly applies to Dixon.

The discussion in the *Emerald* offices that led to the decision to not use Dixon's mug shot is immaterial to Huy Ong and Dairmuid Houston, two student leaders who are also students of color. "I don't read

By Jonathan Collegio

into it," said Houston, the co-director of the Black Student Union (BSU), of which Dixon is a member. "As far as anything [race-related], I don't see it."

"I would have some issues with [the use of Dixon's mug shot]," said Ong, Programs Advocate for the MultiCultural Center (MCC). Ong, who agreed to speak only as a student and not as a spokesperson for the MCC, said that he sometimes questions the motives for use of mug shots in situations involving minorities, but that in Dixon's case he didn't really have an opinion one way or the other. Ong's only criticism of the *Emerald* is that it hasn't shown students' Dixon's good side. "I don't see the *Emerald* covering what he does for campus," said Ong.

Both Houston and Ong say that there has been no official dialogue between their groups and the *Emerald* about the Dixon coverage. Frank confirms this, but also stresses that the paper has kept channels open. "We invited Dixon, his friends and co-workers to respond," said Frank. Frank says that so far only BSU co-director and student senator Jamila Singleton has taken the *Emerald* up on the offer.

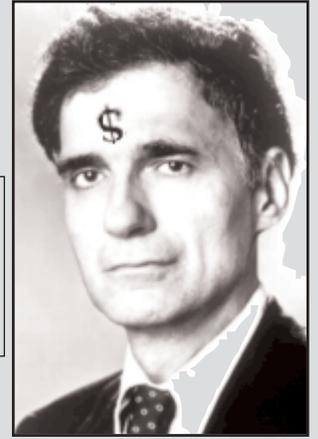
According to Houston, Singleton is planning an opinion piece that will concentrate on public versus private lives, rather than any possible bias in the *Emerald's* coverage. Singleton was unavailable for comment at press time.

Currently, the *Emerald* does not have Dixon's mug shot and has no plans to obtain it or use it in any later coverage. If the question of whether or not to use the mug shot did arise, it is something the *Emerald* leadership "would decide as a staff," according to Frank.

There are only two possibilities in this situation. The reality is either that Frank and the *Emerald* didn't want to use Dixon's picture for fear of the wrath of the student unions or that race-related concerns don't matter as much as they did even a year ago, as Houston and Ong seem to feel. One conclusion leaves journalistic standards waiting at the bus stop; the other assumes conditions at the UO are better than they really are. When all is said and done, only one thing is for sure: no one wins this time.



Ralph Nader: Special Interest Tool?



Ralph Nader:
Special Interest Tool!

"Saint" Ralph Nader is not so innocent as he may seem.

From his days of bashing General Motors (for auto safety), to his recent speech at the University acclaiming the work of OSPIRG, while criticizing Bill Gates and other "businessmen in three-piece suits" (a la Karl Marx) for being "parasites," Nader has always claimed to campaign for the "public interest." Yet, although a socialist at heart, in practice he is little more than a tool of America's truest parasites: the ambulance-chasing trial lawyers. It is they who get fat off of the litigation boon resulting from the increased red tape and regulations advanced by Nader and his followers. Rather than the evil corporations, Nader defends the special interests of plaintiff attorneys, many of whom allegedly give money to his "public" interest groups each year.

Over the past generation, revisionist civil court judges have bastardized the common law and are largely responsible for the increasing number of frivolous lawsuits we see so often (remember the \$100,000 cup of hot coffee spilled on a woman at McDonalds?). This new cutthroat legal environment is amiable to trial lawyers and plaintiff attorneys. Rather than create wealth through industry, in a twisted Robin Hood nightmare they redistribute wealth from productive hands to those unproductive. You've seen their commercials: "After contacting Smith and Jones, boy am I enjoying life with my new Harley and jet-ski..." The number

of lawsuits, many trivial like the McDonalds case above, has been rising for several decades, much to the delight of personal injury lawyers who can get rich by collecting 30 to 40 percent of the booty from such litigation.

Nader and the automaton zealots who run his variety of "public" interest organizations advance the trial lawyers' agenda in direct opposition to common sense tort reform, like that initiated in the 1995 Congress. It is Nader's goal of "protecting the poor against corporate America" that is responsible for much of the legal situation in which we find ourselves today.

In a 1990 article investigating Nader and his ties to the trial lawyers, *Forbes* magazine exposed his non-profit "racket" in-depth. Millionaire trial attorney Frederic Levin (who reported a \$7.5 million 1988 income) said "we contribute to [Nader], and he fundraises through us." Said attorney Pat Maloney, another millionaire, "We support him overtly, covertly, and in every way possible. . .I should think we give him a huge percentage of what he raises."

They do, as well as unsuspecting incidental fee-paying students with PIRG's on their campuses. OSPIRG and PIRG's across the nation push the litigation-friendly regulatory agenda -- regardless of students' political beliefs.

Contradicting his attorney friends, Nader responded to the *Forbes* article,

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Animalistic Cruelty

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals may want to preserve the dignity of research animals, but they seem to have no problem letting ethical standards slip when it comes to their fellow human beings: threats, harassment and intimidation are the stock and trade of these activists. Has SETA gone too far?

by andrew adams

Fanaticism is the ugly side to any political movement. Ask the Anglicans in Belfast, the Jews in Israel, or any other group victimized by terrorist violence, and they'll tell you that fanaticism serves no purpose but to polarize the issue at hand, pushing compromise out of reach. It is easy for those who lean towards the fanatical to believe that what they're doing-regardless of chosen tactic-is right. Fanatics invariably lose perspective and do things they wouldn't do beyond the context of their particular issue. Once peaceful and easy-going individuals become fanatics, they start screaming at total strangers,

vandalizing property, and making death threats. To them, these illegal and immoral acts are justified simply because they are done in the name of a worthy cause.

The members of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (SETA) have reached the point of reckless, possibly even lawless, behavior in the name of their cause. Not just a group of uppity hippies, this student-funded animal rights group terrorizes campus - primarily by breaking into research labs and harassing professors - on a nearly weekly basis.

And while victims of the group's

methods say they totally support the group's freedom to hold and express their views, even individuals who strongly maintain the group's "right" to protest believe that there is a line which should not be crossed. This line is the division between freedom of expression and harassment. It is crossed when the expression of one's beliefs is carried out via methods which endanger and threaten the livelihood or rights of other free individuals. Several of those interviewed who have experienced SETA's tactics firsthand, claim this line is crossed deliberately and repeatedly by the group, as well as by other animal activists related

(Animal Rights as Fashion Accessory)



to SETA.

What has SETA so stirred up is the animal biomedical research here at the University of Oregon. Not necessarily animal testing- in which the responses of animals to chemicals are studied- biomedical research attempts to discover and understand the fundamental mechanisms of life common to all organisms. The UO's research is focused primarily on the brain and nervous system, with specific emphasis on embryonic development, cell physiology and the molecular makeup of animals. By understanding these aspects of biology, researchers can then hope to apply this knowledge and cure a myriad of illnesses.

Of the 33,625 animals at the UO counted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Public Health Service in their report on Animal Care Facilities and Programs for July of 1998, only 901 were of a species other than zebra fish. These 901 amounted to 80 marine fish, 10 frogs, 10 newts, 700 mice, 45 rats, 42 owls, 11 rabbits, and 3 non-human primates. The UO has such a large number of zebra fish because it was here in the early 1980's that the fish was first cloned. These animals are all located in Huestis and Streisinger Halls, next to Willamette Hall and across 13th Avenue from Carson Hall.

Every animal, from the lowliest zebra fish to the prized primate, receives good care as mandated by federal, state, and institutional policies. In a prepared statement, Tom Dyke, UO Vice Provost for Research asserts, "The animals are treated in a manner respectful of their psychological needs and are not subject to harassment or mistreatment. Research animals here are not subjected to any type of painful procedure without benefit of anesthesia, analgesics or tranquilizers as appropriate."

This is not the image painted by SETA. On their website, in their flyers, and at their demonstrations only the harshest of claims are made against the UO for using animals in research. Of course, no member of SETA would go on record with the Commentator to explain the group's extreme



stance or the alleged harassment of professors at SETA's hands. SETA ignored numerous attempts to contact them regarding this article.

Not only is the University criticized in SETA's materials and rhetoric, but the professors within the Neuroscience Department are personally attacked. SETA's information shows pictures of monkeys trapped in cruel looking vices, then lists the professors' names and telephone numbers, and encourages people to call and vent their rage. Some of the most disturbing claims made by SETA are against Professor Richard Marrocco, who uses rhesus monkeys in his research. The methods used by Marrocco, as described by SETA, sound more fitting for the Spanish Inquisition than for medical research. One SETA statement reads, "The rhesus monkeys have surgical steel caps implanted onto their scalps. The monkeys also have a coil of wire

implanted in their eye which results in tissue damage and irritation. For the experiment, the monkeys are screwed into a 'primate chair' by their steel cap implants so they cannot move their heads. They live in barren steel cages in social isolation." This happy little paragraph ends by listing Marrocco's e-mail address.

The truth according to Professor Marrocco is much different. He uses rhesus monkeys in his research on different types of attention, namely covert attention, which an organism uses to perceive and understand an object without directly focusing on it. To study covert attention, Marrocco logically needs the monkey's point of focus to remain still. He achieves this by attaching a small rod to the monkey's head with dental acrylic.

This rod is then attached to a metal bar, which restricts the monkey's head from moving, yet the animal's body is free at all times. The "coil of wire" is not inserted into the monkey's eye, but is rather placed on the skin underneath it. The coil itself is only as thick as a hair, and when it has been sutured over, the monkey can not even feel it. Marrocco also stressed that the monkeys are never forced into being researched on, but rather are eager and willing subjects, and live in cages with interconnecting tunnels so they are definitely not in "social isolation," as SETA claims.

"At no point are the monkeys in pain. If the animals experienced pain they would be reluctant. [The animals] eagerly await the experiment. We play with them, talk with them; some of the graduate students have even developed a monkey talk," Marrocco said.

He added further proof that the monkeys are not in pain by pointing out that



a frequent problem is monkeys falling asleep while being tested. It becomes a bit ridiculous to argue that a monkey could be in dire pain and fall asleep at the same time.

The frustration Marrocco feels towards animal rights activists is plain, if unstated. He has good reason for such frustration. During his 25 years at the University, he has been the victim of almost constant harassment at the hands of activists, some of whom he believes were members of SETA. He has had both his life and the lives of his family threatened. He has received countless pieces of hate mail and been subjected to ranti-

26, 1986 and stole 125 research animals and vandalized equipment, supplies and facilities at a cost of \$38,415. An activist named Roger Toren was later arrested and convicted for the break-in, and sentenced to 250 hours of community service and \$34,900 in restitution to the University. Three other activists were later arrested for the crime as well.

In addition to SETA, there are other more violent groups at work trying to liberate research animals. The most well-known is People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). But PETA has a less high-profile and much more violent cousin in the Animal

that even though he was able to have "some interesting discussions," with a few SETA members at the open house, there were also those, "who made some disturbances." During the open house the department offered tours so that interested parties, SETA especially, could see what really went on in the labs. On one of these tours, a professor was showing a group her lab when a SETA member started to verbally attack the professor and her work so viciously that the professor had to excuse herself from her own lab. SETA members were said to have created similar disturbances in other labs, and have disrupted lectures as

“At no point are the monkeys in pain,” Professor Richard Marrocco said. “If the animals experienced pain they would be reluctant. [The animals] eagerly await the experiment. We play with them, talk with them; some of the graduate students have even developed a monkey talk.”

ng telephone calls, both at his office and at home. At a SETA demonstration last spring in front of Huestis Hall, where Marrocco's lab is located, he said the crowd screamed, "There he is-get him!," when they spotted him walking his wife back to the Health Center, where she worked at the time. A demonstrator then proceeded to stand in front of Marrocco and start screaming at him within a few inches of his face. Only after another student intervened was Marrocco able to pass. Yet the harassment didn't stop there, as another activist followed him and his wife into the Health Center, muttering animal rights rhetoric and vague threats.

Professor Marrocco isn't alone in this. Another professor had his house vandalized after SETA and other activists protested outside of it. Several others have received death threats, and in the most blatant example of animal rights fanaticism, activists broke into the Neuroscience Department on October

Liberation Front (ALF). The ALF has claimed responsibility for vandalizing and even burning down animal research labs. While some interviewed blamed SETA outright for violent and illegal acts, others couldn't be sure whether it was the student group or the other more outspoken national groups. Yet it was mentioned several times that the lines between the groups are blurred, and activists in the animal rights cause are known to travel between groups. Furthermore, each group supports the others, so while SETA may not claim responsibility as the ALF does, they do support the tactics used by the ALF.

Even though most of the harassment against professors here at the UO can not be squarely blamed on SETA, there are instances in which the group has clearly overstepped its bounds. One of these instances was during the Neuroscience's Open House in early April. Monte Matthews, the Veterinary Services and Animal Care Director for the UO, said

well.

University student Aaron Sundholm and Lab Technician Victoria Robinson have firsthand knowledge of the disruptions that occurred during the open house. Sundholm, a junior majoring in Biochemistry, is especially outspoken in his criticism of SETA, questioning the effectiveness of their methods.

"I understand and respect their right to protest, but I expect them to respect us as well. Nothing has changed by their actions, not a damn thing," he said.

Another incident involving SETA, mentioned by Sundholm, Robinson, and others, occurred last year when 15 to 20 protesters stormed Huestis Hall and attempted to get into the labs. As the group marched through the halls chanting slogans, pounding on the walls, and disrupting classes, Professor Marrocco feared his lab would be trashed. He attempted to lock the doors, but was unable to do so, and was forced to stand in front of them to block the entryway.



According to Marrocco, as the crowd approached him, they demanded that he step aside, and he refused. When one protester attempted to push him aside, Marrocco pushed back, though not violently, and the protester immediately began to scream that he had been assaulted.

Robinson, who was present in Huestis during this incident, said that one of the protesters in the group noticed a passing professor reaching behind himself to scratch his back, and the protester began to scream that she had been flipped off. Robinson, like others in Huestis, could deal with SETA voicing their opinions, but feels there's a definite limit. "It's the fanatical ones who disturb me. It is so unacceptable to go after someone personally," she said.

These tactics are disruptive, and in several instances threatening, but do they warrant any serious response? If the rules which govern the University's student body mean anything, there is no question that SETA's reckless behavior needs to be addressed in the harshest of terms. Moreover, under the ASUO Constitution and the Student Conduct Code, disciplinary action can be taken against SETA if any charges are found to be valid by the University.

The Conduct Code mandates that any student or student group is liable for disciplinary sanction when conduct interferes with the educational responsibility of the University, and if University property or personnel are endangered. Specifically, section 571-21-030 states, "Disciplinary action may be initiated by the University and sanctions imposed against any student or student organization found guilty of committing, attempting to commit, or intentionally assisting in the commission of any of the following prohibited forms of conduct: (3) Intentional disruption, obstruction, or interference with the process of instruction, research, and administration. (5) Unauthorized entry into or use of university property. (21) Stalking, defined as

repeatedly contacting another person when the contacting person knows the contact is unwanted, or when the other person has reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm, and when the contact causes substantial impairment of the other person's ability to perform the activities of daily life."

Making threats against several professors' lives, storming Huestis Hall, disrupting ongoing classes and research, following a professor and his wife while screaming at them, vandalizing school property, and many of SETA's other acts performed in the righteous defense of animals, clearly fall into the realm of illegality as defined by the Conduct Code and are thusly punishable by the University.

If found guilty, the group could face a ban from the use of University facilities, restitution payments, suspension of their group charter, and other sanctions. The individual members could face expulsion, suspension, disciplinary probation, community service, and even a revocation of any degree earned.

However, SETA doesn't spend all their time neglecting laws. They are also skilled at neglecting the weight of scientific evidence; specifically, the fact that after an increased use of animals in research, life expectancy has jumped up by almost thirty years. Further, immunizations for polio, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, and hepatitis have been discovered; blood transfusions, intravenous feeding and medication, open-heart surgery, insulin, asthma medicine, kidney dialysis, artificial joints, mental illness medications, and treatment to prevent paralysis have been developed—all through animal research.

These are only a few of the advancements made possible so far by the use of animal subjects. Researchers are currently working to find cures and treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, hypertension, infectious disease, cystic fibrosis, and AIDS. Additionally, nine out of the twelve

Nobel Prizes awarded in biology since 1980 were obtained solely through animal research. SETA members, however, continually refuse to accept the benefits of animal research.

"The facts are there; there is just no question that many advances made in medicine and biology were possible with the use of animals," Matthews said. "Yet members of animal rights groups will tell you that there are no benefits. This is just clearly false. One of the most frustrating aspects of the groups is having to listen to their misstatements and outright lies that continue to perpetuate their propaganda."

Robinson seconded this opinion with an analogy. "There is a point where testing without animals will take you that can't be conclusive until you put your work into a real body to see if it'll work. It's like eating only supplements and vitamins; even though they technically fulfill the body's needs, without real food you'll eventually die of malnutrition," she said.

Regardless of whether SETA's obscure logic makes sense or not, the real issue is that a student group that may be breaking laws is currently a fully-funded ASUO program. SETA's illegal tactics have become a self-defining aspect of their mission as a student group.

Obviously it is counter to the mission of the University to allow a student group to disrupt research and harass professors and their student assistants. It seems only common sense that steps be taken to stop any such harassment by activists, for fanaticism not only worsens any situation, but makes the fanatics' goals harder to achieve. It is time for SETA to realize that no one negotiates with terrorists.

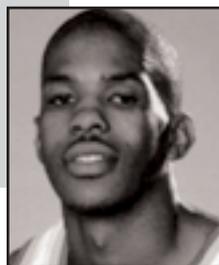
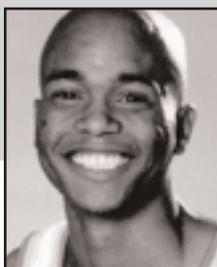
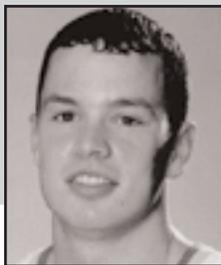


Andrew Adams, a freshman majoring in journalism, is a staff writer for the Oregon Commentator.

For years, the image-conscious Athletic Department has strong-armed the local media by controlling access to sporting events. For years, the AD has glossed over the numerous casualties its manipulative press releases and tacit guidelines have produced. For years, the AD has gone unchecked. Until now.

BEYOND ERNIEDOME

BY MELISSA LOGAN



Kent, McShane, Quinine, Rosemond, Williford

Yasir Rosemond was the last of six Oregon basketball players to leave the team. He was happy that his departure did not get the same coverage that Mike McShane and Donte Quinine's departures did. In many respects, Rosemond's exit lacked the commonalities that marked the departures of Andre Larry, Jonathan Nelson, Tyron Manlove, Mike McShane and Donte Quinine—he had a very good relationship with head coach Ernie Kent. There was simply no room for him on the team, so for all intents and purposes, he was cut.

“Ernie called and said he had six guards coming back next year, and I was the sixth,” Rosemond recalled in an exclusive interview with the *Commentator*.

In a phone conversation, Kent and Rosemond spoke about Rosemond's options for the following year which were either coming to school next year as a graduate assistant, coming back and trying out, or playing for a different school. Keeping his hope of being recognized by

an N.B.A. franchise in mind—they reached a mutual decision that allowed Rosemond to graduate from the University of Oregon while playing basketball and working toward a graduate degree at Seattle Pacific University.

So, on the phone, in one night, the two decided that Rosemond would move on. The following day, local media reported that he had quit the team. The *Emerald's* coverage read, “Yasir Rosemond has decided to skip his final season of eligibility with the Oregon men's basketball team, Duck's head coach Ernie Kent announced Thursday.”

Rosemond refuted this coverage saying, “I didn't quit the team—me and coach came to a mutual decision. If I had my choice, I would have stayed.”

Although he was noticeably upset about the content of the media coverage, Rosemond understood that the press did not get the story wrong, but that the Athletic Department had sent a press release to local publications indicating that

he had quit.

“I'm going to get to the bottom of this if I have to go down there and talk to Bill Moos myself,” Rosemond said. “But he probably wouldn't care.”

Rosemond is the only one of the six departing players who was recruited by Ernie Kent. He loves the school, the basketball program, the state itself, and, even though he was cut from the team by the man he considered his father figure for the past two years, he holds no grudge. He has nothing negative to say about the basketball program aside from the competitor within him who believes he should have been given more playing time.

The Athletic Department felt it was in its best interest to send out a press release reflecting negatively on Rosemond's character. Maybe the Department was justly concerned with community backlash for releasing a player who had visibly progressed in his two years with the team; maybe the Department was justly concerned with media criticism of Ernie

Kent's decision to place a player he had never seen higher on the talent depth chart than a proven veteran, but the fact that the Athletic Department would sacrifice Rosemond's image for the preservation of its own image is appalling.

By using the talent of student athletes as the foundation for its existence, the Athletic Department garners approximately \$21 million in revenue every year to support its ever expanding \$20 million expense budget. In recent years, the men's basketball program has begun closing the revenue gap between itself and the football program—the Athletic Department's perennial cash cow—with the hiring of the new men's head basketball coach Ernie Kent and his shameless self-promotion and self-improvement program.

College athletics are a large part of the atmosphere in Eugene. Athletics helps to support bars, restaurants, retail businesses and members of the community and, in return, the community supports college athletics. It is surprising that such an influential department that receives so much money (\$1,075,278 from student fees alone) has not been attacked by the media.

The most surprising instances of media negligence in covering the Athletic Department's debauchery come from the student body's own independent newspaper, the *Oregon Daily Emerald*. Newspapers such as the *Register-Guard* and the *Oregonian* are expected to buy the spins and tales constructed by the Athletic Department because they are both removed from the campus community and minimally invested in the day-to-day lives of college students. On the other hand, the *Emerald's* sole purpose is to report on student activities and, for the most part, is successful in acting as the daily paper of record for the campus community. Sometimes the *Emerald's* articles are obscure or have a narrow focus because its main source of information are campus events. During the ASUO elections, the *Emerald* would often print two front page articles about the candidates and their endeavors despite the topic's irrelevance to the majority of its readership. (FACT: Nearly 85% of students did not vote in the general election, indicating their lack of

interest in student government. In contrast, 5,380 student tickets—which is more than double the 15% who voted—are set aside for each men's basketball homestand, proving that there's more support for basketball than student government).

More recently, the *Emerald* exhibited good journalistic effort in investigating and exposing Student Senator Michael Dixon's felony charges. Its extensive coverage of the Dixon story indicated its commitment to reporting on the campus microcosm in the same fashion as a larger newspaper would cover the community it represents. With this said, it is difficult to comprehend why the *Emerald* would not find the voluntary departure of six basketball players worthy of a lengthy story. After all, college basketball players are students, and students are the reason behind the *Emerald's* bald eagle insignia reading,

**Since the media is
reliant on the Athletic
Department for their
information, Media
Services can shape
stories by merely cut-
ting information from
press releases—such
as the basketball
departees' dislike for
Ernie Kent.**

“The voice of the students.”

Speaking with the *Commentator* about his experiences on the team and his motivations for leaving, former point guard Mike McShane said, “I'm not satisfied with the media's coverage of my story.”

Editor-in-Chief Ryan Frank explained why the the *Emerald* had not printed a story regarding the growing trend of quitting players saying, “We talked about [doing a story] when [Mike] McShane and Donte [Quinine] left and we got some information from a number of sources, but it was more like chasing rumors. We wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't continue to talk about it.”

Frank's non-responsiveness to a

potential story may have been done out of the laziness of its staff, or it could be fear of what the Athletic Department might do, but it definitely does not show that the paper is 'doing its job.' Quinine's departure marked the fifth player to leave Ernie Kent's basketball program (Yasir Rosemond being the sixth with rumors of at least two other players expressing discontent), and in the world of college athletics, leaving a program is a pretty open indictment against the school, the program, the team and the coach. The downsizing of the basketball team should have been deemed newsworthy or at least as relevant as the “God News” guy feature and the articles telling us what students were doing on this campus in the 1920's—causing one to wonder what rumors were discussed at the *Emerald* staff meetings when Frank decided to write off the mass player exodus to conjecture.

It is hard to believe that the *Emerald* opted not to do an article because of hard-to-follow leads and difficult-to-find sources. Chasing down rumors is not that difficult and, even without balanced sources, the *Emerald* could have run an entire article from the perspective of any one of the departed players. For a paper that has already shown a propensity for creating news through record searches and bootlegged interview tapes, it seems out of character for it to dismiss a suspicious trend of activity within a program as influential on campus and in the community as the UO's basketball program.

Obviously, the *Emerald* recognized the suspicious trend as demonstrated by Frank's acknowledgment that the staff continued to talk about the issue. But something held the *Emerald* back. Maybe its sports desk lacked a reporter with the investigative prowess of its student activities superstar Jason George (the reporter who broke Dixon-gate), but it is more than likely that the *Emerald* was afraid of losing its two press and photo passes to each sporting event, compliments of the Athletic Department, in return for banal, repetitive coverage of student athletics. It has long been rumored that the Department has taken access away from local reporters for writing pieces that

reflect badly on the Department and its programs.

In response to the rumor, assistant athletic director David Williford said, "I have been in this business for the last 20 years and I have never withheld access from the media and my predecessors have never withheld access. I may not agree with the point of view in a story, and I would not hesitate to offer what I think was a correction, but I have never dealt unfairly or applied a penalty. You just agree to disagree."

After a Ducks home basketball game about two years ago, Mike McShane remembered he and his father, John McShane, chatting with Ron Richmond who was a writer for the *Fighting Ducks Review* at the time. The three talked for a few minutes before leaving MacArthur Court as it cleared. At the next home game, McShane noted with curiosity that Richmond was not at his usual court side seat. McShane later learned that before the tip-off, Richmond was ushered into a room where he was forced to listen to the basketball game on a radio—a game that was being played mere feet from where he sat. This was a far cry from the sideline vantage point that Richmond was usually afforded as a member of the media.

When contacted, Ron Richmond recalled a different sequence of events. According to Richmond, he volunteered to listen to the Arizona/Oregon game off-court due to the number of reporters attending the game. He suggested that McShane had confused this incident with the time he had spoken with Mike's father.

Here's where the problem lies. The *Commentator* called the *Review's* office, hoping to get in touch with Richmond. Upon discovering that he had not worked there for about two years, the *Commentator* asked the editor if he knew where he could be contacted for a story the magazine was printing about the Athletic Department and an incident that had occurred between Richmond and McShane. Since he wasn't at liberty to pro-

vide Richmond's phone number, he promptly had him call the *Commentator* back.

Only after playing several games of phone tag was the *Commentator* able to get in touch with him. When asked if he knew what the story was about, he said yes. Asked if his editor had explained to him the gist of the story and he said, "No, I spoke with David Williford and he told me



what it was about."

It is strange that the same Dave Williford who adamantly denied ever withholding access from local media, would contact a source that was going to refute a *Commentator* lead anyway. Unless McShane's allegations contained elements of truth.

Along with being the assistant head of the Athletic Department, David Williford is also part of the Athletic Department's Media Services division. Media Services serves as the bridge between the athletic department and the media. It sets up interviews, sends out press releases, and moni-

tors the flow of information regarding university athletics within the community.

For years, Media Services has preserved tacit guidelines that the local media agrees to follow. Some of these rules are obvious, such as not allowing the media access to locker rooms, telling photographers where they can shoot pictures from, not giving out players' home phone numbers, and not disturbing players before or during games. The NCAA also has rules that student athletes are asked to obey. They are not allowed to endorse commercial products or publish diaries, journals or weekly newspaper columns.

"It's not a censorship issue. I don't tell the media what they can do," said Williford. "We try to do it for the athlete's convenience."

For all the sincerity that Williford's words exude, it should be noted that the Athletic Department has rarely been tested. Is the Department so wholesome that nothing negative can be said about it by the local media? Or is it so overbearing that the media fears saying anything negative about it?

This question can be answered best by examining the *Emerald's* sports desk's lone moment of journalistic courage. On February 8, 1999, the paper ran a story about a wrestler who accused his coach of wrongly kicking him off the team. The Athletic Department realized the potential for negative publicity and offered what it thought would help. Ryan Frank said

the Department objected to the story being written and doubted its reporter's sources for the article hoping to prevent the story from being published.

"The Athletic Department has to protect its image," Frank said. "It's hardly a university department, it's its own lifeblood."

Now compare its intervention in the *Emerald's* wrestling story with Frank's rationale for not following up on the trend of basketball players leaving the team. The Department questioned the *Emerald's* sources to dissuade the printing of the story. Similarly, Ryan Frank cited the

weakness of his sources for not pursuing the basketball story. Frank's dedication to discerning truth from rumor and finding balanced sources becomes less an example of journalistic integrity and more an attempt at appeasing the Department. Maybe Frank, a former *Emerald* sports editor, was worried about burning bridges within the Eugene athletic community.

The argument that the *Emerald's* convenient negligence was due to pressure from the Athletic Department gains more validity when their editorial decisions are understood within the following time table of events: On February 3, 1999, the *Emerald* broke the story that Mike McShane had quit the team. Although McShane was the fourth player to leave, he was the first to leave midseason since Tyron Manlove had left a year earlier. At the time of McShane's departure, the *Emerald* had no justifiable reason to pursue an article on men's basketball program. On February 8, five days after McShane quit the team, the *Emerald* ran the wrestling story—a story which alarmed the Athletic Department enough to send a representative to the *Emerald*, a day before the story's publication, in an attempt to discredit the article's sources and kill the story. The *Emerald* ran the article despite the Department's objections, but the encounter and subsequent criticism had a noticeable effect on the paper. Only two days after the publication of the wrestling piece and a week after reporting McShane's departure, the February 10 *Emerald* announced that Donte Quinine was leaving the team due to a lack of playing time and, in that article, Coach Ernie Kent said he “did not believe Quinine's departure was related to McShane's.”

To the average reader, Kent's statement that the desertion of two of his boys—both citing the exact same reasons for leaving the team (lack of playing time and displeasure with Kent)—were unrelated was laughable. But the *Emerald* believed it, or at least pretended to believe it as evidenced by its refusal to investigate the trend any further.

When asked to elaborate on the departures of Quinine and McShane for the *Commentator*, Kent said, “I don't want to get into that. I've discussed it so much. It's already happened way back when and here

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Caught Traveling

Mike McShane's departure from UO basketball.

Mike McShane joined the Oregon Duck's basketball team as a point guard for the 1996-7 season, following a senior year of high school in which his school won the state championship and he was selected the Oregon player of the year. Although he was recruited by former Oregon head coach, Jerry Green, he spent the majority of his college career under the tutelage of Green's replacement, Ernie Kent. After a year and a half in coach Kent's program — a year and a half that saw Ernie Kent bring in two point guards (Yasir Rosemond and Darius Wright) to try and replace him — McShane made his decision to leave the team midseason.

McShane's family had been lobbying McShane to leave the team for over a year before McShane made his decision. They had witnessed, first hand, the heartache and suffering McShane's relationship with Kent had imposed on his spirit and they further saw the limited opportunities McShane was given to succeed and grow.

Advice from other sources also instructed him to leave the Kent run program. Kamran Sufi — Ernie Kent's point guard when he was the head coach for the St. Mary's Gaels — was allowed on the court for a team practice. During some off time, McShane asked Sufi for any wisdom or advice he might have for him regarding Kent. Without hesitation, Sufi — a player whose team was coached to the 1997 NCAA tournament by Ernie Kent — looked at McShane and told him to transfer.

To his credit McShane rejected his family's advice and the advice a

past Kent player in favor of remaining loyal to his teammates and his school. McShane decided to try and rise above a very strained relationship with Ernie Kent that he said included personal attacks on his character and family along with verbal assaults against his playing skills and focus.

McShane's resolve was finally broken after the January 30 Civil War game against the Oregon State Beavers. During warm-ups, McShane looked up into the audience and noticed a familiar image — a cardboard sign that read: "McShane McSucks." It was the exact same cardboard sign he had seen in the previous season's Civil War game in Corvallis and he laughed to himself at the owner who had obviously tucked the sign away for a full year just for one game.

Coach Kent saw McShane chuckling at the Beaver sign and lambasted him for not being mentally ready for the game.

Late in the first half of the Oregon State game, McShane was placed in the game to give Darius Wright a breather. Two minutes into his stint on the court, McShane curled around a screen and caught a pass on the run — the referee called him for traveling and Kent took him out of the game, never to return onto a basketball court in Duck apparel.

After the game was over, McShane remembered the coaches telling him he had "no leadership" during the game and further blaming him for the team's loss to Oregon State, even though he played for only two minutes. "That's when I decided that I was never playing again for this team," he said.

Working on the Chain Gang

Hide the beer and turn down the stereo or University Housing is going to put you to work.

By Brandon Hartley

It's never easy to live in Dormland.

If a resident in the dorms gets caught breaking any one of University Housing's extensive number of rules and regulations, the repercussions of their actions are determined by a set list of disciplinary sanctions. Based on the severity of a given violation, a guilty resident may receive something as serious as a Suspended Eviction or get off with a simple Conduct Reprimand (basically a written warning). First time offenders, provided their violation is a minor infraction (i.e. burning a candle or having a halogen lamp), usually receive the latter.

Repeat offenders and those caught in more serious violations, like smoking cigarettes or drinking in their rooms, face a possible fine as well as the more serious of these sanctions. They may be required to perform a certain number of community service hours or, temporarily lose such privileges as participating in university organized activities (ye gads!). In all of these cases, residents have the option of contesting their violation before an Area Standards Board comprised entirely of other residents. Surprisingly enough, the board is usually unsympathetic and will nine times out of ten uphold the decision of the RD.

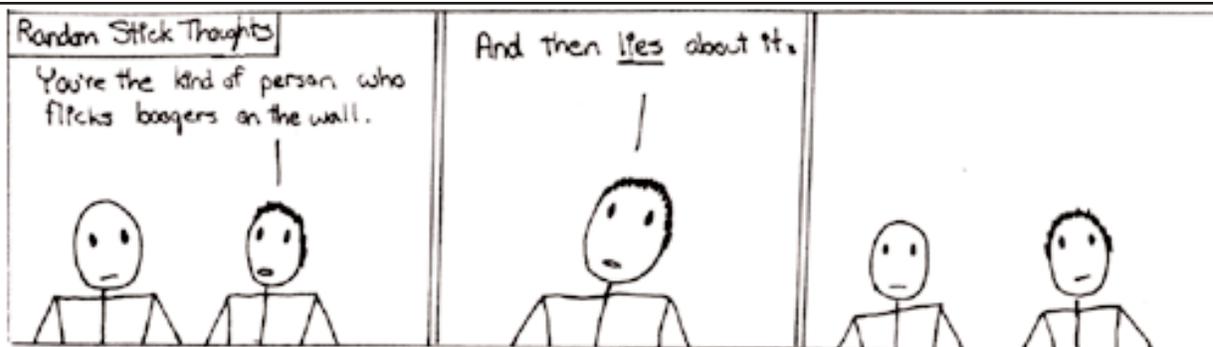
A few months ago my RA discovered a single beer can in my room, making me a repeat offender after my incense violation. Repeat offenders inevitably get stuck with the community service wrap. I spoke with a few other residents who have also been caught breaking dorm regulations more than once. Like myself, most had been told that they would have to write an essay discussing their violations. Others, however, recalled that they had been required to perform actual physical labor.

One resident said that he was recently forced to spend an evening on rounds with an RA. His crime? Playing his stereo too loudly. A sophomore, now living far, far away from the dorms, alleged that he had been told last year that he would have to participate in University Day after getting caught smoking marijuana in his room. Had he actually performed his community service, he would have had to spend an entire day power washing sidewalks and painting the sides of lecture halls. Another student also recalled being told that he would have to participate in University Day.

Since dorm residents are legally bound by contract to perform such duties if caught breaking regulations, it's amazing that University Housing has yet to suffi-

ciently take advantage of the potential of the community service sanction. The current economical plight of housing could be completely eliminated if its officials were competent enough to fully exploit the free labor at their fingertips. The janitorial staff could be completely laid off and cost-effectively replaced with residents caught making too much noise after quiet hours. RAs could be substituted with residents found guilty of riding skateboards in the hall. Why make your residents write essays when you can force them to clean toilets? University Housing could have 95 percent of its residents in shackles, picking up litter if they were only willing to adequately utilize their resources. Haven't these idiots learned anything from Nike?

I tried getting in contact with a variety of housing authorities to discuss my free labor proposal but most of them completely ignored my requests. The few that I did manage to speak with just directed me to some one else on staff. I was eventually referred to Elaine Green, whose position Student Conduct Code Coordinator actually has absolutely nothing to do with University Housing. The fools! If they only could realize the power that they possess.



NADER from page 7

saying: "not 1 percent of all of the total funds raised by all our organizations come from the legal profession."

Maybe in a land of opposites, Ralphie.

Nader is, of course, the biggest critic of the money/politics dichotomy in America, and is naturally hypersensitive to the accusation of being in anyone's back pocket. But there are various ways to make contributions appear as though they come from a different source (see how our Student PIRG pays rent to the State PIRG)—especially if the trial lawyer is married and his or her spouse can make the donation. At that point, tying donations to any special interest becomes almost impossible to prove.

According to *Forbes*, one of Nader's flagship "public" interest lobbying groups, Public Citizen, was recently accused of being funded with the economic interest of trial lawyers in mind. When asked to prove that it wasn't, the organization head could not promptly show evidence to the contrary. (Clandestine budgets? Strange sources of funding? Hmmm. . .sounds a little like the conflict here at the UO over Nader's other flagship, OSPIRG).

Yet another Nader-founded organization, The Center For Auto Safety, accepted a \$10,000 check from the Trial Lawyers Association of America during a campaign to reform auto insurance laws in 1972. Though his position on the issue mirrored that of the Association, Nader claimed that his was neither determined nor compromised due to this donation. But he would

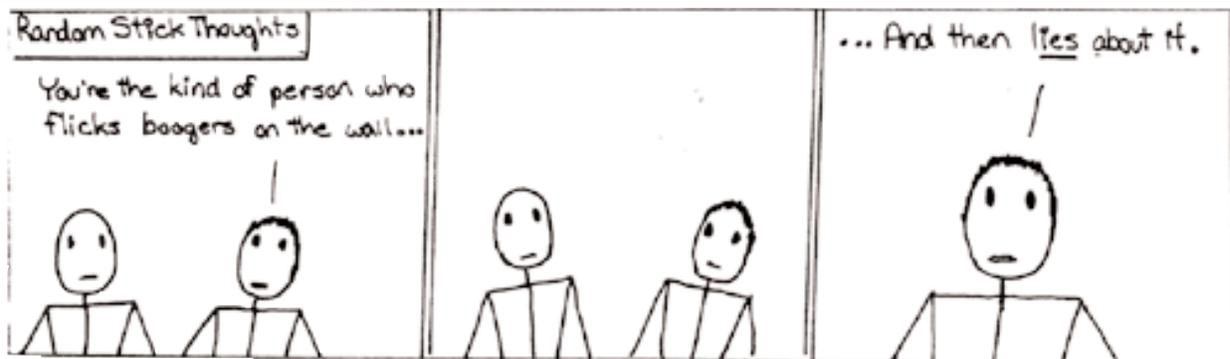
never accept that argument from his opponents—especially if corporate money were involved.

For example, as a matter of principle, I oppose all new taxes and tax increases. I oppose most taxes in general. So it follows that I oppose taxes and tax increases on cigarettes. But, if as a politician I accepted campaign contributions from Big Tobacco—even though I would have voted with them anyway—Nader would call me a special interest tool. He does the same, yet somehow escapes the label. We disagree on the nature of the public interest; I believe it is freedom from a coercive government, while he believes it is socialism. But Nader's totalitarian monopoly on truth brands me the devil and self-righteously canonizes himself as Saint Ralph.

Be wary of the trial lawyers' interests in all aspects of American politics, especially if new regulations are involved. Remember the "Patient's Bill of Rights," so "sincerely" advanced by the likes of Ted Kennedy and Bill Clinton? The main aspect of this bill is that it allows lawyers to sue HMO's. This legislation would be a windfall for the ambulance chasers; it is a plaintiff attorney's dream come true. So is it shocking to find out that the trial lawyers are some of the biggest supporters of Democrats (including Clinton) in America—especially when it is the Democrats who push the legislation so hard?

Ralph Nader is an enigma; only an odd type of consumer rights advocate can

oppose free trade, while tariffs cost American consumers over \$100 billion per year. His flagship organization, OSPIRG, claims to support campaign finance reform—even though they refused to acknowledge a voluntary spending limit proposed by their opponents in the recent elections (opponents they ended up outspending 7 to 1). There is a Camelot myth about this saintly man and his unyielding integrity. Precisely --a myth. Nader is no saint. I don't doubt his sincerity or dedication to Marxian socialism, but there comes a time when men who use dubious tactics deserve a little taste of their own medicine. Nader's strategy, political philosophy, and promoted legislation benefits attorneys who have a lot to gain from the potential for increased litigation. More regulations mean more law suits. More law suits mean more cash for America's richest profession. Seeking to protect their interests, trial lawyers love to hide behind Nader's ostensibly stone-cold image of integrity. If there are true bloodsuckers in the economy, it is the ambulance-chasing trial lawyers, from which Nader's organizations may still accept money. If so, Nader is a parasite of a much greater scale than those "businessmen in three piece suits," whom he so vocally disdains. Believing that he and his cronies are the sole possessors of truth, Nader holds that public interest means socialism. But in doing so, they merely advance the trial lawyers' agenda of free-loading off of those who create wealth and jobs in this country.



ERNIEDOME from page 15

we are now. What happened with them, it was two different situations. They made their decisions and I wish them well.”

Then again at the end of the interview, Kent repeated that he’d “really like to stay away from McShane and Donte. I’m opposed to it being rehashed for the sake of our peers and for the student body to hear it again. It’s not fair to them.”

The irony in his statement to the *Commentator* is that the issue has not truly been discussed beyond the initial stories on the players’ departures. If Kent is tired of talking about McShane and Quinine, it is because his efforts to keep them out of the local news have exhausted him and not because the media has bombarded him with questions regarding the issue.

Even more ironic is that the same day McShane’s story appeared in the *Emerald*, a story on Tyron Manlove and his transition to the University of Colorado where he transferred. Manlove explained his reasons for leaving to the *Emerald* saying, “It was academics and just having to adjust to Ernie Kent.”

The *Emerald* ran three separate stories on three separate players who all cited Ernie Kent as a major factor in their decision to leave. With the exception of a column written by the then assistant sports editor Rob Moseley attacking Pac-10 and NCAA regulations that force transfer students to lose at least one year of eligibility, little mention was made of the growing number of student athletes leaving the program.

Something happened to the *Emerald*’s sports coverage between the printing of the Department-disputed wrestling story and the report that Quinine had left the team which prevented the paper from thoroughly investigating the basketball trend. It is not too farfetched to assume that the Athletic Department’s vocal criticism of the *Emerald*’s decision to print the wrestling story might have played a role in the paper’s half-hearted attempts at the Quinine/McShane stories.

There are also striking similarities between how many players were lost to previous head coach Jerry Green and to current head coach Ernie Kent which have

not been covered by the *Emerald*. Finding dissatisfied players seems to be a trend dating back several years.

Coaches recruit players specific to the style of play they teach, and in cases that coaches inherit players from previous coaches’ regimes, both player and coach often have a difficult time adjusting to each other which may be one of the causes for so many departures.

“The [recruitment] process is a joke. It’s all about hype and blowing up an individual’s self-esteem. I don’t think it’s healthy,” said former basketball player Mike McShane.

“The whole process is fake and phony. Coach Kent is big on the recruiting process, he’s great at it. He treated our whole team like dog shit. [Previous head] coach Jerry Green’s philosophy was: Let’s let them make their own decisions; let’s give them everything they need and let’s have them give us everything they can on the court. Coach Kent came in and started taking things away from us. He even locked up the juice machine in our locker room.”

McShane was quick to point out that while Kent treated his inherited players badly, he thought very highly of his recruits. Prior to practices, the basketball team would meet in the locker room to get focused for practice. At one of these sessions, coach Kent noticed that Alex Scales and Freddie Jones—his prized recruits—were missing from the lineup. When he found out they were attending a seminar he said, “What am I talking to you knuckleheads for,” and left the room.

“Even if it was a joke, that’s how he feels,” said McShane. “He asks a lot from us and we get very little in return.”

Yasir Rosemond, the last of the six to leave the program, slightly disagreed with McShane’s view of how Kent treated his players, but he can understand a coach’s distinction between an inherited player and a personal recruit: “Who does [Kent] want to spend more time with? The guy who has three or four years in eligibility or someone like me who only has a year?”

Not only did the *Emerald* ignore the connection between two teammates’ departures

within a week of each other, it also ignored the relationship between the departure of six teammates over the span of two years and the relationship between two Oregon head coaches who managed to lose the majority of their predecessors’ recruits within their first two seasons.

In response to how Media Services handled the press when former point guard Mike McShane and guard/forward Donte Quinine left the team within a week of each other, David Williford said, “Coach Kent sent out press releases indicating his feelings on the matter. Every player has his own reasoning. Most of the time, the player is not happy with work or the team and sour grapes are exposed. It depends on whether he or she has an ax to grind, but what good’s it gonna do? It’s just hurting the player.”

Without even considering the validity of a player’s motivations, Williford dismissed player concerns as “sour grapes” and axes to grind. Williford’s statement doesn’t seem to show the slightest concern for the department’s ex-student athletes’ well-being. As mindful as the Athletic Department is of its own image and the community’s perception of it, the Department is surprisingly not in support of its players as individuals outside of the athletic setting.

In addressing Ernie Kent’s first wave of departures—Jonathan Nelson, Tyron Manlove and Andre Larry—the local media focused on the players’ academic problems off the court as the reason behind their departure.

The *Emerald*, *Oregonian*, and *Register -Guard* all cited “academic problems” as the reason for them leaving because that is what the press release sent out by Media Services indicated. In his own words, the *Emerald*’s February 3 issue quoted Manlove saying that Ernie Kent was a contributing factor in his decision to leave. Mike McShane noted that Jonathan Nelson’s off-court encounters with Kent caused him to give up on the program and the coach long before the *Emerald* led the charge of local media claiming that his departure was academic in nature.

Technically, Media Services is not

committing acts of censorship with the local media, but it forces local papers to become dependent on it for information about student athletics by saturating the community with its press releases and tacit rules. Since the media is reliant on the Athletic Department for their information, Media Services can shape stories by merely cutting information from press releases—such as the basketball departees' dislike for Ernie Kent.

For a department that is as concerned with its public image as UO's Athletic Department is, Ernie Kent was the perfect choice for head coach. When hiring Ernie Kent, Athletic Director Bill Moos got someone inexpensive, an Oregon alum, and a minority head coach—something the Department has never had. Most importantly Ernie Kent is as dedicated to image as the Department and is more than qualified to utilize the spin machines already in place. As a former television commentator and P.A. announcer for the Eugene Emeralds, the "silver-tongued devil," as he was known in his college days, is more than capable of speaking to the press.

When commenting on Kent as an image maker, McShane said, "Everything [Kent] does is dedicated to his image. He is like Clinton the way he can spin things around. It's not the truth. It's his spin and the local media eats it up."

When the basketball team held their first meeting after coming back to the university in the summer of 1998, Coach Kent asked the players what they had been doing over their summers. "He said he had been going into homes, businesses and corporate America, working and selling the team," said McShane.

This resembles a quote that Kent made in the *UO Game Magazine* saying, "We will sell reality, academics, corporate America, and college basketball at the University of Oregon."

When asked to elaborate about the emphasis he placed on corporate America Kent said, "We teach what you need to do to articulate—how you dress, how you sell yourself. We don't take the dream [of the NBA] away from them but keep it in perspective. They're here for a great education

and an excellent opportunity to grow. It's our underlying program and we've done a lot to bring the business world to the program. We went behind the scenes at Nike and we'll tour Sony next fall. We've brought in people from the community to help with speaking."

In conclusion to the "corporate America" speech he gave his team, Kent also said that he had personally spoken to Phil Knight, Nike CEO, to get him excited about the team and the program. Kent told his players that Knight was so excited after his speech that he was prepared to build a dome with Kent's name on it. The "Ernie Dome," if you will. This Ernie Dome is either a playful possibility or a serious joke and exudes a degree of arrogance that allows Ernie to be nothing more than the epitome of self-involvement and narcissism.

To the Athletic Department, though, Ernie Kent is the perfect fit. As long as he uses the University to promote himself in terms of his program, the Department will benefit from the positive feedback and responses he generates.

In truth, the Athletic Department is using Kent just like any other athlete. Glad clean up his mess by silencing player complaints and villainizing player intentions while he is popular with the community. But what will happen if he ever turns against the Department — over scholarships, salary, assistant coach hirings? The Athletic Department will most likely magnify the ever-present complaints of his players to legitimize Kent's dismissal. His concerns, motivations and reasoning will be dismissed as "sour grapes" and ax grinding in very much the same fashion as his ousted players.

On May 12, Forward Skouson Harker announced his departure from the UO basketball program. Like Yasir Rosemond, Harker is a Ernie Kent recruit. That makes seven, Ernie, seven.



Melissa Logan, a junior majoring in journalism and political science, is public relations director for the Oregon Commentator.

MCSHANE from page 15

The following week, McShane walked into the pre-practice meeting ready to tell his teammates that he was not going to play basketball with them anymore. When Kent noticed that McShane was not dressed down for practice, he asked him to come into his office. McShane followed Kent, but told him that he was there to talk to the team and walked back out. He steadied himself and told his teammates that he was going to leave the team:

"I'm hangin' 'em up. I'm done. I love you guys; I love the university, the school, the community, but I no longer want to be associated with Ernie. I'm a competitor and I need to be out competing and I don't feel I can do that here anymore."

As he was leaving, assistant coach Don Newman wished McShane good luck but assistant coach Mark Hudson would not shake McShane's hand. McShane remembered thinking, "That's why I'm leaving."

Kent told McShane that his departure had come as a shock to him; that he had never had a player quit. McShane replied, "What about Tyron [Manlove], Jonathan [Nelson], André [Larry]." With that, McShane told Ernie "good luck" and walked away. McShane walked away from his teammates, from his college basketball career at the University of Oregon, and from a year of eligibility on a Division I team.

McShane will be playing next year in Division II for Montana State University for a coach who seems to care a little more about his players than his personal image.

HIT DA LIGHTZ

We now return to our story about the Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas Silver Anniversary Tour™, an overland saga starring two lunatics and a fire-apple red 1968 Buick LeSabre convertible.

The red land-yacht forged onward through the endless desert. Austin didn't touch the brake pedal until we neared the gateway to Death Valley, where we stopped for gas in the town of Beatty. After fueling up, Austin lurched onto Main Street in the wrong direction. To correct, he executed a stunt driver quality high-speed U-turn, complete with a squealing fishtail to swing the back end around. This maneuver seemed to disturb the dismal solitude of downtown Beatty, and did not go unnoticed by the sheriff. He was sitting in his patrol car at the end of town, just waiting for someone passing through to fuck up. He promptly pulled out behind us and flashed his good ol' blue 'n reds. We were no strangers to the law. Years of encounters with Johnny had seasoned our nerves, so there was none of that idiotic stammering everyone goes through on their first speeding ticket. This cop sauntered up and introduced himself as Deputy Maggard. Just a lousy deputy? No problem. The guy had a soccer score I.Q.:

Deputy Maggard:
Y'all have any idea whut I pulled you over for?

Austin: God, I wouldn't know where to start. [snickers]

DM: How 'bout that U-turn you just pulled back there?

Me: Aww, you didn't like that?

DM: Personally, I couldn't care less, but I have a job to do. I also clocked you doin' 45 in a 35 mph zone as you left town.

Austin: No shit?

Me: Yeah, and he wasn't wearing his seatbelt until you pulled him over.

DM: I saw that. That was real cute too.

Austin: You're not seriously going to write me a ticket, are you?

DM: You're sure talkin' yourself into one.

Austin: Whoops. Sorry 'bout that.

He took Austin's license; his lips moved as he read it. As he went to his car to run a background check, it dawned on me that we had a powder keg of trouble in the trunk. There was the shaving kit full of weed, mushrooms and pills. The tumbler of margarita between my legs couldn't have helped either. With Nevada's zero tolerance drug laws, we were probably looking at life sentences. Such a double standard in this state: you're allowed to gamble your life away, drink Old Crow around the clock and rent an orgy; but you'll go straight to prison if they find a mere hemp seed in your bird-feeder.

We kept our shades

on to hide our telltale Chinese eyes. Maggard came back and began asking us questions:

DM: Where you boys headed?

Me: Guess.

DM: Vegas.

Austin: Boy, you're good.

He was getting a little nosy. He knew we were up to no good; no doubt about it. He was trying to get us nervous, hoping we would let ourselves get caught in a lie and hand him probable cause. He leaned down closer to Austin's face. They looked at each other through identical mirrored aviator shades, their reflections bouncing to infinity.

DM: What will you boys be doin' in Vegas?

Me: Gambling, drinking and whoring.

No harm in that. The three of us broke out into laughter, putting the tension to rest. He let us go with a ticket for expired tags. Onward we rolled, for what seemed like eternity. Shortly after the desert sun went down, our spirits were brightened by a ray of light beaming heavenward on the horizon. It was the beacon at the Luxor pyramid. Vegas, at last. The one place on earth where our unsavory behavior would go unnoticed. As we blew into town, Metallica's "Hit the Lights" tore our ghetto blaster a new asshole. Hetfield's rapid-fire power chords resonated in our amped-up brains. Hammett's screaming solos tapped my spine like it was a fretboard. We were in a full headbanging frenzy as James' teenage voice screamed out our favorite line. "No life 'til leather, We're gonna kick some ass tonite!" It's a shame what happened to Metallica; those boys used to rock. They've gone downhill ever since Cliff met his maker, God bless him.

We were in full form for our debut on the Vegas Strip. Our dreams of trolling for broads in the Buick love machine were

The Bottle & the Damage Done

Part

V

BY MICHAEL ATKINSON

about to come to fruition. But the fanfare came to a grinding halt as we oozed into the traffic cluster-fuck on Las Vegas Boulevard. 10:00 p.m. Saturday night in the middle of August is not the ideal time to arrive. All the suburban trash, along with the ugliest G-thangs from LA, were cruising en masse. This is not the Vegas that Bugsy Segal envisioned. This looked more like the Vegas in Ice Cube's "You Know How We Do It" video. Lowered Suzuki Sidekicks with Ground FX bounced in place for the adoring fans on the sidewalk. An Impala-load of Vatos Locos rolled up and heckled us for our lack of hydraulics. "Hey esse, you bitches ain't got switches!" The thunder of a hundred subwoofers drowned out our metalfest as we inched down the Strip. I'd estimate we were getting about .36 miles per gallon. To compound things, the Buick becomes quite disgruntled in the slightest traffic. She's a highway star (see *Bottle & Damage* pt. IV); none too happy about idling in place for 45 minutes. She was dangerously close to boiling over, and she let us know it by sputtering violently. It had been a long day, and it was time to put the horses in the corral.

bumper-to-bumper crash landing. Once we were properly juiced up, we took to the streets for some prime-time debauchery. The pedestrian traffic on the strip was even more horrendous than the cruising scene; it flowed like sewage. Scads of filthy ghouls stumbled and slithered their way along the Boulevard. Each casino door and side street was a tributary pouring depraved scum into the Strip.

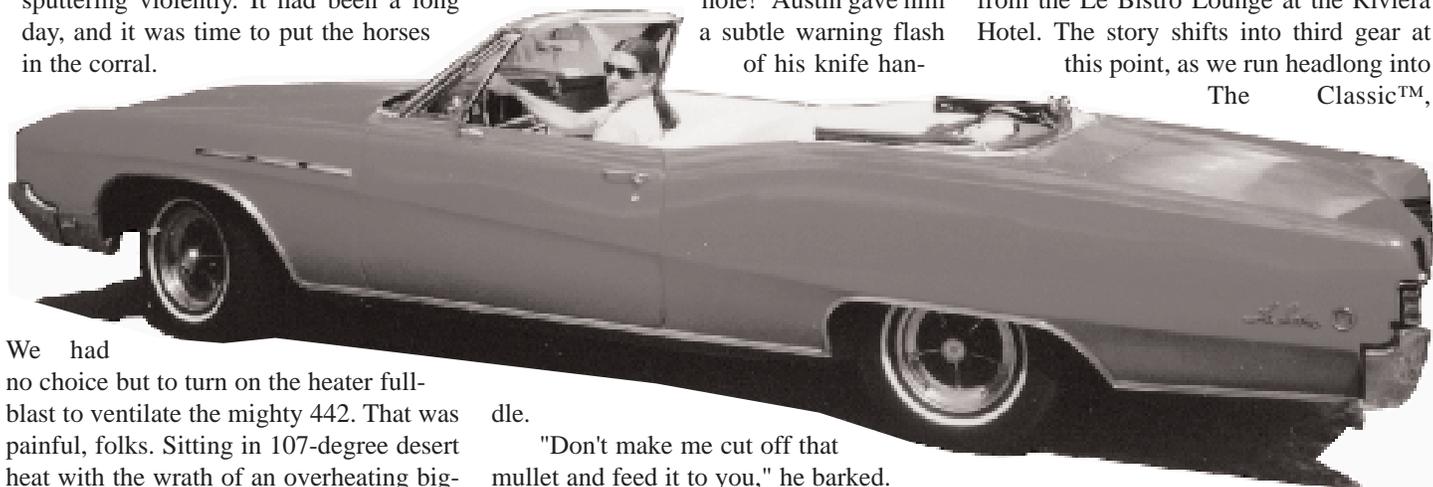
The crowd was so thick that we had to take turns blocking for each other. With one arm I protected my Gin and Tonic like a pigskin, while with the other arm, I orchestrated blocks like Steve Young on the scramble. It was an efficient method for plowing through the crowd, but it didn't make us many friends. One poor stiff-arm recipient had some badly slurred remarks for us: "Washwhereryergoin' azz-hole!" Austin gave him a subtle warning flash of his knife han-

tenders or pesky bouncers. No one told us to keep our voices down or clean up our language. And when we broke the occa-

We felt at home in Vegas. When we broke a glass, the waitress would apologize that the glasses weren't sturdier. And no bastard ever tried to tell us we'd had enough to drink.

sional glass, the waitress would apologize that the glasses weren't sturdier. Most importantly, no bastard ever tried to tell us we'd had enough to drink. When you have a headful of Cylert, there is no such thing as "too much to drink." These were precisely the reasons we went there to celebrate Austin's 21st birthday.

But as loose as we were, we couldn't have prepared for the lunacy boost we got from the Le Bistro Lounge at the Riviera Hotel. The story shifts into third gear at this point, as we run headlong into
The Classic™,



We had no choice but to turn on the heater full-blast to ventilate the mighty 442. That was painful, folks. Sitting in 107-degree desert heat with the wrath of an overheating big-block engine blasting on our feet. Thank God she was a convertible.

We barely made it to our oasis, the dysfunctional Frontier Hotel. The luggage gnomes ferreted away our bags as we power-walked to the nearest bar. We plowed through our drinks with gusto, erasing the long desert journey and

dle.

"Don't make me cut off that mullet and feed it to you," he barked.

But Randy had better plans. "Oh yeah? I'll get my cutlass, spillyergutzin one slash. Whoosh!"

Whatever. We made our way down the strip, hitting every bar heavily. We toasted our arrival in Vegas, where we felt at home immediately. We were able to drink without being interrupted by irritable bar-

Vegas style.

But we'll delve into that next time, folks.

to be continued...



Michael Atkinson, a senior majoring in Journalism, is a featured columnist for the Oregon Commentator.

SPEW

ON *Booooooooooooo!*

I am still uncertain of the *Oregon Daily Emerald's* idea behind printing such non-supportive articles and running random background checks on candidates.

—*Student Senator and admitted felon Michael Dixon, whining. If only the the ODE had been supportive of his perpetration of multiple felonies then everything would be totally fine.*

The *Emerald* learned of the charges against Student Senator Michael Dixon...during a public records search...The *Emerald* searched the records of all primary elections winners.

—*From the ODE's first story on Dixon. The randomness of their search boggles the mind.*

ON *GRAMMAR FOR SENATORS*

What are the odds that someone from the most diverse group of student senators has ever see has a [sic] criminal record?

Smells strange.

—*Even if we knew what Dixon was trying to say we doubt it would in any way justify an admitted felon sitting on the Student Senate. And what is that strange smell, anyway?*



slimy.

ON *Hiss! Hiss!*

The *Emerald* says they are doing it for the students. Are they really doing this for you? Bringing you background information, court updates and sentence hearings on a senator already elected. A senator who won with only 34 votes.

—*More Dixon. The student media raising questions about the integrity and credibility of one of the students' representatives? This doesn't sound like the mission of journalism at all! This is almost as dubious as a senator arguing that he shouldn't be held accountable to students because only 34 of them voted for him.*



corrupt.

Getting people to follow you is hard, but keeping those followers is even harder.

—*Dixon relating his difficulties in sheparding his flock of 34 followers.*

ON *COUGH, COUGH* *[CLEAR THROAT]*

I can't vote in the ASUO elections — I'm not even registered to vote in Oregon.

—*Overheard in the Carson Complex. Way to go, elections outreach.*

ON A SCHVONSE THAT — WILL RIP YOUR ASS OUT

There's stuff worth criticizing in the journalism program, but Hemingway, despite his years of sitting in class with a bored look, didn't get to it.

—Arnold Ismach, cantankerous J-school professor emeritus, on OC hack emeritus Mark Hemingway's article in our *Attack the Majors* issue. Arggle-barggle!



obese.

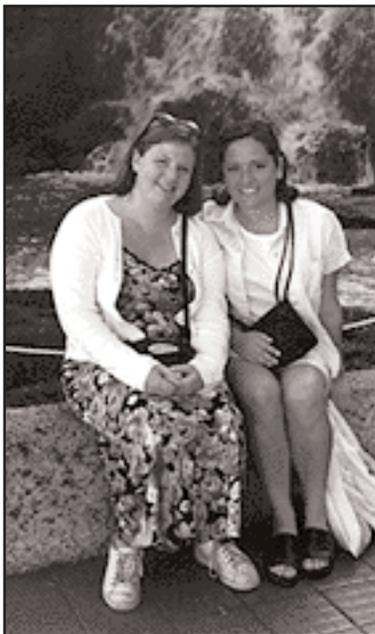
ON A MATCHED PAIR OF TOOLS —

The businessmen in three-piece suits are nothing but a bunch of parasites.

—Ralph Nader in the EMU Amphitheater. Look directly to your right.

There stands the money-lender or the merchant...feeding on [the proletariat] like a parasite.

—Karl Marx in *Das Kapital*. Nader? Marx? Do you sense some similarities here?



geneva and morgan.

ON REAL WORLD —

I am bitter. I paid \$40,000 for an education that didn't prepare me for shit, blew a ton of braincells and left me with a better than average beer gut. God mom and dad are proud, though.

—Kristina "Rudy" Rudinkas, University alumnus, former Emerald "reporter" and OC drinking buddy.

ON WRONG? WRONG! —

Yeah, the *OV* was voted the most popular magazine on campus a few years ago.

—Rob Elder, overheard at Silver Star video. Do we even need to say "In a land of opposites"?



Is this your TV? —MD

Episode I Refugees Seek To Be Reunited

By Schiznatic Jack
Associated Press Writer

EUGENE, Oregon (AP) — They file hesitantly into the box office, refugee after refugee, seeking help in tracking down parents, spouses and children lost during the chaotic mass pursuit of tickets for Phantom Menace.

Relief workers say a large majority of the 700,000 refugees who have camped in front of Regal Theaters are unsure of the whereabouts of some close relatives.

"It's like the Cantina scene in New Hope," said Thierry Schreyer, a Swiss tracing expert. "This place is packed with all kinds of freaks, ranging from role players in trench coats, Magic: The Gathering™ players, overweight comic book readers, and overall Ugly people."

Local television stations sometimes give air time to refugees, who hope missing relatives will see or hear about the broadcast.

"I'm not going to lie to you people," Vincent John said in a prepared statement for the press. "I am an Unattractive man who can't hold a conversation without saying 'may the force be with you.' I even tongued my sister to see what it would be like to be Luke Skywalker. Sis' if your out there, I'm sorry."

Several hundred families have been reunited this way, including a few whose members had been scattered to different movie theaters.

"I've witnessed pain, suffering, and anguish all along this stained cement sidewalk. People are dying all around me," said hardened fan Logan Tutanés. "Dying to see this movie."

Theater operators and independent ticket sellers were gearing up for an expected onslaught of thou-

sands of fans seeking tickets at theater box offices.

"It's only going to get worse from here," explained one theater manager who asked to remain nameless. "These kids are dressed up in robes and tights, holding on to long, hard light poles, and talking about feeling the force or turning to the dark side.

"Well I got a hard pole for their dark sides, and if they don't stop pissing on the walls, I'm literally going to shoot my force all over their freakin' faces."



Return of the Ugly Kids: brandishing replica light sabers, these ugly kids are truly ugly.



A New Hope: thinking they were waiting in line for Star Wars tickets, these moviegoers were surprised to be met by Red Cross officials handing out antibiotics and bread.



Who farted: these lucky ticket holders may seem downtrodden and full of despair — and they are.