Osipring's contract with the University is poorly constructed. What Will The UO Do About It?
Cover: It is once again time for the ASUO Elections. Our coverage begins on page 16. We’ve got interviews with the Executive candidates who would talk to us, a ballot measure wrap-up, and Senate race highlights.

Publisher Bret Jacobson takes a look at OSPIRG’s contract with the University. They’re supposed to provide services to the University, but it those services are sorely lacking. Will the administration do the right thing? Find out on page 8.

OC Contributor Brett Callahan takes a look at the effect of Eugene’s smoking ban on the local bar scene. We’ll give you a hint, it isn’t good. Page 11.

Scott Parker went to Hollywood to score some cheap head and some cheaper blow. He came back with stories of an Oscar protest gone wrong. Page 10.
Promises, Promises

Since it’s elections time again, the COMMENTATOR offers our own campaign promises. And we’re shooting straight between the eyes.

• When Bill Clinton was elected to office, he pledged to make abortion “safe, legal and rare.” When and if the Commentator takes office, we pledge to do the same with the Olsen twins. Currently 16, the dynamic duo are promptly approaching the ripe old age of consent. And unless Bob Saget has engaged in unhealthy carnal knowledge, it’s safe to say that their purity is still intact. And it should stay that way. Were the Commentator to lower the age of consent, we would do so with a “good faith” clause that stated that the Olsen twins were off limit to even the most well-meaning 31 year old. 30 years and younger, please.

• The EMU is due for another revamp soon, and if elected, the Commentator would see to it that the new building serves all students, not just international students and... Number one, we would ban South Eugene High School skate boarders from the amphitheater. Number two, we would remove the “Dance Revolution” game from the arcade downstairs. There’s nothing more pitiful than the sight of a 24 year old obese male competing against a 13 year girl in a dance off. Third, we would move the ASUO offices elsewhere. Maybe to LCC.

• Student incidental fees would no longer be mandatory. Interested students can choose to pay in order to fund student groups. This will, of course, lower the number of fee dollars at the disposal of the ASUO, so student groups will have to compete for funding in The Tunderdome. Two groups enter, one group leaves. We call the Chess Club.

• We can dance if we want to, we can leave your friends behind. ’Cause your friends don’t dance and if they don’t dance, well they’re no friends of mine. Say, we can go where we want to, a place that they will never find and we can act like we come from out of this world, leave the real one far behind. And we can dance.

• Havia uma vez um pinguim nomeado Derek. Viveu com os outros pinguins em um iceberg enchanted perto da terra mágica do anarctica. Depois que sua família foi matada por um monster terrível, Derek transformou-se o pinguim de Ninja, caça o evil durante todo a terra.

• All of the drinking fountains will run with soda, and not that Pepsi shit either…no friend, Coca-Cola, the only American beverage. Also, the girls on Saferide would be easy.

• Left-handed people will be considered separate-but-equal. They will have their own bathrooms, drinking fountains, movie theatres and student government.

• Gilbert is gone, Grayson was renamed, PLC is next! VIVA LA REVOLUTION!
Positive Reinforcement

Just One More Benefit Of Joining The OREGON COMMENTATOR Staff

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Every self-appointed cultural critic is quick to denounce reality television as a spectacle akin to “watching a train wreck.” While it may be true that said television represents an ever plummeting LCD of American taste, it’s perhaps hyperbole to suggest that watching Ozzy Osbourne clean up dog crap is comparable to seeing burnt bodies hauled out from under smoldering wreckage. Below, we’ve compared several popular reality television shows with their train wreck equivalent to find out which one is more appalling.

Are You Hot?

Judges scour every pore of willing victims to determine their “hotness.” Grimace as you watch someone develop an eating disorder right in front you. Sit back and laugh while an “I’m all that” Alpha Beta bitch is humiliated in front of a national audience because of her “child-bearing” hips and “Oprah-watching” ass.

The Woodville Crash

In 1906, a passenger train collided with a freight train near Woodville, Ind. The collision killed 47 people and hurt at least 38 more. Fire broke out almost immediately in the wreckage. The flames spread through the wreckage so rapidly that it was impossible to save a number of people who were only slightly hurt, but were held fast by timbers that weighted them down. These were burned in plain sight of the throng, which stood around the scene of the disaster utterly unable to lend assistance in any way.

Winner: Are You Hot? Nobody wants to see burn victims paraded around before a panel of judges. Nobody in this office, anyway.

I’m a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!

Has-beens and never-weres like Tyson Beckford, “Downtown” Julie Brown, Cris Judd, Robin Leach and Melissa Rivers compete against each other in a “Survivor”-like setting. But with this many losers, how can anybody win?

The Tanzania Tragedy

In June 2002, a passenger train in Tanzania was climbing a hill when it suffered a mechanical failure and rolled backwards, colliding with an approaching freight train. The wreck killed more than 200 people and hurt hundreds more. An eyewitness said that people trapped inside the mangled wreckage of the train cars cried for help as darkness fell, 10 hours after the morning crash. But rescuers did not have the heavy equipment needed to cut through the twisted steel to free those trapped.

Winner: The Tanzania Tragedy. Who cares if Robin Leach can carve a fishing pole? That’s child play. Let’s see him saw off his own leg before he’s crushed underneath a coal car.

Joe Millionare

This show doesn’t need a description, since 75% of you tuned in to the record-breaking finale. The show had all of the drama and intrigue of a Days of Our Lives’ plot line, and Joe’s suitors were way hotter than Deidre Hall’s 56-year-old ass.

The Great Shohola Train Wreck

The Great Shohola Train Wreck of 1864 killed at least 51 Confederate prisoners and 17 Union guards. The accident occurred when a train carrying members of the 11th and 20th Regiments of the United States Veteran Reserve Corps collided with a coal train with 50 loaded cars. When the two trains impacted, the troop train’s woodtender jolted forward and buckled upright, throwing its load of firewood into the engine cab, killing one man instantly. Another man was pinned against the split boiler plate and scalding steam, where he was reportedly slowly scalded to death in sight of all present.

Winner: Joe Millionare. After sitting through four hours of Gods and Generals, we’ve had just enough of this Civil War bullshit.
**Hippie Rapture**

by Charles Bangcok

It was just a little after 2:00 on April 3rd. I was in my lecture, a literature class of some kind. The kind of class that encourages participation despite the lack of a functioning central nervous system. The professor was going over the reading I didn’t do last night. I would have read the book, but I got sucked back into one of my other favorite reads, the back of an Arrogant Bastard bottle. The professor, the sad, broken man that he is, tried to get through the lecture as fast as possible, lest the entire class be sidetracked again by some leftist plebe. As usual, his efforts were in vain. As he finished the lecture, several hands went up. Everyone, even the professor, winced as they knew what was about to come. All the leftists just had a revelation about some social injustice present in the readings, and they wanted to share their immense wisdom with the rest of the class. Fan-fuckin’-tastic. The professor frantically looked for someone, anyone, to call on other than those who will only say something so ungodly stupid that you can actually hear your brain cells reading their suicide notes. There was no one else, so he called on the first student. As the endless droning about social injustice filled the air, I felt myself slipping into a deep sleep. The mindless ranting faded away until I was happily unconscious.

When I first awoke, I didn’t immediately realize that I was awake, for there was an unfamiliar sound in the room. Actually, it was more the lack of sound altogether that was unfamiliar. I took a deep breath. The normal stench of a three-year bathing hiatus was suddenly gone. I opened my eyes more to prove I was awake more than anything. Many of the chairs were empty. In their place were hemp garments, beads, various spiritual doo-dads and other such crap. I looked at my watch. It now said 2:30 on Thursday April 3rd. For some reason, that date seemed familiar; I had seen it around campus or something. But it is a date and time I will never forget.

The professor, once a broken shell of a man, seemed to be reborn. He was explaining the material with no fear of being interrupted by some dreadlocked cretin. Hands went up left and right. And after the hands went up, there was no leftist bullshit, but thought-provoking ideas about the subject at hand.

As I walked out of class that day, I felt something I had never felt upon leaving a class; I had learned something. I took away new ideas about the subject I chose instead of random pieces of information found in a leftist pamphlet. People have since tried to explain the mass hippie disappearance. Most think that they walked out of class to join some kind of peace rally. I think it is deeper. I read books about this kind of thing. It’s call rapture, when God calls the true believers back into heaven. You’d think God would be a little more choosy about who gets in, though; it seems to me that heaven is more accessible than a sorority girl’s panties.

What follows now is seven years of hell on earth; the tribulations ending in Armageddon. But it’s been a whole hour since some mouth-breathing flea bag has told me about all the horrible things that happen because of me. You know, I think I could get used to this.

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**The OC Asks:**

**How is Your War Going?**

- **Ralph Wiggum**
  - This tamacco tastes like grandma.

- **Donald Rumsfeld**
  - Everything is going according to plan. I disagree with the construction of your question. That you don’t have my battle plan makes me want to say “Golly, that’s swell!”

- **Peter Arnett**
  - I’ll bounce back—I was already fired by CNN for shabby reporting, so this is nothing new. I’ll be at the Daily Astorian before you know it.

- **Robocop**
  - OCP has ordered me to systematically destroy all homeless lifeforms, but it’s hard to tell the difference between alley rats and hood rats, so I show no mercy. Fuck.

- **Luke Ridnour**
  - Mmm...tastes like grandma.

- **50 Cent**
  - Hey, I don’t give a fuck if it isn’t your birthday.

- **Evan Mariott**
  - My legal battle is heating up — Zora wants half of my KFC pitch money.

War has taught us many things, but mostly we have learned to fear outsiders. Xenophobes? Only a stranger would ask that...
While many students at the University remember the days of ballot measure fights over the funding of the controversial Oregon Students Public Interest Research Group, there have been no such clashes in the last two years because OSPIRG is now considered a service provider for the ASUO. But the nature of the service contract and OSPIRG report filings still leave room for serious questions about the funding the group widely acknowledged as a political entity.

University officials say that the group is considered a service provider, an effort designed to formalize the relationship between the state organization and the University and avoid illegal use of state money for political lobbying purposes.

The University’s Director of Student Activities, Gregg Lobisser, said that two years ago the University “revisited with the Attorney General’s office” the legality and procedures for funding various groups, including outside service providers. The decision reached, Lobisser said, was that all contracts for over $100,000 must be approved by the Oregon Attorney General’s office. In the case of the OSPIRG contract, Lobisser said that “the intent is to identify services to be rendered.” Lobisser also said that the contract can act as “a framework for evaluation” of OSPIRG’s ability to provide the services outlined in the agreement.

There are other service providers that have contracts with the ASUO. They include the Emerald, ASUO Legal Services, Student Advocacy, and the Lane Transit District bus service. Those contracts all include measurable costs and the invested money can easily be seen on campus.

The services to be rendered in the OSPIRG instance, however, are difficult to measure because none of them include concrete achievements or numerical goals. University Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said that it is the “Associated Students’ job” to measure compliance and that “if the Associated Students are satisfied then the University has no reason to question” the contract.

Williams, however, added that his office could review the contract again if a student or group of students raised concerns about the legality of the agreement or a failure by OSPIRG to act within the agreement and Oregon law.

It appears there may very well be reason for concerned students to appeal to the University as OSPIRG documents seem to indicate that the group may be acting in a manner inconsistent with legal precedent.

Lingering Concerns

The group has been controversial throughout the years for taking large amounts of student dollars off campus and offering very little evidence as to the use of that money. While other student groups have individual line items for various expense types and must turn in receipts for every student dollar spent, OSPIRG’s practice of writing checks from one line item to its Portland office is an ongoing practice to which many students object.

Several students at the University, including members of this magazine, sued in the mid-1990s to enjoin the University from collecting and distributing incidental fees to OSPIRG because the group lobbied for political purposes with which the students dis-
agree. In the opinion from the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the students’ action was denied, though the decision still left room for doubt.

The 1999 opinion states that OSPIRG Education Fund (the group that University students fund) “does not engage in activities utilizing professional lobbyists, door to door fundraising and fuel oil or other cooperatives, nor does it incur the administrative costs associated with” programs that had been considered illegal by other circuits. The facts, however, suggest otherwise.

According to the Sept. 30 OSPIRG Tri-Annual report, University student money contributes to pay for the $24,000 annual rent in Portland for the organization, a clear administrative cost. The organization’s pooled budgets for accounting, advertising, equipment, insurance, office supplies, postage, telephone and utilities also indicate that it does in fact have the shared administrative costs questioned by the court decision. Student money also goes into a fuel “cooperative” by being lumped into OSPIRG’s $12,500 annual travel budget.

Another key clause in the 1999 ruling was that within the University’s fee system “specific disbursements also are monitored” and that “in order to obtain payment, organizations must submit documentation and a certification that the funds were expended for the purposes authorized” by the ASUO. OSPIRG continues to use only one line item, which is disbursed in the three equal payments to the Portland office.

Prior to the 2001-2002 school year OSPIRG had been funded by ASUO ballot measures, which were deemed inappropriate by the administration after the Southworth Supreme Court case, which concerned mandatory incidental fees. The Southworth decision did not strike down ballot measure funding in total, though it did suggest that the Court might consider doing so in the future.

During the era of ballot measure fights over OSPIRG, there was a history of unimpressive levels of support for the group. In the last ballot measure election with OSPIRG on the ballot, 2001, OSPIRG’s existence only won by 56 votes. OSPIRG was voted off campus by student ballot in 1998 before a special election the following fall reinstated the organization.

What’s Next

Lobisser and Williams agreed that measurement and judgment of OSPIRG’s services is largely up to the ASUO, unless specific concerns are brought to the attention of Williams’s office.

There is always a chance that the ASUO will show concern about the use of student fees and demand a more measurable service agreement. And there is a very real possibility that concerned students could and will ask Williams and the administration to look into the legality of funding OSPIRG through a service contract.

There is also a possible outcome to the OSPIRG controversy that will leave many more unhappy. Collegians for A Constructive Tomorrow (www.cfactcampus.org) is a mirror PIRG which uses student money to appeal for market-based solutions to environmental problems. Solutions proposed by the group often include loosening of environmental regulations and respect for private property and market values.

CFACT already has chapters at three University of California schools, seven schools in Massachusetts including Amherst and Mount Holyoke, the State University of New York, University of Wisconsin-Madison and more. In most of those cases CFACT has forced its way onto campuses through Southworth interpretations.

CFACT has already sent representatives to this campus in hopes of starting a chapter at the University. The group’s representatives believe an Oregon chapter would legally be entitled to equal funding with OSPIRG under Southworth viewpoint neutrality rules. Next year OSPIRG’s funding will be $100,000.

For now, there are still only questions and concerns about the usefulness and legality of OSPIRG. All that is really known is that for now, OSPIRG is under contract.

OC Managing Editor Timothy Dreier set out with a curious mind and a calculator to figure out just how much money had been “contributed” from this campus over 30 years (or what could be found).

OSPIRG’s funding was adjusted to 2003 dollars by using the Inflation Calculator available at www.bls.gov. The figures were then summed.

And the final tally is ...

$2,368,385.74

Since 1986, the first year for which data is available, due to poor record-keeping habits of the ASUO.
H

aving never been to Los Angeles before, I set out last week with a friend to see some of the sights, and we inadvertently ended up outside of the Kodak Theatre. We had already been lined up and patted down by LAPD before we realized where we were. Remembering that the Academy Awards were the number one target for a terrorist strike that night, we thought it was worth checking out, and for a spectacle it did not disappoint.

For an event that is designed to celebrate the glamour and glitz of Hollywood, celebrity was one of the last things on the minds of most of people gathered outside the red-carpeted sidewalk (though there was no shortage of theatre and entertainment). The people crammed on the corners of the nearby intersections did not wave arms and scream for the stars but waved signs and screamed at each other.

The sides were not evenly divided, but intermingled with everyone yelling at everyone else. From many of the signs people held, it was difficult to tell which side they were supporting. “We Support Our Troops,” “Shame On You,” (this one was apparently not a Michael Moore original) and “You Hillbillies,” were among the chants and signs that didn’t seem to make a compelling case for either side.

Taking a step back and looking at the scene made me wonder what was really at work. Clearly everyone there was passionate about his or her beliefs (and in many unfortunate cases, ready to fight for them). Those who support the war and those who oppose the war feel that, for whatever reason, they are right and the others are wrong. This got me wondering what was motivating these people to fight so adamantly towards such different ends.

What I came up with is that they all have good intentions and want to do what is right. They only disagree on what is the best way to do what is right. The anti-war protesters believe that war is not justified by Saddam’s actions; there is nothing to be gained by an attack. Their points are well taken. It is counterintuitive to think that killing people might be the best way to establish peace. If words could solve this situation, then war would be a huge mistake on our part—as many believe it is. On the other hand, Saddam has repeatedly ignored, rejected, and defied agreements with the UN. I think it is fair to say that he is not the type to work with words.

One of the effects of the anti-war protests, intentional or not, is glorifying a draconian and misogynistic culture and giving support to an insane dictator who readily kills his own people. Would the woman who was publicly hanged last week for waving to American troops have wanted the US to leave Saddam alone? Or the civilians Saddam had gunned down leaving Basra in search of food? It’s not as simple as ‘war is always wrong.’

On the other side, the war supporters are convinced that Saddam is an evil menace and must be taken out for the good of the Iraqi people. They are familiar with his track record and are unwilling to respect a government that is murderous towards its own. It is only by establishing a democracy that Iraq can ever begin to develop and escape this oppression. To these people, the next step is simply to go over there, get rid of Saddam and establish a new government. Again, they truly believe this is the best way to help. One problem with this plan is that the US has tried imposing democracy before and should know how unreliable a venture it is. If we take out Saddam, it is not at all clear that Iraq is ready to support its own democracy.

There is an alternative position to those of the pro/anti-war protesters, and that is to recognize that 1) the Iraqi people would be better off if Saddam were taken out, 2) that taking him out and installing a new government will probably fail, and 3) realizing that not acting against Saddam is an action for Saddam.

With these three points in mind, the US could conceivably try to aid Iraq in an internal revolution that was supported by the people. This action would encourage Iraqis to replace Saddam with someone they can support and not someone propped up by the world powers. If Iraq is not ready to replace Saddam out of its own self-interest, chances are that when the US does the new democracy will not last. The drive for reform must be internal and the best that the US can do is promote a change in Iraq so that they become prepared to make that change.

Protesters around this country are so driven by their own interests that they seem to be overlooking their own shortcomings quite regularly. At the protests, there is no concern for working out the appropriate approach to the situation in Iraq. People do not sit and discuss policy, trying to work out the best solution. Instead, the protests serve as locations for power struggles. There is a lot of shouting and noise but no progress. It’s about yelling and not listening. It’s about making your side right, not finding out what is right.

For this situation to be worked out, we must enter into a serious dialogue about the situation and not fall back on catchy slogans or political affiliations. It is likely that my proposal is just as flawed as the others, or that one of the others is the best solution, but as long as the method of deciding which is best is based on power or who can shout the loudest and not a discourse of ideas we will only see continued conflict.

Scott Parker who started a wave when Michael Moore left stage, is a staff writer for the Oregon Commentator.
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everyone knows cigarettes lead to health problems. They also create an ungodly stench, especially in the confines of your favorite bar. For these reasons, I was happy when I learned that the city council here in Eugene had made it illegal to smoke in bars. After a little consideration and a talk with Chuck Hare, the owner of campus favorite Taylor’s Bar and Grill, I realized that while the smoking ban might make me happy, it has had a dramatically negative affect on many small watering holes in Eugene.

The ideas behind the smoking ban are noble. The city council passed it for the purpose of protecting both workers and customers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Laws against smokers have been big in this state recently, and this is seen by many as another step towards taking away personal freedoms. While I’m not convinced blowing smoke in someone’s face is a personal freedom, it is certainly a business owner’s choice to operate his or her business as he or she sees fit, within reason. This means bartenders and bar owners should be free to peddle the wares they want, regardless of a decision by an overbearing nine-member council without small businesses’ best interests at heart.

The ban makes little sense, as it goes beyond a state law already in effect. The state of Oregon bans smoking in restaurants and other places where a minor may be exposed to second hand smoke, but allows smoking in areas where people are required to be of legal age in order to walk in the door, such as smoke shops, bars, bingo halls, and other such businesses. It also allows the sale and use of tobacco in bowling alleys.

This law may not be perfect. Clearly, the same argument that is made for the ban of cigarette use in restaurants can apply to bowling alleys—in each, minors, who are not of the legal age to decide whether or not they want to smoke, may be involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke. It would make sense, then, for the city to ban smoking in bowling alleys in its quest to insure that its citizens’ health is protected.

Banning smoking in bars, however, does not make sense. The legal age to enter a bar is 21, three years older than the legal age to purchase cigarettes. Bar patrons are old enough to buy both products, so why should they not be allowed to consume them in an
Support These Candidates

These students stand for fiscal responsibility, a student bill of rights and greater control over incidental fee spending. We will work to ensure the best possible education for all students.

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Chris Sittner

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“Too often students at this school find reason to lose faith that their money is wasted by frivolous, self-absorbed bureaucrats. I will work my ass off to make sure that a student can enjoy all of the activities their money funds — from athletics to student groups. And most importantly, I will make sure that every student feels like they have a voice and are not drowned out by the campus mob.”

Please Vote For Chris Sittner On Duckweb
• April 9-11 •
Jeremy Jones
For ASUO President

"The trains will run faster..."

"...And so will the hippies!"

http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~jjones5
I am shocked and appalled by your recent article [sic] that suggested the University expel its eleven French students. You have embarrassed yourself and our University with your bigotry and nonsense arguments — can you not see the dichotomy in a sentence that implies that US led invasion of Iraq would be a humanitarian effort (images of torture chambers and starving children) next to one that belittles “immigrant workers from Mexico”? It appears that you need a lesson in French history; attached you will find an article by Molly Ivins detailing the tragic number of French soldiers who have died defending France. You are a disgrace to our University, shame on you!

— Jennifer L. Hudson, Arts and Administration

SAVE $$$ ON A SENSE OF HUMOR!
THIS MONTH ONLY!
DO NOT MISS THESE BARGAINS!
DON’T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! SATISFIED CUSTOMERS REPORT:

"Until I took part in the [OREGON COMMENTATOR ENDORSED!] Sense of Humor Program, my editorials were sanctimonious, incoherent and punctuated with random accusations of misogyny! I don’t know how I got along without one!" - Mike K, Eugene.

"I’ve never heard of this program, and my articles still aren’t very good!" - Molly I, the Moon.

Gee, it’s sweet of you to credit science with an ideally objective meritocracy, but in fact it’s a social community like any other, with messy prejudices that we may (gasp!) be too prejudiced to see. That’s not to say that the meritocracy hasn’t had its defenders. Until recently, many male scientists pointed to low female achievement as a sign that women just aren’t cut out for science and should be discouraged from doing it. What exactly is the Commentator’s explanation for the fact that most science professors are men?

— Anna Barnett, Biology.

Anna, thanks for calling us sweet! OK, most music profs are women. So should there be a vast push by the government to get men into those positions? Nay. The government can’t do a better job when it comes to hiring and firing. The more women there are studying science, the more female professors will ultimately be. And we think that’s great. But there’s a difference between programs aimed at recruiting women to science programs, and legislative restrictions on professorial hiring. We balk at the latter.

Hi there,

While I appreciate what I hope is the satirized approach to your comments regarding French students at UofO, I must admit that I found them wary, trying, and a direct attack on a friend of mine. If, as a publication, you are trying to reintroduce what your mission states as "rationalism" into the liberal community of the UofO, I suggest taking a different approach. You talk about whining, you talk about childlike behavior and maybe all you are doing is trying to get someone like me riled up and pissed off (tres mature). Maybe you are looking for some attention as well and seeking some praise of your wit and validation of your existence. Maybe you were just trying to be funny in a way that us damn liberals can’t understand, I just hope that your readers did. I appreciate many different points of view. I believe our world situation right now is much more complex than ANY of us (including you guys) can really comprehend. I welcome the communication of a wide range of ideas. But, just as you grow tired of liberal rhetoric, I grow tired of the blatant xenophobia the conservative right clings to during times of world distress. What in the hell is "rational" about paranoia? Look, I know that for some reason, you need to feel as if you are standing up for the underdog here at UofO. It makes you feel different and unique and like you stand out. You see how women are attracted to men who aren’t afraid to speak their minds, and you think, "well, hell, I can write, and I have something to say, let the women and the beer flow!" I know that it’s hard to let go of these thoughts and feelings, but its simply time to grow up, honey. Think about others and their feelings. That’s not a liberal whiny PC idea, its called being CONSIDERATE! We learned that in kindergarten, they teach it in your conservative churches. Did something bad happen to you as a child that made you forget that?

— Graeme Clark

Sincerely,

Mike Westdal
Sacramento, Calif.

You guys should really double check your articles making fun of other newspapers for spelling errors.. spell check doesn’t work on word order. Nice article on leftist vs. liberal by the way.

Well, it’s certainly nice to see that some people on this campus actually like us. We were pretty sure, but the affirmation is nice. We do spell check, we do edit for word order. We don’t catch everything because there are only so many of us. Thanks for the praise.

— Jennifer L. Hudson, Arts and Administration
Each year, a comedy of errors occurs on our campus — it is a farcical interpretation of what many consider to be the most important aspect of our republic: elections. The ASUO elections are to democracy what Spam is to meat. Voter turnout of 9% is par for the course, and the candidates all spout the same gibberish about diversity and a plethora of other lefty tripe. The Executive never accomplishes anything meaningful and often allows the incidental fee to be extorted from students at an increasing rate. The more things change... and all that.

This year, there are six executive candidates, a few senate seats, and a couple of ballot measures, the contents of which the voting students will probably remain unaware. Surprisingly, the candidates do seem to be varied this year, which is a bit of relief from the ten cookie-cutter tickets last spring. The main surprise has been that tickets seem to be genuinely concerned about fee administration and have been able to answer the COMMENTATOR’S fee question without much difficulty. Unfortunately, we were only able to speak with four of six tickets by press time. Madeline Melton & Eddy Morales did not respond after repeated attempts to contact them, the same was true of Pierre Spence & Jack Mantel. As you will see in the following pages, the field is varied and the difference of opinion often great. So, who will you vote for? Who deserves to win this grand game of Trivial Pursuit? Which ticket embodies all that is right and good about student government? Keep reading, amigo, and you just might find out.
**John Drake & Joe Boyd**

**How would you describe your platform in 20 words or fewer?**

I think the main things we’re focusing on is student voice, diversity and community.

**What do you think about the incidental fee, and how should groups be held responsible for their spending?**

**Drake:** Personally, since it is the students’ money, it should represent whatever the students want. So, if the majority of the students want their money going to a certain organization, a student organization, the money should go to that. I know in the past, they actually voted on who the money went to, now it’s decided completely by the ASUO, so I think it’s important for the ASUO to know what students want, represent students, and allocate money like the students want it.

**OC:** Do you understand viewpoint neutrality in terms of fee allocation?

**Drake:** [Pause] Umm…no.

**Given that, how do you feel about OSPIRG, and should it continue to be funded?**

**Drake:** My support of groups is on a case-by-case basis, and personally I do feel that OSPIRG does many many positive things. So I do feel that it should continue to be funded. I agree with many of their campaigns, at this point, and believe that they stand for positive things.

**Which one issue would you say is most important for students?**

**Drake:** Coming from the governing body, I think the most important issue is that students are represented by the governing body. There’s so many issues right now, it’s hard for me to pick one…tuition, improving healthcare, improving the dorms, all that kind of stuff. So basically, I think from a student representative point, we should represent their voice. So, the voice of students being heard is the most important issue right now.

**How do you define diversity as it applies to campus?**

**Drake:** Well, in our platform, when we talk about diversity, we’re mainly focusing on the different student groups, helping all of them work together. We feel like student groups can be more effective when working together. So, by diversity, we mean diversity of groups, primarily.

**John Drake** is a junior psychology major.

**Joe Boyd** was unavailable at the time of the interview. He is a pre-journalism major.
GIVEN THAT, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT OSPIRG, AND SHOULD IT CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED?

White: On just a strictly financial basis, I am 100 percent, pretty much, against OSPIRG. The rules in the ASUO constitution state that the President has the power to dissolve any student group that receives incidental fees. So, that is something that we are prepared to do if OSPIRG does not change the way they spend their money by taking their money off campus. I mean, their line-item budget is a hoax; that is not a line-item budget. Also, the way they pay their executives and their other members, I read their budget and the constitution says you have to have an exact amount that you pay your people...their executive position gets paid anywhere between $14,000 and $21,000, well, what the hell is it? We don’t know how much of our money goes off-campus, well, we know all of it goes, but we don’t know how much it returns. So, we’re prepared, if they don’t change the way they do things, to dissolve them.

McNeill: We have several options under the constitution...we can dissolve them, or ASUO can assume the duties of OSPIRG and basically absorb them, or we can suspend their funding indefinitely, until we’re satisfied with their direction.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE INCIDENTAL FEE AND HOW SHOULD GROUPS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPENDING?

White: Well, I think the incidental fee, none of us really like to pay it, but I think we need it to a certain extent. But I think that organizations should be held a lot more accountable than they are right now, especially OSPIRG, who wastes our money and spends it off-campus. Which, we feel, is immoral and not really legal under our constitution. So, we would really be a watchdog over the organizations, making sure that they’re spending the money wisely, and do our best to control the incidental fee as much as possible.

White: Well, I think the incidental fee, none of us really like to pay it, but I think we need it to a certain extent. But I think that organizations should be held a lot more accountable than they are right now, especially OSPIRG, who wastes our money and spends it off-campus. Which, we feel, is immoral and not really legal under our constitution. So, we would really be a watchdog over the organizations, making sure that they’re spending the money wisely, and do our best to control the incidental fee as much as possible.

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HOW DO YOU DEFINE DIVERSITY AS IT APPLIES TO CAMPUS?

White: Well, I think, in the past, they defined diversity as the color of your skin or ethnicity or your gender...your sex, whatever you want to call it. We feel that diversity of philosophy is more important. Just because you’re black or you’re white doesn’t mean you’re going to think a certain way. And I think it’s horrible that they actually favor things like, “we need this certain amount” or, “we need this ethnicity to be in the ASUO or to be represented because we need to hear their views.” Well, you know, there’s a lot of white kids at this school who don’t agree with me, and so I think if we can get a different view on not just politics but just a different view of the world and philosophy like I said, that’s true diversity. And it doesn’t matter what your sex or your color is.

McNeill: We have several options under the constitution...we can dissolve them, or ASUO can assume the duties of OSPIRG and basically absorb them, or we can suspend their funding indefinitely, until we’re satisfied with their direction.

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Christa Shively & Greg Bae

**How would you describe your platform in 20 words or fewer?**

**Shively:** You always do this word thing…

**Bae:** Increasing access, awareness, and education to people who don’t necessarily know that they’re involved.

**What do you think about the incidental fee and how should groups be held responsible for their spending?**

**Shively:** I’ve been a member of the EMU board for the last three years now, and I think the incidental fee is an incredible resource for students on campus. I think it facilitates that “marketplace of ideas,” and that was kind of a keyword from the Southworth case for what the incidental fee is supposed to stand for; I think the accountability process for the PFC is really important. I think the process that the PFC and the EMU board goes through are really important. Especially that the students who sit on those committees are very knowledgeable and have a background in finance and know what kinds of questions to ask. I think it’s really important that groups are held accountable for spending. Some groups that I’ve been involved with have been cut in the past for their spending, for not using the fee, and I think that’s appropriate. We shouldn’t be collecting more fees than are absolutely necessary. So, one of our goals through our platform, is to not necessarily lower fees on campus, but have transparency for all fees on campus.

**Which one issue would you say is most important for students?**

**Shively:** I’d definitely have to say that just how everything is becoming more expensive. The opportunity grant being cut, the childcare block grant being cut in the past couple weeks. That has a major impact on students. The rate at which tuition is going up, and also that other fees on campus are increasing. That tuition percentage, I think it’s 12% next year, doesn’t include fees. And so, the rate at which all of that is increasing is making being a student more and more difficult every year.

**What do you think about OSPIRG and how should it continue to be funded?**

**Bae:** I was involved with OSPIRG directly as a freshman, so four years ago, I sat on the board and was programs director there. And through my work with the people on OSPIRG and the organization, I feel like what they do is great. Obviously, how can you fight against cleaner air, whatever? On a principled issue, it’s great, but I feel there’s still some financial or logistical issues that we could work out. Just as Christa was saying, we want to increase transparency of fees that students get charged. Since OSPIRG is a student-funded organization on campus, I feel like we as students who pay that funding fee have an obligation to know exactly where those fees are going and to have greater transparency in their internal workings.

**How do you define diversity as it applies to campus?**

**Bae:** Well, we define diversity as simply the recognition that there are differences in gender, racial, socio-economic, ability-based backgrounds. It’s simply the recognition of that. And in order to facilitate diversity, we don’t think the ASUO should take a programs-oriented or ideological stance on it. Rather, we’d like to promote this marketplace of ideas by facilitating discussions when conflicts arise or helping other student organizations whose primary objectives are to increase social and cultural awareness, such as the Multicultural Center. Help them out with resources such as the Student Events Coordinator, a new position we plan to institute as staff members.
Jeremy Jones

**How would you describe your platform in 20 words or fewer?**

Evil totalitarian regime bent on world domination.

**What do you think about the incidental fee and how should groups be held responsible for their spending?**

Jones: It’s very simple, really, all groups will have to answer to me. I’m disbanding every little organizational thing that they have there. The PFC, gone. They’re all going to answer to me. I’m going to dole out money, and basically any money that’s doled out will be directly responsible for helping to conquer OSU and the surrounding area. Plus any little things, new cars for me, my own entourage, things like that.

OC: Why OSU specifically?

Jones: Well, you might not know this, but OSU was historically part of the U of O. And, in the past, our former glory was taken from us. So I’m just restoring our glory to the U of O by taking out OSU and bringing it back to its rightful place.

**Given that, how do you feel about OSPIRG, and should it continue to be funded?**

Well, it will continue to be funded, but it will be completely revamped. I’m taking them over. Instead of being the environmental people that they are, they will pretty much become my secret police force, enforcing my law and shooting anyone who disagrees with me.

**Which one issue would you say is most important for students?**

I’d probably say the, umm, I’d say restoring our former glory of the U of O and conquering OSU and the surrounding Northwest.

**How do you define diversity as it applies to campus?**

Diversity, I would define it as probably the biggest obstacle to our glory. I say that because with diversity comes new ideas and with new ideas comes questions, and they start questioning me. That’s bad. So, therefore, everybody will have to wear what I wear, they will think how I think, they will be issued a book titled “What To Think About Everything” and the only discussions allowed will be various interpretations of the book, and only interpretations listed in the book.
every year at around this time, a maximum of fifteen percent of the student body exercises its student-constitution-granted right to elect its student-body-government. Why so few? The intricacies of the student governmental system have clearly failed to engage our young people. A deep pall of ennui hangs over the proceedings. Even when large sums of money are involved, it's somehow hard to get people fired up about student government. After all, what's it for?

Hard to say, really. We certainly expect that any student governmental system would work to safeguard the incidental fee, without which we would be bereft of countless irreplaceable features of the campus, like... well, like this article. And those goddamn Emerald ads that have been running on cable recently. However, the other ostensible functions of student government remain admirably unclear. I have a suggestion that will, I think, prevent them from ever being accidentally articulated in the future, while giving the unwashed electorate a chance to get into the action. Fundamentally, the system just isn't complicated enough. And I have the perfect fix.

Broadcasts have been less frequent lately, but whenever there isn't a war on and the British Parliament is in session you can tune in to C-SPAN on Sundays at 6 and 9 PM for half an hour of sizzling rhetoric - the previous week's Prime Minister's Questions from the House of Commons. This is a half-hour weekly session in which Tony Blair responds to questions, allegations, sycophancy, and thinly veiled insults from locally-elected Members of Parliament. It is without an exact equivalent in the American political system, and it makes for great television, as a succession of more or less tastefully dressed representatives from assorted provinces stand up and try to make a name for themselves by embarrassing the leader of the country in front of everybody. Damn the expense and inconvenience: I want a student equivalent. And not just the ASUO President - or ASUO Prime Minister, as may be - but an entire ministerial body, regulated by an even more arcane set of procedural regulations, if one is to be found anywhere. Minister of Transport. Minister of Health. Minister of Education.

Left: Labour MPs insist that the ASUO provide Bean Complex with full WR 122 cheat sheets.
Right: Tories, tiredly, disapprove and wonder why they even show up anymore. Good Lord! Won't the Honorable Gentleman agree that he's a lying sack of shit and that OSPIRG is a waste of hard-earned pounds?!
Share the love.

There's immediate comedy value in this, because most of us are not very good public speakers. Quite a number of MPs have problems in this area, also - even, shockingly, some spokespeople for the government. An entire subgenre of British journalism, known as the parliamentary sketch, has blossomed around their weaknesses, probably best exemplified by the work of the Guardian's Simon Hoggart. His jokes at the expense of current deputy Prime Minister John Prescott would seem in poor taste, were it not for Prescott's all too complete incoherence. However, most of the people fielding questions for the government, while not usually orators on the level of Churchill, tend to be very good at disciplined parliamentary debate. This is why Blair handles press conferences better than Bush does. Over the years, the gift of extemporaneous speech has been savagely beaten into him.

But things must have been rough at the outset, and it is only to be expected that our newly appointed Cabinet will stumble a few times. When they do, I want to see it verbatim in the Emerald. Bizarre student government stories are always fun, and we're practically ensuring a tenfold increase here.

Also, students who wished to speak from the backbenches would simply have to be "elected" by a constituency of, say, five friends. (This is approximately how the constituency boundaries were drawn up in England, back in the day.) They could then come up with an amusing name for said constituency — pick any number of syllables you like, so long as the last one is "Shire" - and try to make harmful allegations about the Cabinet minister of their choice. You might, at this point, be objecting that we have even less need of a Home Secretary than the British people themselves do. But the redundancy isn't all that important; what matters is having a sufficient number of mysterious, powerful, and loquacious figures to stand up there and beat people over the head with Robert's Rules of Order. And if you're wondering where we're going to find people of sufficiently high caliber to make the exercise amusing, ask yourself what the Toastmasters would have been doing, anyway? Plus, they wouldn't have to keep meeting by that sign on 13th and Kincaid, the poor dears. It's been a long winter for them.

What matters is having a sufficient number of mysterious, powerful, and loquacious figures to stand up there and beat people over the head with Robert's Rules of Order.

Finally, this new system would provide an excellent pretext for getting rid of the amphitheater, and replacing it with a scale model of the House of Commons. Amphitheaters are so, like, ancient Greek. It is time to bring the level of political discourse on this campus - kicking and screaming, if necessary - into the century before last. Eric Bailey, however, still wouldn't get elected.

Olly Ruff, on loan from the Eugene Public Library, is a staff writer for the Oregon Commentator.
You’ve read the interviews, you’ve considered the issues, now we tell which set of candidates is the best choice. Thankfully, the list of ASUO Executive candidates is short this year. After much thought and consideration, the Commentator’s Editorial Board has concluded that Jarrett White and Greg McNeill are the candidates best suited for the Executive office. This decision was made for a couple of reasons. Firstly, White and McNeill most closely aligned with the views of the magazine. Their answers to the question about the incidental fee and their feelings on the OSPIRG issue are very nearly those of the Commentator editorial board. Secondly, the other candidates failed to satisfactorily answer the tough questions. Christa Shively and Greg Bae, although they do hate Mandrake, did not deal with questions about OSPIRG in an acceptable way. Shively and Bae have many good ideas, especially regarding the transparency of all student fees, but when pressed about a course of action if OSPIRG did not become more transparent, Shively said, “I know a couple people on the board of OSPIRG who are, internally, working to make their budgeting and all expenditures much more transparent. So, I think there is a lot of potential to work with OSPIRG to remedy these problems and I think both Greg and I plan to work actively with OSPIRG before it gets to that point.” That is not an acceptable answer, because it is not a plan. Essentially, Shively’s answer boils down to trusting OSPIRG to do the right thing. History shows this to be a costly mistake. Both Shively/Bae and White/McNeill gave reasonable answers to our question about diversity, but the Shively/Bae endorsement of groups who engage in divisive identity politics, like the Multicultural Center, is not a stance that makes the Commentator very comfortable. Overall, Jarrett White and Greg McNeill are the Executive candidates whose vision for student government most closely aligns with the Commentator’s own mission. However, it is important to note that while our opinion holds White/McNeill as the best qualified ticket, Shively and Bae are the only other candidates worth considering. The other tickets have spouted mostly the same sort of rhetoric present in ASUO elections since time immemorial. White and McNeill have the best platform, but Shively and Bae have enough understanding of student government to be the next-best alternative.

ASUO EXECUTIVE

Y

ASUO SENATE SEATS

Seat #2 Kevin Odil
Seat #3 Chris Sitter
Seat #8 Vincent Martorano
Seat #9 Patrick Sullivan
Seat #18 James Jensen

BALLOT MEASURES

All of the ballot measures are semantics, but you should vote no on 8.1. It gives the ASUO executive just as much say on the Athletic Department Finance Committee as the Senate. However, the ADFC is under the jurisdiction of the Senate and the Executive branch should not be allowed to circumvent the proper checks and balances with an Executive Appointee to the ADFC.
ASUO Election turnouts over the past 10 years (right) evidently reflect the interest of the student body in their representation to the outside world... or whatever the officials do. Meanwhile, as student campaigns take shape on campus, various other illusions of leadership are construing schemes of improving a sense of self-importance as they incubate within the passive masses. Elections around the world are being staged with a slightly significant difference; the stakes are far more apparent.

In elections of equally remote importance to us around the world

Greenland
Previously believed by ruling nation Denmark to be deserted, Greenland mysteriously sneaks 2 votes into the parliamentary election to make absolutely no difference whatsoever.

Iraq
October 2002 — Iraqi President Saddam “Dead or Alive” Hussein won reelection in a landslide against “level my house and kill my family.”

Armenia
Armenians picked from one of the largest assortments of political party options in the world during a heated election on February 19. Rightfully, “Motherland and Dignity” members expected continued disappointment.

Micronesia
For the price of a decent Buick, you can buy your own general election from the Federated States of Micronesia. Best of all, you won’t even have to exchange your good ol’ U.S. greenbacks. These island folk take Franklins - cold, crisp, and thin.

Argentina
Argentinean legislators took their seats on March 30 in anticipation for the bloodbath of the century. Who won a coveted legislature seat and decision-making abilities over a collapsed currency, $6 billion debt and a constant onslaught of riot-prone revolutionaries? Only the death toll told for sure. Order returns on your digital remote or call 1-800-PPR-VIEW.

Kenya
Former President Daniel arap Moi allegedly attempted to murder his competition, Mwai Kibaki, with a group of thugs who crashed their truck into his entourage. Why more than one thug was needed for one truck has not been explained, Kibaki took office from a wheelchair after winning the election.

No comments were received from citizens of the following dictatorships, communist regimes, guerilla war states, civil war militias, absolute monarchies, or combinations of the aforementioned:

APRIL 7, 2003
atmosphere in which everyone is capable of making such decisions. It’s a free country, and if everyone in a bar is of legal age, they should be free to choose to smoke. Those that are bothered by that smoke are free to deal with it and quit bitching or go someplace where smoking is prohibited.

As Chuck pointed out in our aforementioned discussion of the smoking ban’s merits, it’s very easy to look at this ban and see only that it protects people. The sad fact, as he put it, is that “It is affecting people’s livelihoods; people with kids, businesses and employees to support.” The only direct positive of the law, in Chuck’s eyes, was that smoking cannot be forced upon non-smoking bartenders any longer. This is true, but those same bartenders will be making less in tips, may work fewer hours due to a decline in business, and may even risk losing their jobs in exchange for that protection.

The most vigorous opposition to the smoking ban came from Max’s Tavern and Bingomania. Max’s now complies with the ban after dozens of fines from the city, and Bingomania, citing a 40-50 percent loss of business due to the ban and a failed lawsuit against the city, relocated. Other businesses that have publicly stated they were hurt or shut down by the bar include Doc’s Pad, The Cooler, John Henry’s, and O’Donnell’s. It is likely that nearly every bar in Eugene has been hurt in some way, for even those who have been able to adapt to the ban by adding outside smoking porches have had to front that additional cost.

This smoking ban should never have been passed. A nine-member council should not make decisions for an entire city of people. If non-smoking patrons and employees, about whom the Eugene City Council is supposedly concerned, truly feel threatened by secondhand smoke, they can go to a voluntarily non-smoking bar. Let the market decide. Such bars were around before the ban and had success catering to non-smoking patrons. The fact of the matter is that people are perfectly capable of acting in a manner that supports what they determine is their own best interest. For some, that is pumping quarters into a video poker game with a lung dart in one hand and a bottle of social lubricant in the other.

Brett Callahan, a junior majoring in political science, is a staff writer for the OREGON COMMENTATOR.

Exercise Your Democratic Rights! Vote Now!
(on your favorite freakishly fun foot fetish)

WWW.OREGONCOMMENTATOR.COM
Like many my age, my early development was heavily influenced by my only true friend at that time: television. For ten years, TV was my educator, best friend, escape from reality and a general substitute for any kind of normal parental upbringing. For a kid like me, Saturday morning was the apex of my week. I’d get up early and start the day off with some Smurfs and end the whole thing with my favorite show at the time, Saved by the Bell.

Whenever I reflect upon the mornings that I spent watching Saved by the Bell, I am taken back to a time of pure innocence. Saved by the Bell is a reminder, for myself at least, of easier times. Before there was prescription medication abuse, before there was the giant collection of deviant pornography, even before there was stalking the girls in my Anthropology classes, there was Zack, Screech, Lisa, Jessie, Kelly and Slater.

The gang from Saved by the Bell quickly became my new set of friends. I fell in love with their type of non-threatening, quick-witted call-and-response banter. I was enchanted by the way each new situation the gang faced really contained a cleverly disguised remedy for the problems that early teenagers were facing. I also liked the way A.C. Slater looked in a muscle shirt…but that’s beside the point.

I now had two sets of friends. Whilst the one set of friends poked fun at my weight, the other set let me see that being unique is a special personality trait that added character. Yes, this new set of friends didn’t chastise me for being different, not showering, eating my own boogers, nor rifling through their belongings. I even tried to see a bit of myself in each member of the Saved by the Bell gang. First, there was Zack. He and I shared the same first name, that’s a start. Zack Morris was the self-proclaimed king of his own world, much like me also. Zack was always scheming and planning something that would, in the end, ultimately benefit him. I quickly found out that I didn’t have as much in common with Zack Morris than I had thought. Zack was good-looking and was never busted sniffing the volleyball team’s undergarments during practice.

Then there was Screech. Screech was the leader of the geeks and the quintessential comic relief nerd sidekick. Screech constantly pursued Lisa and, like myself, was a pretty intelligent guy. Screech never got laid though.

A.C. Slater was the jock. A.C. enjoyed the joys of competition in wrestling, basketball and other sports. Slater and Zack were always in competition with one another, especially when romantic interests were concerned. I was nothing like Slater.

Or maybe I was more like Lisa. A sassy, black girl with great fashion sense and an ass that wouldn’t quit. Mmmm….

What? Oh. Anyway, I loved Saved by the Bell so much that I decided to praise the cast, characters and creators with this humble offering to the fan fiction gods.

Screech’s Wild Ride

Early Saturday Morning

Screech had never been with a girl before; let alone a working girl. East Bayside was just a tale to him. A rumor he had heard once between classes. Time seemed to just barely eke by from the moment Screech kissed his mother goodnight to when the clock reached 2:30 AM. He first put on his loafers, then his slacks and finally his JC Penny button-up. To ensure his anonymity, Screech donned his father’s fedora and red blazer. He snuck out undetected through his bedroom window and followed his map to the bad side of town. In about an hour, he was finally going to become a man.

Monday Afternoon

The meeting started promptly at 10:00 in Principal Belding’s office. Zack, Slater and Lisa showed up only to find that Jessie
and Kelly had gotten there a bit early. As soon as the uncomfortable silence was broken, Mr. Belding offered the rest of the gang to take a seat. He himself was quite reluctant to stand up. Slater, however, preferred to remain standing. “I just got back from wrestling practice and I’m a little sore.” Everyone knew what he really meant, but no one said anything.

“Guys,” Belding started, “We’ve got a real problem here.”

“You’re right we’ve got a problem,” Jessie chimed in, “the immoral and unjust war for oil that is taking place in Iraq is causing...”

“Can it, Jessie. I mean we’ve got a real problem”, Belding continued, “we’ve got a game against our arch-rivals, Valley High, in a couple of days and we don’t even have so much as an off-the-wall scheme.”

“Mr. Belding,” Slater spoke up, “why do we always have to have some kind of scheme? I mean, can’t we just rely on the fact that we practiced all season and that we have a great attitude regarding teamwork?”

“Mr. Belding,” Slater spoke up, “why do we always have to have some kind of scheme? I mean, can’t we just rely on the fact that we practiced all season and that we have a great attitude regarding teamwork? Besides, what are playing we Valley at now? Is it basketball this week?”

“I thought we had the big wrestling match,” said Zack.

“No, no, no,” Lisa replied, “we have the drama recital against Valley...right?”

“Doesn’t matter what we’re doing,” Belding responded, “the point is, we need to beat Valley; preferably in the most comedic and suspenseful way possible.”

“Mr. Belding,” Zack inquired, “why is so important that we beat Valley? You don’t have money riding on this again, do you?”

“Goddamn it, Morris! You shut your mouth! You have no idea how hard it is...you have no idea...”

After the second period of uncomfortable silence subsided, Belding spoke up again, “Now, I’d like you all to get to work on a hare-brained scheme to beat Valley. And remember Morris...I’m keeping my eye on you. Hey, where’s Screech?”

“Screech had a bit of rough weekend; I don’t think he’ll be in for a while,” Zack said.

The gang exited Belding’s office. “Why is it that Belding always calls us into his office and then chews us out for not being in class?” someone inquired.

Early Saturday Morning

Screech stared at the half-nude corpse that lay at his feet. Like a dream, the last fifteen minutes happened vividly and without any discernable time flow. His hands were still trembling and the sweat began to dry on his face in the cold night air. The alley in which he and his lady friend had decided to conduct their business reeked of garbage, urine and vomit. It was shortly past 3:30 in the morning and Screech had a dead hooker lying at the base of his feet. “Why did you have to laugh?!” Screech yelled at the lifeless body. In a vain attempt to undo the past quarter of an hour, he shook the poor, limp tramp violently. Screech had learned some while ago that he was quite stronger than he looked. “I’m sorry,” he sobbed as he took her almost-naked body over his shoulder and deposited it behind the dumpster of a Circle-K. This was something he would have to deal with later.

Saturday Afternoon

Zack, Slater, Jessie, Kelly and Lisa stood in the hallway of Bayside High School, in front of their lockers, casually discussing the weekend. Although it was a Saturday, the gang still found a way to meet in the hall of Bayside High at promptly 11 AM. “So what are your plans for the weekend, Zack?” Kelly inquired.

“Nothing special,” Zack replied, “drive around, go to the mall, take some E...you know, the usual. What are you going to do, Slater?”

“I was planning on staring at myself in the mirror for a few hours and then go meet my dad’s Navy friends for some weightlifting. What’s everyone looking at?”

“I was going to take my mother out to the Mexican restaurant for her birthday,” Lisa stated, “Do your people have any special birthday dishes, Slater?”

“What the hell is that supposed to mean?” Slater asked.

“I just always thought that your parents were...”

“Were what?”

“Oh forget it.”

At that point, Screech busted in running through the hallway doors. His hair was looking...
more wild than usual and his eyes looked like they were each carrying about 20 lbs. under them. “You guys gotta help me!” he shouted.

“Screech, what’s going on?”

Zack inquired.

“I can’t tell you here, I have to show you.” Screech replied, “It’s a matter of life and death!”

“Screech,” Slater started, “If you’ve got another potato stuck up your ass again…”

“That wasn’t me,” Screech replied, “that was you.”

“Oh yeah. Nevermind.”

Screech led Zack and Slater to the scene of the crime. It was close to 1 PM, and despite the sun shining brightly outside, the alley was just as dark as the night before. Screech moved the dumpster aside to reveal to the guys the crime he had committed. The body was virtually in the same state Screech had left it in. Rigor mortis had begun to set in and the corpse had started to take on a smell. “Jesus, Screech,” Zack started, “I can’t believe you did this. Did you even use a condom?”

“A what?” Screech questioned.

“Christ. You gotta be careful, man. That’s how I got the clap…twice.”

“When did you get the clap, Morris?” Slater inquired.

“ Shortly before you got it actually. Weird, huh?”

“Yeah,” Slater said uncomfortably, “weird.”

“Oh man.” Screech began to mumble, “I am so screwed.”

“Now Screech, calm down.” Slater said comforting him.

“No, you guys don’t understand,” Screech replied, “if Mr. Belding finds out…I’ll probably get suspended. Or worse…expelled!”

“We can store it in my basement until we can find some time to properly dispose of it.” Zack suggested. They discreetly put the hooker’s body into Slater’s trunk and started to drive over to Zack’s house. “My eyes look horrible,” Screech commented, “I need something to take the red out of them.”

“I think there’s some Visene in my backpack.” Zack suggested. Screech rifled through Zack’s backpack but couldn’t fine the Visene bottle. Instead, he used the small brown vial with the eyedropper in it. He put one drop in each eye and quickly dropped the bottle. “Ahhhhh! It burns!” Screech exclaimed as he vigorously rubbed his eyes.

“Screech, you numbskull.” Zack said. “That was aci…..”

“That was what?” Screech asked still rubbing his eyes.

“Uh, it was nothing really. Just try and go to sleep. You’re going to need it.”

Tuesday Afternoon

The gang, minus Screech of course, all sat together at their same table in the Max as they hurriedly tried to come up with a plan to beat Valley in the big game/tournament/recital/tractor pull tomorrow. “I just don’t know what we could do.” Kelly said.

Kelly never really had anything useful to add to the conversation, but with tits like that…no one complained.

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“Wait a minute guys, I got it!” Zack jumped up and exclaimed.

“Forget it, Morris,” Slater started, “I’m not gonna blow you again.”

“Slater, what the hell are you talking about?”

“Forget you Morris,” he said as he started to walk out the door, “I’m tired of your advances. I’m not gay! I’m not!”

“You guys are gonna love my idea.” Zack told them.

Wednesday Morning

Zack, Jessie, Lisa and Kelly gathered in Mr. Belding’s office early Wednesday morning.

“Guys,” Belding started, “I’ve got to hand it to you. That was one of the best schemes I’ve seen. Not only did you manage to frame Valley’s star player for the murder of that hooker, but you got rid of my conniving wife in the process. Finally I’m free from that controlling bitch. Hey, Screech still isn’t back. Any idea where he went?”

“Mr. Belding,” Zack started, “I think Screech is going on a long vacation!”

“Ah ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!” everyone laughed simultaneously.
ON ROCK-ING IN THE FREE WORLD

Why is everybody trying to stop the war? George Bush ain't been saying, 'Y'all make shitty records.' Politicians and music don't mix. It's like whiskey and wine. We ought to stay out of it.
—Kid Rock, the self-proclaimed “American Bad Ass,” distancing himself from the likes of Sheryl Crow and the Dixie Chicks.

I never met Matt Drudge, but if I see Matt Drudge, I'm going to take my red-blooded American foot and shove it up his non-American ass for trying to disrupt the opening of my movie.
—Chris Rock, responding to a Drudge Report headline that stated that Rock had been ordered to desist from making anti-Bush statements while promoting his new movie “Head of State.”

ON DELUSIONS OF SLANDER

The party issue is jam-packed with useful party content.
—From the Oregon Voice’s website. Actually, the Voice's party issue is jam-packed with content monkeys could type up and condense into two pages. Oh wait....

ON TAKE VIRGINS ACCORDING TO NEED...

You pinko, bed-wetting commies! May the holy jihad of Allah destroy you, and may I be granted 1,000 virgins in heaven. Oh, and all of those 1,000 virgins be little boys!
—Man-About-Campus Scott Austin, on ... umm ... who the hell knows. He has a way with words. Doesn't Scott know that the most efficient use of virgins is a market system in which only the most deserving and talented can defile virgins?
**ON SHAKRA AND AWE**

We can each begin by declaring our homes a "white stick village," and ourselves "peace-iors"...
—Vi Sadhana, of Eugene, in the EugeneWeekly's letters page. Yes. Yes, we can.

The war's all right by me, but why did it have to come during spring break?
—Unnamed undergraduate - presumably of Eugene - quoted in Tom Lininger's EW column. Yes. Yes, it is a shame.

I find it rather unfortunate [that Nader voters are blamed for Bush's victory]. It would be equally as easy for me to blame everyone who voted for Al Gore...
—Zac Larson, of Eugene, in the EW's letters page. Yes. Yes, it would. Oh, Jesus, get me out of this place.

**ON MONKEY BUSINESS**

The weekly al-Usbu' al-Siyassi reported that Morocco offered the U.S. forces a large number of monkeys, some from Morocco's Atlas Mountains and others imported, to use them for detonating land mines planted by the Iraqis.
— From UPI. At least we’re not using the Irish for that anymore.

**ON THE GATEKEEPERS**

The League of Women Voters, a league of women, will be our unbiased judges.
—Elections board member to audience at mandatory elections meeting. Since when is a leftist political group considered unbiased? Maybe every presidential debate could be moderated by Noam Chomsky and Ralph Nader to be truly balanced.

It’s all electronical.
—Elections board member on Duckweb voting. Voting is so much easier when it's all electronical and when you’re sipping on a gin and tonical.
FREE MINDS, FREE MARKETS, FREE BOOZE. SINCE 1983.

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Ay mamacitas!
Usted es una puta!
You sunk my OC!