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the portland
Spectator

Witch-Hunted

the portland Spectator

HONOR LIBERTY VIRTUE

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The Portland Spectator accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at the Portland State University. Please limit your letters to 300 words.

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Portland Spectator is to show that a conservative philosophy is the proper way to approach issues of common concern. Our viewpoint originates from the following principles:

Individual Liberty

The Importance of Values and Customs

Free Market Economy and Free Trade

The Rule of Law

The Portland Spectator is published by the Portland State University Publication Board; and is staffed solely by volunteer writers. The Portland Spectator is funded through incidental student fees, advertisement revenue, and private donations. In general the staff of the Portland Spectator share beliefs in the following:

-We believe that the academic environment should become again an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent arguments to be heard. The current environment of political correctness, political fundamentalism and mob mentality stifle genuine political debate.

-We support high academic standards.

-We believe that each student should be judged solely on his/her merits.

-We oppose the special or preferential treatment of any one person or group.

-We believe in an open, fair and small student government. .

-We oppose all efforts toward an equality of condition, for this violates any principle of justice that can maintain a free and civilized society.

-We oppose the welfare state that either benefits individuals, groups or corporations. The welfare state in the long run creates more poverty, dependency, and social and economic decline.

-We believe in the Free Market, and that the sole role of government in economic matters is to provide the institutional arrangements that allow the Free Market to flourish.

-We do not hate the rich; we do not idolize the poor.

-We believe in an activist U.S. foreign policy that seeks to promote and establish freedom, political and economic, all around the world.

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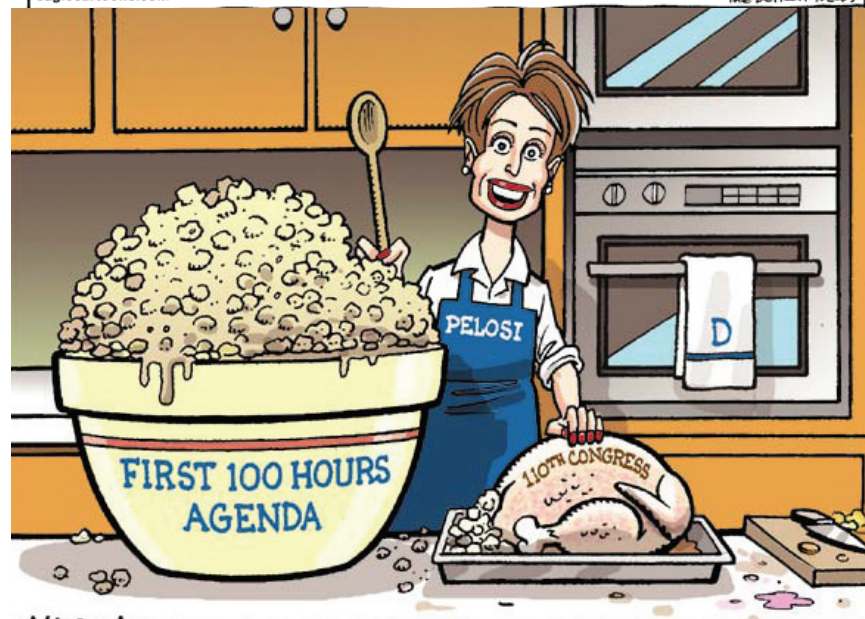
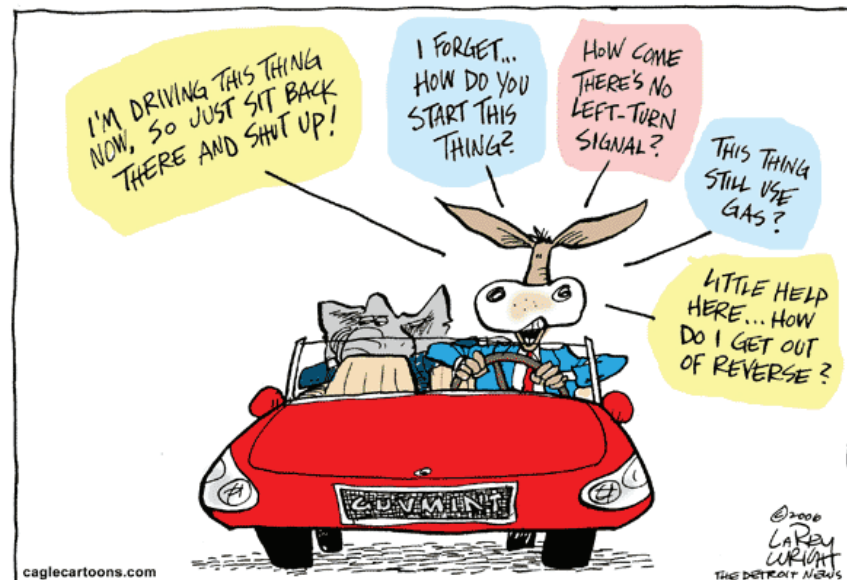
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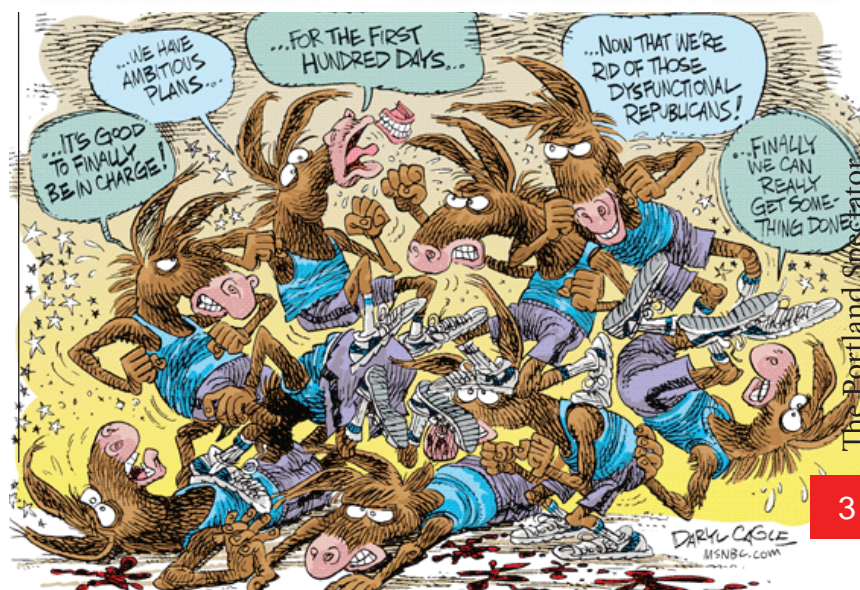
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Another look at illegal immigration



©MATSON ROLL CALL
caglecartoons.com

"THE SECRET TO A GOOD STUFFING IS NOT TO OVERDO IT"



Comics found from Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonist's Index

Star Wars Light Sabres 2006 Darwin Award Nominee *Confirmed True by Darwin*

The Darwin Awards salute the improvement of the human genome by honoring those who, uh, remove themselves from it...

Like two people, 17 and 20, who imitated Darth Vader, and made light sabres from fluorescent light tubes. That's right, they opened them up, poured gasoline inside, and lit them. As one can imagine, a Star Wars sized explosion was not far behind. Darth Vader died, while his opponent survived to 'fess up to their creative, but stupid, reenactment.

Some moderators said 17 was too young, but I disagree. This one passes the "minors" rule, because 17 is legal driving age. Old enough to pump gas is old enough to know better.

**-For the previous story in addition to other Darwin Awards refer to:
<http://www.darwinawards.com/>**

Photography courtesy of Bryan Glenn

James Bond is back. 'Casino Royale' entered the box office this past month and is already the most popular Bond movie of all time. Opening at #1 in 50 different countries, 007 made over \$80 million over the opening weekend. Sights continue to be set high as it is estimated that the motion picture will gross \$575 million before it exits the box office. Not bad.

Male Birth Control

Soon, birth control may not be the sole responsibility of the female. In the United Kingdom, scientists have developed a pill that may be taken several hours before sexual intercourse that prevents a man from being able to impregnate a woman. After several hours, the pill no longer is effective, but if taken properly is an effective form of birth control. It is believed that this will be more effective than a daily pill because the woman will not need to rely on the man to remember to take the pill daily. The "hormone-free pill" is on track to hit the market within five years. Though abstinence is the only sure way to avoid pregnancy, this pill is one step closer.

A Long Cat Nap

After seventeen days, Ziggy the cat arrived safely in England after a 2,300 mile journey from northern Israel. The journey began on October 31 as Ziggy wandered into a shipping yard and proceeded to enter a plastic container bound for England. Without realizing a cat was inside the crate, dockworkers sealed the container and loaded it onto its ship in preparation for the journey. Without food or water, Ziggy miraculously survived the voyage and arrived safely in another country.

Plastic Surgery?

A recent study by market research company ACNielsen shows that globally, one in five consumers are open to undergoing plastic surgery with residents of Russia being the most supportive of the idea. While half of the residents of Russia surveyed said that they were interested in the various procedures, 94% of Hong Kong residents took a stance against the surgeries. The study emphasized that consumers in their twenties were far more receptive to the idea of surgery later in life than individuals already in their later years. The survey was done online and results were based on responses from 22,780 individuals.

Inappropriate Racial Slurs

The beloved Michael Richards, known for his role as Kramer in the popular sitcom *Seinfeld*, took comedy a bit too far. Upon a member of the audience at The Laugh Factory in West Hollywood not thinking his humor was funny, Richards assaulted him with a series of racial slurs from on stage. His comments were not taken well by the crowd as he was greeted with boos and the exit of several from his show in response to his statements. First point: racial comments are not necessary at any time or place. Second point: if you are a celebrity and in the middle of a show, DO NOT AT ANY TIME think you can get away with verbally attacking an audience member; it is mere career suicide.

Democrats Show Promise

As Democrats take control of existing government, conservatives across the nation fear the push of liberal agendas. Three democratic congressmen say that this is not, however, the case. While they plan to push through several pieces of legislation that Republicans have been blocking, they plan to sidestep the controversial elements of democratic reform. Perhaps this is the step that needs to be taken to move toward uniting the political parties of the United States. If indeed this is the intent on holding off on the controversial issues, maybe support should go to the current government.

California Police in Germany

Apparently, California Highway Patrol is now policing the freeways of Berlin, Germany. With a badge reading "T.J. Lazer," the 35-year-old Goettingen resident was dressed as an authentic patrol officer and driving without a license when he was pulled over. Traveling to Bavaria to sell the car, the driver claimed that he was trying to impress the buyer with an authentic entrance.

Campus Update

STUDENT FEES: ON THE RISE



Brace yourself for another round of student fee increases. As student activities continue to grow on campus, the need for student fees to sustain the growth has become necessary. The money guaranteed to student groups this past school year has resulted in the need to obtain finances to support those promises; and these fees are set to come out of the pockets of students. Indirect costs including unbudgeted expenses to cover building costs and human resource fees are forcing budgets to expand rapidly. As threats that the student fee will increase by twelve percent in the next academic year circulate, students are speaking out. Courtney Morse, our student body president, represented PSU students and allowed their voices to be heard in an open forum several weeks ago. As one of her campaign platforms, Courtney has vowed to keep student fees low and is campaigning for students to have that happen. My applause to Courtney for actively seeking a solution to the issues at hand. Annually, the cost of education continues to rise. One positive is that the current hikes are the result of students becoming involved and furthering their education. The downside, as always, is that there is a cost. For more details regarding current budget issues and the progress of student government in fighting the spikes, refer to the Vanguard for updated information. Additionally, if you are interested in helping fight the increase of student fees, stop by the student government office to seek information on current campaigns.

Compiled by Crystal Joele Rea
Information has been derived from various media sources.

Nothing More Than An Old Fashioned Witch-Hunt

Witch-hunting has been an issue of concern for conservatives nationwide but in today's society everyone needs to worry.

Rosie O'Donnell, the brash liberal Democrat, went on the most recent and public Witch-hunt calling fellow morning-diva Kelly Ripa a homophobe.

O'Donnell said that Ripa was "homophobic" because Ripa reprimanded Clay Aiken when he co-hosted her show and subsequently put his hand over her mouth cutting her off in an interview. In response, Ripa quipped, "I don't know where that hand has been." The next day, Rosie, A.K.A. witch-hunter, suggested that if Aiken had been a "straight guy or a cute guy...she [Ripa] would have not made that comment." (Aiken has never even admitted to being gay).

Bottom-line: Aiken was out of line and Ripa called him on it. Nonetheless, it identifies a major problem in America and on our campus.

O'Donnell is only a small part of a bigger movement and bigger problem. The Spectator sees the problem but sees no one else calling it out for what it is: Witch-hunting.

Witch-hunting is no doubt on the rise. Everyday there are new accusations thrown out by liberals who label Republicans and even the political adverse as bigots. No one is safe. Even Ripa who is completely un-political cannot avoid the liberal Witch-hunters like O'Donnell who roam America with proverbial pitch forks, skewering anyone who contests their growing politically correct society.

Well no more. We are sick of it and you can always count on us, the Spectator, to tell it like it is. We will print the truth and will not allow this to continue on our campus anymore. We will not tolerate this type of fear and paranoia spread by liberals censoring our words through labeling and discrediting. These witch-hunting liberals are the "Mcarthyites" of the left using smear tactics to instill fear. How far will we allow these Witch-hunters to go? Will they label us and start a list of everyone who has been misunderstood? Witch-hunters will misrepresent honest people's intentions and words. An honest person can no longer say anything in relation to race or sexuality, questionable or not, because Witch-hunters will pounce and destroy.

So far the Witch-hunters are winning. They have succeeded in making good people who are not racists, bigots, or homophobes fear speaking their mind. Ripa's honesty earned her nothing but

a slap in the face and quick, unquestioned defense from Witch-hunters in the media, and those in the gay Witch-hunter community. Witch-hunters have even succeeded in making people preface honesty with a disclaimer such as, "I am not a homophobe, and I have lots of gay friends...but..." It is wrong and contrived. We will soon have to start each sentence with a preamble detailing our acceptance and love for homosexuality or anything else Witch-hunters deem off limits.

The Witch-hunters goal is to destroy anyone who presents a threat, real or not. Malevolence is the witch-hunter's game. However, they will turn the tables only as long as we let them.

This is not just a call to Republicans and Conservatives to stand up, rather, a call to anyone who cares about real speech, real life, and real education. Our motivations as good people need no preamble.

The Spectator will no longer tolerate unfettered Witch-hunting on campus. Although we truly sympathize for Ripa after being chastised by O'Donnell, we will not cower as she did when she called into O'Donnell's show (The View) and made a partial apology for possibly offending homosexuals. There is no need for an apology. Her comment was not intended for homosexuals, it was intended for the childish Clay Aiken who was rude and unprofessional.

Our speech is threatened; make no mistake about it. No longer make excuses for being honest on or off campus. The only way to be a part of the solution is to stop this incessant and growing Witch-hunter population from doing their malicious work. Stand up and refuse to accept the labeling by be honest regardless of what Witch-hunter will label you.

Our guarantee at the Spectator is that you will get the truth from our magazine. Though we are under constant watch and have Witch-hunters making accusations everyday you will find no retraction of truth or fear of labels.

Turn the tables on them. We will stop these Witch-hunters only by refusing to back down. Speak the truth and fear not...the Portland Spectator has not only Kelly Ripa's back but your back as well.

The following articles are a compilation of opinion pieces provided by the writers of the Portland Spectator.



Merry Christmas

*With much love this holiday season,
The Portland Spectator Staff*

THE LIBERAL ASSAULT ON CHRISTMAS

As society moves further toward “politically correct,” the assault on Christmas continues.

By Jared Stilwell

As finals conclude at Portland State, students are making plans for Christmas vacations. Perhaps no other holiday has been assaulted as much as Christmas. The politically correct crowd has made Christmas, or December 25th as they call it, a major theater for the current cultural wars. The cheerful greeting of “Merry Christmas” has become verboten in some circles, and the squeamish of heart have settled upon a generic “Happy Holidays” to avoid offending inadvertently.

A few years back, Christine Banks, a volunteer for the Red Cross in Kent, England, was told that she had to remove a nativity scene from the window in the shop where she worked. The Red Cross was created by a Swiss merchant named Henri Dunant after witnessing the carnage of the battle of Solferino, in Italy. Dunant, also a founder of the World Alliance of YMCAs, chose the cross as a symbol of Christian charity. Nearly 150 years after its inception, the top brass of the Red Cross in the United Kingdom determined that images of the birth of Christ no longer fit with the image of the organization – this from an organization that incorporates the most-famous symbol of Christianity into its name.

Kindergarteners at the North Gresham Grade School were invited to bring cards to a “holiday” party the school was hosting. However, when 6-year-old Justin Cortez tried to distribute his Christmas cards, a teacher frankly forbid him from doing so. The reason? Justin’s cards mentioned Jesus Christ, and school officials felt they would be promoting one religion over another by allowing these cards to be distributed.

Justin’s card had a candy cane attached to the outside of the card and a story explaining the origins of the candy cane: “The Meaning of the Candy Cane: Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that symbolized the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus. The hard candy was shaped like a ‘J’ to represent Jesus’ name. The color white stands for the pureness of Jesus. The color red represents the blood Jesus sheds for us.”

Justin’s teacher, concerned with the sectarian message of the card, forwarded it to the principal and the superintendent. The officials decided that the offensive card should be confiscated. Little Justin was not able to distribute his card with an innocuous message about the origins of the candy cane.

Farther south, in Eugene, city manager Jim Johnson unilaterally banned the display of Christmas trees on virtually any public or worker-shared city property in December of 2000. He argued in a memo that the Christmas tree was central to Christmas – a Christian holiday.

The mayor of Eugene, Jim Torrey, disagreed with Johnson’s decision and said the ban “was not in the best interest in the community.” However, the mayor of Eugene has no power to reverse Johnson’s decision, unless Mayor Torrey decided to fire the city manager. A local union of firefighters threatened to sue; and city manager Johnson relented, but only to a point. The firefighters

could have a display of Christmas tree, but only on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Jim Johnson argued that by allowing city employees to display Christmas trees, the city would be violating the First Amendment’s prohibition to keep church and state separate. A funny thing happened on the way to Mr. Johnson’s understanding of the Constitution: the First Amendment does not contain the phrase “separation of church and state.” That phrase was coined by Thomas Jefferson in a letter he wrote to the Danbury (Connecticut) Baptist Association to assure them that the Constitution does not allow the federal government to promote one sect of Christianity over another. The authors of the Constitution did not intend God to be forbidden in the public square.

However, Christmas is not merely a holiday for Christians, but the whole nation gets the day off from work. Mr. Johnson, it is presumed, will not be in his office on the 25th of December. Christmas is a federal holiday, in spite of the fact that a significant portion of the country is not Christian. In fact, Christmas was originally a Catholic holiday, the mass of Christ, but the day has become accepted by every major sect of Christianity.

The argument that Christmas symbols should be banned based on the idea that church and state should be separate is particularly spurious when one considers the recent school board fight in Maplewood, New Jersey. The school decided to hold a holiday concert, but the board voted to remove an instrumental rendition of “Silent Night.” However, the program included songs that celebrated Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

This is political correctness gone mad. A community tries to be as inclusive as possible by adding hymns of other holidays in December, though these holidays are observed by less than five percent of the national population. Yet, the only hymn the board found offensive was an instrumental rendition of “Silent Night.” The Left isn’t as concerned about religiosity as it is about Christianity.

In 2004, Target banned the bell ringers of the Salvation Army from outside of its stores. The store had a no solicitation policy, but the firm made an exception for the Salvation Army. A company spokesperson, Carolyn Brookter, said that the chain would have to allow other groups to solicit the customers of Target if the firm continued to allow the Salvation Army to do so. Possibly the North American Man/Boy Love Association may feel slighted if Target allowed the Salvation Army to raise funds in front of Target and excluded the group that advocates the lowering of the age of consent. By refusing to use discretion in whom it allows to solicit in front of its stores, the management of Target prohibited a venerable organization from a major source of funds. The Salvation Army gets up to 75 percent of its annual revenue from what they call their “kettle campaign.”

Last winter, Target decided to cease the use of term “Merry Christmas” in their promotional material. While one might excuse

the firm for this omission of the term “Christmas,” Target did not even include the term for advertisements for stockings. The advertisement labeled them “traditional holiday stockings,” as if any other holiday uses stockings as a part of its celebrations.

However, Target’s merchandise in the store often contained “holiday” for many traditional Christmas products. “Holiday” reindeer and “pine trees” that are meant to serve as Christmas trees are a couple of examples of squeamish companies who don’t want to create too many waves by being politically incorrect. In legal parlance, the “reasonable person” standard is often used to determine whether certain types of behavior are appropriate. Labeling reindeer decorations and pine trees with “Christmas” is appropriate since neither icon is part of Hanukah and Kwanzaa celebrations.

Many family groups urged the boycott of Target until the firm changed the message of its promotional material. The American Family Association circulated an online petition and gathered 500,000 signatures. The management of Target announced that it would bring “Christmas” to more of its promotional banners and displays.

Wal-Mart is another store that eschewed the use of “Christmas” in its banner displays in various stores. The New York-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights wrote an email to the world’s-largest retailer and received a response from a customer-service associate, who wrote as follows:

“Walmart is a world wide organization and must remain conscious of this. The majority of the world still has different practices

other than “christmas” which is an ancient tradition that has its roots in Siberian shamanism. The colors associated with “christmas” red and white are actually a representation of the amanita muscaria mushroom. Santa is also borrowed from the Caucuses, mistletoe from the Celts, yule log from the Goths, the time from the Visigoth and the tree from the worship of Baal. It is a wide wide world.”

A representative from the public relations department at Wal-Mart published a response when this email became public and announced that the firm fired the writer of the original email. However, the damage had been done. Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, called for a boycott of the firm by civic and religious groups.

Wal-Mart and Target have learned that making the term “Christmas” verboten is not good business sense. Target has donated \$1 million to the Salvation Army and helped the nonprofit set up an online database to allow donors to contribute money via the Internet. Target also has designated certain items’ profits to be donated to Salvation Army. Both firms have made “Christmas” a prominent part of this year’s Christmas shopping promotions.

Unfortunately, the Gresham superintendent, the Eugene city planner, and the New Jersey school board are not affected by the mechanisms of a free market. In these asinine power grabs by a minority, the only recourse will be found in the courts, or perhaps an election. These three polities show how political correctness and multiculturalism have replaced common sense with modern-



Merry CHRISTmas

Dear Reader:

I write to you this holiday season heavy in heart. Christmas is the most important and special time of the year, and I hope to remind you not to take this holiday season for granted.

We are gearing up for the most celebrated holiday in the world. We will be looking for gifts, cutting down the perfect Christmas tree, decorating our homes and traveling to be with loved ones. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it is my hope that we will each take a step back to remember the significance of Christmas is not about the worldly things the holiday promises to bring us. I want you to disregard how many gifts you need to buy within the next month. Disregard the pressures of life and all the stresses of your daily routines. Ignore what the consumer driven world tells you about the meaning of Christmas. I want you to soak in the fulfilling experiences Christmas promises to bring us. As we see many of our loved ones with smiling faces and resonating happiness, remember the true significance of Christmas.

Remember the significance of Christmas to every human being is Christ Jesus. The significance is that our savior came to us that very first Christmas as God in human form. He came to give us eternal life in Heaven; if we will only accept he is our savior from all that destroys us as human beings - sin. Christmas signifies truth, hope and love for all people on this earth, from our Creator. Christmas marks the most significant event in all of creation. Jesus' birth marked the very first Christmas because Jesus is Christmas.

It is my hope that this will be a Christmas to remember for you and your loved ones. Make every effort to be at home with your family, and extend an invitation to those in need of a family. Put meaningful thought into the gifts you give. Make an effort to show your loved ones how much you love them. Most importantly, as you begin your journey through this Christmas season, focus on the true meaning of the season; a celebration of hope and eternal life for all those who accept Jesus.

In the true spirit of Christmas:

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.”
-Roy L. Smith

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Christopher Morrow



Derrida's Heyday: Evaluating the Academic Left

Educational systems encourage freedom of thought, yet is that really what they are pushing?

By Mikel McDaniel

One of the greatest challenges to gaining recognition in the academic world has always been rigor. It takes a lot of work to make a contribution to knowledge; some people may get lucky and “stumble” upon an unlikely gem, but most of the greatest advances in the history of our civilization came from genuinely concerned or gifted people turning their attention to a thorough, laborious, and critical examination of the world. If you doubt this, then you need do nothing more than consider the work of those such as Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking, Alfred Kinsey, Tesla, Hubble, Wallace, Leibniz, Leakey (pick one), Watson, Crick, Newton, the list goes on, we should even go so far back to include Aristotle, all of them applied minds that were arguably genius to a career of painstaking effort and passion (some might say obsession). Of course, most people –

including, unfortunately, most academics – are either unwilling or unable to apply such rigor to the pursuit of knowledge. Fortunately for them, modern universities have begun carving out new niches for those interested in the recognition and lifestyle of traditional scholars without the burdens of rigor, accuracy, utility, or sometimes even mere cogency.

There are many such niches, and they do not largely tend to relate, though a common thread does run through them so far as they are all interested in disqualifying the supremacy of science and scholasticism, thus offering room for their impressive-sounding rhetoric and often vehement ideologies. To those in more honest sectors of academia who have cared enough to both take notice and to examine these growing phenomena, the umbrella-term of “academic left” has emerged to identify these

groups and their ideas. The term is, however, somewhat problematical, as the academic left represents people that are neither particularly academic nor indicative of leftist philosophy in general, they are simply intellectuals who tend primarily to use their criticisms in an apparent bid to forward obviously left-wing ideologies. Some examples include the broad-brush category of postmodernism, deconstructionism (or social constructivism, post-structuralism, etcetera ad nauseam), Afrocentrism, religious environmentalism, and militant feminism.

To be sure, there are other less known characters participating in the production of the academic left showing on college campuses across the industrialized world, and there are nuances, sects, and subcategories for each of the larger names. I certainly wouldn't attempt to inventory all the different species of pseudo-scholasticism

“Criticizing reason, denying reality, and yelling left-wing shibboleths at the top of one's lungs has become an increasingly popular career choice for many academics in today's universities, and why not?

It's easy. There is almost no rigor involved, all you have to do is equip yourself with a basic toolkit of catchphrases and a knack for adding neologies to your vocabulary on the spot (e.g., proto-neoMarxianism) and you are set to go. More often than not, especially among postmodern literary scholars, one can gain fame by saying literally nothing and getting it published.”

that one may encounter, but paying attention to some of the larger themes presented by these intellectuals is very important if we are to consider what is appropriate conduct in our schools. For at least the past three-hundred years, the preferred vehicle for learning in Western universities has been science (and indeed this tradition can be extended in a somewhat less rigid form all the way back to the Greek golden age of Pythagoras, Democritus, and Euclid); in the long history of human epistemologies – that is, systems for understanding the world, or “how we know what we know” – there has never been a philosophy and a methodology to rival science. To many, that may seem to be an arrogant claim, and they may be right, but it is certainly not an unjustified claim, for there is no shortage of evidence – up to and including the laptop computer from which I am typing this – of the enormous efficacy of scientific investigation.

Yet it is this very foundation for understanding the world that the academic left attempts to criticize. To be sure, criticisms and self-evaluations are essential to the pursuit of knowledge – this is, in fact, a basic precept of scientific thinking. However, such criticisms are all for naught if ap-

proached dishonestly or by individuals who have put in neither the time nor the effort to understand what it is exactly they are criticizing (and thus what they, themselves, are saying). The first two taxa on my previous list of examples – postmodernism and deconstructionism – are allegedly borne from the disciplines of literary criticism and cultural anthropology respectively. They both take a similar tone in generally denying the existence of reality, or the validity of the notion of “Truth”, and thus they undercut one of the core tenets of science: objectivity. If there is no objective world, if everything is merely the subjective projection of the collective imagination of society, then there are no absolute, universal, and constant laws of which scientists can theorize, and they are merely poking and prodding their own personal social construction that is no more “real” than the cosmology of the ancient Maya. While this may sound very benign to many, and may win converts based on its democratic rhetoric, it is ultimately levered upon a faulty fulcrum. This sort of thinking is an example of intellectuals running amok with the word “truth”, casting it towards a realm that is beyond comprehension, convention, and practicality. To say that a statement is true is nothing

more than to assert such a statement, the “truth” of it is often a redundant tack. For example, to say, “It is true that Princess Diana died in a car accident” is equivalent to saying, “Princess Diana died in a car accident.” This simple concept must escape the comprehension of academic leftists, for they unwittingly make countless claims to truth in their books, articles, essays, and lectures; indeed, any statement that proceeds along the lines of “truth does not exist” is itself an attempted claim to truth!

The claims of Afrocentrism are of precarious debate, even among scholars who ultimately deny their validity. This is primarily because Afrocentrism in Western societies is often very well-intentioned, it is obviously aimed at instilling pride and courage into young black students, who may likely still feel a lingering of the centuries of marginalization experienced by their ancestors. When it comes to chronicling the great advancements of knowledge throughout our culture’s history, black faces form a very small minority (as an example, reread the list of scientists and mathematicians in the first paragraph of this article). Afrocentric claims vary widely in their tenability and effect upon young minds. One of the simplest and most often encountered appeals is



to that of the ancient Egyptians, for Egypt is a captivating, popular, and recognizably important culture that is, obviously, located in northern Africa. However, the often cited contention that the ancient Egyptians were “black” is somewhat dubious, we obviously can’t verify the shade of their skin from any of the evidence left behind, but most scholars at least agree that if we were to encounter an ancient Egyptian today we would likely not consider him or her “black” – though they would be at least as far from anything we might call “white” as well – but would probably be capable of blending in with a crowd of present-day Middle Easterners. Other claims are faulty on empirical grounds, such as the notion that modern geometry actually originated in Egypt – it didn’t, it originated in Greece, we have the records of ancient Egyptian geometry and, put simply: they got a number of things wrong, though it was still relatively impressive work. All appeals to ancient Egypt are worthless in any case, for no matter their cultural achievements or skin color, almost no modern African-Americans can trace their ancestry through ancient Egypt – the majority of African-Americans are descended from the ancient populations of West Africa. Thus, a modern Afrocentrist will – on average – have no more ethnic claim to the achievements of ancient Egypt than the racists who traded their ancestors like commodities. The impetus to counter all of the centuries of hatred, bigotry, and oppression towards people with black skin makes it very understandable that some people would forgo honest scholarship in order to inspire young black students, but those students are instead dealt a great disservice by a blatant lack of honesty.

Perhaps the most popular voice of the academic left is the cult of environmentalism. This ad hoc confederacy of student groups, watchdog organizations, and political lobbyists is especially important because it stretches its influence far beyond the walls of the university and far beyond the tempers of radical activists. Most concerned citizens don’t belong to the religious seg-

ment of the environmental movement – it is primarily constituted by people who hold a literally spiritual reverence for the climatic and biological systems of our planet (i.e., “Mother Nature” or sometimes “Gaia”). However, it is from these spiritual radicals that most of the more sensible environmen-

“Perhaps the most popular voice of the academic left is the cult of environmentalism. This ad hoc confederacy of student groups, watchdog organizations, and political lobbyists is especially important because it stretches its influence far beyond the walls of the university and far beyond the tempers of radical activists.”

talists take their cues. Many object to referring to even radical environmentalists as being “religious” in their views as a gross exaggeration, but modern environmentalism – especially as it exists on college campuses – is built precisely like a religion, around unshakable faith that is not affected by evidence or reason. There is a central mythology that man was once pure and lived in harmony with his environment, back before the fall from grace (indicated differently as either being the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, or some point in between the two), despite the laughter at such claims from anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians. There is a prophecy of imminent doom (actually several), from which we must all achieve salvation (i.e., sustainability) by renouncing the worldly (i.e., technology, scientific innovation, and capitalism) and working to conserve energy everyday. Of course, we must conduct our lives in a way that is responsible towards the natural environment that supports us, but these environmental

systems are very complicated and our only hope of understanding them is through the rigor and skepticism of science – something of which religions have never been particularly fond.

The last category I mentioned in my list of examples was militant feminism. I must here stress the militant, for I find nothing particularly unreasonable about the simple contention that women are people too. However, some such feminists are wont to take this sadly novel idea and bear its banners well beyond the boundaries of rationality. The most exaggerated claim is usually something along the lines of an accusation towards the whole institution of science, mathematics, and classical learning as a misogynistic construction, or even a weapon for the oppression of women. One of the firebrands of the feminist movement, Sandra Harding, even gets specific enough in her infamous *The Science Question in Feminism* to suggest defining Isaac Newton’s *Principia*

as a “rape manual”. The general accusation often proceeds to describe the scientific method and mathematics as intrinsically invested in male thought-patterns and, thus, less accessible to women (thereby keeping them in their place: at home, in the kitchen!) Instead, many militant feminists advocate a more “intuitive” way of knowing the world, based on more “feminine” faculties... what Stephen Colbert would call “Truthiness”. Unlike Afrocentrism, militant feminism has long gone beyond the benign call of ending nonsensical prejudices, and has in fact erected new (and arguably more nonsensical) prejudices impeding women unfortunate enough to be duped by its irrational proselytizing.

Achieving recognition as an intelligent and educated person, perhaps harboring original and attractively unconventional ideas, is intentionally easy among the academic left. Criticizing reason, denying reality, and yelling left-wing shibboleths at the top of one’s lungs has become an increasingly popular career choice for many academics

in today's universities, and why not? It's easy. There is almost no rigor involved, all you have to do is equip yourself with a basic toolkit of catchphrases and a knack for adding neologies to your vocabulary on the spot (e.g., proto-neoMarxianism) and you are set to go. More often than not, especially among postmodern literary scholars, one can gain fame by saying literally nothing and getting it published. To demonstrate this, physicist Alan Sokol wrote a paper in 1996 for the journal *Social Text* with the intentionally asinine title *Transgressing the Boundaries: Towards a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity*, which used technical-sounding terminology (and was submitted by a respectable physicist) to support a non-thesis that, in Sokol's own words, "flattered the editors' ideological preconceptions", but was ultimately composed of nonsensical sound and fury (literally signifying nothing!). Not even an undergraduate in physics would have been duped by the bold prose and ultimate inco-

herence of the writing, but the editors went ahead and published the piece. Sokol then announced the hoax, spinning a few new spotlights on the so-called "science wars" being waged across campuses and scoring a few points for reason and science. If you would like an example of just how incoherent post-modern rhetoric is expected to be, try visiting <http://www.elsewhere.org/pomo> - each time you visit this web page it will randomly generate a completely original post-modern discourse for you; the program's algorithm generates sentences that are grammatically intact, but informed by random elements and neologies, and is therefore devoid of any actual meaning. See if you can get away with turning your discourse in for an assignment in a Social Theory class!

Every year we each pay thousands of dollars to our university in the hopes that it will be spent on providing us with a liberal education, on programs that will get us the knowledge and wisdom (not to mention the

degrees) necessary to succeed in this world. But far too much of that money is going towards the intellectual black-holes punctured into the fabric of scholasticism by the academic left. We pay salaries to professors whose jobs are to speak in tongues in front of groups of students and award those who act impressed, or to advocate for their political interests, while awarding those who agree with them. The standards for what constitute genuine scholasticism have become far too lax, and resources (not to mention prestige) that should be going to the research and the researchers in real fields of study are being redirected to worthless and even harmful pursuits. It is time we started voting with our feet and stopped endorsing this intellectual leisure-time simply because it is so easy for us to advance. It is time we started demanding a real education, and accepting nothing less.

Please send e-mails to mikelm@pdx.edu



■ When Education Clashes with the Bill of Rights it is Required to Follow

By Austin Soter

Diversity is a concept that seems to echo within hallways of college campuses. Students and teachers of different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs are labeled as the key to a well rounded education, and are expected to prepare students to embark into a globalized society and workplace. Nonetheless, the methods used to promote this sense of cultural awareness are not only questionable, but in a sense, a contradiction in terms.

“The facts remain, that in a world of higher education, diversity has come to mean a preference for a diversity of backgrounds, but not a diversity of views,” says George Leaf in his article “The question of diversity.” More and more students are presented one-sided opinions by professors who want nothing other than to further their personal political agenda. This leaves students with no real option to accept or not accept. However, these opinion based lectures are rarely challenged because they are said to promote a diverse learning environment. Nonetheless, a diverse learning environment should include the presentation and acceptance of both sides of an issue regardless of a professor’s stance.

This narrow minded form of teaching is not only unacceptable, but in direct violation of Portland States core principles and

student bill of rights. “Universities are institutions of learning not platforms for political parties or intellectual sects. They are obligated to make students aware of a broad range of serious intellectual perspectives, not just the perspectives that correspond to the beliefs of their professors,” States the PSU student bill of rights. The student bill of rights clearly illustrates the behavior that should be displayed in the classroom, however many teachers continue to base lectures and curriculum around their own, primarily liberal, viewpoints.

This is an issue that is clearly apparent in the classroom as most students have fallen victim of one-sided lectures and grading. Nonetheless, the issue has never been challenged due to the threat or repercussions and the incessant labeling that occurs when anyone challenges these “diverse” opinions. As education continues to swing to the left, society as a whole is apt to follow. With no check on the political agendas of professors nationwide, our political atmosphere will continue to grow in one direction without a sense of balance. It is inevitable that at some point this issue will become predominant enough that it will attract the attention necessary to keep it in check; the question is, why and when.

“The Concept. Academic freedom and intellectual diversity are values indispensable to the American university. From its first formulation in the General Report of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors, the concept of academic freedom has been premised on the idea that human knowledge is a never-ending pursuit of the truth, that there is no humanly accessible truth that is not in principle open to challenge, and that no party or intellectual faction has a monopoly on wisdom.”

-Students for Academic Freedom

Campus Food Drive!

A BENEFIT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE INC.

RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 8th!

It's that time of year! We need your help collecting **non-perishable** food items to assist Neighborhood House Inc. a nonprofit organization with their annual Food Box Program for needy and homeless families throughout the metro area!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please drop off your non-perishable food items to the following drop off sites:

M107E Smith memorial Building

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For more information contact: preident@pdx.edu 503-725-5682

The Stupidity of Feminism

Feminism is the fad of the 21st century, but what does it truly mean?

by Drew Long

I am going to propose that feminism, in its current and historical forms, is incredibly stupid.

A caveat before I begin: this article will not address the rhetorical reframe that “feminism is the idea that women are people too”. Of course women are people; I don’t know a single person who would disagree with that self-evident truth. The idea that feminism is only comprised of this single idea is an attempt to mask a larger and, as I shall demonstrate below, self-defeating agenda behind a seemingly innocuous tautology.

Having said all that, allow me to explain.

Feminism is a result of women going to college, learning logic, rhetoric, literature and analytical history, and deciding based on that new learning to make their own grab for power.

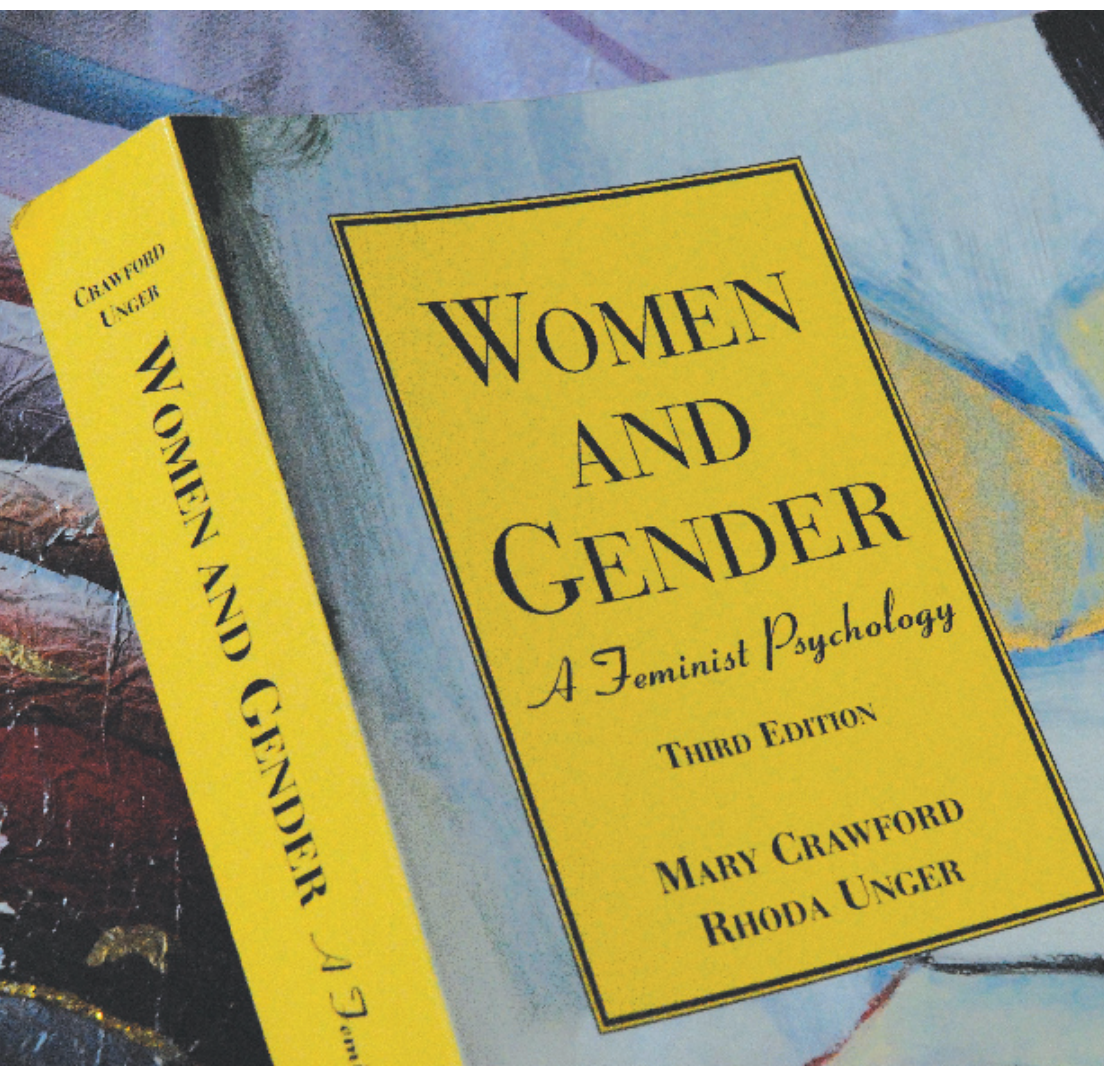
The irony of women trying to employ these decidedly masculine tools (rhetoric, analysis, and political speech, writing and thought) is that women’s brains are still basically split up into two different levels: the emotional and the logical. And while they may be able to theoretically function on a “logical”, rational, masculine level for as long as it takes them to write a speech, tract, book, or internet post, their root behavior will never stray far from their emotional brain. Below I will explain why this is.

Most of the time, according to feminist rhetoric, women should operate purely on their “emotional” brain: If it feels right, Do It. If it feels wrong, Don’t Do It. “Follow Your Heart”. This has lead most women (the vast majority, probably over 95%) who have been inculcated with feminist rhetoric to behave, on a day to day basis, in their personal and professional lives, in an extraordinarily immoral way.

This is the phenomenon people are referring to when they call women “catty” or “bitchy” or “controlling”: what they are referring to is simply women Doing What They Feel Like, Whenever They Feel Like It. Exactly like the feminists want it.

Before feminism, women were brought up with a more moral education: they were taught to respect their elders, respect themselves, and respect men: they were taught to keep their promises and not say things they didn’t mean; they were taught to support their family, their man, and their children; they were taught the importance of nurturing, caring, and domestic tranquility.

In short, they were taught communitarian values, as opposed to the idealized individualistic rah-rah-grrrl-power self-deterministic one-woman-army that is spoon-fed to little girls today, the doctrine of “empowerment” that so thoroughly deceives them and so badly



CRAWFORD
UNGER

WOMEN AND GENDER

WOMEN
AND
GENDER

A Feminist Psychology

THIRD EDITION

MARY CRAWFORD
RHODA UNGER

leads them astray.

The fact of the matter is, feminism, the devil-may-care attitude that prevails in the feminist lands of Do-As-You-Please, has worked horrible damage to both female and male psyches.

You might say women in modern, democratic, feminized countries are “emotionally immoral”. They are taught to follow their emotions no matter what else. This puts paid to any concept or possibility of integrity (also known as keeping your word).

Women in feminized societies are never taught to regulate their emotions. And emotions, while being crucial sources of information, are not and will never be the same thing as Facts - and therefore, should not be followed blindly and unwaveringly, as is the practice among the current crop of feminized women in developed, feminized countries.

Anyone with any understanding of basic psychology will see that following one's emotions (or ‘heart’) and feelings so categorically is should actually be called out for what it is: acting purely from a primitive selfish instinct.

These selfish actions are what are responsible for a whole host of unnecessary and unpleasant “female” behaviors that plague the modern developed, feminist world including: lying, infidelity, betrayal, flak-

iness, lack of integrity, manipulation, extreme competitiveness, extreme jealousy, and opportunism.

So this is why so many women

complain about how they dislike other women so much. Which calls to light another irony of the Feminist movement - how the very thing it promotes above all else (the freedom to act selfishly just based on the messages from the emotional brain) is actually responsible for destroying any possible solidarity between women (which is a stated goal of the movement).

The final irony of all this is the inevitable conclusion of the above: which is that social liberation, the entire woman's liberation movement as it regards “feminism” and its stated goals, actually causes women emotional enslavement.

The women that accept the message of feminism and attempt to live it out are now subject to the push and pull of their wavering, inconstant, but consistently selfish emotions.

(Emotions which, I might add, are subject to mild to major perturbations through the slightest influence of hormones, chocolate, alcohol, air temperature, satiety, and lunar cycles).

Although many female proponents of feminism can pick up with their logical mind at will, and argue, discuss, write, and even think logically and in a masculine, goal-oriented fashion, they will always be susceptible to an instant return to their emotional brain on the slightest provocation, making engagement with them in intellectual conversation not only volatile but deeply disconcerting (as a logical thread is unravelled by a slide into emotional “logic”, which makes no sense to the strictly and biologically masculine

mind).

In essence, feminism has accomplished nothing but, with one hand, enslaving women to their most primitive, selfish emotions, while with the other hand giving them the logical and rational tools of rhetoric and political speech necessary to inculcate, persuade, and brainwash others into believing they have a sound and rational basis for their return to emotional immaturity.

So when I say “Feminism is Incredibly Stupid”, I am referring not only to the idea that woman should blindly follow their emotions, but also the whole scope of feminist rhetoric that emotionally-driven women use to rationalize, before and after the fact, their immoral decisions to do whatever they want to whomever they want whenever they want however they want, and call it “empowerment” afterwards.

And now, dear reader, let me release my final disclaimer: I am not anti-woman. I am not a misogynist. I love women and all that they represent, especially the irrationality of their emotional brains. It is what makes them so distinct from men and so adorable.

I don't believe a woman's place is between the stove and the bedroom.

I believe in women's rights. I think it is right that women should

be able to vote, serve in the military, work, and earn exactly as much as men do.

I don't hit women and I don't support anyone that does. In fact, I think

it is a man's job to protect women, and hitting women stands so exactly in contravention to that idea that women-hitting men ought to wear their balls as bowties. If I meet any, I make sure they go home with their privates in a doggy bag.

I am pro-choice.

I am anti-rape. However, I believe the word “rape” has one meaning and one meaning only. Rape is not morning-after regret. Rape is not “I was drunk.” Rape is not “I don't want anyone to think I'm a slut.” Rape is NEVER “I just want to give up responsibility for my actions”.

I do believe in respecting women. I respect women as much as I possibly can, until they give me reason not to.

I do open doors for women.

I do pull out chairs for women when sitting down at dinner.

I do remain standing until all women are seated.

I do stand up when a woman enters the room.

Hell, sometimes I even open their car doors.

I am, fundamentally, a friend to women everywhere. I am not a friend to the narcissism and emotional immorality that feminist rhetoric typically engenders.

If feminism really wanted to help women, they would spend more time disseminating information about the true nature of both male and female minds and the fact that they are, in fact, different. It is stupid to assert otherwise.

“The final irony of all this is the inevitable conclusion of the above: which is that social liberation, the entire woman's liberation movement as it regards “feminism” and its stated goals, actually causes women emotional enslavement.”

Name that Feminist...

Quotes provided by Luke Fitzgerald

The following is two lists: one of quotes and the second of the people who said them. Can you match them? You will find the answers and short statements in relation to each quote in the January issue of the Portland Spectator. Happy matching.

QUOTES:

1. "The nuclear family must be destroyed... Whatever its ultimate meaning, the break-up of families now is an objectively revolutionary process."
2. "I feel that 'man-hating' is an honorable and viable political act, that the oppressed have a right to class-hatred against the class that is oppressing them."
3. "To call a man an animal is to flatter him; he's a machine, a walking dildo."
4. "The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness...can be trained to do most things."
5. "Since marriage constitutes slavery for women, it is clear that the women's movement must concentrate on attacking this institution. Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage."
6. "All sex, even consensual sex between a married couple, is an act of violence perpetrated against a woman."
7. "The proportion of men must be reduced to and maintained at approximately 10% of the human race."
8. "Men who are unjustly accused of rape can sometimes gain from the experience."
9. "All men are rapists and that's all they are."
10. "All men are good for is fucking, and running over with a truck."
11. "In order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them."
12. "Being a housewife is an illegitimate profession... The choice to serve and be protected and plan towards being a family-maker is a choice that shouldn't be. The heart of radical feminism is to change that."
13. "Bill Clinton's fixation on oral sex -- non-reciprocal oral sex -- consistently puts women in states of submission to him. It's the most fetishistic, heartless, cold sexual exchange that one could imagine."
14. "The care of children ..is infinitely better left to the best trained practitioners of both sexes who have chosen it as a vocation...[This] would further undermine family structure while contributing to the freedom of women."

WHO SAID IT:

- a. Catherine Comins
- b. Robin Morgan
- c. Dr. Mary Jo Bane
- d. Catherine MacKinnon
- e. Vivian Gornick
- f. Linda Gordon
- g. Valerie Solanas
- h. Kate Millet
- i. Andrea Dworkin
- j. Jilly Cooper
- k. Marilyn French
- l. Sally Miller Gearhart,
- m. Sheila Cronin
- n. A University of Maine Feminist Administrator, quoted by Richard Dinsmore

S.T.O.P.S. Waste Report

*STOPS
Report #2*

Student Taxpayers of Portland State University

Making sure our student funds and fees are being spent with proper discretion on the Portland State Campus.

“No TV and No Beer make homer...
something, something.”

“Go Crazy?”

“DON’T MIND IF I DO!”

-Homer and Marge Simpson in the
Tree house of Horror V



Administrators on the Portland State campus had to spend nearly \$15,000 to buy and install plasma screen TVs around.

Why should Portland State be buying TVs for the only purpose of weather reporting, showing that during noon and 4 PM all the computer labs are full, and announcements?

The irony abounds when analyzing this situation: TVs that cost thousands of dollars explain that there is no available computers in the computer labs for students to use because the money was spent on TVs.

As the school has already bought these TVs, there has to be a greater purpose than just displaying redundant information. These TVs could be tools for uplifting the spirits of the students, displaying news, or even displaying relevant campus information.

S.T.O.P.S. is a watchdog organization formed in 2006 to ensure that tax dollars, student fees, and other expenditures on the Portland State campus are best being used to represent those that paid them. We are a student group that publish regular updates on waste that appears on campus

The 2006 Election Outcomes

by Dustin Rose

Here I sit, in a bunker in an undisclosed location in eastern Oregon awaiting the apocalypse. It is Tuesday night and I am ready for the liberals to come kicking down my door and burn down my house. I watch the numbers as they come pouring in and begin to fear for my country. This could be the end. The conservative movement is dying. Nightmares have now become a not so distant reality. Could this be the end of reason and moral in America? The outcome around the nation is running a deep streak of blue. This is not looking good.

This state continued its liberal run of stupidity. The U.S. congressional seats from Oregon all went with the incumbents with 4 out of 5 going democrat. Even Darlene Hooley held her seat in the highly publicized race against Mike Erickson. The only glimmer of hope on this level is found in Republican Greg Walden from eastern Oregon.

In the highly contested governor's race, Governor Kulongoski won handily despite his pathetic first term. I hope that we do not expect much for the next four years. He has proven that you can be governor and do absolutely nothing for a whole term. I find it interesting that Oregon would rather vote for a completely incompetent dud than to take a risk with someone who could actually get something done. This is a good example of people voting strictly along party lines.

The Oregon State House went to the democrats this year. The democrats now have a 31-29 majority. This means that the house is going to have to work together to get anything done. It also means that the speaker of the house will change. One bright light in my district is that my representative, Speaker Karen Minnis, was barely re-elected. She has been a very strong leader for my neighborhood in east Multnomah County but she will cease to be the speaker next session. It looks like Representative Rick Metsger will take over as speaker.

Every local senate seat was won by the democrat candidate and the State Senate stayed in democrat power.

For the Oregon Supreme Court race, thanks to Multnomah County, the ultra-liberal Virginia L. Linder beat out Jack Roberts.

Here are the ballot measure results:

Measure 39 passed restricting the government from taking your land away from you for private economic reasons. Knowing our state, the courts will probably throw it out.

Measure 40 failed. This means that Oregon's Supreme Court will continue to be selected by Multnomah County alone. Instead of getting a well rounded and diverse body of individuals from all over this great state we will just keep getting crazy liberal judges from Portland and other highly populated areas.

Measure 41 and 48 both failed. Basically, this means that you will still have the same low limit of deductions that you can claim for your taxes and the government can keep spending like a drunken sailor in a whore house with no real limits. The government can limit how much you can write off but you cannot limit the amount of spending the government does... And you guys voted for it.

Measure 42

Failed. This means that the government cannot restrain another private industry. Insurance companies can continue to run their businesses the way that they want.

Measure 43

Failed. We still cannot tell parents in this state that their underage daughter is going to kill their grandchild. However, this young girl is not allowed to get a piercing or tattoo without

“Measure 43 failed. We still cannot tell parents in this state that their underage daughter is going to kill their grandchild. However, this young girl is not allowed to get a piercing or tattoo without a parental permission slip.”

a piercing or tattoo without a parental permission slip. This is a deviant state.

Measure 44 passed with a large margin. This means that more elderly people can qualify for cheaper prescription drugs.

Measure 45 failed. This allows us to reelect our legislators to as many terms as we want. The House and Senate, with experienced legislators, will not be manhandled by the lobbyists and will be managed by the ones who we elect. Oregon has passed the term limit law in the past only to be thrown out as unconstitutional.

Measure 46 and 47 both failed. This means that we have the right to give as much money to a campaign as we want. We still have the right to freedom of speech in the election process.

There is the rundown of all of the state issues. For all of us conservatives it does not look good. The next two years is going to be a rough time both nationally and locally. The liberals have taken us over and now it is their time to lead. It is hard to know exactly what will happen. They may continue to get absolutely nothing done. With the governor reelected and still at his party's head, they may continue to get no results. This would be just fine by me. However, they may pull their heads out of the clouds and decide that they need to get some of their crazy Marxist ideology forced upon us. If this be the case there is really only one thing I can leave with you. If these liberals are successful at continuing to bring this state down we must maintain our resolve. It may only last two years but it may last longer. Above all else we must remember to keep our powder dry.



AND TO THINK **SOME PEOPLE**
RIDE AN **ELEVATOR** TO WORK.

You didn't join the Marines to punch a clock or push a pencil. You did it to push yourself. And how far you go is entirely up to you. So keep going. See your Marine career counselor about your next adventure among the few, the proud.

Captain Menke - OSO
GySgt Hampton - OSA
541-758-0835

National Elections 2006: How Conservatives Truly Fared

by Amanda Marie Newberg

This election season, I had the pleasure of observing Election 2006 from our nation's capital. On second thought, it definitely did not bring me much pleasure; more like enduring malaise. Last month we saw the Democrats take over both the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. They handily captured the House but we had to wait a little while before we were sure of their victory in the Senate. So what happened.... and why?

For months I had the feeling that the mid-term elections were not going to treat handle Republicans with care. Being in the capital and hearing pundits discuss scandal after scandal followed by the Iraq coverage, things were pretty gloomy. I mentioned my thoughts to friends back in Oregon and Washington and they disagreed. They claimed politics were more local and not to pay attention to that stuff. Unfortunately, I was right.

These results should not be completely unexpected. Midterm elections are known to be kind to opposition parties. According to the Washington Times, since 1862 in 33 of the 36 midterm elections held during the 1st or 2nd terms of an administration the opposition party has gained strength. People become restless and this year many events upped that restlessness to another level. Here are the top events that I think tipped the scales affecting the 2006 elections.

Mark Foley

This scandal bombarded our airwaves for weeks and weeks. There was practically nothing else to talk about as our country turned full focus to the rumor mill. We know Mr. Foley is a sick man who took advantage of little boys through explicit text and instant messages. Taking a hint from Celebrity 101 the first thing he did was run off to rehab, confess he was gay and admit he was sexually abused as a child... by a priest. We still do not know what Speaker Hastert and the House leadership knew and when they knew it, or what they did about it. What we do know is that it obviously was not enough. The House ethics committee is still looking into the incident. Republican mess up #1: Representatives canoodling with house pages is wrong; there are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Foley and any staff who knew about it should have been fired immediately. We are supposed to be the part of family values, but values are something that must be shown through actions.

Tom DeLay, Jack Abramoff, Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Robert Ney

Corruption, corruption, corruption. First we have House Majority Leader Tom DeLay who was indicted and finally resigned. Then Jack Abramoff was convicted, and has began serving his sentence, following with California Republican Duke Cunningham serving a prison sentence for inserting around \$800 millions worth of earmarks for contractors who were bribing him. Then there is

former Representative Bob Ney, who recently resigned from Congress after pleading guilty to corruption charges. Ohio University Eastern is even considering changing the name of The Robert W. Ney Center on campus because of it. Former lobbyist Abramoff's scandal is even thought to have had an impact on the recent losses of Montana Senator Burns and California Congressman Pombo. We can say Democrats do it too, or do it more, but we are not Democrats and we should not try to legitimize it by comparing ourselves to anyone else. The Republican party needs to take steps to take responsibility for its actions.

The Iraq War and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld

October turned out to be the worst month since the beginning of the war. More and more people are raising concerns and this has led many to grow distrustful of now former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld. Veterans, generals and even House and Senate Republicans began to question him. Representatives Anne Northup (KY) and Senator Mike DeWine (OH) had called for his resignation; both lost reelection. Unfortunately for Rumsfeld he became the person to blame for all of the calamities in Iraq. His ideology, leadership style, and reputation were reviled by liberals and Democrats and Republicans stopped defending him, except for President Bush. Until November 8th when President Bush announced Rumsfeld would be resigning and Robert Gates, current President of Texas A&M University and former CIA director would be nominated for the position. Many had gotten their wish and some say just a few weeks too late. Whether or not deservedly so Rumsfeld's reputation affected the election and many believe Gates will be breath of fresh air. For more insight into our 2nd longest serving Defense Secretary check out the opinion piece in the Washington Post by Douglas Feith, the Former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (2001-2005). If you watch network news you probably heard a million times pundits asking guests if this election was a referendum on the War or on the President and they agreed for the most part. People are beginning to question if the costs are worth American lives and they seem to want another plan. At least that is what the media tells us.

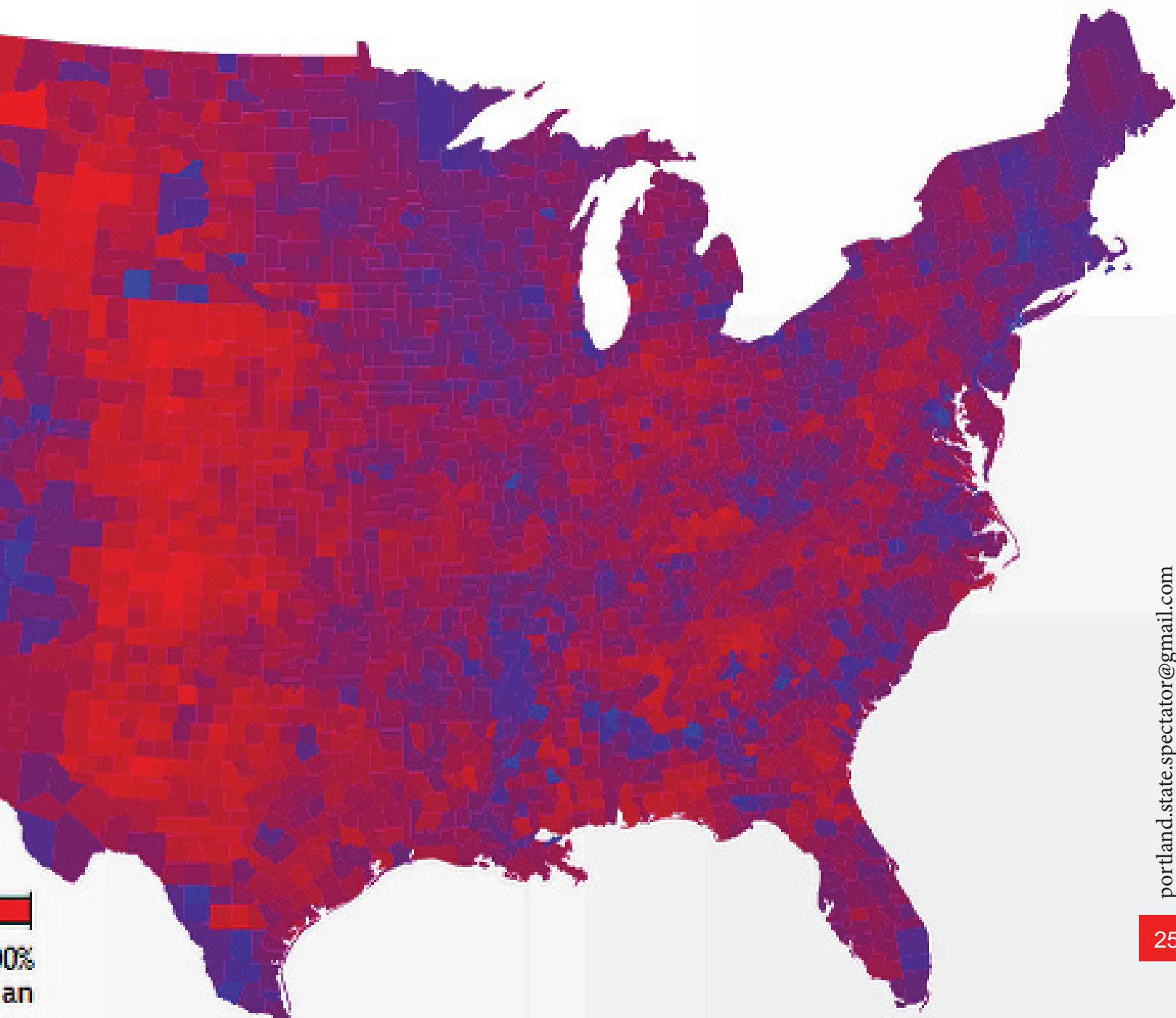
So did Conservatives really lose? & what are the Americans getting now that they put the Democrats at the helm of power?

Republicans seem to have lost, but did conservatives? Many conservative pundits agree that Republicans deserved what they got and the Democrats certainly did not win by doing anything themselves. They simply continued their message of, "We don't like what THEY'RE doing!" One could even argue that the Dems moved toward the center. Key races that were fundamental to their election night victory were conservatives, including former Republican Marine, Virginia Senator-elect Jim Webb and Pennsyl-

vania Senator-elect Bob Casey, Jr. and the one that came so close Harold Ford, Jr. from Tennessee. And was I the only one who noticed that Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader Reid were not speaking much during the campaigning? Now we can congratulate Ms. Pelosi on being the first woman speaker and Mr. Reid for becoming Senate Majority Leader. So now that they have taken power for the first time in 12 years, they have to come up with a plan. Here are Pelosi's stated top priorities.

1. Enact all September 11th Commission recommendations
2. Raise the minimum wage to \$7.25
3. Cut interest rate on student loans in half
4. Allow the government to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices
5. More federal funds for stem cell research
6. Rolling back tax cuts for the rich
7. Phased withdrawal plan for Iraq

And all this while funding domestic programs way over levels of the Republicans, apparently without any tax increases... yeah we will see about that. In my opinion the outcome is not so bad. This gives Republicans a chance to breathe and go back to the basics of our party including fiscal responsibility, family values, and limited government. This will make us a stronger party. And while many did not all vote for Republicans, they still voted conservative in many places. Seven out of eight states approved bans on same-sex marriage on election night, Nevada and Colorado voters rejected measures to legalize medical marijuana, and nine out of ten states approved eminent-domain measures which bar the government from taking private property for a private use. Also in Arizona voters passed measures to make English the state's official language and one that expanded the list of government benefits denied to illegal immigrants. So get ready for 2008 troops because we might be down, but we definitely are not out.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by Robert S. Reece

Oh, the wailing and moaning and the gleeful gloating! What a frenzy of political punditry we've seen since the 7th of November. There has been analyzing and agonizing enough to sate the appetite of even the most fervid political partisan. We have recoiled from the shock and disbelief, and licked our wounds. Now is the time to reflect and consider our course for the future.

I think that there are some fundamental differences in the political belief systems among our citizenry. The first one I want to address is "elitism." Elitism is the set of ideas that holds that some people are smarter and more able to make "good" decisions than the rest of us. These well-educated, smart, individuals should be put in charge of our government where they can make the decisions for the rest of us. These people are the "problem solvers," and they should be put in charge. The rest of us are not supposed to be able to solve our own problems, or will solve our problems in ways that will hurt other people. Teachers, government employees and activists are extremely prone to be in this category.

On the other hand, there is another class of citizen that believes that ordinary people can solve their own problems. I fall into this category. I find that the solution to my problems sometimes match up with other people's solutions, but sometimes not. If I am hungry, I may want to have fish. Someone else may want to have quiche. I need transportation. Just look at all the choices I have, from tiny compacts to motor homes. I wouldn't want to commute in a motor home, nor would I like to transport my kids' soccer team with my tiny compact.

I think it is quite a problem for conservatives to try to be part of the government bureaucracy because they consider everyone else to be perfectly capable of deciding things for themselves. These people are busy making businesses of their own and pursuing happiness in their own way. They think others are as capable as they themselves.

Here then, is the rub. If we don't get involved in the bureaucracy, we may find these "elites" trying to solve our problems for us when they don't even have a clue what our situation is nor what we want. I am not saying that these are bad people. I am saying that they think that they know better and can decide better than we can how things ought to be. Here is another problem they have: they want us to foot the bill to pay for their efforts.

During the Middle Ages, we had kings. They claimed to rule by divine right. They had "royal" blood. Some were more benign than others, and some were anything but benign. The legend of Robin Hood comes to us out of the era of kings. The "elites" (who don't even know how to milk a cow) would have us believe that Robin Hood robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. They try to convince us that they are just like Robin Hood when they want to raise our taxes to pay for social security and entitlement

programs for the poor and disadvantaged. One of their accomplishments has been to make a lot of people poor. What they get wrong about Robin Hood is that he took money away from the TAX COLLECTOR and RETURNED it to the people to whom it rightly belonged. Yes, that is right. The tax collector worked for the king and got a cut of the proceeds. (Yep! Just as the IRS works for the government and gets paid! It's the same deal!)

We need a course for the future. I think that probably the first thing we need to do is convince others that getting involved in politics is worthwhile. There is plenty that any person can do; run for office, man phone banks, encourage friends to take an active interest in the issues of the day, pay attention to the political offerings of the widest possible views, or write for political publications. You can doubtless think of other things one could do yourself. I think it would be helpful for a person to try to examine his/her own views to make as much sense of them as possible. A way to do this, is to read and examine what others say. Read some Karl Marx, some Any Rand. Yeah, I know that they are ancient history, but their ideas are still shaping our politics today.

The mid-term elections were a mess and a terrible disappointment for Republicans. We have lost ground on some of our most important issues, for example, the Supreme Court composition, the sanctity of human life, property rights, the right to the fruits of one's own labor. I don't think any of the aforementioned are issues that can be solved by those on the left, the liberals, the socialists, the communists, the so-called progressives who want to adopt the politics of Karl Marx the elites. I don't think they can be solved by those on the right, the fascists, the national socialists, no matter how elite they may be. As far as I am concerned, the Democrats are on the left and the right. Maybe some Republicans are too, but I consider myself a capitalist and capitalism is all about the fruits of one's own labor, property ownership, respect for the same rights for all others including the right to life and the right to protect these rights with deadly force if necessary. Yes, I do mean with a gun.

Finally, I want to say: However we try to advance our agenda, we need to do the following:

1. Advance our arguments honestly.
2. Characterize our opponents truthfully.
3. Aspire to high values and expectations regardless of what the opposition may do.
4. Stick to the issues and avoid ad hominem attacks.

Remember, elites may resort to lies, distortions, mischaracterizations and fraud because they believe that we are just too stupid to understand that "they are really right and have to be in charge," so they must win at any cost. We must continue to be the ones to be trusted and willing to respect the right of others solve their own problems.

Does our Government Have *Legitimacy*?

by Jeremiah Hoffman

We Americans are fortunate. The vast majority of people in the United States believe our government to be the most legitimate, and many (on both sides of the isle) believe our government to be the best conceived government. It blends the classical forms of government and gives balance of power to each branch; thus giving checks and balance to the great delayer of humanity, Civil War.

What to say about consent? To be truly free, a person must give consent to that government that governs them. Yet, in our case, this is not the situation. However, if voting is a form of consent, then the majority of Americans give consent to this form and these people to lead.

But what of those that do not consent? Those that believe in direct democracy, a strong republic or the very rare monarchists? This case is argued by what I would call realized law. These non-consenters have two choices. The state of out-law or the state of consent and civic inclusion. Any student of history or rational person would choose the latter. For if you read your history, you know that never before has there been such personal choice then what is currently available to the average American and the average world citizen. Granted, the situation is not good in some parts of the world. But we are advancing in technology, freedom, healthcare and quality of life.

Give appreciation for those that have given their life for this current state. For those who were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to assure a better life for the future generations. Make sure if you're a proud keeper of freedom, you use it and be civically active.

PORTLAND STATE COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

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Meeting Times: Tuesday, 4pm
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What They REALLY Have to Say

by Tessi Lopez

Interview via MySpace:

The MySpace epidemic has maneuvered a crazed interest into my computer and social life. Among our generation, how many of us log onto MySpace numerous times during the week to see who has requested friendships, sent us the latest messages or even photo comments? How many of us utilize MySpace as a tool to search for old and new friends? I admit that I have enjoyed the use of this active social networking junction and it wasn't until a few months ago when I realized that I could also use this tool to communicate with people in any part of the world I so desired. What particularly sparked my interest, was the fact that I could communicate and personally express my gratitude to as many soldiers in the military I could come into contact with. It is truly an indescribable feeling, being able to converse with such courageous souls who are openly willing to share ideas and sentiments they encounter. I took advantage of the opportunities MySpace offers with online communication and posed a few questions to our fellow Americans in the Middle East, to try and understand what it is they opine about the debatable topics pertaining to the crisis in Iraq. After all, this is the survey corner, seeking the opinion of the common man; who better than to ask questions pertaining to the military than those who are in the military?

The following questions were answered by 20 year old Annie in the Army National Guard who has been stationed with an aviation unit in Iraq. I am grateful for her participation in this segment and also to the many others I interviewed. All agree that the media we view does not portray the solemn truth of what has been accomplished in the Middle East and I seek to unveil a few truths through the experiences they have been willing to share.

Q: Are you Democrat, republican, or other (if other pleases state)?

A: Conservative, leaning more upon the category of general republican.

Q: Briefly, how do you feel about the Democrats taking over the house of the senate?

A: My main concern is that I believe that there should be an equal balance of Republican and Democrats I don't think one should over power the other, it's always good to get two constructive ideas from different people. You can't base your whole opinion on just one theory. So I would have to say I disagree with any curtain party 'taking' over. I think that it would be more beneficial in the long run to keep the house equal.

Q: Do you feel that the troops should "stay the course" in Iraq?

A: Most of the general population view this war as non-constructive and based off the view of a personal vendetta of our president. What I personally believe is that we are making a huge difference out here. Every mission we take is not only benefiting the country were trying to construct, and establish---but were making it our duty to leave this country with a defense. Iraq is a touchy issue, but let me say this much to you. We care very much about the people we are trying to help, and were making sure that were doing our best to stay safe. America has poured out it's generosity of kindness to its troops---in many ways. So I can say that yes, I think we should stay in the course we're at, we can't turn our backs on these people, or our beliefs. Were upholding our commitment, honor, and courage---and doing our best to ensure that this country in the Middle East is ready for democracy and its strength to purge off the evils of terrorism.

Q: Have you seen progress of any kind during your stay in the Middle East? If so, of what kind?

A: You see the general population of Iraqi people, slowly crawling from there shells of fear and exposing voices for the first time. It's amazing when you see kids smiling over trivial things like school supplies and food, things that we in America take for advantage. You see not only the change in the people but in our armies. This war has improved not only its troops but has come up with new technology to save lives. Were learning how to adapt ourselves to a new kind of war, and a new kind of terrain. War is an ugly thing, no one wishes for war---but it's something that is unavoidable at times. But, good Things come from the bad, and believe it or not the good has just started. These Iraqi people have sewage for the first time ever, power, phones, water, food, and more important their slowly starting to voice out there rights, there freedoms and there liberties. It's good to know that a child can finally be a child---not having to worry about dying for his country at a young age. There are a lot of things coming out of this war, and it would take me all day to sit down and describe to you it all in words.



“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” -Albert Einstein

Q: If you could have any desire comes true at this moment what would it be and why?

A: I would wish for world peace. A world where we aren't judged by black or white, by rich or poor, religion or your features and looks. I wish we could live in a society of justice, and equality. Honor, Courage, and Commitment!

“Action, strong action, has to be taken against the insurgents operating within the country (Al Qaeda, Ansar al-Suna, the Mahdi Army, Sunni and Shiia insurgents/terrorists, all of the Shiite radicals, Etc...). When I say strong action, I mean military action by not only our regular forces there, but especially our Special Operations forces. DoD (Department of Defense), has to allow our military to take unimpeded military action to find, locate, and terminate all insurgents/terrorists committing horrendous atrocities in Iraq. There is no easy solution but the only one is to take a strong military action to capture or kill those who are slowing or stopping the reconstruction of the infrastructure in Iraq.” -Special Forces Chief Warrant officer 2, Anthony Lopez

“I consider myself a Democrat, however a conservative Democrat. The only reason I tend to vote democratic is because of their support for social issues such as Gay Rights and Stem Cell Research. There are a few Republicans I would vote for if they run. Rudy Giuliani, Christine Whitman and possibly Sen McCain.” -Kristopher

“In nearly 16 months of deployment, I've watched as Iraqis held their first elections, and watched progress being made in one area of Iraq, only to re-deploy to Baghdad, where it's very tempting to declare a state of civil war. Overall I do not believe tremendous progress has been made during our time here. The issues which plagued Iraq upon our arrival, most notably corruption and civil strife, are still present; and the Iraqi people, so long cowed under a dictator, lack the willpower to collectively say 'no more'.” -Justin Soldier

“Stay the course” is a very vague term to me. I don't believe we should adhere to our original plans so far as to lose our adaptability, a quality which has had enormous influence in making our military the strongest and potentially the most effective in the world. However, I do believe in freedom and peace for the Iraqi people, and I believe we should do everything we can to assist them in their struggle. In addition, I certainly believe that the United States should never be seen to back down once this country has made a stand, certainly for a cause I feel is just. Until the international community sees that we mean what we say, discussion and “talking things out” peacefully will never be as effective in solving problems as I wish it could be. -Corporal Officer Unit 172 SBCT

“I hate the country and can't stand the people but what we are doing over there is really amazing. So yes I think we should continue our course.” -Sgt, USMC

“Yes I have seen progress...when we first got to Iraq the Iraqi army and Iraqi police were scarce to say the least...but by the time we left they had more soldiers and police than they knew what to do with. We got close to the Iraqi's that we worked with everyday and built friendships with them. So they have come a long way to say the least...you don't see that on the news but that's what I saw. I feel that we should stay in Iraq. they are not ready to take over for themselves. If we leave now I feel that the terrorists will take right back over within a few years then we will have to go right back over and stay another 5 years, but I feel within the next couple of years they will be ready.” - Lcpl G.USMC

Unfortunately these are but a few of the responses I received, however, they do express truth. If you ever find yourself checking your web page for comments, drop, search for someone in the military



Special Forces Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Lopez in Kuwait with Sheik Ezadin

and wish them well. As for me, my heart, gratitude, and best wishes extend to all of you in the military.

“I don't think that Stay the Course is the right term. We need to change our strategy, we are not winning. But I don't think that a troop withdrawal is the right answer.” -AF

Christmas Shopping in the Pearl

by Porsche Whitehead

With less than a month left, its time to start making those Christmas lists and finding the hottest places to shop around Portland. Finally, the word is out that Portland, Oregon is one of the greatest shopping cities in America. The city of Portland, specifically the Pearl District, have received national attention from popular magazines such as Domino, and Sunset. Domino magazine has stated the Pearl District as the city's center for art and design. With a wide variety of local shops such as Olivia Belle and Urbane Zen, as well as more familiar stores such as The North Face and Diesel, you can't go wrong when searching for that perfect Christmas gift. So the main question is: Who are you shopping for? A gift for mom and dad? How about that special someone in your life?

No matter who you are shopping for, you can find fabulous gifts at reasonable prices in the Pearl District.

Finding the perfect gift for mom; sometimes not so easy for those of us who have no idea what moms want. Here are some great gift ideas that are sure to put a smile on her face. Sur La Table is a perfect store for those moms who love to cook. A kitchen supply heaven, Sur La Table offers everything in every size, shape, and color. A list of items include (but only begin to illustrate the offerings) dinnerware, must have kitchen tools, cook books, and even tasty jars of homemade jams. With great customer service from the employees you are bound to find the perfect gift for the chef in the family.

Lululemon Athletica is the place to shop for those of us who tend to gain a little more than Christmas gifts after the holiday. Lululemon is a yoga inspired clothing shop for men and women who love athletics as well as community involvement. Open now for one year, Lululemon carries products such as athletic sports bags and warm fleece zip-up hoodies (a must have for the upcoming weather) in addition to a wide selection of yoga pants as well as comfy cotton lounge wear. Lululemon has excellent customer service and you can be sure you will be greeted with a warm smile, and maybe even by the store's friendly little dog named Bruce. Not only is this a fabulous place to shop, but you can may even attend free yoga classes put on by the store Sunday's from 9am-10. Surrounding the walls of Lululemon are photographs of local dance and yoga instructors from the Portland area. Located at the front of the shop is a community board with different local events happening as well as a studio of the month displayed each month of local yoga and dance studios around Portland. For phenomenal customer service and great product, this makes for one of the best stops in the Pearl.





For the guys out there who just cannot seem to find something fit for the special love in their life, read carefully. **Olivia Belle** is an adorable vintage shop with gifts that are fit for a Queen. This great shop offers a wide variety of designer clothing for ladies who cannot get enough of trendy brands such as Seven Jeans, Juicy Couture, Tocca, and many, many more. For the budget savvy shopper, Olivia Belle is the perfect place to find a great and stylish gift for that special lady as well as enjoying the creative, classic vintage atmosphere.

When Christmas shopping for that person who just seems to already have it all, **La Zhu** is a great place for a unique and artistic gift that they are sure to not yet have. La Zhu is an Asian inspired shop for those people who are home buyers looking to spice up their place with a little flair of artistic culture. Pillows, pictures, dressers, mirrors, and must have accessories, can all be found in this fun store. Northern Chinese art is the main inspiration for the designs. La Zhu is a very decorative shop with gifts that cannot be found anywhere else. Even if you are not looking to buy, stop inside and let your eyes wonder at all the visually stimulating and exquisite pieces of Asian inspired décor and furniture. Chances are, you will not walk out empty handed.





Ahhh...going to the spa is absolute bliss, and you don't even have to be at one to have that experience when you can take it right into your own home with **Urbane Zen**. One of my personal favorites, Urbane Zen is definitely the place to find a great Christmas gift that is affordable for anyone. This quaint little shop carries bath and body products that are deliciously stimulating for all the senses of the body. Hand-made soaps in every possible smell are wrapped and ready to go for those of us who are last minute Christmas shoppers. Bath beads, lotions, and even cute pajamas are all great gifts that can be found at Urbane Zen. And don't just think this store is only for the women, they also carry great gifts for dad such as the ultimate shaving kit complete with everything a man needs to look and feel fresh, as well as luxurious bath robes you cannot pass up. Urbane Zen is definitely a hot pick for anyone who craves a little pampering in their life.

From kitchen supplies, to bath and body, and clothing shops to home décor, I have just about covered everything you need to know about shopping in the Pearl District. But what would Christmas shopping be without a little holiday treat added in the mix. If your feeling adventurous, take a Saturday and explore the Pearl District, as well as one of my very favorite candy shops *Moonstruck Chocolate Co.* Moonstruck Chocolate, located just outside of the Pearl, is definitely a place not to be missed. Located on 23rd street, better known as Nob Hill, Moonstruck Chocolate Co. carries extraordinarily delicious truffles, recipes, cocoa, and much, much more. This fabulous place is perfect for a Christmas gift, and is sure to be any chocolate lover's paradise. Whether satisfying your own taste buds, or the taste buds of another, you simply cannot go wrong with Christmas truffles from Moonstruck Chocolate Co.

The treasures of the city of Portland can be found within the Pearl District. With friendly people, and extraordinary places to shop, make Christmas shopping an adventure this year. Good Luck with the shopping, and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Illegal Legitimacy?

Locating the root of the problem.

By Tessie Lopez



When people think of America we primarily tend to focus on the United States, however, we also tend to forget that America includes North, South, and yes, even that diminutive bridge on the map connected to the tip of Mexico and to the tip of South America known as Central America. When this distinction is identified, we then move along to more complicated issues pertaining to the societies established within these Americas, which then lead us to question the legitimacy of living within these established societies, structured with fundamental laws for the success of the humanity. Then is the moment to question, can it be validated to move where one pleases for the sanctity of one's necessities? The answer is an obvious "Yes." However; this answer becomes an un-yielding No when it comes to bending regulations for that sanctity.

North America's present issue regarding illegal immigration is misleading. The issue is not necessarily found in the United States. The result of many issues is found in the U.S. yet, imperatively, the focus must shift to identifying the issues in countries such as Mexico, which swing immigrants to North America.

What is the number one reason that leads many immigrants to fleeing their homeland? Unless if we're referring to Cuba, the answer is not escaping from militant oppression but the escapement of another sort of oppression: poverty. Now how does poverty evolve? It evolves through the lack of job opportunities, overpopulation, and individualistic self centeredness from leaders such as Mexico's ex- president Carlos Salinas, who left the country's economy in ruin for personal gain.

During the epoch of Miguel De la Madrid's presidency, Mexico's economy froze from the early to the late 80s. When Salinas took over, instead of alleviating the 160% yearly inflation, the devaluation of the peso, and the fallen income which went down hill by 40%, Mexico found itself in a deeper hole when the U.S. granted the nation a \$3.5 billion loan so that Mexico could find some sort of agreement with the world bank. Salina's one beneficial act was creating the North American Free Trade Agree-

Photograph obtained from Heifer International

ment (NAFTA) which granted Mexico more exposure for foreign investments. However, based on Salina's controversial history with money laundering while during his presidency, along with the massive fiscal problems which he created because of his expensive economic programs, led to lower wages and wide-ranging unemployment, sinking Mexico financially even deeper than before. The devaluation of the peso had also plummeted to nearly 200%.

We see how Mexico's economy has been in desperate need of reparation yet, what contributes to the discomfort of poverty? The answer is overpopulation. In Mexico and all over Latin America, we recognize this problem through the anguished cries of hunger from the children who shelter underneath boards of aluminum and roofs of black plastic garbage bags. There is no welfare to assist the needy families like in the United States yet, more and more babies are added unto the world of filth and starvation. Teenage and youth pregnancies are but normal in such a world of poverty and no restrictions are implemented on natal control. So, instead of the people placing on their behalf, solutions to improving their poor economic conditions, they contribute to the world of suffering by producing mass amounts of innocent children who then too fall victim to the limited choices offered by that deprived environment.

The problem with over population is that the living conditions per family worsen, allowing room for diseases to infiltrate, violence to explode, and corruption to reside. Since the economy is already in a horrible state where job opportunities are lacking, what choices are granted for these residents? Obviously, not very many, but among them is violence, prostitution, child pornography, and drug trafficking. Naturally, the spread of diseases are inevitable under such circumstances yet, the infiltration is augmented by the choices made by these people.

Apparently the solution for the Mexican people who live under these conditions, is to immigrate to a land where these same issues are not as propagated as in their country: a form of running away from their problems. Therefore we must think of the considerations which lead these people into the United States and wonder how these

problems of sunken economy, agitated though the over population crises, can be improved for the success of their humanity with out breaking the law. So What is being done about all this? Apparently, Mexico's current President, Vicente Fox, encourages the people to come to the United States and offers support for those who already reside here illegally. What message does the President in Mexico convey though these actions? That the people should seek for a better country to move to instead of fixing the current problems in the country they already live in, and that breaking the law is permitted with the goal of seeking a better society.

The solution to these issues can be found

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with more job opportunities in Mexico and population control: “Some one has to sit down for a very long time and think about how job opportunities can evolve but the people of the nation can also contribute to this already difficult situation by controlling their baby boom through the various forms of contraception” suggests Adelina, an immigrant from El Salvador who came to the United States legally over 40 years ago. That someone could very well be Mexico's next president or any one will-

ing to execute the idea, however, education must also be implemented for the progress of a nation but as time progresses so do generations and population, and a more populated country involves more effort allowing further unimaginable complications to arise.

What would then happen if there were no borders? Would all poor Mexicans come into the US and try to make better lives for themselves? Would over population leading to the lack of job opportunities also plague the United States? Would everyone then immigrate to Canada seeking for a better country to live in, when all these issues would lead to a potential economic downfall, due to the government supporting more families with an even greater population, contributing to the social security crisis? Would more immigrants take advantage of generous programs the country has to offer such as welfare? Whether the intention for the United States lending its neighbor a cup of sugar in a time of need be out of good heart and willingness, or whether the intentions are for reasons such as avoiding our present tribulation in combating un-

lawful movements, all these questions must be taken into consideration before forming a decisive argument for encouraging illegal immigration. The answer of the naturalization process taking a very long time in comparison to 40 years ago to now, may be found among the answers to some of these questions. We must not however, forget that it is in Mexico where control with its economic issues be implemented for only that way, can illegal immigration be controlled as well.



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