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## The Portland Spectator, March 2009

Portland State University. Student Publications Board

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The Portland  
**Spectator**

Volume 7, Issue 6, March 2009



**Re-Constructing**  
Views on Conservatism

Shipyard workers.  
Beaumont, Texas  
June 1943  
Courtesy of Library  
of Congress

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# Mission Statement

The Portland Spectator believes that the academic environment should be an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent conservative arguments to be heard. We encourage the expression of diverse ideology to promote thought-provoking discussions.

# The Portland Spectator

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## Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

March is a time of growth, change, and the annual spring-cleaning of our lives. We see the flowers begin to bloom, wonder where the sun came from, and marvel at how big we allowed the dust-bunnies to get during the winter months. With all this change and cleaning in mind, the writers of The Portland Spectator have decided to take a look at things that need to be re-grown, changed, and – of course – given a thorough cleaning.

The spring-cleaning in this issue comes a little closer home. During the last few months, students have been voicing their concerns regarding the Student Fee Committee here at PSU. This group of eight students divides up the monies received from student fees to fund various student groups.

Each of these members has duties – on top of being a student – to fulfill as a service to the students at Portland State. We at the Spectator were alerted to the possibility that the committee wasn't executing its responsibilities with the utmost integrity. Our fledgling staff collaborated in trying to contact every student group on campus, and it is our hope that we were able to provide something that the student group leaders on this campus seemed desperately to want: a voice.

We are privileged this month to have been able to provide short segments on SFC members that feature the thoughts of the student groups that they represent. We are deeply grateful to those leaders who had the courage to speak up where others were admittedly afraid to do so. It is an honor to present the voices of students on such an important topic and we hope that you can find sympathy for their concerns.

Thank you.

Sarah J. Christensen  
*Editor-In-Chief*

## News Briefs



Runners at Race for the Cure 2006

### Active Students Can Make A Difference

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the American Cancer Society's foremost cancer awareness event. It's a yearly five-mile walk that takes place at different locations all over the country. Last year nearly 600,000 people walked and collected more than \$60 million to raise awareness of and fight breast cancer. Making Strides takes place on May 9th in Portland and registration happens the day of the event. More information is available at [www.portlandstrides.org](http://www.portlandstrides.org). A kick-off breakfast for this year's event is taking place on Thursday, March 19th, 2009 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. For more information visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).



Photo courtesy of Sandy Austin whanau

### 'Down Under' Under Seige

Wildfires have been sweeping through Australia, causing extensive damage. Brushfires are a yearly occurrence in Australia, but these are the deadliest wildfires in Australia's history, killing more than 210 people as of February 24th, thousands of livestock, and destroying hundreds of houses. Police suspect that arsonists are responsible for the fires. President Obama has offered U.S. assistance to help deal with the fires, and in the Northwest 25 firefighters are being assembled by the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center to travel to Australia.



Zuckerberg, CEO

### Facebook has Tagged You and Your Profile

A controversial change to Facebook's terms of service prompted a wave of criticism. Users were worried that the change in the terms of service would give the site ownership of user information and content. The area that was removed from the Terms of Service stated, "You may remove your User Content from the Site at any time. If you choose to remove your User Content, the license granted above will automatically expire, however you acknowledge that the Company may retain archived copies of your User Content." Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg apologized and reassured users that this was not the intent of the change. Surprisingly, the controversy has led to an unprecedented shift in the way Facebook decides its policies, including implementing user comments and voting in all decision-making, as well as a promise to let users control their own personal information and content.



### Watch Your Step

PSU and Tri-Met construction continues and dates are set for the light rail and bus lines. Parking on 5th and 6th Avenues will no longer be allowed, and drivers on 5th and 6th Avenues are to stay to the left side of the 'bumpy double white lane divider'.

March 2-8: Mall Safety Awareness Week

May 3: Light rail operator training begins

May 24: Bus service starts on the Mall

August: MAX Yellow Line service moves to the Mall



Photo courtesy of Vanguard

### PSU Civil Rights Case Concludes

The announcement was made February 27th stating that PSU's former Vice Provost of Student Affairs, Dr. Douglas Samuels, won a \$795,000 settlement alleging the school had discriminated him based on race. He was hired in 2001 for the position, but was demoted to a professor in the Black Studies Department in 2005. He resigned and sued the university on the grounds that he was treated with a different set of rules than white professors in similar positions.

# Stimulating Your Understanding

## Economic stimulus in plain English

By Joe Wirtheim

President Obama asserted to Congress on February 24 that “while the cost of action will be great, I can assure you that the cost of inaction will be far greater.” Queue the music: du-du-DUuuu. Its what’s on everybody’s mind: Stimulus. The media especially just can’t stop yapping about the herculean amounts of cash the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department are about to unleash on the financial system, and apparently, the road construction business. Cutting through the clutter of economic terminology takes a phenomenal effort of its own, so here’s a lightweight look at the mysterious world of “economic stimulus”.

*The Atlantic* calls it the “Brave New Deal.” Ayn Rand called it *Atlas Shrugged*. Whatever it is, it’s coming to a bank and hedge fund manager near you. The efforts are called TALF (Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility), and the similar TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program), as well as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (no cool acronym yet), or just collectively as “Stimulus” and it’s the biggest thing the government has done in decades. With a precipitous rise in layoffs, and the banks, who are hanging by a thread, refusing to loan money, its certainly about time for somebody to do something.

Dan Rogers, Ph.D., a Portland State University Associate Professor of Finance says that what the government types are doing is a mixed approach of acting like banking investors, and doing a little old-fashioned direct spending on us. First, the banks.

It’s a securities issue. What are “securities” you ask? The word is actually used to describe many general investments, but here we will restrict ourselves to banks. The

broad strokes, according to Vikas Bajaj of the *The New York Times*, are that apparently, banks don’t feel like loaning money for hardly anything, or to anyone right now. That makes buying a car, getting a credit card, or even (gulp) a student loan much harder, even if you have great credit yourself. Its not you, it’s the bank. You see banks take the loan that you are paying on, “package” them and sell them to investors. The packages are called “securities,” and this is what investment banks do, just buy up all kinds of securities from regular banks; apparently it was a good thing to get into until, well, everything cratered. Now, nobody wants to touch the worthless things, and so now banks hate to make loans to you or anybody. You can’t be trusted, I guess. The consequence is that normal business activity just stops—bad news for the whole economy.

So, TALF aims to get all that dough moving and flowing again, like drinking a glass of prune juice after a Velveeta binge. The roughly \$1 trillion (that’s with a ‘t’) of TALF will provide loan guarantees and direct loans to those brave enough to start buying securities again. From here, the theory goes, the daily transactions of money will get the economy right as rain..

**The Atlantic calls it the “Brave New Deal.” Ayn Rand called it “Atlas Shrugged.”**

Actually, some analysts wonder if its big enough, and still others wonder why the government is subsidizing securities investors. Those folks are just hand-wringers at the big roulette wheel that is the economy. If the government’s number hits then we’ll all be back in the saddle. If not, well... lets not jinx it.

That’s not all, though. There’s something in it for all you road

construction workers too in the recent \$787 billion stimulus plan (can we just call it the “7-8-7 plan”?). Grab your hard hat because there’s going to be tons of concrete to pour once the stimulus money comes to your local or state government. The idea is to get things going right away by spending billions directly on “shovel-ready” projects like bridge repair, road repair, new government buildings and infrastructure. Sounds good, except what if you don’t know which end of a shovel to hold? Rogers says the stimulus bill helping you new college graduates find career-enhancing employment opportunities is pretty “uncertain.” So what gives? The idea is “trickle up” by putting money in the hands of working folk who spend on consumer goods and services, they will in turn help lots of people in other businesses. It’s just a start, so don’t worry about reworking your resume for a masonry position. Again, the hope is that things will turn around in the big picture before all that concrete sets up - a year or so is the current guess by many state governors.

Another word on the tongues of economic analysts: deficit. *The New York Times* reported February 21 that the national deficit is about to be 10% of the country’s GDP (that’s \$1.5 trillion). It hasn’t been that big since World War II when we financed that war against fascism. Dan Mitchell of the libertarian Cato Institute says deficit spending is like taking money out of one pocket and putting it the other since the money has to come out of the economy to be borrowed by the government. Obama, what are you trying pull? Are you just digging us into a big hole? Alright, don’t worry, he’s planned for that too. Remember those securities investors who are being subsidized? He wants to raise their tax rates as well as anyone

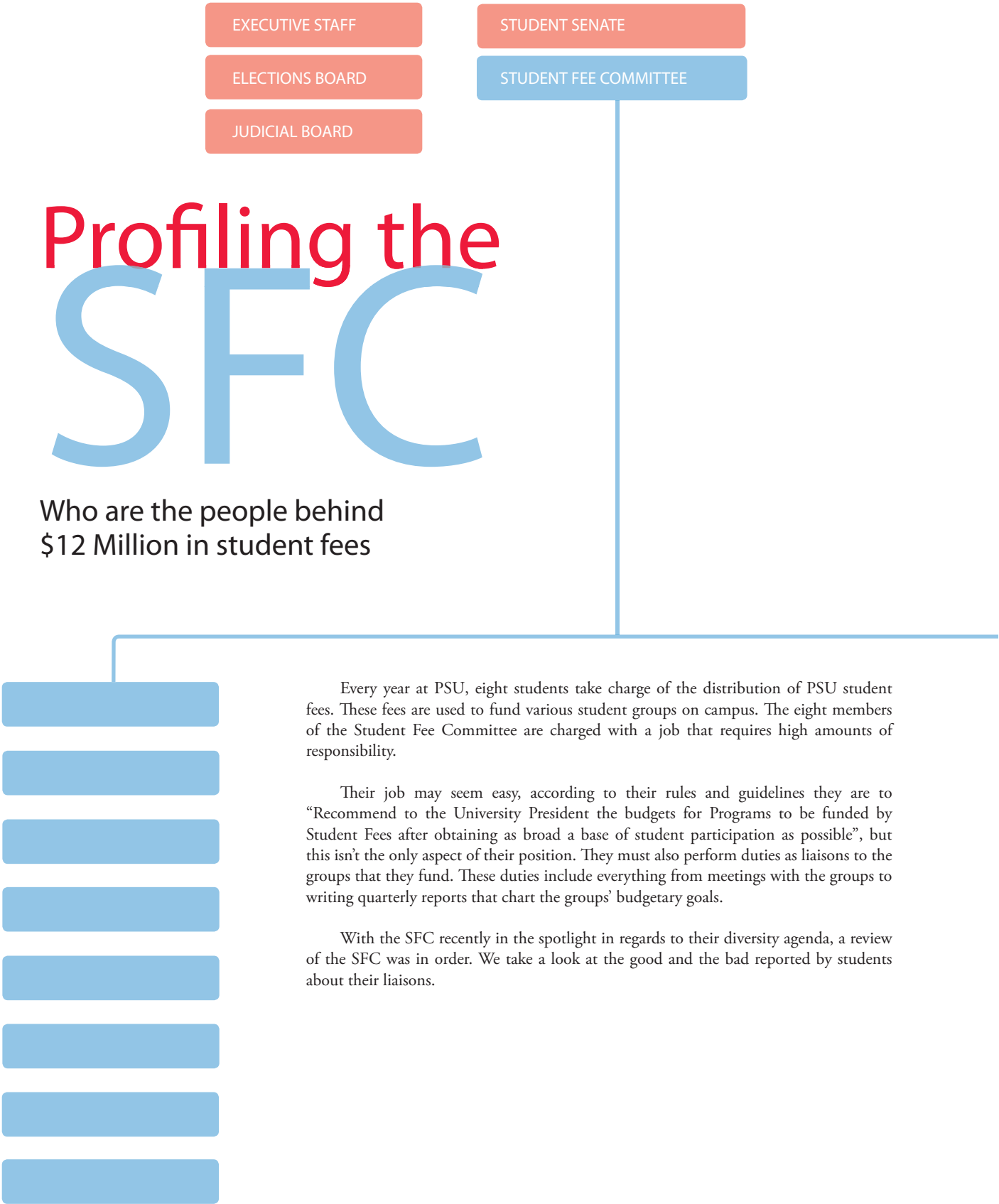
earning more than \$250,000. Wait, there’s more. Medicaid and Medicare are hemorrhaging cash, so a total healthcare system overhaul may be in order just to get those costs under control. Also, by capping greenhouse gas emissions and charging for extra

output, Obama thinks he can drum up some extra cash. This is another gamble, though, since some of these revenue-raising measures are essentially inhibitors on economic activity, causing

libertarian economists to shake their heads. But Obama’s goal is to bring the national deficit to something like a manageable \$533 billion by 2013.

That sounds like nothing, but then maybe we’re being desensitized to huge numbers, like a junkie losing sensation in his toes. Is anybody clean enough to see the reality of these mega sums? Well, in the name of speed and urgency (and the shakes), the Democrats of Congress have almost single-handedly crafted all of the recent dosage of \$787 billion. That means the Dems had better know what they are doing. There is a silver lining, in that fast action is just what the rattled nerves of investors need to get back to doing what they do best: put their money into good business ideas. Rogers says that business and household managers (that’s pretty much all of us) just “need to get to a point where they can predict their cash flows again.” Apparently, they calm down when they know from where their next meal is coming. Who can blame them? ■

*Play along at home and track the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the 787) at: [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)*



## Aimeera Flint

### SFC Chair

Flint's campaign for SFC Chair last year emphasized the fact that she was an outsider to PSU politics and also sought to have more diverse voices heard on campus. This year however, criticism of her implementation has led to some controversy.

In the beginning of this year's budget process she and her committee selected several student groups to single out for 'diversity' questions. This received a lot of scrutiny from the student groups and Flint issued a statement explaining and defending the position in February,

"As the chair of the Student Fee Committee I would like to address the recent decisions raised during our hearings in regards to the ethnic makeup of some groups... We ask those questions to bring light to the fact that in many cases diversity is not present or sought out."

Student groups were outraged by demands they considered 'divisive and highly inappropriate.' Aimeera responded to the situation by saying that "The issue was not aimed at one person in particular, we were naïve to the fact that those were sensitive questions. We know though that we can't use our personal bias to decide these budgets."

This is just one more thing that they have learned this year, "I think we've learned a lot from each other. I think that although people were upset with the diversity questions it's important to bring it to the forefront and get people talking about it."

## Tanja Miljevic

### Vice Chair

Tanja Miljevic drew mixed reviews about her term as the SFC Vice Chair. Nathan Hellman, the Editor of the Daily Vanguard, was less than pleased. "There was no outreach," he said when questioned whether she made any effort to get to know him. He went on to say that after being their liaison for over two months she still had no idea who he was. "I had to take the first step, I had to introduce myself," said Hellman.

This sentiment was repeated by Debbie Koenig from the Graphic Design center, "I've never even seen her I don't even know what she looks like."

Miljevic responded saying that, "Many times, student groups do not understand what my role is and often turn to their SALP advisors for questions about funds," she also said that she believes communication is important and sends out regular news updates to student group emails, however, "some student group coordinators do not check their group emails but rely more on personal ones for communication."

Even, with her busy schedule, some student groups still felt that she was available to them. Theresa Han of the Pre-Health society said that, "we weren't able to meet up a lot because our conflicting schedules, but whenever I emailed her, she got back right away."

Miljevic may have many responsibilities and duties in her position as Vice Chair, but one thing is clear, her groups are asking for a little more face-to-face time with her. Miljevic also said that as far as forgetting names goes, "I struggle with that in my interactions outside my duties as a member of the SFC as well."

continued -->

# Profiling the SFC

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## Waddah Sofan

SFC Member

Sofan has spent much of his time this year informing students about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but what others may not know is that Sofan is the Outreach Coordinator of DACA (Disability Advocacy Cultural Association), the Outreach Coordinator for APSO (Arab-Persian Student Organization), and is the President of SUPER (Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights).

This abundance of responsibility is exactly where concern is raised about his ability to fully serve in each of these capacities.

Lou Hall, a former member of the Affirmative Action group on campus said, "He's not always in his office, and is misusing his time for the Palestinian conflict."

But misuse of his time isn't the only issue students have with Sofan. Concern was raised by the College Republican President Mark Krsak and member Xander Almeida, that Sofan was going to use his position on the SFC to get their funding pulled after displaying a Pro-Israeli bulletin board in the Smith Memorial Student Union.

"He approached our tabling between Smith and Cramer and wanted to know why we had that sign up," said Almeida, "He then said that he was on the SFC board and that we shouldn't be able to get funding because we were partisan."

Both Krsak and Almeida felt that his statement was really made because Sofan didn't agree with their politics, not because they were genuinely illegible for funding. They said it felt like he was misusing his position on the SFC board. Sofan however, disagrees with this, "I never said that to them and they can come and prove it to me." Sofan said, "I might have mentioned that their deliberations were coming up just as a reminder, that's all."

Sofan feels that the SFC has also accomplished a lot this year, "Every SFC has different values and missions, this year I decided to become involved and serve better by being a minority and encouraging diversity. We have differences of opinion on funding groups, but we have learned to be neutral and work through all of our differences."

## Vanessa Hernandez

SFC Member

Vanessa Hernandez has worked for two years as the Treasurer of M.E.Ch.A and is one of the more senior members on the committee in terms of her experience with the inner-workings of student groups. However, she has lately been alleged of suffering from similar problems as the other SFC members, such as a lack of both communication and outreach.

"I didn't actually get to meet her," said Ara Nelson of the World Dance Office, "We tried to set up a meeting before budgets, but it didn't happen."

Concerns about budgets common to most student groups, but Nelson was able to find the help she needed. "I didn't have any questions for her because I'd done it last year. If I did have questions – which I think I did – I'd ask my SALP adviser because we correspond with her about everything else, so why not about the budget too?"

Rebekah Hunt of the Rearguard had the same issue, "I have never had any interaction of any kind with Vanessa Hernandez, to my knowledge. In fact, if you had not said 'SFC Liaison', I would not have known who you meant."

Furthermore, Hunt had comments about the SFC in general, "They control far too much of our money (as students and as groups dependent on those funds) to behave like a bunch of spoiled teenagers with personal vendettas."

Bao Vuong, Coordinator of the Vietnamese Student Association explained that, "As coordinator of VSA, I feel like Vanessa's relation to VSA as liaison has little to no affect on our operation". This illustrates the degree to which SFC members have perhaps forced student groups to learn to operate without help from their SFC members, "Being a very active member of PSU Student Leadership program, I am well informed with many contacts. This helps me better lead our student organization when immediate help from our liaison is not readily available."

Hernandez responded to student groups by saying, "I think I've done a fairly good job of being available to all my student groups and I haven't really had anyone say I hadn't been available. Although I was out sick for about 3 weeks, I tried my hardest to keep all my groups and advisors up to date with my situation."

## Patricia Binder

SFC Member

Patricia Binder was unavailable for an interview for this article however via email she did address some concerns that one of her student groups had about her performance. When speaking with Rusty Griffin, the Co-coordinator for the Coriba Geology Club, he shared that while he was very happy with the SFC in general he was rather unhappy with the lack of communication between him and Binder who was the assigned Coriba advisor. According to Griffin, Coriba missed their initial SFC budget hearing due to not being properly notified by Binder. They did make it to the second hearing on their discretionary funds, but were never notified by Binder, instead they found out by checking the postings in the SALP office. Since that hearing, Griffin said he has been receiving communication from Aimeera Flint the SFC chair, rather than Binder. He also added that Binder has still never made it to a meeting of Coriba and that during their rescheduled budget hearing her vote was stricken from the record because she arrived late to the meeting.

In response, Binder said via email, "Though I saw Rusty at several meetings, I believe most contact by the group was with Ryan Cole. I keep logs of all group e-mails, which indicate that. I don't think their missing the hearing can be attributed to a "lack of communication" between CORIBA and me. I followed the process which was set up by the Chair and Vice-Chair. ....CORIBA appears to have a good, functioning, active student group and is fulfilling their mission, and I sincerely hope I am able to have some opportunities to assist them as liaison and have more contact with the group."

## Matt Ellis

SFC Member

Matt Ellis has been on the SFC since the beginning of the year, and has had some notably positive reviews from his student groups.

Pre-Dental President Kevin Kryder said, "Throughout the budgeting process Matt showed a care for the success of our organization while maintaing [sic] a watchful eye on behalf of the PSU student body."

This positive report sheds hope on the SFC as a whole, that some of their members may be accomplishing tasks that are useful to the student groups and providing stable support for the continuance of those groups.

## Alex Robinson

SFC Member

A new appointee in November, Alex Robinson replaced member Petter Dahlgren after his resignation. Once again, the student groups responded the same way about their liaison, commenting on a lack of communication and follow-through.

However, more importantly, some student groups chose not to be quoted because they feared for their groups' funding while the Committee was still in the budget allocation process. When Robinson was asked about how he felt the year for the SFC had gone, he said "I'm going to have to pass on this one." The same reply was given about how interactions with student groups had gone for this year.

On February 26, the ASPSU Judicial Board heard a Seat Vacancy Request from the SFC Chair regarding Robinson. Eric Christofferson, Chair of the Judicial Board said, "We decided that this wasn't a seat vacancy request because those are used when the person isn't responding or in contact, Alex was contesting it."

Christofferson later explained that Robinson will continue to be an SFC chair, "Unless he resigns or is impeached or there is another seat vacancy which he doesn't contest, which I don't see that happening."

## Anela Puljic

SFC Member

Just appointed to the SFC this Winter term, Anela brings both a fresh set of eyes and an optimistic attitude to the SFC.

"I'm one of the newest members to join the SFC. I joined in January, amidst initial hearings and deliberations. It's been a busy and at times challenging position to adjust to, but I think it has been worthwhile and educational in many aspects."

Puljic points out that her experience as a student group leader also gives her a unique perspective as a committee member, "Something that I add to the committee is my experience being simply a student and student group officer for many years, this I believe allows me to relate and appreciate the work that all student leaders do on campus - knowing what it's like to present at hearings and be on the other end of the budget process."

Finally, Puljic explained what we all seem to be learning from this group, "We are eight students coming from different backgrounds, all working towards the same goal - which has been extremely educational for me not only as a new member, but also as a person. It is a great responsibility and privilege to be on the SFC. I have high hopes and look forward with regards to the remainder of the year." ■

# From the Mind of Kelly

## Zogby doesn't know how to do math!

### How paying attention in Statistics can help you discredit bad polls.

By Kelly Welch

When the Great Depression occurred, analysts spent decades trying to piece together why it all happened, and how the stock market crashed initially. With a lot more people getting an education now than in the 1930s, more frivolous polls and analyses have come to the fore. It is a privilege to be able to ask “how” and “why” for a broad range of situations. So it's just the natural order of things that we should want to explain why and how Air America failed.

A Zogby poll from November 2007 reported that 22% of conservatives were uncomfortable consuming media that was outside their political beliefs, and that 7% of liberals also echoed that sentiment. The poll later indicated that more liberals than conservatives were able to embrace viewpoints outside their own, and therefore that was why Rush Limbaugh is more successful than Air America. Liberals accept Rush, but conservatives hate Randi Rhodes. This is a tremendous leap



in logic, for starters, since talk radio can only be defined as “entertainment” in the narrowest sense. Furthermore, using this evidence to support the idea that conservatives absolutely are of a certain ilk (think NASCAR and/or classical music) is also faulty.

The fact is, 22% one way or 7% the other way, these statistics are not substantial enough to swing people across metaphorical aisles to consume media. The Zogby poll suggests that the 93% of liberals who aren't disgusted by opposing viewpoints automatically would give Rush a fair chance, because they're so sweet and tolerant. But the 78% of conservatives who are also so sweet and tolerant wouldn't be enough of an audience to save them from utter doom and peril. The math doesn't work. In fact, this Zogby poll seems to have been created entirely as a mechanism to explain Air America's failure rather than to pin that lack of success on, perhaps, Air America sucking. In fact, multiple left-wing bloggers out there admit themselves that Air America failed simply because it was stale, boring, or unoriginal. Someone ought to tell Zogby that.

A lot can be said about other conclusions the poll came to regarding how conservatives and liberals consume media. The crux of the issue is Zogby's inflation of the 22% statistic for conservatives into a much more drastic number than it really is, and ignoring to do the same for

the 7% statistic for liberals. Instead, 22% is such a huge number that it seems to be all encompassing of the conservatives polled. And 7% is so negligible a number, it clearly is just a blip on the radar to Zogby, so it might not be much of a number at all. The difference in the size of these statistics seems far greater than it is thanks to Zogby's interesting interpretation of the numbers.

Whenever “facts” are presented, regardless of by whom, it is a good idea to question them. How large of a sample size was utilized? From which geographical areas were the samples taken? What were the mean, median, and mode for age, income, and education level of the people polled? How recently was the poll issued? Has there since been a poll to confirm the data? Who conducted the poll? Do they have a political ideology that might be inappropriately prominent in the collection of the data?

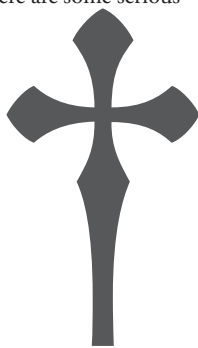
These are a lot of questions to ask yourself when you read the newspaper every morning. But as Benjamin Disraeli, and later Mark Twain, said, “There are lies, damned lies, and statistics.” And, as Zogby has done, numbers can be used to oversimplify an issue or lead an audience toward a faulty conclusion. If you are careful as a reader, you will less frequently find yourself being a victim of bad math. ■

# Conservatives and Religious Identity

By Rebecca Rudawitz

Perhaps the most intimidating label the liberal left likes to throw around is the frightful “Religious Right”, a category of people often held responsible for pro-life protests, bans on gay marriage, and the election of George W. Bush to the Presidency. It is a specter - a holy ghost - haunting the churches and courtrooms and schools where it whispers policy decisions into the ears of the unwary. Or worse, a horde of angels descending on Washington D.C. intent on smiting the wicked and the evolutionists. Given this, it may be possible that there are some serious misconceptions about the political right and the religious right, and far too often against religion in general.

The upfront facts are that the Religious Left (yes it does exist) has been one of the most powerful and influential forces of good within this country, and the times when it manages real and solid change is when it drags the Religious Right along side it to take charge of the holy high ground with a small tactical attack. And vice versa, though the left leans more toward roses than rifles. Any policy decision that reflects humanitarian aid, equality, respect for humanity as a whole, or otherwise trading political expedience for some “higher good” is a manifestation of someone’s religion and morality factors impacting their voting.



## Misconception #1: Religious = Conservative

Imagine for a moment an America where religion played no role in government or politics. To start with, say goodbye to weekends; we only have those because of old laws that made businesses close on the Sabbath. We certainly wouldn’t have any swearing on the Bible, or anything other than our own personal honor. Actually, we’d lose any significant guarantee that people will tell the truth, since most folks don’t put a lot of faith in the honor of others. Goodbye to the entire Civil Rights movement, liquor laws, gambling laws, women’s suffrage. Goodbye to disaster relief, federal funding for the poor and downtrodden, public education, and foodstamps. Charity, while being endorsed by all five of the world’s major religions has very little place in a government that cares only for the bottom line.

Religion plays a major role in conservative and liberal advocacy efforts. Yet as much as the Left may like to poke fun at the Right, even conservatives aren’t so crazy for politics coming from the pulpit. A lot of people, after all, just go to church for free coffee and the chance to balance their checkbook while pretending to pray. But for others it is a chance to relax and escape from the stress and consumerism of their everyday existence. And for others it is a truly transformative experience that gives them meaning and purpose. And yet for still some others it is a chance to discuss the morality and ethics of their government.

## Misconception #2: Conservative = Money

Capitalism and religion are two things that are constantly being tied to conservatives. We like our money and we like our God and we like being able to pursue them to the fullest of our ability. But the reality is that they tend to reside on two opposite sides of conservatism. Every tax cut is money that can’t be used by the government for charity or good works.

The difference between the Conservatives and the Liberals isn’t that either one is more or less religious or ethical or even power-hungry. The difference is that Liberals want the money in the government’s hands because they trust the government to use that money and power to do good. Conservatives tend to want that money in individual’s hands and trusts that they will do good with it and without a government mandate.

When people categorize all Christians as being Republican and all Republicans as Christian, they are doing a disservice to both. There are hundreds of different forms of Christianity, ranging from the political gambit from libertarian to totalitarian and from communist to capitalist. And even within a specific Church, the political atmosphere can be exciting as mini-wars occur between churchgoers who load themselves up with buttons and bumper stickers. And Republicans and Conservatives experience a broad range of religious or non-religious expressions; stressing a religious identity as being pivotal to being conservative is an insult to anyone who made their party choice based on rational thought, contemplation, and personal opinions on political issues. And somehow I doubt that God cares to which party I belong. ■

# What's the Opposite of "Apathy"?

Here's what political leaders need to know about the new generation

By Joe Wirtheim

"I think he is a transformational figure. He is a new generation coming into the world -- onto the world stage, onto the American stage -- and for that reason I'll be voting for Senator Barack Obama," says Colin Powell, who understands one big thing: that the generations are changing and they're ready for new leadership. In this new paradigm opportunities for both parties exist if they are willing to do what it takes to speak to the next generation.

However, Republicans as we've known them, have been on a path that does not lead to the future, and that's why they're losing. When the sands shift beneath us, sometimes it's hard to discern which way we are going. Today, though, there's no mistake. Here's what tomorrow's leaders need to understand if they are going to succeed.

## The Demographic Issue

Demographics are not to be ignored. Shifts in population groups are occurring in places like the emergence of baby boomer elderly, the emergence of a new generation of young people coming into adulthood; their numbers rivaling the baby boomers, and many of them are minorities. *National Journal* writer Ronald Brownstein recently cited the "Millennials", as the new generation is being called, are as large as 90 million, and they have a whole new take on political and civic life.

Generational social theories are a good lens for understanding the shifting demographics. The "Millennial generation," also sometimes called "Gen Y," is generally described as those born between 1980 and 2000. Probably the most comprehensive authors on the subject of generational and societal changes through history are Neil Howe and William Strauss. They outline their theory in a series of books, which describe the new generation as being "civic minded" and ready for purpose. Finding that path between "idealism" and "pragmatism" are what Millennials do best and they make a strong distinction from earlier Boomers and GenX'ers. Generalizing entire generations of a population

is a tricky business that Howe and Strauss acknowledge in their book *The Fourth Turning*, but observations and cultural analysis can reveal trends in character. Generally they describe Boomer leadership as prone to self-righteousness and moral crusades. For GenX, their worst case is the self-engrossed, self-diagnosing, taste snobs represented in John Cusack's *High Fidelity* and are essentially lone crusaders. These older generations will be challenged by Millennials to change their typical rhetoric.

## "Business as Usual" is Not Working

The culture wars, as articulated by Pat Buchanan in 1992, are moving on. Hot-button issues like abortion, religion, definitions of family—all no less important—are just no longer the defining front lines of the political conversation. Conservatism can find new ground building families, but it will have to be tolerant and diverse if its going to gain any traction. Ideological arguments will simply not be effective for leading the new generation.

Today's grim economic crisis has little room for polarizing speech. But core, old-American, social conservative values are ready for their return. Strong ideas of citizenship, family spirit, and keen focus on practical problems and the people's natural ability to solve them are the characteristics of tomorrows' leaders. Business entrepreneurship, service to the country—these are issues where a conservative leader can focus and win. Millennials, do not care about what the government will do for them, they want to know what they can do to help their country and community.

## What's Next?

Political parties, Republicans, Democrats alike will need to foster and harness civic spirit in the new generation if that party is to survive. Democrats clearly got there first. President Obama's rhetoric about public service and leadership are like music to the ears of young people—this is what they have been waiting to hear; these are the words that will mobilize them. Turning those words into a reality is the hard part.

President Obama may eventually turn to New Deal type government programs for make-work like the old CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) or the WPA (Works Progress Administration). President Roosevelt used these to keep earnest young people busy digging ditches in the 1930's. If conservatives can preempt that kind of action, and instead spur private institutions to harness youth, then wasteful make-work could be avoided. For example, faith-based organizations could take a leading role in doing community service work. Business associations have an opportunity to sponsor young entrepreneurs and mentor them as they build a new economic base.

Appealing to young Hispanics is a must, because their share of the future electorate will outnumber that of African-Americans in the next election cycle, according to Brownstein. Their natural social conservative sentiments such as strong family values, and religious ties make them natural partners. Appealing to them means dropping the nativist rhetoric and focusing on practical immigration and migrant worker solutions, like the ones President Bush tried to put forward. NextGenGOP.com's Brad Tidwell makes a similar point in his questioning the longevity of Democratic rule; there's potential for new conservatives in places like southern California.

## Make a Call to Action

Judging by the response to President Obama's calls for individual action, then "apathy" as a key word couldn't be further from the current mood: maybe "service" or "mobilize" would be a better fit. Leaders who want to be effective in the years ahead need to be aware of the new character and mood young people are looking for, and those people want to be involved. The future is anyone's game, but winners will need to involve the new generation. When Colin Powell, someone who has dedicated his life to service for his country, says that the narrow approach of Republicans isn't working, and a more diverse, inclusive way needs to be found, everyone needs to listen. ■

# In Defense of Conservatism

Why a healthy mix of ideas are essential to public debate

By Seth Evans

In the charged arena that is American politics the word “conservative” gets bandied about quite a bit. This common use (and abuse) puts some distance between the word’s original meaning. Most Americans, if asked, would spout something about the Republican Party, anti-intellectualism, or lower taxes. While this may, or may not, be some of things conservatives do, it is not what the doctrine of conservatism is.

Today, the Republican Party, and in a more fundamental sense, conservatism, is in decline; the Democratic Party is triumphant, and “conservative” is quickly becoming a smear in the same way that “liberal” became a bad word after Reagan. It is good to have variety in politics, if only to keep established parties from getting complacent (and certainly no Party or ideology is wholly correct). However, there are those who, naively, claim the “death” of conservatism. Far from it—in fact, such a thing would be a great loss, as there is a great deal

when confronted with a policy, says “hold up, let’s talk about this.” Many groan and bemoan this as “politics.” Oh the inefficiency of government—what a worthless cadre of bickering old white men, they say (although they may very well not be able to get away with saying this any longer). Their lips are not the first to bear the cry “our doctrine is action.” Against such hasty, hot-headed forces, conservatism stands as a bulwark. Even the validity of a good idea does not justify its hasty and ramshackle inception; instead, we should see the wariness of the conservative as a good thing, giving us the chance to improve upon the new and make sure that the policies we implement are good and efficacious. But that is not all that conservatism brings to us.

Conservatism is often tarred as the doctrine of “the elites,” and conservatives are lambasted as classists. However, before jumping on the populist train (and I assure you that as a good principled liberal I very much want to jump on the populist train), let us consider what it is that is being attacked. Are we attacking

reward those who do pursue expert knowledge. This does not mean we devalue those who fulfill different roles, but we certainly should not try to hold the ridiculous pretense that they both are capable of performing the same function, because they are not. We should not, therefore, be wary of this idea of “class”; class is only a negative force when people cannot, through their own actions, change their class by education (because then the system is inefficient as it wastes potential talent). But the system is functioning perfectly and efficiently when it rewards expert knowledge with wealth in a direct correlation (not because they are more valuable, but because of supply and demand—there is a greater demand with smaller supply of such people). The conservative can be summed up in a single phrase—the champion of efficiency. We are certainly in need of such people.

True conservatism, then, is not about religious fundamentalism or anti-intellectualism, but rather a devotion to prudent and pro-industry business policy. We

## v. conserve

we (and I say we meaning those of us, myself included, who do not identify as conservatives) can learn from conservatism.

But what does conservatism mean? First, let us breakdown the etymology of the word. It comes from the Latin verb *conservare*, which means to strongly protect, conserve, save, safeguard, or keep watch. From these roots comes a sense of caution that is a part of the conservative identity. The conservative,

success? Are we attacking excellence? Are we attacking expertise, knowledge, or skill? If that is the case, then such cries of classism stem more from jealous prejudice than rational argumentation.

Specialization is what creates elites and it is specialization that drives the industrial economy. The truth of our modern economy is that we must become experts if we are to succeed. Therefore, we should praise and

recognize the need for such forces to provide a balance with the equally necessary forces of labor and risk (after all risk creates growth but also disaster). We see that by tempering our policies with both conservatism and other ideologies we are able to arrange at a healthy mix of caution and risk that drives real economic growth. For that we should thank conservatism. So the next time you see a crotchety conservative—give them a hug. ■

# PUBLIC OPINION Q & A

PSU students comment on what "conservative" means to them

By Tessie Lopez

Public discourse surrounding the results of the 2008 Presidential election have led individuals to evaluate the meaning of conservatism and how the Republican Party finds itself in an identity crisis. What does the conservative philosophy represent? Who does the conservative philosophy represent? What does it mean to identify as Republican or as leaning Right? The answers to these questions differ among individuals who feel that these labels apply to their philosophies. Labels such as conservative and Republican run the risk of oversimplification when complexity defines the bulk of their meaning.

To develop an idea of how individuals define conservatism, two students from PSU shared their views on what the label "conservative" means to them.

Sean Walter; a third year student preparing for a degree in social sciences, believes that "a conservative is a traditionalist who believes in individual and family responsibility and who serves and respects the country".

When asked about political preferences, Walter refers to himself as a citizen with views stemming from the Center and leaning Right.

Brendan Monaghan, a Conservative Libertarian, is an alumnus from Ohio State University and is currently preparing for his Master's degree in Political Science. Monaghan states that "freedom and individual rights, personal responsibility, and economic liberty" define his personal view of conservatism.

## SEAN WALTER:

"In general, there are four types of conservative groups. One, are straight moderates. The second are secular conservatives- they aren't focused on issues from any religious stance, although they may be religious, they don't focus on religion. The third are Christian Conservatives- they focus on issues from a religious perspective. Another group is socially moderate but fiscally conservative".



Left to Right: Devin Monaghan, Congressman Greg Walden, and Brendan Monaghan

TPS: What are your political views?

Walter: Overall I'm a moderate person. I have mixed views up and down the line...I see both sides...Frankly, I'm gay but I'm also a Christian. On one hand I want the freedom liberals want to give...on the other hand I want the Christian conservative values in my personal life. A lot of the liberal ideas don't fit me or my partner's position.

For example, I believe in the Second Amendment. Gun control is a great idea that doesn't work. I believe in the right to self defense with some restriction.

TPS: What should a conservative look for in a leader?

Walter: I want somebody that will question and take on his or her party to get things done. I want a leader with common sense politics and also someone who didn't have a privileged background.

TPS: Identify one strength from the McCain campaign.

Walter: During his twenty years in office, he's never done earmarks and he's never taken anything from lobbyists. I'm sorry he didn't get enough attention about that.

TPS: Identify one weakness during the McCain campaign.

Walter: McCain had a disorganized campaign. Saying that he didn't know anything about the economy was horrible. Nobody in the country wants to hear something like that, especially from a candidate.

## BRENDAN MONAGHAN:

"As conservatives we need to figure out where we stand because there are a lot of different conservatives who view issues differently. At least from my perspective, I think that our priority as Republicans and Conservatives is to use conservatism to present a positive alternative to liberal ideas. There are a lot of issues that conservatives aren't talking about at all".

TPS: What do conservatives believe in?

Monaghan: We believe that the proper role of government is to provide only that of which individuals and private groups can't do for themselves. We

believe in limited government, individual freedom and rights, personal responsibility, economic free enterprises, a strong economy, and a strong national defense.

TPS: What is your conservative philosophy?

Monaghan: I consider myself a Conservatarian- a conservative libertarian. For the most part I think that individuals should be free to live their lives however they see fit, either socially or economically. Government should place a limited role in that. If what you're doing isn't harming anyone else, then you should be able to do it and the Federal government should be left out of it.

TPS: How might conservatives be viewed?

Monaghan: We're the party of no and negativity. We're scaring people with the issues like abortion and stem cell research. We have an opportunity to presenting our own ideas and we need to create positive solutions to these issues.

TPS: Who would you say is an example of good conservatism?

Monaghan: Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives. I remember reading a book he wrote called Winning the Future. In this book he came up with ideas on energy, government reform, healthcare, etc- all ideas that were ahead of his time...thinking conservatives need to use the power of conservatism to tackle today's ideas. Not the way Ronald Reagan or others dealt with things 20-30 years ago. We need a new approach to tackle those ideas. The General approach is that our party needs to be a positive alternative. This is where we need to go as a party and a movement. ■

# Punk Versus Prep

A metaphor for social change

By Rebecca Rudawitz

When I consider what is “conservative,” I can only express it in terms of a contrast because the word is meaningless when left on its own. Conservatives like things as they are or as they were while Liberals like change. Thus conservatives are the guardians of tradition - traditional values and ways of doing things. And in favor of keeping things as they are, we don't want the government getting all hyperactive and carried away, and so conservatives seek to keep power in the hands of individuals instead. After all, an individual is best able to determine the level of risk that they are willing to endure. And risk is always inherent in any change.

Don't get me wrong, I like change. Not changing means growing outdated and stagnant, becoming still, and dwelling in a world that no longer exists. But one does not need to change in immense leaps and bounds merely because it is possible to do so. Change is dangerous. Change means striding forward into a future that might or might not be safe or secure or reasonable. When we consider the change we want to bring about in this world, we need to consider what we are willing to surrender for that change.

Tradition is safe and comforting. It is that-which-has-worked and thus brings with it a certain level of security and understanding of its effects. We cling to tradition because it is a summary of the human experiences that came before us and the mandates and desires of the people who helped make those traditions stick when the



other methods and other rituals vanished into obscurity.

Some may choose tradition because they are afraid of change. Some may choose tradition because it benefits them to keep things the way they are or were. But some choose tradition because they believe that the risk to themselves and others isn't worth the possible outcome of embracing change instead. This is a decision based in morality and contemplation, and must be seen as a decision, a conscious choice to move slowly into a future that is far from clear.

So while people advocating for change stomp their feet in frustration, wondering why we don't have public healthcare or gay marriage, there are also people who cling to tradition wondering what program the money will come from or what

the effect on marriage and family will be when they get redefined. It isn't that they don't want to help. No one stands around saying, “you know, I want to see more dead and dying” or “I think certain segments of the population ought to be miserable.” The problem is that they don't trust the system to use its power to reach the intended good, and they are worried that failure or even success may have unintended consequences that will make things worse.

The difficulty is that people who desperately want change and people who frantically want tradition are locked together in the same political system where they have to engage with each other. Progressives and Conservatives are like a Punk-rocker and a Preppy handcuffed together. The Punk-rocker is restless and frustrated and trying to drag the Preppy along in the direction she wants to go, while the Preppy is angry and stubborn and not at all willing to be moved. And the more the Punk-rocker tugs the more the Preppy digs in her feet. They won't go anywhere yet they can't separate from the other's influence.

Change happens. It may come fast, it may come slow, but it is unavoidable. The only question is how we prepare for and mediate the problems it brings along with it. ■

# Milestones in Conservative Thought

## The Roots of American Order, by Russel Kirk

Essay by Mikel McDaniel

*From now until June, the Milestones series of the Portland Spectator will undertake a short survey of some of the most prominent pieces of literature informing the modern American conservative ethos. Each month's issue will feature a brief essay introducing one major work from several prominent American, French, and English writers.*

We began this journey through the roots of American conservatism with *The Conservative Mind* by Russel Kirk, a book with ambitions somewhat similar to those of this series. This book mapped-out the terrain we were to travel, but we now return to Dr. Kirk in his capacity as an actual exemplar of conservative thought, and not just a reporter. Our current book is Kirk's *The Roots of American Order*, which is technically a history book, but one very unlike any textbook you've likely encountered. Instead of simply cataloging a series of events in chronological order, Kirk's book is more like a story of the ideas that have come to define the United States of America, and their adventures traveling through more than 3000 years of Western history.

Dr. Kirk begins the story in ancient Egypt and Palestine, illuminating the ideas that sprang from the ancient Hebrew tradition. While mentioning the tales of Moses and the early Israelites – mostly according to the Bible – the main focus of the narrative is the evolution of the culture surrounding these tales. One of the fundamental ideas encountered in this leg of the story is that God is the ultimate source of order: in the universe, the nation, the town, the family, and even the individual. Attached to this is the important concept of “revelation” as a source of knowledge apart from independent human reason and experience – a key ingredient in the later mixture

of Hebrew and Greek cultures. The primary example of revelatory knowledge, and one that continues to shape our lives in the 21st century, is the receiving of the famous Ten Commandments.

After Israel, the story then jumps westward to a new cast of characters coming into being on the peninsula of Greece. Obviously, the ideas of Plato and Aristotle are discussed, including their role in developing modern conceptions of utopian societies. But as regards the future of the American Republic, Kirk is actually more interested in discussing the ideas of the famous Athenian king Solon. Though not as popular as some of the philosophers that hail from his city, Solon nevertheless made the first recognizable codification of the notion of “mixed government”, whereby differently constituted bodies compete with and check each other in order to balance government control. Just as we do today, Solon poised political power upon three branches: one somewhat like a monarchy, one like an aristocracy, and one like a democracy (or “commonwealth”).

Greece naturally transitions into Rome, and the distinctive flavor of Roman law and virtue. Using a famous line from Virgil, Kirk summarizes the Roman spirit with three Latin words: labor, pietas, and fatum. Each word has its representative counterpart in English, but the translations are not so direct. Labor does, in fact, mean work – especially the cultivation of the earth. But pietas does not only refer to what we call “piety”, but also some of what we would call “patriotism”, or a sacred connection to one's homeland. And fatum refers to the ultimate destiny for which something exists; it can be translated as “mission”. Also in this analysis is the important development of Natural Law theory – to which end Kirk considers the work of Marcus Tullius Cicero – as well as some of the public





School of Athens featuring Aristotle and Plato, Painting by Raphael 1508–11; Vatican, Rome

institutions that we today still use.

The Hellenic and Hebraic threads finally intertwine with the coming of Christianity, and the deal is sealed with the religion's subsequent establishment in the Roman Empire. The tales of St. Paul's famous travels spreading the gospel are recounted from both biblical and other historical and literary sources, wherein Dr. Kirk makes the distinction between sacred and secular history, and the important point that – even if it is scientifically unsupportable – a religious revelation is just as relevant to the history of ideas as is a historical fact. Kirk's final word on the character of Christianity and its contribution to Western civilization is actually three words: faith, hope, and charity. These three words still animate the face of Christianity and the Church to this day.

The Middle Ages in Europe, during which Christianity had achieved its significant foothold on the continent, saw the last remains of the Roman empire whither away and the building blocks of what would become modern republican institutions first being erected. England was one of the most important nations in this process of political construction, for it was from this nation that we derive the concept and the supremacy of the Common Law, or judge-made law (as opposed to legislator-law). It was also during the Middle Ages that one of the most significant bastions of intellectual development first began to sprout: the University.

The Middle Ages end with the Protestant Reformation and the bitter wars of religion attached to the movement. In England, the Reformation takes a unique twist in being merely used to separate the nation from the papacy in Rome, but not from the Church's traditions and institutions as had been entrenched in England for hundreds of years prior. Thus the Church of England – as well as the

connected civil war – begins to define many of the modern conceptions about the proper relationship of church and state, the so-called "two-edged sword".

The first Pilgrims to found settlements on the New World did a great deal to determine the future shape of the nation that would inhabit both those shores and the several-thousand mile stretch of land between them and the Pacific Ocean. The British government's long-respected policy of "salutary neglect" towards the colonies gave the settlers plenty of freedom to craft local governments based upon both established European (especially English) models as well as religious convictions. In fact, some of the early American legal codes were little more than rewritings of selections from the Books of Moses. It was this Puritan spirit wedded to English legal procedures that created the independent, industrious, and pious American attitude that survived the Revolution.

The story obviously ends after the founding of the United States of America (actually it does extend just a bit further to cover the Civil War). Dr. Kirk makes the familiar and important argument that the American Revolution was a revolution "not made, but prevented", distinguishing it sharply from the horrific and violent French Revolution. This climax is crucial in tying together all of the threads begun at earlier parts of the book, for the Revolution was not an attempt to cast off this enormous heritage, but was rather a demand to allow that heritage to persist against the radical demands of an English king who had grown beyond his means. The American Revolution was in fact both the establishment of very deeply conservative principles and also a celebration of an august tapestry of moral, political, and religious traditions that wind back to the roots of civilization itself. ■

# Oregon Energy: What the Future Holds

A Portland neighborhood experiments  
with community distributed energy

By Andreu Ferrero

Oregon has always taken pride in the fact that we are on the cutting edge of new technology, and innovative ways to power our lives. We here in Portland live “greener” lives when compared to similar communities around America. What does that mean though? Sure, Portland is bicycle friendly, we have a great public transportation center, and even Al Gore recognizes PSU for its efforts in sustainability. With all this recognition, it’s easy to let the fresh air get to our heads, but there is still work to be done and difficult questions to ask.

One person asking such questions is John Sorenson, the founder of Sunnyside Neighborhood Energy. Societies around the world face different challenges concerning infrastructure, energy sources, and agriculture. Most of the Netherlands lies below sea level, inspiring some of the most innovative engineering projects that exist today. High elevation Farmers in Vietnam have developed mountainside tiered agriculture, creating

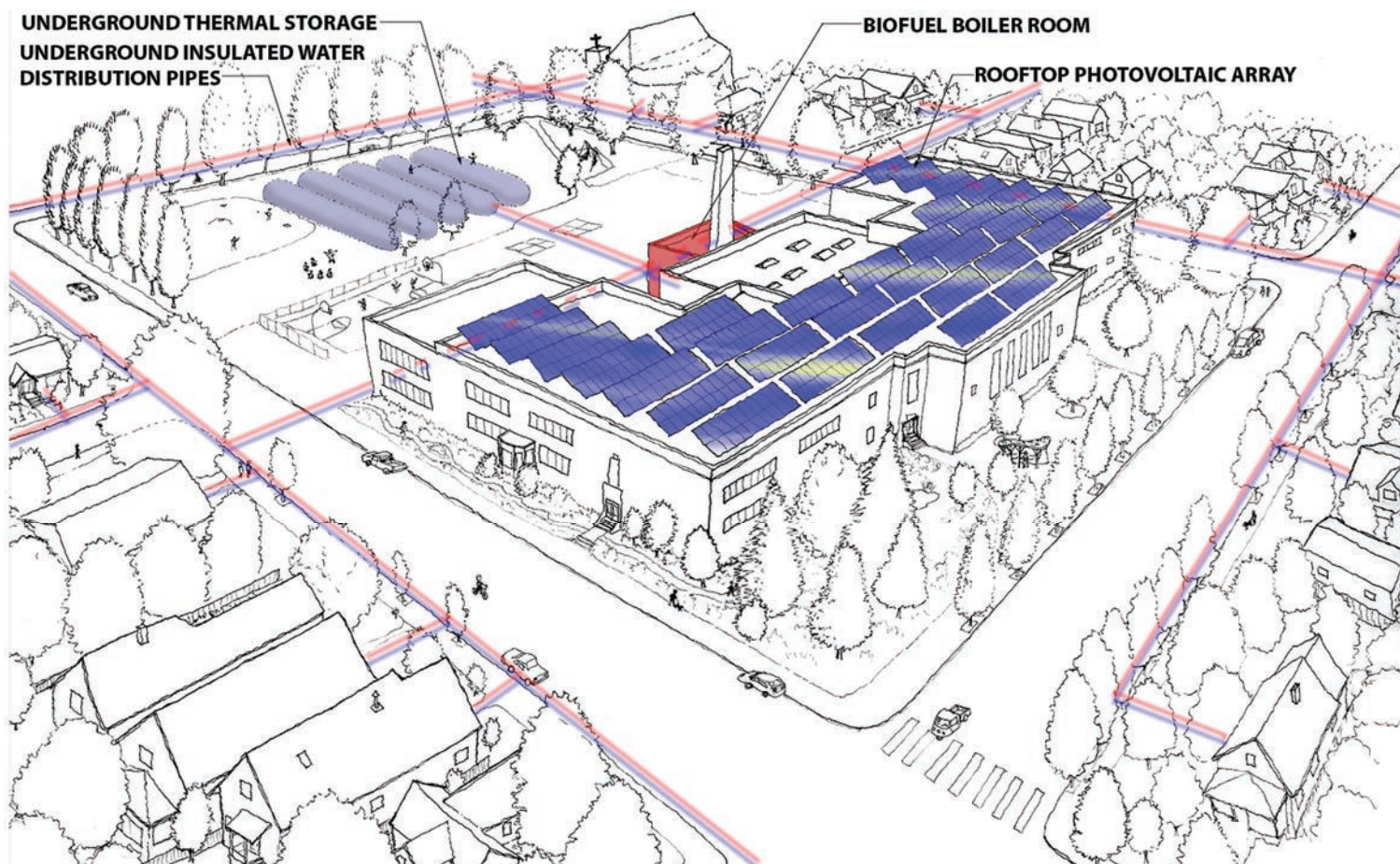


sustainable food resources for future generations. The question asked by Sorenson is – if areas of the world that require innovative thinking are achieving answers, why can’t we relate those ideas to our developing energy and economic crisis?

Possible reasons for not using these ideas can range from political barriers to lack of awareness. Many innovative projects are

being developed in Oregon, from cap-and-trade programs, to feed in tariff legislation. A common thread with most of these projects is that we need to change some of the ways laws dictate what can be used as an energy source, as well as the ways power is provided to consumers. Sunnyside Neighborhood Energy, or, SunNE, is in the development phase of a project that utilizes existing technology and legislation.

The project center is the Sunnyside Environmental School (S.E.S) located in the Sunnyside neighborhood in south-east Portland, between Belmont and 30th to Hawthorne and 39th. The project hopes to supply 350-500 homes with thermal energy to provide heating and hot water. Photovoltaic cells located on the S.E.S, as well as commercial buildings in the area, will provide power to a heat source in the school. Ground source heat pumps are one of many ideas for the heat source. The idea is that water will be heated and transported through underground pipes to the surrounding



Drawing by Sebastian Collet Design

community. Homeowners that opt into the program will have their home energy efficiency upgraded. As much as 80% of a household's energy use comes from the heating and cooling systems, according to the Federal Information Administration.

SunNE will address individual home upgrade needs based on previous power consumption, and energy use practices. The goal of this will be to reduce the overall energy consumption, which in turn reduces a consumer's energy bill. What are the costs, both initial and long term? As we all know it is expensive to upgrade a home built in the early 20th century, which is the condition of most houses in the S.E. neighborhoods. The

**...we need to change some of the ways laws dictate what can be used as an energy source...**

initial cost would be covered by SunNE utility, with the consumer paying back the utility in the form of their thermal energy bill. The economic

viability has already been proven in communities such as Copenhagen, Denmark.

Thermal heating is also four times more efficient than traditional electric heat pumps. So the real question is – what is the true value of the energy source that you are using? As fossil fuel prices increase, so will energy produced by burning those fuels. The sun is not a limited resource however, and is available to everyone without increasing costs. ■

To learn more you can log on to the Sunnyside neighborhood energy website



[www.sunnysideneighborhoodenergy.wikispaces.com](http://www.sunnysideneighborhoodenergy.wikispaces.com)

Another website that can direct you further into what is going on in terms of renewable energy in the northwest is:



**NW Energy Coalition**

[www.nwenergy.org/](http://www.nwenergy.org/)

Fitness

# Water

By Jolene Johnson

Do you know how much water you should have each day? According to many Naturopath's, we should drink  $\frac{1}{2}$  our weight in ounces of water per day. So if you are 150 lbs. you should drink approx. 75 oz. per day. Moderation is key with everything. Even too much water will kill you (we are talking gallons and gallons here).

There is a surprising amount of controversy about how much water is scientifically appropriate. I propose trying the suggested amount of water and seeing how you feel. In my experience, people feel better when they drink more water. We are over 60% water. If we go three days without water we die. Many

of the people I have surveyed as a personal trainer drink an average of 4 cups per day.

**Bottled water companies don't answer to the public, they answer to shareholders.**

Many people find that they eat less food when they drink their recommended servings of water. We may eat when we are actually thirsty. I find that I have a clearer mind and have fewer headaches when I drink 8-10 cups per day. Drinking water throughout the day rather than all at once is preferable.

Making water portable is simple at PSU. There is a water filter station in Food For Thought Café in the basement of Smith and in front of the ASPSU office on the first floor of Smith. If you can't find it just go to the information booth and



you are almost there. Buy a non-plastic container. If you can't buy a Sigg or other cool bottle use a little glass bottle.

Water is one of the most affordable and expensive commodities. According to the blogmistress at the Portland Water Bureau, Jennie Day-Burget regarding our local tap water, "4 gallons cost a penny and 748 gallons (1 ccf) cost \$2.07." Compare this to bottled water. We have chosen to spend \$16/ gallon for something that we can get free. Figure this- if we

keep the math simple, \$1 for 8 ounces of water. There is approximately 128 oz. in a gallon. This is \$16/ gallon. Water is being sold like food and more profitable than gas.

Bringing your own water bottle is not only cost effective it is a sustainable choice. Portland's water is some of the best water. It is from Bull Run and does not have to be filtered. The filter is for the pipes, since water pipes can leach crud (that is not a scientific term) into the water.

Personally, I drink filtered water when I can. Especially at PSU because of the old pipes. Bottlemania author Elizabeth Roytle put it well, she writes, "with at least one certainty: not all tap water is perfect. But it is the devil we know, the devil we have standing to negotiate with and improve. Bottled water companies don't answer to the public, they answer to shareholders. As Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman write in Thirst, 'If citizens no longer control their most basic resource, their water, do they really control anything at all?'" ■

# Even in Haiti, A Difference Can be Made

How a faith-based organization is going into the forgotten corners of the world

By Samantha Berrier

In a country with open-ended opportunities, it is easy to forget the world that surrounds our home of freedom. As we begin to face the reality of our declining economy, it is important to be grateful for the free-market capitalism that offers so much liberty in the workplace. As the job market grinds to a halt, the government stands behind the unfortunate with unemployment and social security. Not every country is as fortunate as we are here in the United States. World awareness is essential and it is our responsibility as a wealthy country to contribute what we can to the innocent children around the world who lack the same liberties.

Brock Morgan of the Church on the Hill in Salem had a vision to make a difference in a place where there is almost no help being offered. With the support of the Church, Morgan led a group of eleven volunteers through the jungles of Haiti where they lived among the poorest of the poor, where there is no state security blanket, and where families prayed to Haitian Voodoo deities, in the hope of saving themselves from the real devastation of starvation.

Prior to the trip, a few of the volunteers chose to financially support a child living off an island of Haiti. "Compassion International" is a faith-based organization that invites people to choose a child somewhere around the world and with tax-deductible contribution of \$32 a month, a child's life, as well as their family's life, is drastically changed. The painless monthly contribution gives the child shoes to wear and clothes to cover his body and also gives the family enough to eat to survive their conditions. A few days following their arrival to Haiti, the volunteers, who participated in Compassion International, were given a chance to meet their compassion child, where many of these kids would call these volunteers their "savior".

Throughout their journey, the volunteers spent their time portioning rice and beans for the villagers, delivering food to different villages around the island, and fellowshiping with the village children. Rather than simply preaching to the village, the volunteers took it upon themselves to walk along side the villagers and encourage their walk with God—inspiring hope and compassion.

The volunteers discovered that the villagers practiced spiritual rituals for the purpose of sparing their family from death. These rituals consisted of protective charms worn around the neck and frequent bathing in "demon" blessed pools. During this mission, Morgan and his team faced many challenges where they had no choice, but to trust in God. Unlike America, where at any point in time, we can call AAA to bail us



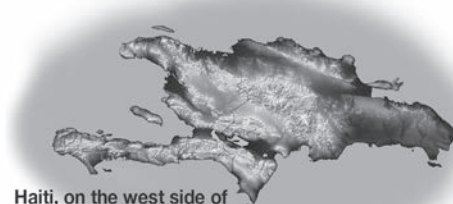
About 95% of Haitians are predominantly of Afro-Caribbean descent. The official languages are French and standardized Haitian Creole.

out when our vehicle fails, there was no phone, let alone a number to call in a time of need. Jennifer Morrison illustrates how she found a savior on the first day in Haiti, "God changed the whole trip... We left with two trailers and two trucks and returned with one truck and one trailer. Through a series of wheels falling off, failing water pumps and temperamental engines, I realized that God will do things his way and there is nothing we can do about it except pay attention." Everyday, they relied on their faith in God to move these people and to lead the team as they sought to complete their mission.

This experience left the volunteers with a taste of the struggles that communities face around the world. Kelsey Morgan, wife to Brock, expresses her dramatically changed view of the world, "Seeing people living in sheer poverty, chanting 'You did not forget us!' as we drove into town with bags of rice, beans, oil, and cornmeal. That must change the way you view your own circumstance. The world is in a desperate crisis, and I must choose to be the positive difference for their sake and mine."

Despite the hardships the villagers face, Jennifer Morrison points out, "God can be found in every country, we are no more blessed than a hungry family serving God in Haiti." With this new awareness, we can make a difference by supporting World Vision and Compassion International.

Both are organizations with stations located in Haiti. Morrison reminds us that, "Anyone can pray, prayer is a necessity all the time, and is frequently overlooked". Whether it is through prayer or financially supporting organizations helping those in need, together we can make a difference. ■



Haiti, on the west side of Hispaniola, is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

## Vincent's Page

# Going to the Derby

By Vincent Berretta

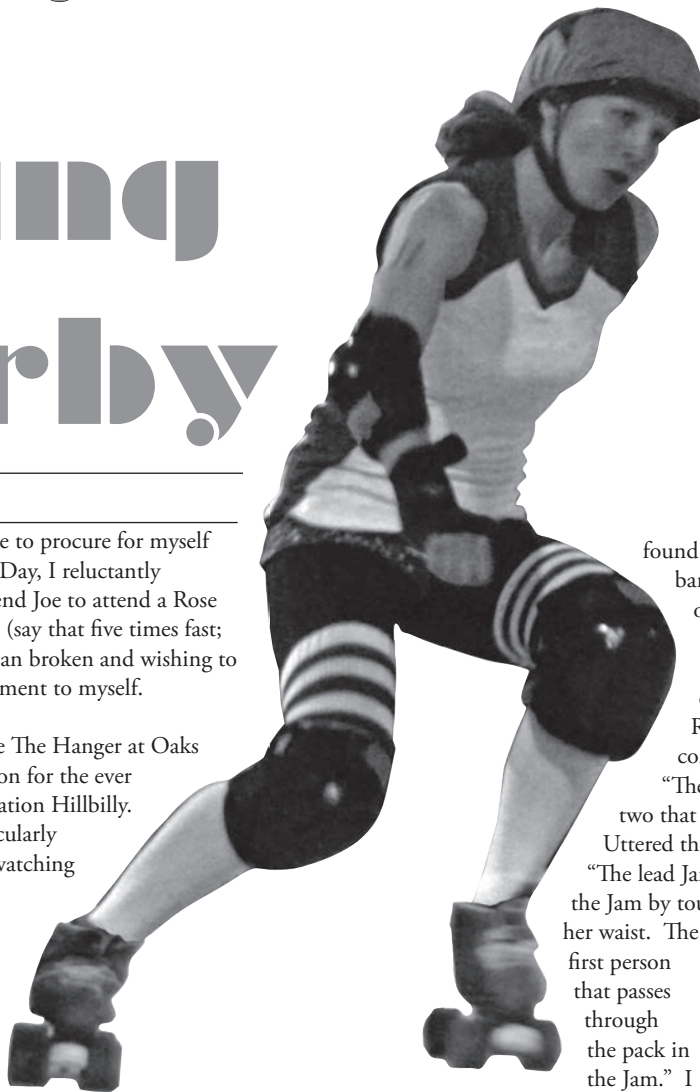
First, a confession. Unable to procure for myself a lovely lass for this Valentine's Day, I reluctantly accepted a request from my friend Joe to attend a Rose City Rollers Roller Derby Bout (say that five times fast; silently, to yourself). I was a man broken and wishing to add insult to injury as a punishment to myself.

We pulled up outside The Hanger at Oaks Park. Ah Oaks Park, that bastion for the ever needing to rotate until regurgitation Hillbilly. Needless to say, I was not particularly excited to see said Billy inside watching suggestively clad women skate around and beat each other up.

As we entered, I was struck by the similarities between The Hanger and the inside of a high-school boys wrestling gym; both in appearance and smell. But was delighted to find that there seemed to be considerably fewer perverts than I had imagined.

After redeeming our beer coupons (they had cans of fat tire which is pretty classy I have to admit) we took a couple of seats near the action. While the girls skated by, the announcer called out their stage names to signal the beginning of the bout. At this point Joe, going to a prone position, tried (I assume) to take some pictures up the girls' skirts. It seems I wasn't the only one suffering from a loveless V-day.

And they were off. The action seemed slow at first. That is, if you don't know what to look for. And I had no idea what to look for. I knew there were mounds of female flesh in tights skating around in circles and that I was cheering alongside a portly fellow who sat amid four empty Pabst cans but I didn't know what I was cheering for.



The answers came I found out the rules (see side bar) and the significance of the "Jammers" whilst talking to Grace Lightning of the Guns and Rollers – a team not competing that night. "The Jammers are the only two that can score points," Uttered the honey-voiced siren, "The lead Jammer can call off the Jam by touching her hands to her waist. The lead jammer is the first person

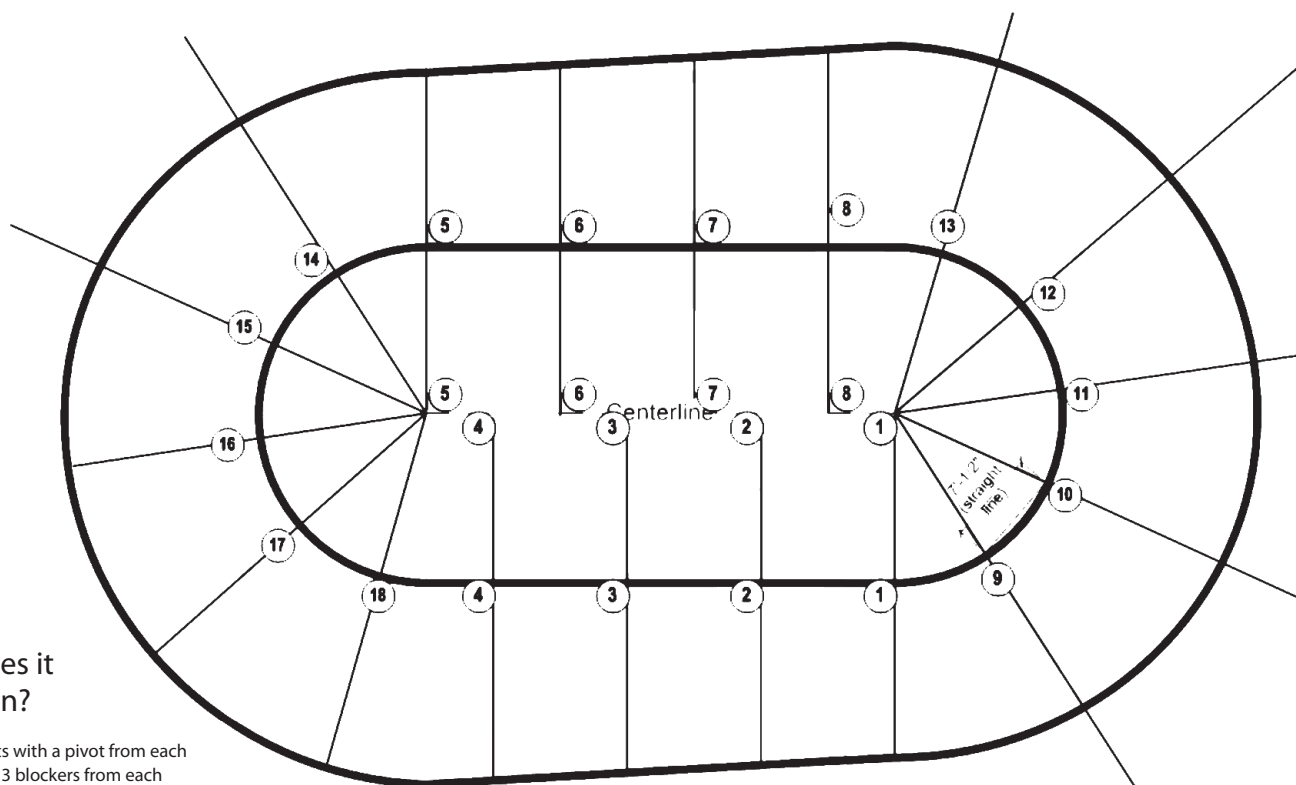
that passes through the pack in the Jam." I

wanted to continue talking to her, but she told me to leave because I had a stolen a (large) man's seat.

With my newfound wisdom, the match became a lot more interesting. I didn't much concern myself with the score or the back and forth, but became increasingly engrossed in individual plays; good passes, big hits, strategic waist touching.

Unfortunately it ended all too soon. We attended the suggested after-party at O'Malley's. All the stars were there, but at that point they were larger than life (sometimes literally) and we didn't want to push our luck trying to talk to them. Off we recoiled into the darkness, that night for lovers, fully jammed ■

Left: #11 of the Heartless Heathers, leading the packing and scoring points. Photo by Joe Wirtheim



## How Does it Go Down?

The pack starts with a pivot from each team in front, 3 blockers from each team in the middle, and a jammer from each team in the back.

When the whistle blows, the pack takes off, and on a second whistle, the jammers start fighting their way through the pack in an attempt to be named "lead jammer."

The jammers lap the pack and – upon reentering – receive one point for each member of the opposing team that they pass.

Jams? What's that?  
"A jam" lasts a maximum of two minutes, but the "lead jammer" has the right to call off the jam at her discretion.

What are Roller Derby match called?  
Bouts.

How many girls are on one team?  
5 girls on the track at a time, 10 - 15 girls per team.

How many girls play in a single jam?  
5 per team.

Learn More at the Women's Flat Track Derby Association website:  
<http://www.wftda.com/>  
and the  
local Rose City Rollers at:  
<http://rosecityrollers.com/>



#44 of the Heartless Heathers - Mobi-wan-kanobi - scoots around the outside of the pack.  
Photos by Joe Wirthheim



#53 of the Heartless Heathers - Mick U Cry - breaking through the pack.

# Student Government

Applying is the easy part

Ever get frustrated with your school? Have you considered doing something about it? Applications for candidacy in next year's student government positions are due this month. Get your voice heard by both the student body and the administration. Candidates are required to take at least six undergraduate or five graduate credits to qualify for a stipend, and to remain a student in good standing during the term of office.

**ASPSU**  
Associated Students of PSU

- SALT 119
- Phone: 503-725-5653
- Web: www.aspsu.pdx.edu

**Instructions for the Application of Candidacy**

Aboriginal Activists Group, Queensland, 1970's: "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." -Lilla W.

**Statement to Potential Candidates:**  
If you are interested in running for an elected office in the student government, you must complete and return this application by the stated deadline. Completing and returning this application does not constitute automatic recognition as a formal candidate. Requirements for candidacy as outlined in the Elections Board Bylaws and Constitution must be met before being recognized as a formal candidate. Application of candidacy must be filled out completely and legibly or it may be invalid.

**Instructions:**

1. Complete a statement of candidacy that includes information such as your name, address, phone number, qualifications, affiliations (with campus organizations), reasons for seeking office, year in school, why you would be of value to the student body, position, and/or any other information that may be relevant to your candidacy. The statement must be no more than 250 words. The following are the positions and their word limits:  

President & Vice President (combined)	250
Student Fee Committee (SFC) Chair	150
Student Senator	100
SFC Member	100
2. Turn in (1) copy of the application of candidacy including statement of candidacy, and (1) electronic copy to the SALT office (SMSU 119), and (1) electronic copy to the Elections Board (eboard@pdx.edu) through the ASPSU website (www.aspsu.pdx.edu). All copies are due by 5:00pm, Friday, March 20th, 2009.
3. Must attend one candidate orientation meet-and-greet event on Friday, March 20th, 2009, located in SMSU 101, Parkway room. A meet-and-greet will be made up of consecutive Fridays, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March. The orientation has been made up.
4. The photo, which will appear next to your name on the ballot, must be taken at the orientation meeting session.

Please write in the name of your running mate if you are running for either the President or Vice President and mark which one you are:

\_\_\_\_ President & Vice President

\_\_\_\_ SFC Chair

\_\_\_\_ Senator

\_\_\_\_ SFC Member

Full name: (Last, First, M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on the ballot: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this document, I agree to abide by the guidelines as stated in the ASPSU Constitution, Portland State University Policies, and The Elections Board Bylaws. Information regarding these guidelines will be provided at the candidate orientation. I acknowledge that any violations I make, of the aforementioned policies, may lead to my disqualification as a candidate. In addition, I agree to be registered for a minimum of six undergraduate or five graduate credits each term if I expect to receive a stipend, otherwise, I agree to be registered for 4 undergraduate credits or 1 graduate credit. I will remain in good standing through the end of the elections.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Positions available:

- President
- Vice President
- Student Fee Committee Chair
- Student Fee Committee Member
- Student Senator

## Important dates:

- 3/6/2009, First candidate orientation
- 3/13/2009, Second candidate orientation
- 3/20/2009, Third candidate orientation
- 3/20/2009, Applications due

## Checklist for candidates:

1. Fill out Application for Candidacy (pick them up at the ASPSU office on the first floor of Smith).
2. Write a Statement of Candidacy – check Application for appropriate word-lengths.
3. Attend JUST ONE of the candidate orientations.
4. Get your photo taken while at the orientation.
5. Turn in the paper-copy of your Application and Statement to SMSU 119.
6. Send an electronic copy of your Application and Statement to the Election Board at eboard@pdx.edu.