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The Portland Spectator, March/April 2008

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The Portland
Spectator

UNIVERSAL TERRORISM

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MARCH/APRIL 2008

The Portland Spectator

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WELCOME TO THE PORTLAND SPECTATOR

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.

The current environment of political correctness, political fundamentalism and mob mentality stifles genuine political debate.

We encourage the expression of diverse ideology to promote thought-provoking discussions.

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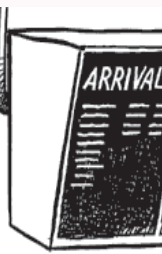
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J. Helleman



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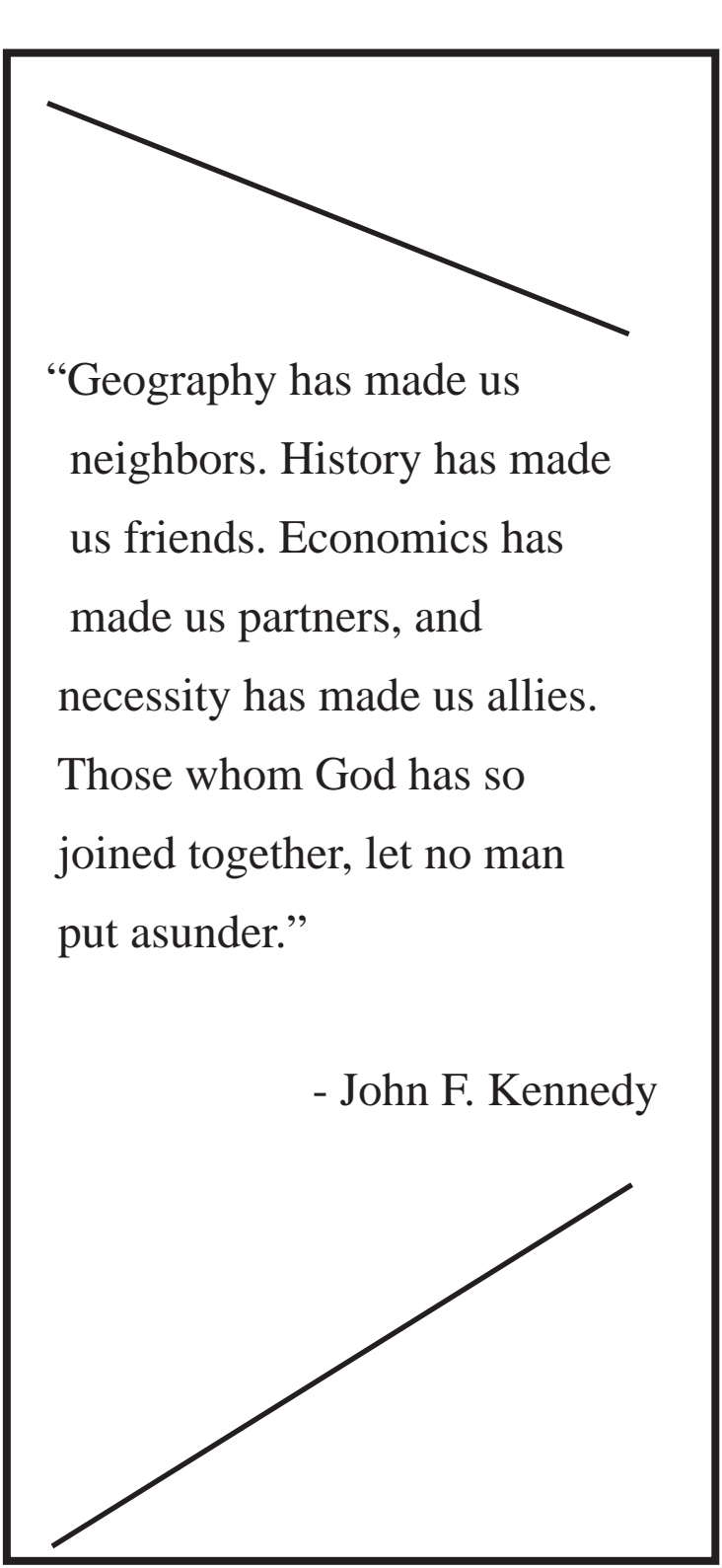
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“Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder.”

- John F. Kennedy

TANGO THE TREMBLES AWAY Dance Proves Helpful in Alleviating Parkinson's Disease

Over one and a half million Americans suffer from Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder that causes a lack of balance and at the same time causing the body to tremble.

In a study funded by the American Parkinson's Association, researchers at Washington University in Montana found that dance helps alleviate the effects of Parkinson's disease.

According to an assistant professor of physical therapy, Gammon Earhart,

“...the movements that tango incorporates might specifically target some of the difficulties that people with Parkinson's disease have.

“To tango, the patients have to balance, turn, initiate steps, dance at different speeds, and walk backwards.”

Patients ages ranging from mid 40s to early 80s, found dramatic improvement with their mobility and balance after taking 20 dance classes.

For more medical breakthroughs, check out www.ivanhoe.com.

Advanced Gadgets in the Works FEEL FABRICS VIRTUALLY

The European Union currently funds scientists at the University of

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Geneva to complete the HAPTEX (Haptic Sensing of virtual textiles) project. According to the Advanced Media Network, Virtual reality is within reach, since haptics, the science that deals with the sense of touch, will allow people to incorporate touch while shopping online.

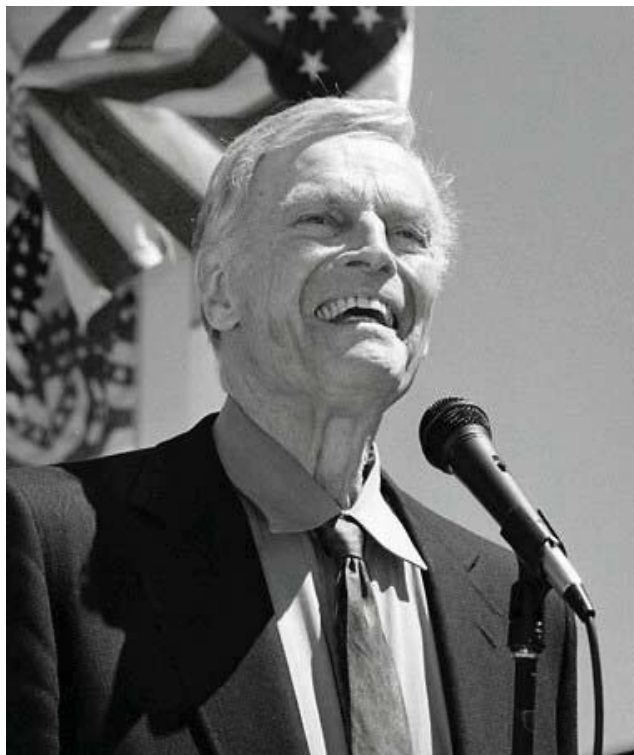
The project is estimated to run at about \$2.11 million, an amount taken from EU taxpayers. The timeline to have the project completed is one year from now to see whether or not the virtual reality gadget will truly exist.

The Life of Charlton Heston A BRIEF REFLECTION

By Michael F. DeVietro

Charlton Heston passed away on April 5, 2008. When he passed away, I reflected briefly on his life. I did what most people in my age group do, and I simply Googled his name. He was president of the National Rifle Association for a period of time and he was an actor but I didn't know that he was credited in over 200 films and TV episodes. Most of all, what I didn't know is that he was "political" long before his attachment to the NRA. He was a driving force behind much of the civil rights movement and campaigned for both Adlai Stevenson in 1956 and JFK in 1960. Surprisingly, he did his civil rights work prior to it becoming the popular thing for actors to do.

While all of these things made him shine brighter in my eyes, there was one fact that made me really think; after the death of Robert Kennedy, Heston took a strong position in support of the Gun control act of 1968. In my mind the gentleman was a gun rights hero and



Charlton Heston

October 4, 1924- April 6, 2008

when I first read this, I figured that he must have had an epiphany to then switch over to the gun rights lobby. What I realized is that more than a gun rights hero, he was a political hero because he was a political realist.

Heston realized that gun control was going to happen so he chose to support a moderate bill to prevent a more stringent bill from later passing. This should prove two things: first that we should all be more interested in the complete stories of our heroes and secondly, that we should be able to appreciate realism.

Rest in Peace Charlton Heston.

A Note From the Editor

AROUND THE FENCE AT THE PDX AIRPORT

Have you ever seen those Tom and Jerry cartoons where Tom the cat is always chasing Jerry the mouse? What's funny is how Jerry always outsmarts Tom. Imagine Tom chasing Jerry into a mouse hole. While Tom waits for Jerry to come out of that very hole, what he doesn't realize is that Jerry is already coming out of the other mouse hole behind him. Before Tom realizes it, Jerry sneaks up behind him and somehow manages to break or snap his tale.

For those of you that travel through air transportation, you may realize the strenuous process security takes into ensuring that terrorists not make it past their checkpoints.

What's funny is that while the interior of the airports are heavily guarded, the exterior of the airports seem to lack equally intense security.

Recently, I had the opportunity of taking a tour to the PDX airport. As I was driven all throughout the exterior, where the airplanes are parked, it struck me how the fence surrounding the airplanes, was simply barbed wired with no other forms of protection.

I inquired to the tour guide who works as a mechanic for the planes why the fences lacked more security.

His reply was, "what ever for?"

I responded with my Tom and Jerry analogy. He understood me when I further explained the following scenario:

"Ok, imagine a suicide bomber covered up in seriously damaging explosives. It seems easy

for that suicide bomber to hop over the fence and walk up to one of these airplanes. If that suicide bomber wanted to hijack an airplane, all he would have to do is threaten to blow him self up at the same time causing part of the airport to blow up."

My tour guide's reply was, "yeah, I guess you have a good point but wouldn't he need an inside source, someone working within the airport?"

"Not if he's a suicide bomber with some pretty powerful explosives."

He further explained that since I brought the issue up, he recalled seeing a couple of teenagers one night from the previous summer, wandering around the planes.



If curious harmless teenagers can jump over the fence at the Portland Airport or any airport that doesn't protect its fences, we have here the case of Tom and Jerry. While security intensifies its checkpoints from within the airport and ignores to see the other mouse hole (the exterior of the airport), before you know it, we may just experience the case of poor Tom's broken tale.

The chance of a suicide bomber actually performing a scenario like this perhaps isn't too likely but the idea is not too far-fetched either. Securing the entire airport would make more sense than solely intensely securing one area of the airport, which in this case is the interior.

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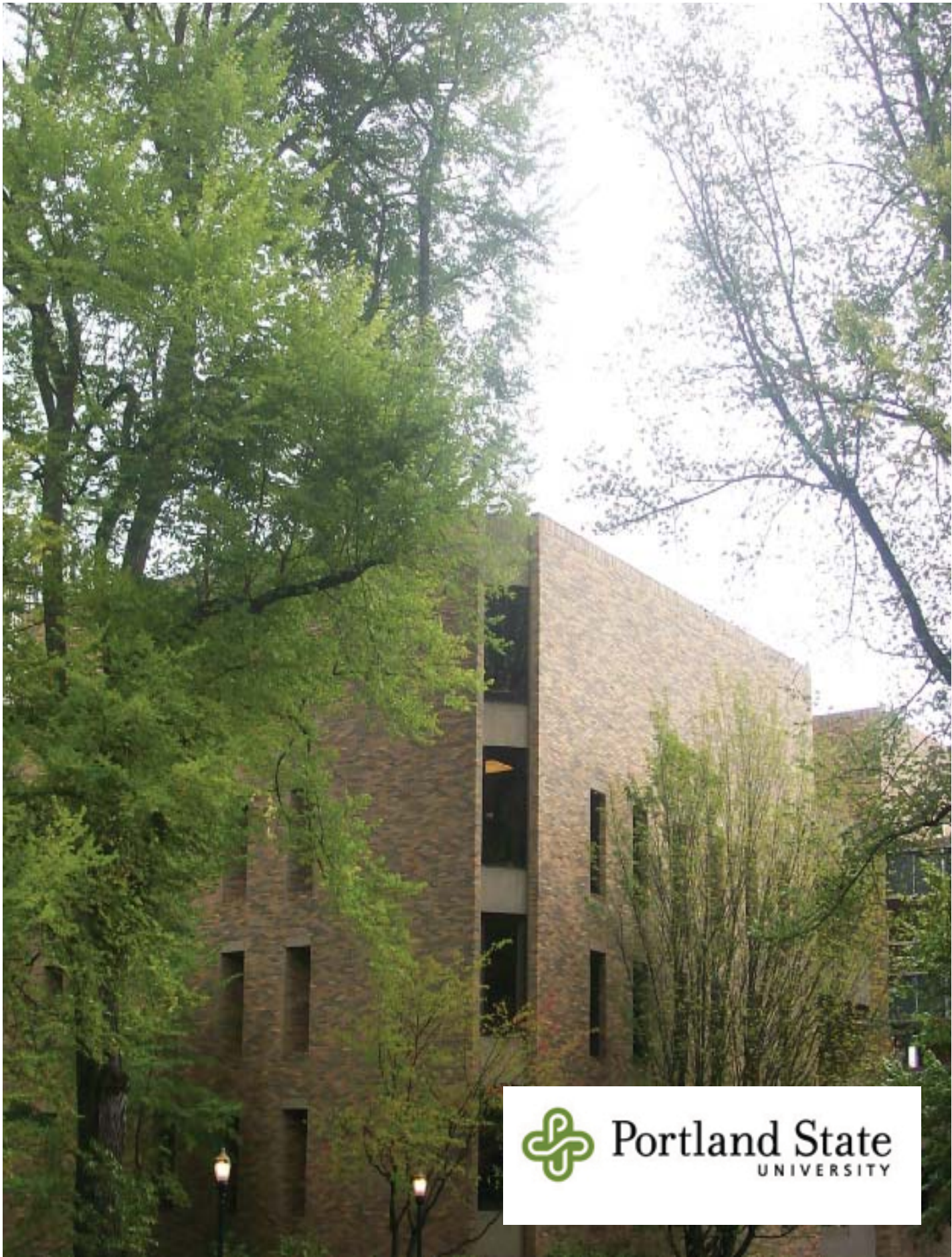
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MODERN CONSERVATISM

What it means to be conservative in the 21st century

By Mikel McDaniel

How a policy or candidate is packaged for the public tends to be the effort most relevant to its success. In many cases, voters may well hinge their support for a proposal upon the presence or absence of a word such as “conservative”. But what does it mean to be conservative? In the modern world, and even in the modern United States alone, the word adopts multifarious significances, in some cases even maintaining a reasonable claim to opposite sides of a political dispute.

Before committing oneself to the cause of a ballot measure or presidential candidate, it may be

worthwhile to take aside several moments and ponder what an author or advocate might wish to indicate when stamping

“...conservatism was considered much more an attitude than an ideology. The basic premise is that change should be slow and gradual, not revolutionary.”

the word “conservative” across his or her message.

Traditionally, conservatism was considered much more an attitude than an ideology. The basic premise is that change should be slow and gradual, not revolutionary. Traditions

are valued because they obviously work (otherwise they would not have survived to reach the status of “tradition”), so maintaining tradition is an imperative of conservative thought.

When change must occur, it should build from the solid foundation of the past and avoid “radicalism”. As such, it has been advocated by Western thinkers as far back as Marcus Tullius Cicero in the first century BC, but it was formalized by

an Irish statesman named Edmund Burke in the 18th century AD.

Writing during the Enlightenment, Burke was staunchly at odds with most of the famed thinkers of the time, including our nation’s Founding Fathers.

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It should be remembered that the American republic was built upon a revolution – a decidedly liberal tactic. Burke favored the monarch and the aristocracy, claiming that they have worked well for the people for centuries, and insisting that – while individual liberty sounds very admirable – allowing people to follow their independent reasoning is not nearly as reliable a foundation for society as tradition. Needless to say, most modern American conservatives find little in common with Burke’s ideas, and the treatment of conservatism as an attitude instead of an ideology is now

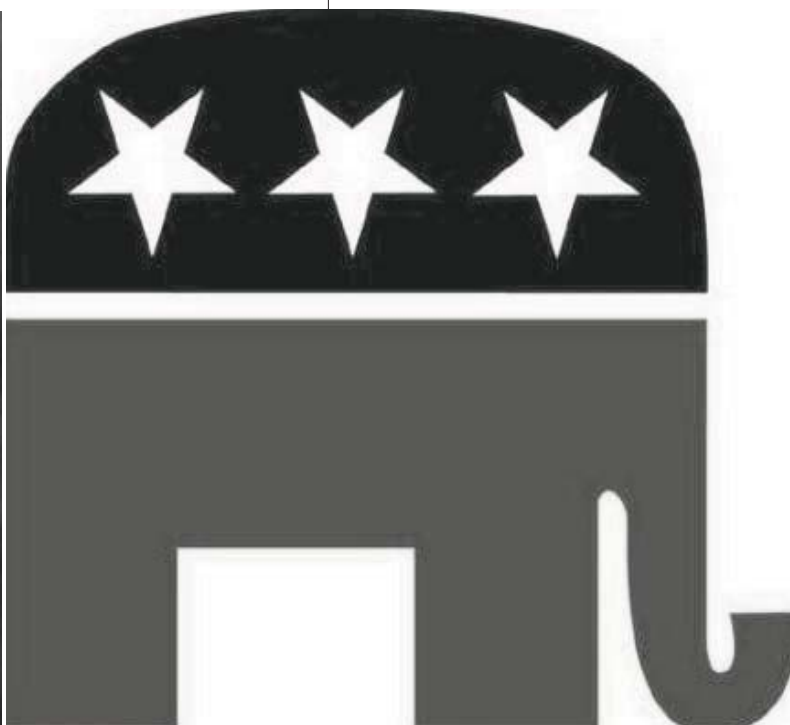
typically referred to as the “traditionalist” view of conservatism. Today, conservatives identify with one another on much more specific political levels.

Our nation’s current conception of conservatism can probably be traced to former president Ronald Reagan and his administration in the 1980s.

It was Reagan who handed ascendancy to the Republican Party and led the nation’s transformation away from the radicalism that characterized the decades prior during the Civil Rights movement. Reagan himself claimed that the “heart and

soul of conservatism is libertarianism”, identifying the new conservatism with limited government, low taxes, and *laissez-faire* economic policy. This broke with Reagan’s conservative predecessor, Richard Nixon, who went so far as to attempt imposing wage and price controls. However, the conservative ethos that Reagan set into motion extended far beyond economic policy.

Today – a Clinton and two Bushes after Reagan – most conservatives have assimilated a rather thorough corpus of political, cultural, and religious positions into their ethos, in many cases breaking with Reagan’s



libertarianism.

Conservatives still favor a small government, but also tend to support a strong military and an interventionist foreign policy. Generally, you will find disapproval of homosexuality, abortion, and gun control. In some cases this disapproval has lead to proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution (especially in the cases of homosexual marriage and abortion), despite the usual conservative insistence on *limiting* the Federal Government's authority over the States.

Religiosity is also now a staple element of conservatism, especially the promotion of Christianity, as is the preservation of the nuclear family as a source of social values. In some more extreme cases, these two notions have lead to some historically dubious claims that may prove more hurtful than helpful to conservative efforts.

For example, the insistence upon the religious natures and intentions of the Founding Fathers, especially in drafting the U.S. Constitution – a document that makes no mention of God (unless you count the use of the phrase “in the year of our Lord” to define

“conservatives”, there still remains a potentially conservative position (or positions) on almost every public issue completely distinct from all other issues.

For instance, a person can adopt a fiscally conservative economic outlook while supporting the legalization of

homosexual marriages without any conflict. Thus modern conservatism is very far from being a detailed and cohesive ideology, and it still retains much of its heritage as an intellectual attitude.

Perhaps this is in the best interests of

today's citizens, who must now maintain the burden of thinking for themselves on all issues and to never allow their votes to blindly follow a given party-line. Hopefully this is an approach that people of all political affiliations can support.

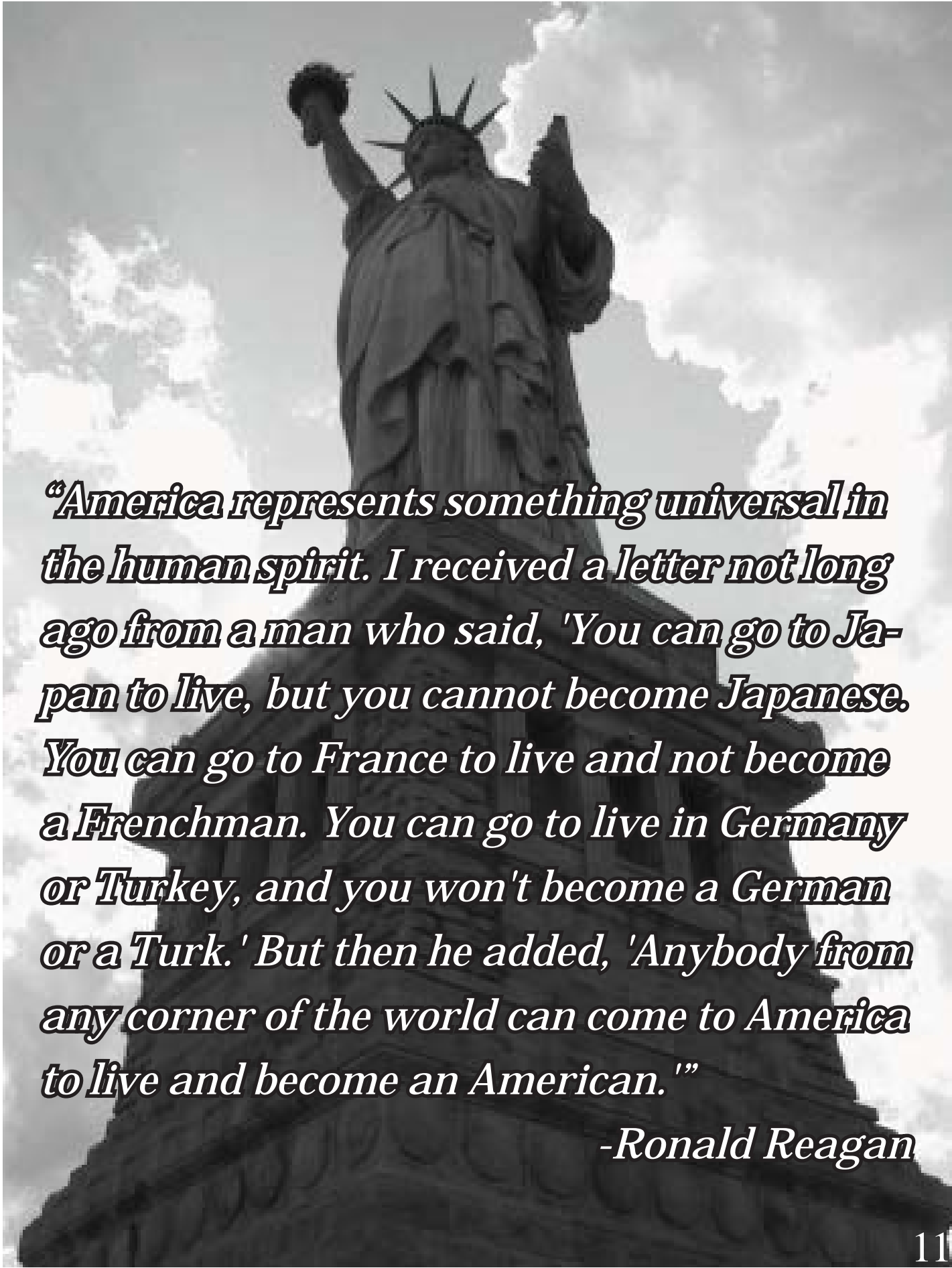
“...most conservatives have assimilated a rather thorough corpus of political, cultural, and religious positions into their ethos, in many cases breaking with Reagan's libertarianism.”

the date of its signature). It is also often forgotten that the phrase “under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance as recently as the 1950s, and the nuclear family is a social tradition that is only several decades old.

Despite a larger feeling of solidarity among self-proclaimed



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“America represents something universal in the human spirit. I received a letter not long ago from a man who said, 'You can go to Japan to live, but you cannot become Japanese. You can go to France to live and not become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey, and you won't become a German or a Turk.' But then he added, 'Anybody from any corner of the world can come to America to live and become an American.'”

-Ronald Reagan

Pabst Blue Ribbon

A Symbol of American History and Culture

By Matthew Keenan

America's ability to maintain certain cultural values continues to characterize the strength of this nation. Freedom, equality, capitalism, and democracy have given the most racially pluralized nation in the world the ability to achieve greatness.

The brewing industry has played an intricate role in developing American history and culture. Beer continues to shape American history more than any other industry. The Pabst Blue Ribbon Brewing Company (PBR) is a pillar of the industry, and a testament to the American way of life.

The history of PBR reflects the history of America, as it was shaped by immigration, industrialization, and two world wars. PBR is a symbolic representation of American history and culture.

From the era of the American colonies, there's been an unquenchable thirst for beer. When the mayflower set sail in 1620 it carried with it a large supply of beer as it was one of the only food sources that resisted contamination, as stated by Phillip

Van Muching author of *The Beers Blasts Times Books*.

The ship landed on Plymouth Rock, instead of its intended voyage to Virginia, because it was running low on beer. In 1632 the first commercial brewing company was opened in New Amsterdam (New York). Coincidentally this was about the time when paved streets appeared. Wall Street was paved so beer could be more easily transported from the brewery. According to Van Muching, the predominant styles of beers in the colonies were British stouts and porters. Much of the goods necessary to produce these beers needed to be imported.

George Washington himself was a dedicated brew master. Washington and his colleagues were very upset about the tax increases on goods necessary to produce beer. Rum at the time was the "choice" hard drink of the colonies, which required molasses for production. Rum also exacted a heavy British tax. One may opine that a strong motivation for the revolution revolved around alcohol production.

In the mid nineteenth century, there was a massive immigration of Europeans to the shores of the United States. Many German immigrants

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brought with them to the Midwest their Bavarian brewing traditions. They produced what is called a lager, in a process called lagering.

The yeast fell to the bottom of the vat, creating a lighter beer. Lager is derived from the German word lagern, which means "to store". The process, as described by author of *Brewed in America*, Stanley Baron, required that the beer be stored during the winter months so that it was ready for consumption during spring and summer.

In the city of Milwaukee, a German immigrant named, Jacob Best established the Best brewing company. Best had four sons, who took over the company when he retired.

Phillip Best assumed control of the company, while Charles and Lorenz Best established Plank Road Brewery (which eventually became Miller brewing). Phillip Best was introduced to a shipping captain named Frederick Pabst, who eventually married his daughter. According to Baron's book, Frederick Pabst bought a share in his wife's family company and would transform the company into

a nationally known corporation. Pabst realized the potential of the company, and began expanding.

After the civil war, the United States urbanized and industrialized. Technological advancements, railroads, and communications allowed for business to flourish. As with many other industries in the country, breweries

began decreasing in number while production reached all time height. Industrialization provided Pabst with national outlets, and other American brew companies competed with Pabst on a national level. Refrigerated railcars allowed the industry to ship bottles of beer with new packaging (the bottle cap) all across the country.

As stated by Baron, In 1877, Pabst Brewing was ranked second in the nation producing 121,634 barrels of beer that year. In 1893, Pabst hit the one million barrel per

year mark. Between 1877 and 1893 Pabst increased production, absorbed other Milwaukee breweries, and established forty branches throughout the country. Pabst won gold medals at the 1878 Paris exposition, and the 1905 Lewis and Clarke Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon.

Along with this national competition amongst German beer



giants, came advertising and trade marks. In 1882 Pabst began bottling his beer with a Blue Ribbon tied around the neck to symbolize the award winning taste and achievements of the product. It was henceforth known as Pabst Blue Ribbon. An advertising campaign in 1890 boasted the slogan "Milwaukee beer is famous, and Pabst made it so" (You can find more details about Pabst Blue Ribbon at americanbreweriana.org/history).

The turn of the century produced a rise in anti-alcohol groups including the National Temperance Movement, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Anti-Saloon League. Along with this came a rise in anti-German sentiment due to European affairs and the outbreak of war. Woodrow Wilson included the Food Control Act in his war bill, which limited the use of foodstuffs in the production of beer, and lowered the alcoholic content of the products.

The outcry of protestant moralism claimed that catholic German beer companies were ruining the moral fiber of the American people. The Temperance movement (which originally was aimed at moderation but lost the sense of itself) eventually stomped out alcohol on January 19th, 1920 with an amendment to the constitution, as confirmed by Van Munching.

Prohibition caused Pabst Brewing to turn its production towards near-beer, soda, and cheese. The eventual stock market crash and following great depression made Americans wise

to the un-wise decision to dissolve so many jobs and companies. Fortunately for brewers and beer drinkers, prohibition finally ended in December 1933, during the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

PBR wasted no time getting back into the beer business, selling its cheese company to Kraft. PBR modernized their breweries. They produced the first keg lined beer can, which received tremendous praise. According to Baron, Pabst began expanding its brewing empire once again, buying companies from California to New Jersey.

During World War Two PBR supported American GIs by shipping military green cans of the patriotic product in mass quantity to soldiers. The end of World War II allowed a massive increase in production. Industry in America picked up rapidly in all areas, most notably in beer.

In 1939 the brewing industry was spending 20 million on plants and equipment. In 1947 the amount of spending increased to 110 million, the largest increase of any industry in the country. PBR was of course a key player in the industry after the war. In December 1945 PBR bought Premier Malt Products which gave them a strategic position in New York. Los Angeles brewing was purchased in 1954, along with many others like Olympia Brewing (1983).

In 1958 Pabst Brewing produced a total of 100 million barrels of beer since its creation in 1844. To commemorate this milestone according to PBR's history, a red slash was added to the PBR

label. The patriotic r

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The company would regretfully see a large scale decli in prosper and in 199 the origina Pabst Brew in Milwau was closec The comp itself was bought up and the rig currently b Co. (which the Best fa from the f

PBR too headquart but its cul located rig OR. Gener microbreve one of the the countr for the con have recog

label. The company now boasted a patriotic red, white, and blue label.

Unfortunately PBR fell victim to a spree of corporate buyouts, and was purchased by a Californian millionaire in 1985 for 63 million dollars. Paul Kalmanovitz ran the company into the ground, decreasing the quality and production of the product.

The company would regretfully see a large scale decline in prosperity, and in 1997 the original Pabst Brewery in Milwaukee was closed.

The company itself was bought up, and the rights to the brand name currently belong to SA Miller Brewing Co. (which was originally started by the Best family, so it didn't fall too far from the family tree).

PBR today has its central headquarters in San Antonio Texas, but its cultural headquarters is located right here in Portland, OR. Generally a city known for its microbreweries, Portland boasts one of the highest sales of PBR in the country. It's a grassroots revival for the company. Portlanders have recognized Pabst as the great

equalizer, a cheaper option than many of the "high end" beers sold in bars, and substantially better than any of the other corporate lager ales. The beer itself brings in large crowds for specified "dollar beer nights" which proudly serve refreshing pints of the delicious relic of American history.

"Portland boasts one of the highest sales of PBR in the country. It's a grassroots revival for the company. Portlanders have recognized Pabst as the great equalizer, a cheaper option than many of the "high end" beers sold in bars, and substantially better than any of the other corporate lager ales."

American's have worshiped, hated, and ignored the importance of beer. From the humble creations of this fine country to the grassroots revolution in my hometown of Portland, PBR has been an intricate part of the American story. No wonder this patriotic beer sports the wonderful colors of red, white, and blue. So next time you order a round of PBRs, salute Captain Frederick Pabst for bringing such

a high quality brew to the table of democracy!

STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

By Michael F. DeVietro

From a young age most American children are taught to obey the rules, treat others fairly and when they see a wrong to stand up for what is right. Many people seem to lose these simple values as they get older. We see this in national politics, the City of Portland and Portland State University itself.

On a national level, Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, refuses to stand up for what is right after Hillary Clinton clearly broke the rules.

Early September, 2007 the states of Florida and Michigan were penalized by the Democratic National Committee for holding their primaries too early, jeopardizing the "uniqueness" of the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire primary. The penalties included having all Florida and Michigan delegates to the national convention nullified. The states were warned that this would be the penalty if they moved their primaries.

All of the announced candidates agreed not to campaign in those states and not to consider the outcome of these contests as relevant. When this originally happened, people worried that this would be unfair. But, nobody stood up for what was right and then they raised hell with the DNC, complaining that this was the clearest example of voter disenfranchisement that could have been created.

For the next several months nobody really paid attention to the scandal, and both primaries buttook place. Well, now during the past three weeks, the delegate count between Obama and Clinton has become very close and the Clinton campaign which "won" both of these contests (mostly because Obama was not on the ballot in Michigan, and she campaigned in Florida in defiance of the DNC) wants its delegates seated and to count as equal delegates to the

National Convention. At this point we would expect Howard Dean as the chairman of the DNC to stand up for the rules, put Hillary Clinton back in her place and the story would end. But, instead Dean has been silent on the issue and essentially ignoring it.

In fact, while the media, both the Clinton and Obama campaigns and even John McCain have brought this issue into the national spotlight, Howard Dean has been noticeably absent. I am not going to try to theorize as to why Dean has chosen to ignore the largest scandal in the Democratic Party since the 1968 riots at the DNC convention in Chicago, but I will say that he willingly chose to not stand up for the rules. That is irresponsible, but not surprising.

The city of Portland recently approved \$200,000 for a day laborer site to be constructed on the east end of the Burnside bridge along MLK Blvd. The city openly admits that a majority of these laborers will be illegal or "undocumented" immigrants.

When Commissioner Sam Adams went on the Lars Larson radio show on Thursday, March 6, Lars asked him "Would you support a resolution saying that city contracts could not be awarded to companies who hire illegal immigrants?" His reply was that he would support that resolution once he wins the Portland Mayor seat, but would not support it as a City Commissioner.

Sam Adams, almost stood up for what was right. He acknowledged that it was a good idea but not good enough to interfere with his campaign to run for mayor. The money has been approved and the site will be constructed and neighborhood businesses will now deal with large amounts of unemployed, illegal immigrants milling around while they wait to be hired for a variety of projects.

This is the point in the story where you would expect the Portland Police Chief

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Rosie Sizer to stand up and say that she has authorized her officers to investigate the immigration status of these day laborers. But of course she has not, so then maybe we could expect Tom Potter - the Mayor of Portland – to alert the INS of a place to makes some of the easiest arrests in the Service’s history. There appears to be no standing up for the law in that aspect either.

Instead, the city simply writes the check, and ignores the legality of these workers. As long as everyone involved assumes that the legal status of these workers is not their problem, nobody has to worry about it.

I beg for someone in power to stand up and say that they won’t stand for city money being used to assist illegal activities. But that won’t happen.

Actually, someone DID stand up for what was right and then was harshly criticized for it, thus, giving us some insight as to why people don’t stand up for the rules.

On February 25, 2008 interim assistant director of SALP, Natalee Webb, saw that Ryan Klute – an ASPSU member – had illegitimately purchased plane tickets from Azamano travel when he was only authorized to make a reservation and tonot to actually complete a purchase.

Klute and ASPSU had done the same thing earlier in the year and were harshly warned by SALP to not to do it again. So this time, Webb stood up for the rules and canceled their trip to LegCon – an “academic” conference in Washington DC.

Webb should have been applauded for this action and praised by all involved. However

instead, the PSU Vanguard decided to write a scathing editorial on February 27, calling Webb “an unchecked advisor” and saying that “Webb is acting as the gatekeeper to ASPSU’s budget. Rather than advising students and working with them to rectify this misunderstanding, Webb presents herself as a proctor of righteousness and Klute and ASPSU as misguided children.”

In the end, Aimee Shattuck – the interim director of SALP – reversed Webb’s decision and allowed six of the eight ASPSU members to attend the conference. She only canceled the trip for Ryan Klute and Rudy Soto, who were the two

individuals involved in the unauthorized ticket purchase.

So, here we have a clear example of re andan individual standing up for by doing the necessary jobwhat is right. But like Webb,instead of being praised, she was attacked by the largest publication on campus and her decision was reversed by her superior, who also chose to not to stand up for the rules.

Standing up for what’s right is not always easy, and

in fact, many times it’s far more difficult than simply letting actionsa wrong take place.

We must make a concerted effort to praise those who do good deeds and not criticize people who stand up for what they believe is right, and certainly not criticizing them especially when they are just doing their job.

“We must make a concerted effort to praise those who do good deeds and not criticize people who stand up for what they believe is right, and certainly not criticizing them especially when they are just doing their job.”

BLACKWATER USA

An Essential Allegiance to Combating Terror

By Matthew Keenan

Mercenary armies have dominated military operations for thousands of years.

Blackwater U.S.A. is somewhat of a revolutionary model in the quest for government leaders to privatize American military operations. Despite popular objections to the for-profit military company, Blackwater is nothing new in warfare and it carries an assortment of benefits.

Erik Prince, the owner of Blackwater, created the company out of necessity in the world of Special Forces training. As a former Navy SEAL, Prince understands the essentials of military operations. Along with his SEAL comrade Al Clarke, Prince purchased a large piece of land in Moyock, N.C. and built one of the most advanced training facilities in the world. In May 1998 it opened its training facilities to law enforcement and Special Forces throughout the country. With its 9000 square foot lodge, the facility provides the most professional training available.

A few key events would provide Prince with substantial growth for his endeavors. The famous Columbine (a high school in Colorado) shootings prompted Prince to establish a

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mock high school which

provided extremely realistic training for SWAT teams all across the country.

Advanced training programs like this, coupled with executive protection, close quarter's combat, ship boarding movements, and hostage rescue training allowed Blackwater to begin building up government contracts. In April 2002, Blackwater security consulting received a \$5.4 million contract to send 20 highly trained security guards to a CIA base in Kabul for six months. This contract was the first of many contracts that would lead Blackwater away from training camps, and focus more on security operations.

During the Iraq war, Blackwater has been charged with the security of many American diplomats including Paul Bremer (Director of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for post-war Iraq).

Blackwater currently maintains 2,300 soldiers in nine countries and has a reserve of over twenty thousand former Special Forces, soldiers and law enforcement personnel that it could call at a moments notice. Blackwater also boasts a private fleet of twenty aircraft. Needless to say, the highly funded private military company could topple governments.

Many critics oppose Blackwater based on conspiracy and corruption accusations. Before the revolutionary events of 9/11 and the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Dick Cheney was promoting his plans for the privatization of the military. Cheney wanted to use private corporations to facilitate back-end military operations, and free up soldiers for more appropriate operations.

The concept itself would reduce infrastructure costs through competition and outsourcing. Halliburton and Blackwater have come under increasing criticisms due to the massive amount of government contracts handed to them after 9/11 and the Iraq invasion.

The theoconservatives are also blamed for their chumminess, considering that Dick Cheney was a Halliburton executive, and Erik Prince donates large sums of money to conservative politicians while "playing golf" with top government officials. As with governments and politicians throughout history, corruption correlations between politicians and business men could be written in volumes.

Despite what can be said about connections

regarding the government, it is clear that Blackwater is the most professional, best funded, and most effective private military company and deserves the respect it has received.

On September 11, 2001, Blackwater was discharged from the military, which resulted in the deaths of 14 Iraqi civilians. A subsequent investigation into the killings revealed that Blackwater was involved.

Blackwater has stated that "the teams were not a deadly force" and that they were further experienced and more accountable than the military's bloodshed.

What makes this difficult is that the personnel and contractors are not protected under the order 17 which grants immunity from prosecution.

Iraq seemed to be a cesspool of killings. The contractors are not unique. Many American contractors have been charged with war crimes and are being searched for by the search engines. A plethora of information regarding ill-fated American soldiers is available.

February 2003, an Army sniper was shot to 10 years for the murder of an unarmed civilian. The act of planting a wire was also a crime. Many titles of the book will include "The Controversy"

regarding the awarding of government contracts, it is clear that Blackwater is the most professional, highly funded, and well trained private military contractor and deserves the contracts it received.

On September 16, 2007, Blackwater personnel discharged their firearms which resulted in the killing of 14 Iraqi civilians. FBI investigations have found that the killings were unjustified.

Blackwater spokeswoman stated that "without a doubt, the teams were faced with deadly force that day," further expressing that the company holds their personnel accountable for any wrongful bloodshed.

What makes this case difficult is that Blackwater personnel and other private contractors in Iraq are protected under Paul Bremer's order 17 which gives them full immunity from prosecution.

Iraq seems to continue to be a cesspool for unnecessary killings. The killings however, are not unique to Blackwater. Many American regulars have been charged with committing war crimes as well. Google search engine will provide a plethora of information regarding illegal activities of American soldiers.

February 10, 2008, an Army sniper was sentenced to 10 years for shooting an unarmed civilian and then planting a weapon on him. Many titles of news articles will include murder, rape, etc. The controversy cannot be

narrowed to just Blackwater, as it is a confusing situation.

It is easy for the media and public opinion to pass judgments on soldiers because they are not in the front lines. In a country where civilian dressed combatants can pop out of a civilian car and start shooting, soldiers can make quick judgments that may not end up

"The overall goal of America's military operations is to secure our position as the most powerful economic, military and political force in the world."

for the best.

What really needs to be questioned is whether or not the pluralization and privatization of American military operations will result in devastating consequences, most notably for American taxpayers, or will it assist in creating one of the most well-oiled military machines in history? History has shown that mercenaries can turn the tide of battles.

The Carthaginian general Hannibal demonstrated one of the most spectacular uses of hired soldiers in history during the Punic Wars. Defeating the Romans in two bloody battles, one of which the Romans suffered more losses than any other battle in the history of the empire, Hannibal used the wealth of the Carthaginian thalassocracy to buy foreign soldiers to invade Roman

territory.

Deploying Numidian, Spanish, Celtic and other foreign warriors, Hannibal brought the well trained Roman military machine to its knees. Mercenary armies have been used from the Persian Empire, to the American Revolution, and now Blackwater has utilized soldiers for hire to benefit American military operations.

Regardless of what can be said about the corruptions of government, the motives of profit and conspiracy theories, Blackwater provides the best trained soldiers. These soldiers are extremely professional and have examined all the consequences of their trade.

Why not have the best of the best protecting American diplomats and interests? Volunteer soldiers receive less training and less pay as a result. Blackwater personnel are highly trained and highly paid, and despite the fact that they are not army regulars, their allegiance is still to America.

The overall goal of America's military operations is to secure our position as the most powerful economic, military and political force in the world. The privatization and diversification of the American military is overall a goal to increase the effectiveness of our military operations. Blackwater USA provides this country with the necessary means to accomplish this critical mission.

URBAN TERRORISM

By Sarah Christenson

Sometimes, realizing the definition of domestic or urban terrorism is difficult.

When approaching the concept of Urban Terrorism, we tend to focus on the threat levels to students and faculty here at Portland State University.

Linda Kiltz, Professor in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department at Portland State University was able to open my eyes to what distinguishes urban terrorism from just the crime that can sometimes be assumed as terrorism.

Kiltz explained that terrorism is different than basic crime in many ways, "What distinguishes terrorism from other forms of violence is that it is considered a form of political violence."

20 We live in an individualistic

society, one in which we may hear about the problems of others, but we don't always act because it doesn't affect us. We're constantly berated with "Terrorist Threat Level" alerts,

homeland security updates, and breaking news about the terror in our streets. So we assume that we have terrorism in our backyard as well.

Campus Public Safety alone reported 45 crimes in January, including an alarming amount of them in Parking Structure 3. Portland Police reported 17 in the University Park

neighborhood - this was according to their estimates on Crime Stats - an application on their website that allows citizens to track crime rates in their neighborhood.

It's actually easy to find alarming information on bomb threats, police procedure, evacuation guidelines, and

"terrorism has an intent. It is after a cause or change and is usually political. It's interesting to think about the meaning of terrorism and realizing that stopping Urban Terrorism isn't stopping crime."

the next

It seems that we have run-of-the-mill about domestic terrorism; the first step is to know; the

"Terrorism is a form of terrorism especially in the

Dictionary defines terrorism as ultimately a form of terrorism so

outdated definitions are necessary to understand the types of terrorism we see and hear about in the world

definition of terrorism is a reference to terrorism that consists of terrorism

It's everyday terrorism as terrorism in the community

"For terrorism is an important difference between terrorism and crime so terrorism is a crime that is an environmental domestic terrorism

Finally, the use of terrorism is broad, "...conceptual

the next self defense class dates.

It seems as though the biggest threat that we have as students is the typical run-of-the-mill crime. But, let's talk about defining Urban Terrorism. The first step is to talk to someone who really knows; the dictionary.

“Terrorism: (n) the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion.”

Dictionaries are slightly helpful, but ultimately ineffective because some are so

out dated. They don't necessarily cover the extreme types of terrorism that we see and hear about around the world. This particular definition didn't even make reference to the threat of terrorism or what terrorism consists of.

It's easy to see how in day-to-day use of the word terrorism; we may see crimes as terrorist acts on our community and the nation.

“For citizens, it is important to understand the difference between acts of terrorism and ordinary crime so that every horrific crime that occurs in an urban environment is not labeled domestic terrorism,” said Kiltz.

Finally, Kiltz explains that because the use of the word terrorism is so broad, “...terrorism is not easily defined, conceptualized or understood.”

Events such as Virginia Tech, and our own evacuation of Neuberger Hall in February, we may have caused fear, but these acts were not done by terrorists. Those acts were done by individuals who chose to break the law.

The first step to stopping a problem is to recognize what Urban Terrorism is.

As Kiltz explained, terrorism has an intent. It is after a cause or change and is usually political. It's interesting to think about the meaning of terrorism and



realizing that stopping Urban Terrorism isn't stopping crime.

Hundreds of **Terrorist organizations** exist throughout the world, and most of them we may not even know exist. Here are a few facts you may or may not have known about them:

— By Tessie Lopez

ARMY OF GOD (AOG)

United States

The Army of God is Christian anti-abortion extremist group believed to date back to the late 1980s. The group literally considers itself an army composed of soldiers who follow their Commander-In-Chief who is God. Through the manual created by the underground soldiers, they follow instructions on how to destroy abortion facilities. Officially, they have declared war against all doctors who perform abortion procedures.

Members such as Michael Bray, author of *A Time to Kill*, attempts to biblically justify the violence used against abortion providers. Eric Robert Rudolph was accused and wanted by the FBI for the bombing of an abortion clinic and a gay bar in Atlanta, GA. He was captured in 2003.

Many facility fires, bombings, abductions and killings are linked to this group.

THE BASQUE FATHERLAND AND FREEDOM

Euskara (ETA)

Spain

Founded in 1958, The Basque Fatherland and Freedom, also known as Euskara (ETA), continues the legacy of the Basque Separatist Party, a nationalist organization that dedicates itself to creating a separate nation state for the Basque people who live in northern Spain and southern France. They have been linked to hundreds of attacks in Spain and France since then.

Throughout history, businesses, Spanish government officials, security service organizations, and members of the judiciary are known as the main targets of the ETA.

In recent years the ETA has been linked to bombings from 2000-2006. The last deadly attack occurred in the province of Navarre where two police men were killed by a car bomb.

Since 2000, The ETA has claimed fewer lives and also gives warnings prior to attacks. In 2006, the ETA declared a permanent ceasefire agreement.

KACH

Israel

Kach, formerly known as a far right political organization in Israel, is now considered a terrorist organization by Israel, Canada, the European Union and the United States for its racism against Arabs.

The organization was established by Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1973, but after failing various elections in the 70s, it was banned from participating Israeli elections in 1988.

Kach fights for the expulsion of Arabs in Israel. The organization views itself as fighting against anti-Semitism (discrimination against Jews) and desires to restore the Judeo biblical state of Israel.

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THE LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

Sri Lanka

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was founded in 1975 by Velupillai Prabhakaran. With the political unrest in Sri Lanka, the objective of the organization was to persuade the establishment of a Tamil State by attacking government officials and military personnel.

The LTTE is known for operating with other Tamil militant groups that share similar objectives such as the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF). An example of perfected tactics of attack is the use of suicide bombers as war weapons. The LTTE has recently promised to sustain peace through a cease fire agreement.

LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA)

Northern Uganda

In the Gulu and Kitgum districts in Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army (a Christian and Pagan organization) terrorizes children and civilians, proclaiming to fight for the establishment of a government that is disciplined by the biblical Ten Commandments.

The organization is predominantly composed of abducted children and young adults who are forced to serve as guerrilla type fighters or concubines.

Led by Joseph Kony, The LRA continues to abduct, rape, and torture civilians. The organization operates from the northern bases of the Sudan, eastern Congo, and various parts of Uganda.

REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC)

Colombia

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary guerrilla organization that is considered a terrorist group by the Latin American Parliament, the United States, Canada and the European Union. Established in 1960 as the military communist party of Colombia, FARC has evolved into a group dealing with drug trafficking, officially separating from the communist party in the early 80s.

The southeastern jungles and plains near the Andes Mountains are inhabited by an estimated 15,000 guerrillas. Their group is funded through kidnappings, extortions, and drug trafficking.

Secretariat Manuel Marulanda leads the revolutionary army and exemplifies the group's proclamation of opposing Northern American influence in Colombia. The objective of FARC is to seize power in Colombia through an armed revolution.

