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What is Libertarianism?

Exploring the Third Party

SFC Means Business

Fiscal Conservatives at work

What to know about STDs

Safe sex is still important, sorry

PORTLAND

Spectator

Volume 8, Issue 2, November 2009

MAGAZINE

What Happened to Food For Thought?

EDITORIAL

The basement café misses the point.
Here's why it needs to make relationships,
education and food the priorities.



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.

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On The Cover
Hot oatmeal with dried cranberries from Food For Thought

Contact Us

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

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Dear Readers,

When the Student Fee Committee began hearing overage requests in October, we knew that this would be an important issue that students should hear about. I believe in our mission as advocate journalists, and only now am I coming to understand the power of public scrutiny to shine light in shadowy corners. In this role, we must tell the true story while holding to our basic values of fairness, responsibility, and accountability.

Which leads me to something I'd like to set straight. *The Spectator* relies heavily on student fees; that's no secret. But a rumor has circulated that this magazine had switched its format and gone to all color on coated paper because we received some kind of large grant from a conservative or Republican donor—not true. We have received only the small grant we get every year. In fact, we experienced a cut just like every other group. Late last year we simply asked print vendors for a better deal, and bargained our way to a better product. This magazine is actually cheaper to print than it was a year ago.

We also embraced design and photography as a core competency, creating the feeling of a more “expensive” product. If you like the way this magazine looks and feels, then we have done our job and I hope you agree that we've used university resources and student fee money to its utmost.

It's my hope that the SFC, through words and actions, puts pressure on student groups to use their funding to its greatest potential. Money is not everything—it's just a resource, a tool, and with skilled, creative hands can be used to build something grand, whatever the mission. Portland State is a great university, with vast resources of knowledge and skill—mediocre application of our resources can no longer be tolerated.

If you are part of an organization that receives student fee money—honor that. Do great, innovative things with it. Be good at what you do, and above all be a leader.

Sincerely,

Joe Wirtheim
Editor-in-Chief
2009-2010



At the PSU Saturday Farmer's Market

Top Left: Simon Sampson of the Yakama Tribe holds a wild king salmon caught the night before.

Middle: Kale and brussel sprouts are in.

Bottom: Brett Kuenzi with fresh frozen juice squeezed at his grandfather's farm.

Photos by Joe Wirtheim

what have you done for me lately, ASPSU?

From the Editors

Everyone needs a good antagonist

Jonathan Sanford loves being ASPSU President. You can hear it in the excitement in his voice when he talks about all the programs happening this year, in the way he talks about all his high-level administration access, and in the way he puts his feet up on his desk. “What do you expect? I’m Scottish,” he likes to say.

However, Sanford’s antagonism toward the school administration may be unproductive, and at times his public behavior is unbecoming of a student body president (perhaps he can justify his gratuitous cursing by harkening again to his Scottish heritage). Recently it’s been rumored that Sanford dropped his list of grievances for PSU President Wim Weiwei, but is now pushing for a “shared governance” status with Weiwei, citing an obscure rule in Oregon law. The implications are that Sanford would essentially have to follow Weiwei around at every public appearance. If true, this may be a strategic mistake to be so confrontational this early in the year. True, no one has to tell *The Spectator* that we need to be critical of the powerful, however in this case, collaboration would probably yield the best results for students and the long-term prospects for the school.

Everything’s on the table

Weiwei has shown a commitment to the school’s core values and, like a good

general in a time of crisis, he’s calculating the opportunities and threats. For him, everything is on the table, including the possibility of dropping out of the Oregon University System (OUS) or merging with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Nothing official has been stated, but in Weiwei’s early speeches he spoke of finding what amounted to a cocktail of funding sources as state funding continues to drop year after year. Concentrating on private and research funds instead of state funding is, as Weiwei likes to say, a whole ‘nother kettle of fish.

Free Food!

In October, ASPSU held a food drive and filled their office with canned and dry goods for needy students. Knowing that students will respond to free food is a tool that ASPSU has used before. Legislative Affairs Coordinator Chris Proudfoot sat down in our office to talk about some of the work that he’s been focusing on this year. “I’m the guy that says, ‘Wow, college is really expensive! What can I do about that?’” One effort Proudfoot made over the summer was to organize a “pancake feed,” centered around the higher education tuition hearings on campus. With enough pancakes to feed about 280 students, the syrup and strawberries managed to steer about 115 students into the Smith Building where they were able to “pack the room,” said Proudfoot. This and other lobby efforts by Proudfoot have successfully kept the rise of tuition to a relatively low 8.5% against the 14.5%

that was originally proposed. His latest campaign is focused on driving up student voter registration. “We don’t have money or massive lobbying organizations,” said Proudfoot, “What we do is turn out numbers,” and then, “Hey, we’re actually eligible to vote,” which Proudfoot says is particularly important for the upcoming special election in January. Up for bid in that election are a few tax bills that will determine whether the Oregon University System will force PSU to raise tuition in the middle of the academic year.

In other news...

Like a medieval cathedral, the ASPSU office is a safe-haven from political talk since it’s essentially a non-partisan student advocacy organization. When persons hanging around ASPSU offices heard that *Spectator* staff writer Samantha Berrier identified herself as an Oregon Republican, a bit of teasing began to cross the line into harassment. However, the response from ASPSU executive staffers like Jonathan Sanford and Chris Proudfoot, as well as the Oregon Student Association Campus Organizer, Courtney Morris, was, by every measure, excellent. In Obama terms, it became a “teachable moment.” All parties discussed why this was not okay, alternative ways of talking about our differences were suggested, a round of ‘sorrys’ occurred and finally, what amounted to a round of hugs. In the end, everyone felt a little closer. ■



Local

Recall again

Former state senator and Portland State University professor, Avel Gordly, has taken over the reins from Jasun Wurster as chief petitioner for the second Sam Adams recall campaign. Gordly was informally involved in the first petition run that failed to gather the required 32,183 signatures by October 5th of this year. Wurster was quoted to have said that he would hand over to Gordly the 30,000+ signatures he received throughout his attempt. Although these can't legally be applied to Gordly's efforts, it is reasonable to assume Gordly will use them as a starting place.



National

Al Franken's first amendment

In an embarrassing vote, only 68 members of the Senate passed the Al Franken anti-government contractor rape liability amendment. Which is to say that only eight Republican senators think that it is in the government's purview to regulate whether it does business with companies (like KBR and Halliburton) that require their employees to sign a contract agreeing not to sue if they are raped by their coworkers. This bill was proposed after a woman who was gang-raped by coworkers while working overseas and then couldn't sue for recompense due to the clause in her contract.



World

Afghan election done right

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is still aiming for a second term this time in a run-off election scheduled for November 7th after a fraud riddled election in August was dismissed. He'll be up against his rival and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who, when asked on CNN recently if he'd form a coalition government with Karzai if he lost, said he wouldn't want to be part of "the same deteriorating situation." It remains to be seen if this election will be any more legitimate than the last.



National

Who will pull the trigger?

According to CNN, Maine Senator Olympia Snow (R) has proposed and supports a "trigger" mechanism attached to any health care bill. This measure would effectively set a timeline on further health care legislation by "triggering" a public option if goals for expanding coverage and lowering costs for health care were not achieved. Snow is best known as the only Republican to accept any health care proposals and is a key component to Obama's bi-partisan decision. This "trigger," attached to the more politically palatable non-profit cooperative health-care plan, may be the deciding factor in getting more Republicans on board.



World

Teach us, Obama

Japanese english language learners are crazy for Obama speeches, reports *The New York Times* in October. A compilation of his speeches have sold half a million copies this past year. His Inaugural Address is especially popular. Obama's vocabulary has an easy range, and he pronounces his words nice and clear. Even Japanese non-english speakers like the speech, calling it "moving" despite understanding only "Yes, we can." Expect a Japanese Obama to emerge any moment.



A President and His **NOBEL**

What was the committee thinking when they offered Obama the coveted prize?

By Erica Charves

In a rare move of public support, four of the five judges for the Nobel Peace Prize spoke up in defense of President Barack Obama as the latest recipient of the prestigious award honoring those who work for peace. Why did they step forward to defend him when their process is notoriously steeped in secrecy? Surely the numerous winners in the past have been highly contested. Yasser Arafat (president of Palestinian National Authority), Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin (foreign minister and prime minister of Israel) shared the prize in 1994 to much public outcry.

Critics of the president challenge that he should have turned it down. However, the president's detractors would surely have admonished him as ungrateful and snobbish, or perhaps un-American, if he had declined the award.

The strongest argument of all is that he has done nothing to deserve the award at this time. That is true; in fact, the president said so in his acceptance speech.

He has “contributed,” according to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, to, “a world with less tension.” Not exactly an exemplary statement for an esteemed prize. Considering the fact that the cutoff date for nominations was only a few weeks after his inauguration, I am wary of their intentions. What has he done for the world? He certainly has the capacity, but he did more as a community organizer in Chicago than in his first few weeks of presidency. How much can one man accomplish in two weeks?

In his first two weeks, he passed a stimulus package, admonished Wall Street fat cats, ordered the closing of Guantanamo Bay, and got started on healthcare. He did very little for foreign policy at the time, except for his usual uplifting addresses. Maybe the point was that he was not George W. Bush, and that made the world (and apparently Norway), feel better for the future of peace and America. After a rousing speech in Egypt, much of the Arab world felt better about America’s leader. Perhaps it is the possibility of change he affects in the world; it is, after all, a feel-good award.

My point is that although he is a great orator and a smart community organizer, Obama has done little conceptually to fulfill

the obligation in his first two weeks. The idea behind the award, according to the will of Alfred Nobel, was to recognize those who inspire others to peace. He desired the nominees to “have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding of peace congresses.” But, if all you have to do is talk about making peace, then why didn’t Bush get the prize? Bush gave many speeches addressing peace and said things like, “I’m running to keep the peace,” “This is an administration that will do everything in our power to make this world a more peaceful place,” “It is an obligation to make the world more peaceful,” and, “Our advocacy of human freedom is not a formality of diplomacy, it is a fundamental commitment of our country.” Bush certainly promised peace, although he certainly missed the mark.

As an eloquent speaker Obama knew just what to say, and spoke of the award as a challenge and an inspiration. As he works for health care reform and environmental causes, he has the capacity to challenge and change ideals. Only time will tell if Obama will live up to the ideals that we expect of Nobel laureates. ■

Quick Facts About the NOBEL PRIZE

After the death of Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, in 1895, readers of his will were stunned to learn that he had left the majority of his wealth to establish a prize that would award “those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind.”

The Nobel Prize was so controversial that it took five years before the first award was presented.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is made up of five members appointed by the Norwegian Parliament.

There are five Nobel Prizes: Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace.

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Green Energy, Honestly

Alternative energy gives us options, but only straight talk will help us make a better choice

By Molly Shove

It's happened to you. Someone approaches you with a light in their eyes, as if they had just found religion, or ingested some really potent stimulant and says, "I have the answer." They then go on to tell you that the destiny of the nation's energy policy must lie in the hands of [solar, wind, hydroelectric, etc.] power and that if we don't fund and implement said power by approximately next week, the sea will swallow our fish-fried corpses.

Between the dewy-eyed idealists and the "straight talking" politicians who try to court them, I've heard a lot of utopian solutions. The way they talk, I get the impression that the green energy revolution is just around the corner, and the only reason that the icebergs are still melting is because the mainstream government has sold out to evil oil and coal executives who feed themselves on the internal organs of small children and kittens.

Being a journalist, I'm forced to be suspicious of anything that seems too good to be true. So after using all of the advanced journalistic devices available to me (coffee and sleep deprivation), here are a few reasons why the future of our energy policies aren't as simple as the idealists think.

Solar

Solar is a popular idea because it provides energy without CO₂, CO₁ or toxins of any kind. However, reliability is an issue. It only absorbs energy during the day, and seeing as how we can't control the weather, it's hard to know how much energy will be available

on any given day. Effectively storing the energy requires battery technology we simply don't yet possess, and it takes petroleum to make solar cells, which defeats the point of it being 100% clean. Also, the down payment for a solar panel is too much for the average American family. It's a great solution for affluent people trying to make a small difference, but it's not a viable alternative for the whole country.

Wind

Another popular alternative to the evils of coal is Don Quixote's arch-nemesis, the windmill. The idea of wind power is attractive because you don't have to import it from other countries, it releases no poison into the air, and compared to solar it's cheap as dirt. But wind comes and goes as it pleases without much predictability. Even if we learned to control the weather, it takes up too much space and produces too little energy. You can't build them near cities because of the noise pollution they produce, so you have to add on the cost of building large-scale transition lines. In short, wind can be clean, public and supplemental energy, but when it comes down to it we'll need something more practical and less expensive to be the foundation of the clean energy utopia.

Corn-Based Ethanol

Possibly the best-publicized and the worst possible alternative to gasoline, corn-based ethanol has the potential to be worse for our



Photos Left to Right:
Wind Farm, Oregon
Corn Field, Ethanol
Plant, Hydroelectric
Turbines inside the
Hoover Dam.

environment and economy then black gold itself. According to current U.S. law, corn must be sold under the price of production or dumped. Being that corn is cheapened by this subsidy, it is used in a large range of products from plastic to soda to fabric. This creates a cycle of even more subsidized corn used in even more products. Commercial and industrial corn production depletes the soil of nutrients, through the use of tons of gallons of pesticides, which in turn pollute rivers. On top of that, without a special catalytic converter, burning ethanol produces more tailpipe emissions than gasoline. Making it our primary source of fuel will cost taxpayers a fortune for something that won't help save the world and has an overall negative effect on the environment.

Hydroelectric

One of the most commonly used forms of renewable energy in the world, it powers Las Vegas and provides a tenth of the demand in China. It runs as dependably as gravity pulls water down. However, its harmful effects range from environmental irresponsibility to national security. To begin with, they have a limited life span. China's Three Gorges dam is only expected to last seventy years because of the eventual build up of silt, and the environmental damage to the area has been devastating. Dams mess up the ecosystem of the river, from the area immediately surrounding the structure to several miles downstream, creating a "dam mess". You may not think that water temperatures and acidity levels are so important, but they keep the fish and everything that drinks

out of the river alive. Rivers are also used for irrigation to grow the crops we eat, so preserving water quality is good for us, and every other living being within a 20-mile radius. On a security level, dams make excellent targets for terrorists who would want to cause damage to our infrastructure and way of life. It can be good in moderation, but hydroelectric power is nothing to raise your glass to.

Green energy has a ton of potential. The people zealously praising it aren't delusional, simply misinformed. While it has potential, the way some of the public treats it does more harm than good. It's better to have a functional grid, then a new pretty green grid that doesn't work. There is no answer to what the next primary source of electricity or fuel will be; it will be a combination of whichever technologies work. Instead of badgering politicians to dam our rivers and (further) subsidize our corn, we should work a bit more on the research and development. If you want to save the world, reuse water bottles, ride the bus and don't let false promises break your heart. As I'm sure your mother once told you, "If sounds too good to be true, it probably is." ■

Student Fee Committee Creatively Tough

Student groups seeking to forgive their over-budget accounts are scrutinized and often denied in a new atmosphere of accountability.

By Joe Wirtheim with photos by Clara Rodriguez

There's a new sheriff in town—or rather sheriffs. This year's Student Fee Committee (SFC), elected last spring, impressively stuck to their fiscal guns during spending overage hearings for student groups this October. The committee found a knack for using a creative combination of carrots and sticks to underline responsibility while making sure groups would survive.

Groups showed spending in the red ranging from under \$200 up into the tens of thousands. Almost all who asked to have their budget overage forgiven were denied, meaning the funds would be discounted from their budget this year. The committee made clear that exceptions would be made only for extenuating circumstances beyond a group's control and were often coupled with pointed questions.

"We want to instill the philosophy that we [groups] shouldn't go over," said SFC Chair Johnnie Ozimkowski during the first round of hearings, which set a critical precedent. Motivating Ozimkowski and the rest of the committee are the dual challenges of cleaning up the sloppy work of last year's committee and combating the burden of rising fees on students.

Life in the red

Going over budget is suspected of being a strategy to get more funding earlier, not just an accounting accident. Groups realize that

the political nature of the SFC means that by going over budget and making a case for it next year, there's a decent chance money is forgiven. Couple this with the race to spend all allotted money before the end of the year—this is so groups can ask for more the next year.

To combat this, the committee discussed guidelines beforehand then has to use their judgment when considering overage requests, often offering collaborative solutions to groups in a pinch. Something called a "discretionary reserve" fund exists to draw from, but committee members indicated they were saving it for extenuating cases.

Sussing out the details

To go before the committee means sitting in front of eight empowered students in a cramped conference room in Smith Memorial Student Union and explaining the situation while producing evidence; then staying while the committee, who uses Robert's Rules of Order, deliberates and makes a motion that carries with a majority vote. The process, while civil, can be tedious as nervous student group representatives try to salvage something of their budget.

Asking early for overage forgiveness was the Association of African Students, who last year put on the African Cultural Night event, and had overspent their \$40,650 budget by \$13,852. Group representatives

came before the committee bringing only their own testimony without paper work, expense receipts, or documentation. The air was tense as Useni Makano, the group's president, spoke of poor management, the high costs of bringing in dancers and speakers from Africa, and that this cut would impact their ability to bring African cultures to PSU.

Aside from a comment from SFC member Waddah Sofan about the richness cultural groups bring, the majority of the SFC spoke of the need for evidence of accountability. SFC Vice Chair, Jil Heimensen, reminded them that the SFC is the "guardian" of student funds. The motion to deny carried. The scene was repeated when the Pacific Islander Club, who flew a band in from Hawaii, asked that their \$4,000 overage be forgiven—it was also denied.

Check, please!

Food For Thought (FFT), the student-run restaurant café in the basement of Smith Memorial Student Union, posted a \$33,995 budget overage for last year. The rent-free café had already received \$24,356 in student fees while showing sales over \$203,000, according to a budget analysis on Banner, the PSU budgeting system.

The staff, which uses a non-hierarchical management scheme, asked the SFC in an eyebrow-raising October letter to forgive





Food For Thought representatives explain their overage in a hearing before the SFC October 21. L-R, Ara Nelson, Anne Olivia, and Patrick Lawson.



Committee members consider a request. L-R, Christian Messerschmitt, Johnnie Ozimkowski, Ron Lee, Jim Gent, and Wil Zimmers.

\$18,000, saying without the forgiveness the future of the café would be in question. The letter went on to say that new, stricter management policies are now in place after what it described as an atmosphere of “lax” management or even no formal management for two years prior.

Faculty advisors from Student Activities and Leadership Programs (SALP) told *The Spectator* that in September they told the staff that the doors would not open until a number of conditions had been met. Among them, find outside expert advisors, make budgeted spending guides, and create a risk management plan to deal with unforeseen issues. Staff member Ara Nelson said in an interview that she scrambled with other staffers to pull everything together to open for fall term.

Gratuity automatically added

At the October 21 hearing, three tense FFT representatives, including Nelson, told the committee of a new round of training and improved policies. Adherence to assigned shifts is now enforced, and free food at any time for employees has now been changed to one meal per shift.

Most of the committee agreed that at least \$10,000 in losses were due to a drop in revenue blamed on last year’s economy. Another portion of losses were due to a broken dishwasher, but the largest portion came from a “spike” in labor costs near the

end of the year. FFT representative and the only new employee this year, Anne Olivia, said the labor was an investment in the cooperative management style, which took about seven months and involved full paid staff meetings and workshops.

Ozimkowski asked why these management changes had not occurred two years ago. Representatives responded that it took months to make the decisions, saying, “It’s a long process.” Committee member Ron Lee took issue with FFT’s mission of offering student-fee subsidized meals, saying “the underlying problem is you can’t subsidize one person’s meal and not another’s.” Heimensen pointed to the committee’s precedent of “not rewarding bad management.” However, Ozimkowski signaled his willingness to work with FFT, saying, “They’re too big to fail.” Heimensen responded with disagreement, and eventually said about the non-hierarchical management style, “This is an expensive way to do business.”

In the end, concerned about undercutting the café’s ability to build a potentially successful catering business at PSU, Ozimkowski entertained a motion from committee member Christian Messerschmitt to forgive the \$18,000 in quarterly segments of \$4,500. Beginning each coming term, FFT staff would need to check in with the committee and detail their progress toward reforming their

management procedures and building a sustaining business model in order to get the remaining funds. FFT representatives sounded receptive and the motion passed.

The implication is that the SFC, and especially their liaison, Ozimkowski, will be watching FFT’s reform process and business development carefully during the rest of the year. Representatives embraced the idea, saying, “We would love the oversight as a carrot [for the staff].” It remains to be seen if FFT staff will be committed enough to follow through with the demands being made by advisors and the SFC.

One thing is clear, the SFC is showing a refreshing knack for details, bargains, and responsible use of student money. ■



SFC Chair Johnnie Ozimkowski



EDITORIAL

What Happened to Food For Thought?

The student-run establishment misses the point. Here's why our basement café needs to make relationships, education and food the priorities.

By Vincent Berretta with reporting by Joe Wirtheim

There's nothing worse than an opportunity wasted. In a city in love with food, in a country recalibrating our relationship with food, Food For Thought Café (FFT) has stood as a disappointment in the movement toward healthy, innovative, local food. It hurts me personally to write this. I eat at FFT in the basement of Smith Memorial Student Union at least three times a week and like many of those I've talked to, I like the idea and embrace the values they espouse. But these values are undermined by one stark reality: students are paying the bill for an "experiment" in "consensus management" which is failing and is without merit. It places its own brand of social justice ahead of the actual intention of the establishment: to serve and value great food by building local relationships.

Ideally, it's a non-hierarchical form of cooperative management, but in practice it only serves to stifle individuality and encourage complacency. Without academic supervision, coming preferably from the PSU community, there is no experiment. It is informed instead by an activist with an agenda to re-shape society by disempowering everyone. Leaders are stifled, disagreements discouraged and aspirations snuffed. In a non-competitive environment, there are no winners while everyone involved is a loser, including the students who pay \$218 in student fees every term. The only thing learned is how not to run a business.

You would think that in a school committed to sustainability, where FFT is given the resources, space and freedom to serve locally purchased food, and operate according to sustainable practices, they could persist, nay thrive. And in fact, they like to believe they already do, but in reality their management scheme prevents them from providing innovative food and education, which the university desperately wants. Instead, we are served sporadically with an unremarkable menu, a student-subsidized bill, and an unwanted side of socialist ideology.

Non-Hierarchical Business Model?

How about non-functioning.

Two years ago, in the café's 2007 budget request form to the SFC, FFT boasted a successful transition to this non-hierarchical "cooperative management structure." It was a claim that doesn't synch up with a letter they wrote in October of this year to the SFC asking for financial recompense for budgetary overages that were due to the costly efforts put forth to implement, again, a "pioneering experiment in non-hierarchical management." The letter continued, "For at least two years, FFT had no formal management structure at all to speak of," which allowed the staff to slip into a "state of complacency, especially regarding budget issues." In other words, the "cooperative management structure" was simultaneously put into practice successfully, but also responsible for all of FFT's financial blunders.



Staffer Jamie Brown works the counter at Food For Thought.
Photo by Clara Rodriguez

Milo Hayden, an employee of FFT and illustrator for campus tabloid *The Rearguard* told *The Spectator* that FFT's consensus model was formalized by C.T. Lawrence Butler; a founding member of Food Not Bombs in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Last year, Butler was hired by FFT to the tune of \$1,000 to "teach us that consensus is settling arguments in a non-confrontational way where no power is being traded, no power is being exerted over another employee so that no one's opinions are trivialized." Butler provided other insights like, "times were simpler in the medieval days because no one lied," about which, Hayden assured me, he contested with some rather choice vocabulary.

So how do actual FFT employees feel about this model? Hayden concluded, "It's like getting a group of cats to agree on what to eat. No, no, it's more like getting them to agree on whether they will stay inside or go outside." Well, at any rate, it appears characteristically feline and fatally flawed.

The experiment in this egalitarian management sounds like a delightfully social way to run a business, but it really boils down to no one calling the shots and no one being responsible at the end of the day. The exceptions being when help needs to come from outside, as was the case when FFT's Student Activities and Leadership Programs (SALP) advisers told FFT staff this September that they couldn't open their doors until they built relationships

with outside consultants. It was Arts & Letters major and long time FFT employee Ara Nelson, who spoke to the flaw of their experiment when she said, "since we don't like to boss each other around, it was good to have someone from the outside tell us what was wrong." But that's clearly against their mission. These outside consultations are just a form of management by another name. Worse even, FFT has subjected themselves to an outside authority. It's not that they won't boss each other around, it's that they can't.

The idea behind an experiment is that eventually one gets an answer to the hypothesis, but FFT appears content to repeat the same tests with dismal results year after year. How much money needs to be thrown away before we can officially label this experiment a bust?

Local Business? Um, not quite.

Michael Pollan, author of *In Defense of Food* and a leader in the conversation about locally harvested and procured foods talks about the importance of "food relationships." These relationships go beyond simply ingesting that which we need to function, but involves the care taken in choosing locally grown and harvested foods. There is a need to develop and maintain relationships between producers and consumers, which is not easy, but that is the mission of FFT. Conspicuously,



these relationships are absent or at least were short-lived.

FFT's mission claims that they use locally grown food for the bulk of their enterprise. Although Stumptown Coffee and Columbia Gorge Juice are certainly local, the rest is questionable. The produce comes from Charlie's Produce, which is based in Seattle, WA and distributes to Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington. And the major part of their food and supply budget (about 60%) goes to Food Services of America, the sixth largest food distributor in the United States, with headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona. The food relationship that FFT has with its suppliers extends only as far as the easy corporate distribution companies they contract with.

Again, the management lies at the heart of the matter. Without any delegation of responsibility, no one is in charge of establishing and maintaining relationships with local farmers. Instead, the task is (hopefully) completed by a team member that wants to do it. As Hayden illuminated, "In the past it was that one person just chose to call FSA and whether it got done, no one was sure." Recently, however, a staffer has shown up and taken the reins on ordering, he says. This seems more of an exception than a rule because "there's seldom any recourse for dropping the ball."

And What of Sustainability? Surely you jest.

Pollan borrows from Marx to say that something is unsustainable if "there are internal contradictions that sooner or later will lead to a breakdown."

Well the breakdown has occurred and FFT's response to their internal breakdown is to ask the SFC for the money to fix it. As an aside, it's interesting to note that although Marx intended his statement to be a critique against capitalism, it can ironically be used to describe the failure of

Food For Thought's very socialist-minded "non-hierarchical" management style.

Someone needs to be held accountable for their irresponsible performance, but up to the present no one has had to answer for it. In this way, their co-operative model functions more like a corporate model where the responsibility is spread out to minimize liability. At FFT, we can't turn to a single bookkeeper or manager and ask why. Like AIG corporate executives, the blame is diffused to all but shouldered by none.

Where to Go from Here

In an SFC hearing on October 21st, FFT asked for \$18,000 to be forgiven of the \$33,995 the café went over budget last year, saying they may survive, but won't thrive without the funds. In a supreme display of benevolence, the SFC granted them \$4,500 in forgiveness with the rest being dispersed quarterly if they could show "marked improvement." If the trajectory of the last three years can act as a testament to their progress it will require monumental cat herding if they intend to see that money.

To be clear, FFT isn't the only student group to egregiously misspend student fees, but it is the only group to do so that's given (with no rental fee) a space to generate revenue on a daily basis. Besides, the future of food may be on the line. As Hayden insightfully put it "Food For Thought needs to completely change; their management model is impossible. In order for Food For Thought to succeed they need to unabashedly embrace organic, local cuisine and dedicate themselves to craft and service beyond PSU, beyond a café. I don't see Food For Thought surviving until they dedicate themselves to these goals."

Hopefully the staff of FFT realizes the opportunity that they have before them and their mission becomes more than just a cute way to be different, but rather a way to serve truly inspired food. I hope *The Spectator* is there to tell the success story. ■

Here's what Food For Thought can do to get on the right track

Drop the non-hierarchy.

There's nothing wrong with empowered managers with titles calling the shots and getting on with it. Compel and foster leadership.

Its not a job—it's an education.

There needs to be a sweat equity component to being involved at FFT. It's an investment, and a key to building a community that cares. It's the organization's job to make sure that everyone's time is worth it based on the experience and quality of the relationships.

Clear deadwood, bring in fresh energy.

Rotating staff is important because it offers opportunities for more students to have the FFT experience. Sometimes, people need a nudge to move on, don't be afraid to give it. Actively engage in recruiting for talent.

Build bridges.

Reaching out and developing a relationship with food producers is important to FFT success. Community liaison work is a core competency of the café's mission. How about joining a CSA and using volunteer work to pay it off?

Run an innovative food-relationship education experience.

Drop the old hippy soup kitchen motif, and ask what the future of food should look like. You're not running a welfare program—another dollar or two per plate won't kill us, just make it worth it.



Hummus plate from Food For Thought



Left: Cassy Whitaker, RCC Crew

Right: Peter Kramer, RCC Grad Assistant

Photos by Laura Jones



Somebody to Look Up to

By Samantha Berrier

Last year's budget requests for student group funds added up to about \$6 million dollars more than the \$13 million that the Student Fee Committee (SFC) had to work with. This year, the SFC has to find a solution to a two-fold problem: stopping the rampant growth of student group budgets before student fees become a serious burden and developing a system that removes the guesswork from the delegation of those funds.

Before the SFC began hearing forgiveness requests from the deluge of student groups that blew last year's budget, SFC Chair Johnnie Ozimkowski spoke to *The Spectator* about reforming the way the committee does business. So far this year, the SFC has shown less leniency than in years past, but the overall issue of how one committee can effectively manage such a large and growing fund remains unanswered when the process of awarding or denying a group's request is subject to the amorphous and changing political whims of the committee each year.

Ozimkowski believes the Rec Clubs Council (RCC) has the answer. Undergraduate student and RCC Treasurer James Taylor recommends the structured process of the RCC as a model. Taylor said of the SFC, "If they decided to have other subcommittees that model our system, it could work. If they

could find a way to divide the existing groups into similar groups." Some recommendations Ozimkowski has offered to the SFC include separating categories like student publications and cultural groups under their own subcommittees. He stated that, "With a successful reform, I believe the activity fees will not only decrease, but the dues will be used more efficiently and effectively. The structural organization of the RCC leaves little room for mismanagement. The RCC provides a sound system of democratic participation and institutional memory."

The RCC consists of five students who oversee the budget and development of recreational clubs on campus, like the Rugby or Medieval Combat Clubs. As a subcommittee of the SFC, the RCC acts as a liaison between a cluster of recreation clubs and the SFC. Brooke Romines, the secretary of RCC, gave her opinion concerning the success of their allocations model during an interview. "We support a very unique group of clubs, which is why we can be successful." The RCC is not just a group of students who were elected to run a budget, each elected officer underwent a series of roles: first a participant, then a leader of a rec club, and after a victorious year leading, the person is then eligible to be elected into the council. The leadership development is

Rec Clubs Council has more to offer than fun and games. The council stands as an excellent role model for managing student groups.

crucial in building a successful foundation for a rec club committee member. I spoke with Peter Kramer, graduate assistant for the RCC, who correlates the success with the experience of its committee members, who spoke of the leadership development aspect. "They know the process, and they know all the little things that make up a budget. We groom people to be leaders, so the cream of the crop runs the RCC."

New clubs are more than encouraged, and every addition receives the training and support of the RCC. Kramer illustrates the importance of challenging each group before rewarding a budget. "Their budget is more of a practice run. Prove to us that you can develop a club without money. If the club can get through the first year without a budget, then it will be more successful for the next year when they have a budget, because they have established leaders and members."

The RCC model is an example of how the SFC can redirect student fee funds into a system that is not subject to the personal opinions and objectives of a committee that usually experiences a total turnover annually. ■

LIBERTARIANISM

WHAT'S IT REALLY MEAN?

By Jonathan Miles

"We're not going to be the party of Ron Paul," shouted Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) in October to a packed audience while dissenting voices rang back with support for Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX). Paul ran for president as a Republican in 2008, but 20 years earlier he ran for the same office as a Libertarian. "I don't think I'm going to win," he told the *New York Times* in a 1988 campaign interview. Instead, he ran for the same reason that Ralph Nader runs under the banner of the Green Party every year: to grow support and awareness for the party. Why are the Old Right Republicans like Graham so afraid of Paul and the Libertarians? First, we have to understand what the word "libertarian" even means.

If it's the late 18th century enlightenment period, then libertarian means someone who believes that humans have the agency to make their own future and are therefore not determinists. If it's the mid-19th century, then a libertarian is most likely a French anarcho-communist, and this is the first time the word is actually politicized. Once libertarianism entered the political realm, it took a little over 100 years to become the conservative epithet that today stands for independence from government control in both the realm of tax burden and social values.

Noam Chomsky, who defines himself as a libertarian-socialist, claims "libertarian" is globally defined as a liberal political identity and that the U.S. is nearly alone in its use of the word towards a conservative bent. Of course, to hear this argument one must first accept the term "liberal" to mean tightly regulated and governmentally propped-up economy with socially liberal values, adding in the occasional environmental bias.

The U.S. has a long history of questioning government power. Here's what it means to believe in the third party today.

The Libertarian Party in the U.S. is anything but liberal by that definition. However, given the stated ethos of the party to free individuals and the economy by reducing the size and scope of the government, it would seem that the term liberal is more apt to describe Libertarians than Democrats. "Get government off our backs," was one line that might show up at a Ron Paul rally back in 1988, and his campaign in 2008 held true to the promise of reducing the government's role. Paul opposes every tax increase vote in Congress and unlike Graham, does not support the government bailout of big businesses like AIG. Although Paul is no longer flying the Libertarian flag, he certainly brings the ethos of that party into his politics.

While small government is touted as a Republican value, it isn't always the model Republicans in office bend towards when given a choice. Generally speaking, when the matter of the right for a business to operate freely in the market place is on the table, the strictly Republican thing to do would be to release the restriction and allow the business to flourish. The familiar justification being that a business which is allowed to operate free from constraints will generate more profit, thereby increasing the holy GDP and employing more patriotic citizens. On the other hand, when

personal rights are being morally challenged in a political arena, then perhaps the more modern Republican thing to do would be to appeal to a fundamentalist Christian voting bloc by restricting personal rights for the sake of adhering to a higher moral code.

For Democrats, the same statements about restriction versus release could be made in reverse. These are very general terms, but it is useful to note that the thing Democrats and Republicans have in common is they each like to be increasingly in control of one aspect of a citizen's life while completely hands-off in another. The net effect of this constant push and pull in a stale two-party system remains to be debated until the end of time, but what's important to note is the effect that the growing influence of the Libertarian Party is having on mainstream politics. To summarize the Libertarian's political perspective, simply take the hands-off approach in both the personal and economic realm, with a handful of caveats.

"The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government," is the central point from the Libertarian Party's statement of purpose released at their first national convention in 1972, one year after the party was founded. A favorite defense of this claim by Libertarians is that the Founding Fathers wrote the federal government a really small part in the revolutionary play: national defense. It's no wonder that the first president was our nation's favored general, and the nickname for that office remains today "commander-in-chief." However, the defense of the nation has to apply both abroad and within if it is to protect a citizen's individual rights. ■

LIBERTARIANS WANT MORE RIGHTS

Here's the platform

While there isn't room here to detail the entire set of statutes which constitute the Libertarian Party platform (which hasn't changed much in the last 37 years), here's a brief list of individual rights that should not be impeded by a libertarian government.



Lady Liberty is the official symbol and "The Party of Principle" its tag line. The original 1972 logo was an arrow going through "TANSTAAFL," an acronym for "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch."

Six state parties use the Liberty Penguin or LP as their mascot.

The right to get high

That's right, the Libertarian Party supports repealing all "victimless" crimes and stands on the idea that the prohibition of street drugs today is no more effective than the prohibition of alcohol was in the 1920s. On the party Web site, Al Capone is equated with the Los Angeles Crips and Bloods. Not only will decriminalizing the use of any drug give people a lot more to do, it will also decrease the U.S. prison population by about 25%!

The right to hide your guns

Second Amendment advocates will cry with joy if the party ever succeeds in deregulating one of the biggest markets in the United States: policing. While the party supports doubling the existing police force, it still contends that the state-supported police should have to compete with private enterprises as big as Blackwater and small as the Lone Ranger. If the cops are late, pull out your gun and solve the problem yourself. And, if guns were easier to get and keep, then we'd all be cops!

The Libertarian Party on Today's Issues

Crime: end drug prohibition, double the police force, and let vigilante forces defend themselves

Environment: leave it up to private groups like the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy

Economic: reduce government taxes to the amount needed to provide for national defense, deregulate all markets including education and healthcare letting private organizations sponsor programs for the poor, and let citizens "opt out" of social security.

The right to be stupid

No more pencils, no more books! The party of principle will not allow poor people to put up with the dismal failure that is our public education system. Parents shouldn't be forced to send their kids to subpar, class-dividing schools while the rich get to Ivy-League track their kids for success. Where will the kids go when all public schools are permanently defunded? The obvious answer is that private donors will step in and save the day, because they wouldn't want the poor to be ignorant and beholden to low-paying jobs with bulletproof glass ceilings...ahem.

The right to save the environment

The party rightly points out that the government is responsible for more pollution than Big Oil, chemical companies and nuclear power plants combined. Therefore, eliminate government administration of "public land" and you eliminate the biggest polluters. For that matter, eliminate public land altogether. If every cubic inch (that includes the air) of resources in the U.S. are privately owned, then they can be defended by the owners who hire a lawyer to sue the crap out of the offender. Since the court system in the U.S. pretty much spells justice every time, no land, water or air will ever be polluted, ever!

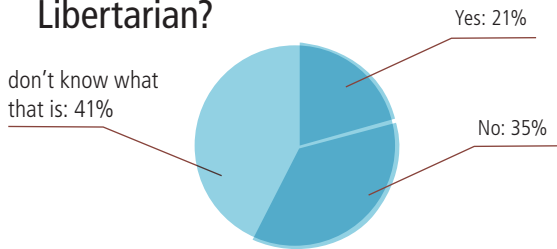
ARE YOU LIBERTARIAN?

Political philosophy isn't always on the forefront of our brains. However, these underlying belief systems determine how we vote, and how we feel about government policies. A *Spectator* questionnaire conducted by the staff surveyed 130 random undergraduate students this October.

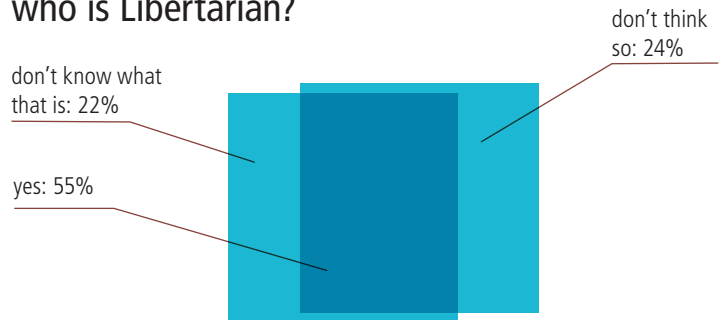
One of the results showed how little many people know about Libertarianism, and yet may actually agree with some of the underlying principles of its economic policy.

Info graphics by Laura Jones

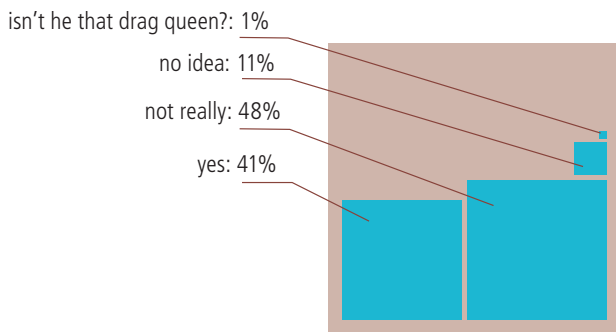
Do you self-identify as a Libertarian?



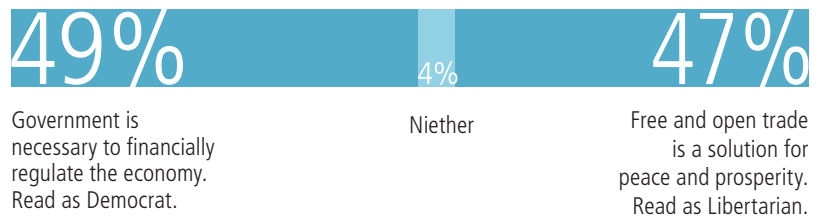
Do you know someone who is Libertarian?



Do you know who Ron Paul is?



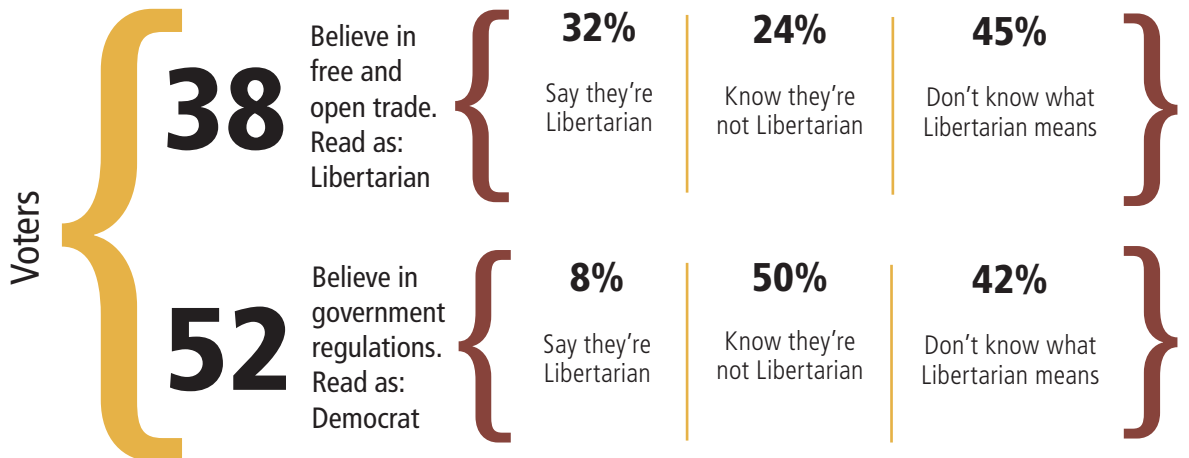
Which do you most agree with?



Did you vote in the last presidential election?



The most interesting responses came from an economic values statement asking to choose between open trade (a Libertarian value) or government financial regulation (a Democrat value). While the total respondents were about even on the issue, a decent portion of non-Libertarians share the value of more open trade.



WHERE ARE THE LIBERTARIANS?

By Alexander Almeida

My suspicions were apparently not so correct. I had assumed that the political party that prides itself on and thrives under the banner of “liberty” would be booming right about now. It makes sense considering the current largesse of government spending (in some unfathomable number called “trillions”), the last eight years of individual liberty crippling and this administration’s push for even greater federal involvement in almost every aspect of life.

I thought with all the tea partiers (or teabaggers, as the liberals refer to them. Mature, by the way), the huge backlash of the healthcare debate and the ever-increasing wages of war in Afghanistan, the party of “more freedom” and non-intervention would be a hotspot for the malcontented.

But as I knocked on an apartment door, looking at the end of an empty hallway on the second floor of a rickety office suite adorned with a handmade wooden sign lettered with white paint reading, “The Libertarian Party of Oregon,” I realized my suspicions might be wrong.

So I left my business card under the door with a note on the back, and sulked back to the parking lot, feeling like a former lover leaving a pleading letter of “can we just talk about it?” As of press date, no return call, no return e-mail. Their Web site listed no office number or hours or even contact e-mail. And this is the party’s headquarters for Oregon (their former headquarters was on a busy corner in Beaverton and adorned with images of the Statue of Liberty). Their Web site doesn’t seem to have been updated since July of this year, with other updates lagging as far back as 2008.

“I’ll have to talk to them about that,” were the words of Wes Benedict, the executive director for the National Libertarian Party, as I talked to him over the phone. Oops, I squealed. The national party’s web-site boasted the Libertarian Party as being the third largest in this two-party system of a country we have. I asked Benedict how he figured this, and he said that there were “different ways to measure that,” but overall

that “we think we are based on the number of candidates we run and number of votes we get [nationwide],” and not necessarily on the number of registered voters.

But is the party growing? “Our membership hasn’t changed a lot,” according to Benedict. He blames it on the party’s poor nationwide effort to encourage growth in the party itself, but also says the political environment is perfect for growth right now. “I think the voters are ready for us.”

Thomas Cox, a former Libertarian candidate for governor in 2002, Libertarian Party state chairman in 2003, and candidate for House District 29 in 2004, says that “part of the conversation in understanding libertarianism is that it is a philosophy” which is distinct from the main political parties. “Among Republicans you have just a party and not a distinct philosophy.”

So what is the philosophy of the Libertarian Party and is there any example of it in practice? Benedict says the two states in this country that tend to best exemplify libertarianism are New Hampshire and more obviously, Nevada. New Hampshire has historically had very low taxes, though has lost some credibility. “They recently enacted a state wide smoking ban...[their state wide motto is] ‘Live free or die,’ except for the smoking ban.”

Nevada perhaps is a better example, with legalized statewide gambling, the only state with legalized prostitution, in addition to being able to smoke inside almost any establishment. Unlike most states, Nevada sells alcohol 24 hours a day; bars don’t have to close. It is also one of several states considering gearing up for a Supreme Court fight in their attempts to flat out legalize marijuana growth and sales.

Among nations, Benedict tells me there are a number of countries that embrace libertarian beliefs. “Hong Kong,” he says embraces the free market aspect and is doing quite well. He points to Switzerland as an example of their ideal foreign policy, which is non-intervention. “They

Third party candidates have difficulty gaining traction. The Oregon Fusion Bill may breathe new life into libertarians, but they have to show up first.

aren’t in wars right now and they’re not attacked by terrorists.” Socially, he says the Netherlands embrace the libertarian standard with legalized prostitution and narcotics, “and they’re a successful, wealthy country.” He quickly interjects that “America is pretty good on the libertarian scale, one of the better ones.”

Cox is now a registered Republican who still embraces the philosophy of libertarianism. “Libertarians are essentially the political arm of the philosophy. I know plenty of people who associate with the philosophy but identify with members of the Republicans or Democrats, depending on if they’re more socially liberal or fiscally conservative.”

As far as the Libertarians gaining ground, Benedict hinted at 2010. “We’re gearing up,” he said, telling me of big plans for mid-term election season. Benedict has only been the executive director of the national party since July of this year. Previously, he was the executive director of Texas, where he had record fundraising and party growth that he hopes to emulate nationally for 2010.

Cox sees the bigger hurdle for Libertarian candidates as the “long-standing skepticism of third parties.” Viability is key but he sees that it “might vary on a candidate by candidate basis.” For Oregon, it might be especially interesting as “the fusion bill passed last year, which allows one candidate to be nominated by two parties. A Republican could seek the Libertarian nomination and Republican nomination.”

If the surge in a more libertarian drive within the GOP and in nationwide protests is any indicator, the Libertarian Party might actually see a rise in votes, if not membership as well. But for the Oregon state party, however, it might help to have their headquarters outside of an unlisted door in a non-descript office suite. If people are knocking, there’s currently no one there to answer. ■

Copy This Down: Plagiarism Has Consequences

Portland State's academic policy, however, leaves loopholes and temptation

By Jeff Wickizer

Even Ted Kennedy, “Lion of the Senate,” was expelled for cheating. It was 1951 and Kennedy was a freshman defensive end on the Harvard football team. Nervous about his eligibility for the team, he had a friend take a Spanish test in his place. The resulting expulsion would haunt him throughout his career, and possibly contributed to his failure to reach the presidency.

Due to the increased attention given to academic honesty by my professors during the first week of this term, I decided this was a topic that needed more clarification for both students and faculty. I was determined to speak to my instructors directly and with Natalee Webb, the senior conduct officer for Portland State, to find out more about plagiarism at PSU.

Today, Portland State University's student code of conduct does not appear to have any policies in place that act as a strong deterrent against academic dishonesty. While an instructor can give a student a failing grade, they rarely do much more than that. According to Webb, “If a student is not suspended or expelled, the infraction does not appear on their record. If they are suspended, it is only on their record during their suspension.” She says that the number of students expelled is at, “one, maybe two, but I don't think it was for academic dishonesty.” PSU instructor Alia Stearns feels that there are no real consequences. “The deterrent right now seems to be the threat of expulsion,” she says, “Eventually, they'll figure out that doesn't happen.”

Larger class sizes, due to the unemployed going back to school, create more autonomy and less teacher-student interaction. Stearns believes this may be the culprit. “I think a classroom that creates a student-teacher relationship makes cheating incidents obvious,” she says. “Large class sizes contribute to student anonymity, which enables plagiarism.” Public records indicate that in the school year

of 06-07 there were 45 cases, followed by 19 cases in 07-08 and 36 cases in 08-09. Although the last numbers would make it appear that plagiarism is up from two years ago, it needs to be mentioned that these are only the number of cases reported to and acknowledged by the University.

Duke University and their widely-respected Academic Integrity Council are leading the research done on the prevalence of cheating and plagiarism. They reported similar statistics to those of PSU when compiling their yearly findings and concluded that the numbers are misleadingly low because 22% were handled between teacher and student, without administrative involvement. This means that one quarter of students caught cheating are essentially being left “off the books.” Stearns is among those who choose to settle with students outside of administrative procedure. “I work it out with the student. I have never used the official process.”

A true deterrent to a dishonest action is a swift, identifiable, and appropriately severe consequence. This is not to say that a student should not be dealt with differently if it is a minor and unintentional error, however, if it is blatant plagiarism the gloves need to come off. Professors and teachers of all levels get into the profession because they want to educate, and as PSU Communications professor David Kennamer pointed out, “I did not get into teaching to be a cop.”

What bothers Stearns more than the cheating is the disrespect it shows. “My problem is not with cheating but rather with the lazy and obvious way that students go about it. It is always insulting as an instructor to realize just how much more clever than you a student believes themselves to be as they try to slip fraudulent work past you. Savvy plagiarism takes time.” Probably the same amount of time it would take to produce one's own work. ■

STD's, STI's and You

By Megan Kimmelshue

I was fortunate enough to escape my high school sex-ed class without having to practice putting a condom on a banana, but the sexually transmitted diseases and infections slideshow was a different story. Image after image of oozing and infected body parts projected onto a huge screen were forever burned onto my brain, scaring me enough to run in the opposite direction whenever a guy expressed any sort of interest that went beyond intellectual. While I admit that my reaction was reminiscent of those of us who ran around the playground at recess yelling “cooties!” my fears were justifiable. In 1998, the American Social Health Association (ASHA) predicted that more than half of all people would contract an STD/STI at some point in their lifetime. Fast-forward nine years to 2007, when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that the Chlamydia trachomatis numbers represented the largest ever to be reported for any disease at an estimated one million cases.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases corroborated this research by reporting, “Young adults (ages 15 to 24) make up nearly half of the 19 million new cases of STIs each year.” In reality the number is larger, as the CDC only requires gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, and hepatitis A and B to be reported to health officials on the state and federal level.

The medical profession is partly responsible for the high infection rates. When the American Journal of Public Health surveyed U.S. physicians in 2002, less than one-third routinely screened patients for STD/STIs. It is also thought that less than half of individuals ages 18 to 44 have ever been tested for an STD/STI other than HIV/AIDS.

STDs and STIs still seem to fly below the radar of public conversation, yet they

The special relationship that keeps on giving. Here's what you should know about sexually transmitted diseases.

continue to do irreparable damage. If ASHA believes that one in two sexually active individuals will contract an infection by age 25, why isn't there more public awareness? We have certainly moved beyond the days of Victorian modesty, and pretending that they are minor inconveniences or assuming that handing out condoms will fix the problem seems to be ineffective. This argument is also extended to include the HIV/AIDS epidemic that is ravaging the globe. The approach of implementing procedural steps or creating neat Power Point presentations will not work, just as the high school slideshow didn't stop the majority of us, at some point, from having sex without protection.

The good news is that most STIs are curable. The scary news is that many of the most serious STDs and STIs are “silent”, and it is impossible to know if an individual is infected unless they ask to be tested. These silent infections, while proving an uncomfortable or unattractive affliction for men, are disastrous for women. Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HPV can lead to infertility, tubal or ectopic pregnancy, cervical cancer and infections in infants born to infected mothers.

Sexual health intelligence includes taking the time to get tested annually. Many studies have confirmed that using latex condoms successfully reduces the risk of contracting all types of STDs, so respect yourself and your partner(s) by using protection. Free condoms are available at SHAC, the Women's Resource Center, Queer Resource Center, at city health clinics, health-centered nonprofits and Planned Parenthood.

The Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC) provides testing services on campus, or you can visit the Multnomah County Health Department for testing that includes HIV/AIDS. ■

More than \$8 billion are spent each year to diagnose and treat STDs/STIs & their complications. This figure does not include HIV

Worldwide, an estimated 250 million new cases of STDs occur annually

Testing

The long list of STD/STIs includes Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Genital Herpes, HPV, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, Syphilis, Trichomoniasis and Hepatitis A and B. Doctors recommend that individuals get tested for STDs even if there are no physical signs, as many are symptom-less and not detectable through specific testing.

Treatment

Stop having sex until a doctor sees you. Use condoms whenever you have sex, especially with new partners. Be sure your sex partner or partners also are treated.

Prevention

Use a latex condom every time you have sex. If you use a lubricant, make sure it is water-based. Limit your number of sexual partners. The more partners you have, the more likely you are to catch an STD. Get checked for STDs. Don't risk giving the infection to someone else. Remember that you may be less likely to use a condom if you are using drugs or alcohol. Know the signs and symptoms of STDs/STIs. Monitor yourself and, if possible, your sex partners.

SHAC Services,
Wellness Resources
www.shac.pdx.edu

Hotline
1-800-777-2437 or
oregonaidshotline.com

Multnomah County
Health Department STD
Clinic by appointment
426 SW Stark St., 6th Floor
(503) 988-3700

Columbia University's
“Go Ask Alice”
goaskalice.columbia.edu

Outside In Clinic
1132 SW 13th Ave
(503) 535-3890
www.outsidein.org/clinic
Oregon AIDS/STD



Rob Cornilles, running for 1st District U.S. Representative



Rep. David Wu of the 1st District

There's Another Hat in The Ring

Rep. Wu faces another Republican contender, but will Rob Cornilles be strong enough to end his reign?

By Trevor Peterson

The last thing college students should have to worry about is if there will be any jobs when they graduate. Rob Cornilles, who is running for Congress against incumbent Rep. David Wu, sympathizes when he says of college students, "They spent thousands of dollars and some of the prime years of their life pursuing an education, and then after that tassel goes on the other side of their cap they can't find work."

Cornilles is a native Oregonian who has a successful business in Tualatin called GameFace. The private company does training and placements, helping potential employees find full-time careers in the sports market. While Cornilles, who is a Republican, has never held a political office, he is fine with pointing out past Republican failures, "Yes some Republican policy from years past is partly to blame for this [deficit]." He says now is the time to bring the message of fiscal conservatism back. He believes his experiences as a business owner can help that

message. "I know how to create a budget and stick to a budget. I know that you don't go into debt to get out of debt."

As a husband, father of three boys, and business owner, Cornilles says, "I believe in people more than programs." People are beginning to believe in Rob's ability to lead as well. In a report from The Federal Election Commission report from October 15, Cornilles raised over \$125,000 dollars in his campaign's first quarter, of which 97% came from inside Oregon and 99.8% from individuals. Only 50% of Wu's contributions came from inside Oregon.

Focusing on some of the pressing issues, Cornilles thinks President Obama's approach in the health care debate is hurting the very people who can help health care. "The more our president stands at the podium and tells Americans that he's working to keep insurance companies and doctors honest, the more he's saying that they are dishonest," he says. However,

Cornilles thinks there is a different issue we should be focusing on instead of the health care debate. "An issue that we should be spending more time on right now is how to resuscitate the economy," he says, "that's what needs to be focused on right now."

David Wu has held the 1st district seat for the U.S. House of Representatives since 1998. Wu has won by a comfortable margin every election, but Cornilles believes when the voters get a chance to compare David Wu to Rob Cornilles, he has the upper hand. Cornilles asks, "Have we been better off the last 12 years with David Wu as our representative?"

A primary election on May 18, 2010 will feature Rob Cornilles and two other Republican candidates. Cornilles feels he will come out the victor and looks forward to his campaign's success against David Wu on November 2, 2010. For sure, it won't be easy. ■

The Spectator's Rearbuttal

Editor's Note: Through June, The Rearguard and The Spectator will each feature a column of "banter," in a civilized manner, on issues of concern to the reading public at Portland State University. This is the Portland Spectator's response to the following challenge, agreed to by the Editors: Your take on post-partisanship.

POST-PARTISAN: CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE DICTIONARY...

By Jonathan Miles

Lately, there has been a lot of noise made about post-partisanship. Before I take on the opinions extant on this issue let me be up front with mine; there is no such thing as post-partisanship in the United States. If there were to be a post-partisan government it would probably look a lot like Hugo Chavez' "democratic" Venezuela.

Every four to eight years the White House changes color from either Red to Blue or vice-versa. And, every two years Congress becomes a more or less ambiguous blend of purple. But, when we're lucky, the congressional pallor opposes rather than reflects that of the executive branch. We're a representative democracy, and no one should want a strong-arm federal government. Post-partisan means no more parties, which in my opinion means no balance of power and no representation for the social good of the citizenry. Columnist Donna Brazile theorized in a recent article for The Washington Times that post-partisanship was born from the desire of citizens "to see their leaders come together to solve problems." Well, here in the good old U.S. of A. we call that bi-partisanship. Obama has called on Congress to provide a consensus on healthcare legislation, and that bi-partisanship has been a Sisyphean battle with the lone Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) supporting Democrats' efforts thus far.

It really is understandable that people would like to see an end to party politics when you look at a case like Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL), who recently spoke to an empty room on Capitol Hill in D.C., accusing Democrats of wasting time on bi-partisan efforts to approve a healthcare reform bill, and telling the Republicans to "get out of the way!" This is coming from the same man who addressed the public

earlier saying "the Republicans want you to die quickly!" If the people want to see an end to partisanship, it is probably because of men like Grayson whose political agenda is driven more by South Park-style shock comedy than research and reason. If that's all partisanship is, then I would be against it as well. But that's not the baby, that's just the dirty bath water.



SORRY *Rearguard*, BEING AN INDEPENDENT DOESN'T MAKE YOU POST-PARTISAN.

Yuval Levin, a fellow at Ethics and Public Policy Center, defended partisanship in a Newsweek article last April when he wrote that "large modern parties" provide a form to what would be cacophonous disagreement between millions of individuals. Parties, Levin argues, "express a genuine difference of opinion about what is best for the whole." What the Republicans are doing may enrage 60% of the country, but the other 40% is probably in agreement with the opposition front that exists in Congress right now. That's the point.

Patrick Ruffi of the New Right offered some reasoned observations on the congressional climate of partisanship when he notes that Democrats are far less willing to roll over for Obama than Republicans during the Bush years, which he refers to as following a "yes man approach," with a "GOP 'roll over' strategy on White House initiatives." Grayson calls himself the "congressman with guts" and calls Republicans the party of "no." He screams, "If Barack Obama could somehow bring about world peace then the Republicans will blame him for destroying the defense industry." Yet, as Obama calls on Congress members to act in a bipartisan manner, Grayson certainly stands in opposition to the executive branch as well. Is this opposition useful? Well, I prefer it to a lap dog Congress that allows the White House agenda to become the rule of thumb.

Anthony Stine over at *The Rearguard* mentions the growing number of registered Independents as evidence of a burgeoning group of Americans who want to identify themselves as "politically independent." Unfortunately for Stine, his argument rests on the idea that being registered as an Independent means that you don't have to tow a party line. Of course, as the well-informed reader will know, the Independent party is a partisan group that has its own set of requirements for homogeneity. It is true that the actual third largest party in the country boasts on their Web site that they want to include "the growing number of independent-minded" people in America, but it is also true that the party line includes, among other things, a decrease in government spending and a push towards alternative energy. Sorry Stine, being an Independent doesn't make you post-partisan. ■

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