IS THIS THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Portland State student Hector Lopez deported without due process. p. 10

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Campus Safety: What’s the real cost? p. 14
PSU perspective on the end of war in Iraq. p. 18
Where can I eat, drink and be merry on the cheap? p. 06
Deporting the American Dream
Jonathan Miles

How one prospective Portland State student was sent to live in Mexico City even though he doesn’t know anyone there, or even speak the language.

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.
Dear readers,

This is the first issue of The Spectator for the year and it's packed with the latest news from campus and around Portland. Find the cover story about a former PSU student who was deported before he could enroll to finish his degree. Then take a break with the debut of our free and cheap campus event calendar, Date Night. Danielle Kulczyk gives an update on the handling (and mishandling) of your student fees, as well as the latest assessment of your student government.

War in Iraq is over, but the mission continues for PSU veterans seeking to make good on their GI Bill. Campus Public Safety officers keep drugs and guns off campus, but students keep hitting the sauce in their dorms.

There are too many great stories in this issue to list them all. Rest assured that you will be hanging onto this magazine throughout the month as a resource for campus happenings.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Miles
Editor-in-Chief
Campus Public Safety officers arrested someone for possession of heroin on campus on the evening of Sept. 3. Public safety officers, who have the right to require proof of enrollment for any person they see on PSU property, approached the suspect later identified as Shawn Weigant.

Weigant, who is not a student, was later searched due to an outstanding warrant for his arrest both in Multnomah County and out of state, said CPSO. A public safety officer then identified a sticky black substance found on Wiegant as black tar heroin.

CR80 News reports that Higher One, which provides educational institutions with financial solutions, has made a deal with Portland State University and Southern Oregon University to do away with some of their fees, according to a columnist at The Oregonian. When the universities’ Higher One contracts came up for renewal, administrators negotiated that the 50 cent swipe fee be dropped from the card. The PSU OneCard, Portland State’s official student ID, is branded with a MasterCard logo, which means students can tap funds at an ATM or wherever MasterCard is accepted.

Higher One has been criticized in the past for its fees. The company charges an abandoned account fee of up to $19 a month if a student doesn’t use an account after nine months. Students also pay $2.50 when they don’t use a Higher One ATM, located only on college campuses.

According to Sustainable Business Oregon, the Oregon Built Environment and Sustainable Technologies Center will invest over $1 million in university research facilities for solar energy and green buildings.

At Portland State, the BEST funding purchases new equipment for the existing infrastructure Testing and Applied Research Laboratory, which is dedicated to enhancing durability and improving functionality of our infrastructure, including bridges, towers and large buildings to withstand earthquakes or sudden impacts.

The Oregonian reports that the Oregon University System will make up its budget shortfall by tapping student tuition reserves, which are currently at $164 million, according to Jay Kenton, vice chancellor for Finance and Administration with OUS.
MARKEY HAS A NEW VICE PRESIDENT.

At the Sept. 14 Senate meeting, Lauren Morency was confirmed as ASPSU vice president for 2010–11. The position was left vacant for the summer after Selina Poulsen, Markey’s running mate in the April election, withdrew for personal reasons.

Markey said she appointed Morency—last year’s ASPSU VOTE! event organizer, winter term communications director and current senator—because she knows the university and cares a lot about its needs.

“I would like to see a powerful Senate this year,” Morency said during her confirmation.

She referenced “incidents from last year” and said she feels the Senate was “undermined” by the Judicial Board.

Morency cited her legislative director experience at Portland Community College Rock Creek as an asset, as well as her professional relationships with important people on PSU’s campus, including Melody Rose, vice provost for Academic Programs and Instruction, and PSU Bookstore Manager Ken Brown.

During questioning, one senator recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee to help senators with their academic performance, and Morency, who said she herself has two incompletes on her transcript, supported that idea.

After asking her questions for approximately 15 minutes, the Senate confirmed Morency as ASPSU vice president. No senators opposed the appointment and none abstained.

OTHER—STUDENT INVOLVEMENT: B+

ASPSU had their first meet and greet Sept. 9 in the Multicultural Center, with break-out sessions to encourage students to get involved directly. Markey said afterward everyone came back to the ASPSU office to decorate the windows and “hang out”.

ASPSU is also planning “Recess” the first Thursday of each month from noon to 2 p.m. in the Park Blocks. Recess will feature kickball, four-square, free throw contests and an opportunity to socialize with your student government.

If you head out to Hillsboro Stadium to any Portland State football games this year, you will see ASPSU tailgating on the grass near the concession stand. They will be collecting canned food for the food pantry and registering voters as part of their VOTE! campaign.

ASPSU co-sponsored Viking Day events as part of new student week, and they are planning to take part in Party in the Park on Sept. 30.

FINIAL OCTOBER GRADE: B-

Overall, it is clear this year’s ASPSU is off to a good start. They are making an effort to engage the student body and prove their worth, but there is still a long way to go.
## 2010–11 OBC budget process timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocate funds to past OBC groups</td>
<td>End of September 2010</td>
<td>Place groups in proper funding tiers, based on the group’s request and assessment information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitate workshops on funding process for both past OBC groups and</td>
<td>Early fall 2010</td>
<td>Close out year-end funds, hire and train new OBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Input proposed budget for student groups to the SFC</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Review large programs, assess quarterly reports and work with groups to progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place groups in proper funding tiers, based on the group’s request</td>
<td>Spring term 2010</td>
<td>Facilitate workshops on funding process for both past OBC groups and past SFC groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>and assessment information</td>
<td></td>
<td>Throughout 2010–11 Review large programs, assess quarterly reports and work with groups to progress.</td>
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*Photo courtesy Flickr user ralphunden*
Student Group Shuffle

Danielle Kulczyk

Portland State student groups will now have to request access to their funds each time they need money—and instead of making that request to the elected members of the Student Fee Committee, they will be pleading with a three-student council, hired by PSU staff.

The SFC, which formerly handled the budget process, passed the responsibility over to the Organizational Budget Council—a SFC subcommittee which, in the past, has only managed money for new student groups.

Under this formal change, the OBC will manage all student groups starting next year, and the SFC will focus on other funding areas.

Proponents of the move say it will increase accountability and student access to events, but the total overhaul of the student group allocation process could cause quite a commotion.

"Student groups are the top and only priority of the OBC," said OBC member Lindsay Bing in an e-mail. "This frees the SFC up to spend more time on oversight and fair distribution to departments and student services."

PAY AS YOU GO
The OBC plans to immediately give each group a baseline operating budget to handle regular expenses, such as annual events or materials for group meetings. For now, that amount is $500 for the whole fiscal year, or $125 per term. After that, a group may request an additional $2,500 over the course of the fiscal year on an event-by-event basis, said Bing.

Previously, groups under the OBC’s control were allocated $2,000 per year at the most, whereas now groups have access to up to $3,000—with the OBC’s permission.

Groups will be required to complete reflections after each student-fee-funded event, as well as quarterly reports to the OBC, meaning that the organization will be flooded with information throughout the year. OBC member Jim Gent believes this process will lead to increased accountability for groups.

According to Gent, under the OBC’s proposed model, OBC members will also place student groups into funding tiers based on university engagement, communication, accurate budgeting, responsible spending, service, recognition and eligibility to receive funds.

Theoretically, a group with a larger budget that spends responsibly and demonstrates university engagement will be placed into a different tier and will have access to a higher level of funding than a group who blows their budget, shows no university engagement and has poor communication.

Another side effect of this new model is that student group leaders will not have to plan their group’s entire budget a year in advance; instead, they will have access to funding for smaller programs right away.

"Because student leaders will be planning events that they will carry out in the near future, we anticipate that projections for costs will be more accurate," said OBC member Sean Green in an e-mail.

Additionally, the funding will be given out based on when it is needed, not a year in advance. This way, a student group is not necessarily out of luck if they have a last-minute idea for an event or an unexpected expense.

WHY THE CHANGE?
The 2009-10 SFC made the decision to alter the OBC’s purpose back in June, Bing said.

“Student groups were a large percentage of the entities requesting funding [from the SFC], but a small portion of the funds,” said Gent, who was a member of the SFC when the change was made. “For the sake of being fiscally responsible, the [2009-10] SFC opted to move all student organizations to an alternate funding board.”

This year, the OBC is only implementing their model for groups already under their guidance. Next year the OBC will take over all 100-plus student organizations.

All of the former SFC student groups who were given budgets last June will use those budgets for the 2010-11 school year,” said Bing. “Their transition will happen when they are planning budget requests for the 2011-12 school year.”

Bing defended the change, saying, “[Student groups] are not going to have to go through the negotiating dance where they would request more than they need, the SFC would cut their budget significantly, then they would appeal for their actual needs and the SFC might grant it. That process really wasn’t working for anybody.”

YOU DOWN WITH OBC?
The three-member funding body—comprised of Bing, Gent and Green—is still figuring out exactly how this process will work. The OBC is working closely with SFC, and Bing said they hope to have member of the SFC join the OBC as an additional voting member.

The OBC has already begun receiving funding requests from student groups, and Bing hopes by fall term they have a working model for distribution, rules for use and meetings set up to explain the process to student leaders.

THE FUTURE OF THE STUDENT INCIDENTAL FEE
When groups request the exact amount of money they need to pull off an event, there is less demand on available funds, said Gent. He believes the new model is a mechanism for measured growth of the student fee.

“The likelihood of continued rapid growth of the student fee has decreased,” Gent said.
**Breakfast on the Bridges**
When: Last Friday of every month (Oct. 29)
Where: Hawthorne Bridge, Steel Bridge, Morrison Bridge
Hours: 7 to 9 a.m.
If you’re in for an early commute, stop for a free snack to take to class.
Hawthorne Bridge: Team Hawthorne stations itself at the west end of the bridge—north side, westbound where the bike/pedestrian lane splits.
Steel Bridge: Team Steel sets up just east of the entrance to the lower bike/pedestrian path—north end of the Eastbank Esplanade.
Morrison Bridge: Find Team Morrison at the covered viewpoint on the south side of the bridge, where the bike/pedestrian path runs.

**Portland Saturday Market**
When: Saturdays and Sundays until January
Where: Waterfront Park, SW Ankeny Street and Naito Parkway
Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Operating since 1974, the Portland Saturday Market is the largest continually operating outdoor arts and crafts market in the nation. There's always a ton of cheap and delicious food cart grub, dreaded hacky-sackers, and general weirdness. Watch out for cops pretending to sell weed!

**Uncle Paul’s Produce**
When: Daily
Where: 2310 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
For more affordable farm fresh fare.

**Brewing Class**
When: Oct. 9
Hours: 9 a.m.
The fine folks at Portland’s oldest brewing supply store will host a brewing demo for beginners and one for advanced brewers. Snacks and drinks often provided.
503-232-8793

photos courtesy of Flickr
**free(ish)!**

**FREE ARCADE PLAY**
When: Last Wednesday of every month (Sept 29 and Oct 27)
Where: Ground Kontrol, 511 NW Couch St.
Hours: Doors open at 5 p.m., DJs start at 9 p.m.
Stretch your gaming dollar by paying just the $5 cover for free games all night! 21 and over event only, and drinks aren’t free.

**free!**

**ART SHOWS**
When: First Thursday of every month (Oct 7)
Where: Pearl District from NW Couch and Park to NW Glisan and 4th
Hours: 5pm - ?
Duck into pearl district galleries at the First Thursday art walk to find lots of free art exhibits from industrial noise installation to oil on canvas. Plus FREE snacks and beer/wine. ID is required.

When: Fourth Friday of every month (Oct 22)
Hours: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Free Fourth Friday’s often feature live music and cheap eats from some of Portland’s best food carts in the museum’s courtyard.

When: Sept. 25 to January, Tues - day through Saturday
Where: Museum of Contemporary Craft, 724 NW Davis St.
Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
An interactive exhibit of museum history and graphic design history.

**free!**

**movies**
5th Ave Cinema
510 SW Hall St.
Showings are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 and 9:30 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Rural Film Festival
One night only!
Friday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

“Mother” (2009)
Oct. 8–10

“Black Orpheus” (1959)
Oct. 15–17

“Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One” (1968)
Oct. 22–24

“Black Sheep” (2006)
Oct. 29–31

**late night**
It’s a bit past 4 p.m. and I’m starting off at Northeast 10th and Alberta Street for Last Thursday. Today I was promised the Lemonade Revolt, wherein those rabble-rousers of Last Thursday were going to set up rows upon rows of lemonade stands in reaction to Multnomah County Health Inspectors shutting down an 8-year-old girl’s illegal lemonade cartel. Really, her mother drove her up from Oregon City to sell lemonade at Last Thursday and when the health inspectors busted her, she ended up crying like … well, a little girl.

Of course, they made the mistake of busting a little girl for operating without a license at Last Thursday, Portland’s end-of-the-month event of freaks and free-trade-zone peddlers and those trying to make an honest buck from homemade wares … or BBQ … or face painting … or what have you. The good people of Last Thursday rose up to defend her from the mean bureaucrats, but the county threatened to fine the adorable little girl anyway. In my head, I had visions of endless free lemonade, as selling it is apparently illegal without a $120 restaurant license. I was surprised to hear all the reaction to it, considering this city is not generally friendly to business-minded folk. I guess if you’re only the most adorable 8-year-old in history, the people give you a bit more slack.

With no stands by the time I hit a bar on Northeast 21st and Alberta, I decided to simply refresh myself with a legitimate drink … Old German Lager. I stumbled into a bar called The Know. This place is everything a dive should be. It’s dark inside. The bathrooms reek of stale urine and poorly mopped-up vomit. The jukebox is stacked with stuff that’d offend your parents. If you want to smoke and drink, they have a back alley blocked off from street view and littered with cigarette butts. This bar is known mostly for its punk rock and heavy metal offerings, and cheap or free shows. The beer costs less than a vending machine soda. Their PBR, Hamms and Old German Lager Tall Boys (16 oz. of suds) run $1 during happy hour and their normal price of $2 isn’t anything to scoff at. They also have pinball and some of their chairs aren’t broken.

I progressed after several beers and moved on. Finally, I found a lemonade stand that looked new. A clean-cut, very young-looking fellow by the name of Joe was squeezing fresh lemons. He wore a shirt and had signs that matched. They all said “Iraq Veterans Against the War.” I asked him whether they were against the Iraq or Afghanistan war,
and he said there “was some disagreement with that nationally.” I asked what brought him out today for the Lemonade Revolt. He said without hesitation, “Really, just to promote this organization.” He did have top-quality lemonade, being the only one I saw squeezing lemons right in front of me. He also added Fred Meyer honey to the mixture.

Just next to Joe’s lemonade stand was a young woman holding a cardboard sign which simply read “Kiss?” It was essentially a donation-based kissing booth. The tip jar seemed pretty full. The girl looked pretty. A lot of non-permitted business on Last Thursday seems to run under the model of donations accepted to avoid fees and the law.

Finally I found a sign for a kid-run lemonade stand. A small boy was standing next to a string of handmade signs taped to a stop sign. He ushered me down the street, off Alberta where a promised lemonade stand was. So I walked. And kept walking.

About a block down, between two hedges, a young girl, maybe 7 years old, was selling 25 cent lemonade. Another sign had promised an opportunity to win $5 for only 25 cents, yet there was no advertising of such a gamble when I ordered my drink. I only had a $5 on me, and as they had just set up shop, I was only given $4 in change. She didn’t seem to think anything was wrong with that and happily took the tidy profit.

On my way back down, I’m offered a free prayer. Having been around so many hippie-dippie festivals, I was more or less convinced that some sort of pagan ritual was about to take place. Much to my surprise, a middle-aged Hispanic woman offered me a Catholic prayer as she stood by a banner for her Spanish language church. I accepted and was blessed right then and there on the street, next to a bar and a woman painting a butterfly on someone’s face.

I met my friend Andrew, who told me someone up the street was playing the hurdy gurdy, which even by Portland’s obscure instrument standards was pretty obscure. (I once overheard someone at a party saying with a straight face, “The ukulele is the new glockenspiel,” so you get my point.) When we later passed by, a huge crowd had amassed around the hurdy gurdy busker.

Musicians pretty much inhabited every single street corner, or sometimes bus shelters. Sometimes they just parked their van, took out their stuff and played right there. Sometimes an acoustic ensemble would jam. This Last Thursday was particularly full of musicians.

Eventually, I made it to my destination for the evening—a hole-in-the-wall joint, aptly named the Alberta Street Public House, run by an Irish man named Mike or Mikey or Michael, depending on whom you asked. Full disclosure: I do DJ here. I DJ’d on Last Thursday for a band called Chervona, a raucous Russian gypsy punk band. This band plays here every Last Thursday and has for as long as I’ve been able to go out. The energy they produce from their persona is akin to Chernobyl, if a mushroom cloud had erupted. The nuclear-infused gypsy rock is infectious. Even those who tried not to dance were taken over by the sounds of guitar, trombone, viola, clarinet, drums and accordion. A few songs in, and every dancer is drenched with sweat. Layers of clothing peel off as the revelers, infused in Eastern European tunes and beer, whiskey and vodka, dance the night away.

Last Thursday happens every month. This September is probably the last outdoor event, as the rains set in, but there is always something happening.

“MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, A MIDDLE-AGED HISPANIC WOMAN OFFERED ME A CATHOLIC PRAYER AS SHE STOOD BY A BANNER FOR HER SPANISH LANGUAGE CHURCH.”
Hector H. Lopez, an Oregon college student, was deported to Mexico eight weeks before his 21st birthday because he came to the U.S. six weeks after he was born. Lopez arrived in the U.S. in the winter of 1989—18 years later he is the student body president at Rex Putnam High School, and taking an advance placement class at Portland State. Two more years pass and he’s working and saving money to transfer from Clackamas Community College to PSU, where he hoped to continue to study marketing and advertising. But he won’t make it to PSU, because a judge that Lopez has never met issued a warrant for his deportation when he was 9 years old.

“I never got a chance to see a judge before I was deported,” said Lopez over the phone at a press conference on Sept. 21 held in the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Siovhan Sheridan-Ayala, Lopez’s lawyer, said that what Lopez expe-
I spent my life in America. I’m just asking for help to come back to Portland, to come back home, where I belong.”

over the phone, “I asked for what, they told me they had a warrant for 11 years.”

The reason that it took Immigrations and Customs Enforcement so long to find Lopez is due to his clean record. ICE has two ways of catching illegal immigrants, the most common of which is through processing a case where someone with illegal status is arrested for a crime ("Feds: Where Were You Born?" The Spectator, December 2009), and the other is by active search and arrest of old, unfulfilled warrants.

“In recent years,” said Sheridan-Ayala of ICE, “they’ve really been trying to go after people.”

Lopez’s parents were also ordered deported, but his mother was granted 90 days to find a guardian for her U.S. born, 14-year-old son who won’t be deported. It took 12 days before his father was sent to meet him in Mexico City where, according to Lopez, they have no place to stay, no way to get income and he is “struggling to speak Spanish every third word.”

PSU Director of Communications Scott Gallagher confirmed that Lopez took one advanced placement class at PSU back in the fall of 2007, when he would have been a high school senior. According to a source at the university who wishes to remain anonymous, the class was second year Spanish, and Lopez got a C. Otherwise, Lopez was a top student—student body president his senior year of Rex Putnam High School in Milwaukee, Ore., and participant in the Oregon Leadership Institute.

Lopez told The Spectator that he would’ve attended PSU right out of high school but he couldn’t afford the out-of-state tuition that illegal immigrants must pay. According to PSU President Wim Wiewel, out-of-state tuition is about $10,000 more than the in-state price.

“This isn’t just about immigration, it’s about education,” said Melisa Sarabia, secretary of MEChA, speaking at the press conference. PSU MEChA is one student group chapter of a national organization dedicated to supporting Latino college success. According to PSU MEChA Senior Public Relations Officer Erich San Juan-Corona, the first thing the group will be focusing on is to lobby for the passage of the DREAM Act, a piece of national legislation that would create a pathway to legal citizenship for upstanding immigrants already living in the U.S.

“We do nothing but advocacy and getting more Latinos in school,” said San Juan-Corona in an interview with The Spectator.

DREAMERS ACT OUT

Last year, Sarabia hosted a Portland State screening of a documentary called “Papers” about college students being deported. She was informed about Lopez’s case by the producers of that film, who themselves were informed by Lopez’s lawyer.

“Siovhan [Sheridan-Alaya] brought this to my attention,” said "Papers’“ Co-Producer Anne Galisky.

Having worked as an activist in support of immigration reform and immigration rights, Galisky was moved by Lopez’s story, so she asked Sheridan-Alaya if Lopez would be willing to tell his story to the press on the same day that the U.S. Senate would be considering passage of the DREAM Act.

“Sharing my story is very important,” said Lopez over broken phone reception at the press conference. “The DREAM Act could help two million people like myself … to give these two million people in my situation a face and a voice.”

Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who supported passage of a city resolution to support the DREAM Act, also spoke at the conference noting her own immigration experience when she was Lopez’s age.

“We are not aliens,” said Fritz, “we are not from outer space. We are human beings.”

Fritz urged support for immigration reform, saying, “We have so many barriers to legal immigration, it’s ridiculous that we’re struggling right now to pass the DREAM Act.”

Wiewel, who is also an immigrant, echoed Fritz saying, “My
support for the DREAM Act is no doubt highly motivated by my personal experience.”

Wiewel’s impassioned speech went beyond the human side of the story.

“For sheer economic survival of the state,” intoned the university president, “we are fools if we do not change the current system.”

While Wiewel and others were voicing their support for Lopez and the DREAM Act, several students were following the Senate’s debate on Twitter. Eventually, the news came in that the defense appropriations bill, which the DREAM Act had been attached to, failed to pass by four votes. Within minutes after the conference, an e-mail from dreamactivists.org began circulating, and “Papers” Co-Producer Rebecca Shine read it aloud to the small crowd still present.

“This is not the end of the line,” read Shine, announcing that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid would try to put the DREAM Act up as a stand-alone bill. Mixed reactions of relief and anxiety spread through the hall as student activists and community members took in the news that the act would be taking essentially a pass or fail vote soon. As of press time, Sheridan-Alaya is working to get a parole order for Lopez that would allow him to return for up to one year, potentially enough time to pass the DREAM Act, which Lopez currently qualifies for.

“You have to change public awareness,” he said, “but it’s ultimately up to the senators.”

Lopez spoke at the press conference about his life in Portland, referring to little league baseball and his senior prom. Lopez’s best friend, Sonya Yi told The Spectator over the phone that she and others were working hard to bring him back home. Yi has started a Facebook page called “Bring Hector Back” to show public support and try to help his legal case. Yi said that Lopez was inspired to be independent from his parents at a young age.

“He knew what he wanted to do since high school,” she said. “He always worked at sport stores like Dick’s Sports and Finish Line.”

During high school, Lopez worked at a sports store in Portland and later earned an internship at a local leader in the industry, where Yi believes he was employed at the time of his deportation. Lopez asked that the name of his employer not be used in this article, as he still holds out hope of returning to his job.

Yi, who has known Lopez since elementary school, described him as an avid sports fan.

“His shoe collection is ridiculous,” she laughed.

On Myspace, Lopez’s profile picture is from his senior photo album, and his page section is dominated by comments from his high school sweetheart Mandy Pham. Lopez told The Spectator in an e-mail that he met Pham at a summer leadership camp for the Oregon Association of Student Councils. Pham, who was the last person to post to Lopez’s page, wrote a comment about Lopez that read, “He has made me the person I am today. Don’t steal him away from me world.”

Two weeks after Lopez’s deportation was their third anniversary together.

Lopez’s speech during the press conference was made all the more moving when San Juan-Corona began to get choked up at Lopez’s closing remarks.

“I was raised in America,” said Lopez. “I spent my life in America. I’m just asking for help to come back to Portland, to come back home, where I belong.”

“WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BE ABLE TO GO HOME.”

San Juan-Corona, who incidentally was the person holding Lopez’s voice up to the microphones during the press conference, reacted to the news with renewed strength.
Residents in Good Hands at PSU

ALONG WITH SAFETY, COMES THE COST OF HIGHER SCRUTINY FROM SECURITY OFFICERS

Jeff Wickizer

The Office of Residence Life, together with the Campus Public Safety Office, has made living on campus a safe, educational and enjoyable experience for new and returning students.

The number of students living on the Portland State campus has nearly doubled since 2007, when Residence Life took charge of on-campus housing. The overall percentage of drug violations among these 2,100 students has steadily decreased. During this same period, however, CPSO has made more arrests on campus and in the residence halls.

Seven years ago, Portland State was on a mission to regain control of on-campus housing. The first step in this process was creating the Office of Residence Life (street name: Res-Life). As current Director Corey Ray says, "Our goal was to take back control of housing, to promote academics and provide students with easier access to the abundant resources that are available to them at this university."

College Housing Northwest, the organization that was responsible for managing on-campus housing prior to March 2007, had "building managers" who monitored the buildings and the students who occupied them.

When Res-Life took over control of on-campus housing, they made it their mission to grow the institution.

"We are the frontline people who figure out what students want and need," Ray said.

SAFETY FIRST, COCKTAILS SECOND

Ray says that Res-Life's work would not be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of CPSO.

"I really appreciate the efforts made by CPSO and officers like Mike Anderson, who has taken a proactive approach to being visual and establishing positive communication with students living on campus and our resident advisors," Ray said.

The higher security profile within the halls has changed the perception many students have of campus life.

"Now the students expect to see the public safety officers making rounds," said Ray.

Anderson has seen a change in the perception of law enforcement among students living in the dorms. According to Anderson, many students look beyond the badge and display of authority and see someone who is there to help them.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

To encourage students to live on campus and to attract out-of-state and international students, PSU provides opportunities and resources. One program that Res-Life developed is First Year Experience.

Within the FYE program, there are two smaller clusters available to new students. These clusters are designed to enhance students' classroom experience through educational and social programming within the residence halls. This arrangement reinforces what the students are learning inside the classroom and it is evident in the grades these freshmen are receiving.

"Our freshman had the lowest GPAs coming out of high school, but by the end of the year had the highest GPAs among freshman at the university," Ray said.
“People in the residence halls know me and what to expect from me,” Anderson said.

Drug Law violations, weapons possession violations and cases of assault in the residence halls steadily declined after Res-Life and CPSO took over three years ago. However, drug related arrests continued to increase on campus, from 10 in 2006 to 16 in 2008.

Anderson, who has been with the department for five years, works closely with residents on campus. He said he saw a need for increased patrols within the residence halls, citing a lack of "officer presence".

“I saw a lot of stuff going on in the housing buildings,” Anderson said. “I made an effort to patrol the residence halls and be seen by the students and resident advisors.”

Anderson’s efforts may be paying off. While burglary is up in residence halls, there were no arrests for hate crimes, assault or illegal weapons in 2009.

Students are deterred from drugs and guns by higher arrest rates and the presence of officers, but alcohol consumption by students has hit an all-time high. According to CPSO reports, the number of alcohol-related violations in the residence halls nearly doubled between 2007 and 2008, and arrests for those violations jumped from zero in 2008 to 14 last year. Of the 203 alcohol-related violations on campus in 2008, 197 took place in the residence halls.

Though student drinking may be on the rise, crime overall is down and students are feeling safer in the residence halls, judging by evaluation forms filled out by students. And, as Ray points out, only about 10 percent of students living on campus violate the drug and alcohol policy, with only one percent of those being repeat offenders.

With crime statistics down, more students living on campus than ever before and excellent reviews from the students they serve, the Office of Residence Life has achieved tremendous success in only three years.

“We have done well, but there is always room for improvement. We will continue to find ways to better serve the students and families of this university,” Ray said.

Campus Public Safety Officer Mike Anderson, known as “Manderson” among RAs

RESIDENT ADVISORS
RAs are the “face” of Res-Life and serve as a vital resource to first-year students. According to the Office of Residence Life, potential candidates must go through a rigorous interview and are screened through a background and reference check process before being required to attend a 10-week course.

RA Colleen Conklin (below), who is in her second year with Res-Life and one of its top RAs, says the job is not easy but is very rewarding.

“It is a big deal for many parents to have their children moving out of the home and living on their own for the first time, and we take that responsibility and their safety very seriously,” Conklin said.

She admits there are challenges to the job, such as walking the hallways monitoring for signs of possible alcohol or drug use and confronting students when these violations occur.

Moving Day
Conklin and the other RAs were present on Sept. 18 and 19, the weekend students were able to move into their new housing. Their presence provided parents with an opportunity to meet the people that will be looking after their children, ask questions and relieve concerns.
Legalize It, Don’t Criticize It

Pot dispensary supporters are legion, but official endorsement eludes them

When Jim Klahr was diagnosed with cirrhosis, he decided to get involved in the movement to make medical marijuana more accessible to seriously ill people, as an alternative to pharmaceutical medication. Frustrated with the slow pace of the delivery system under Oregon’s existing medical marijuana laws, Klahr petitioned Measure 74, which would establish a system of licensed and regulated medical cannabis dispensaries.

“No one who takes any medicine of any kind should have to wait three or four months” to get medicine, he said. “[Measure 74] allows people to maintain their rights.”

The measure made it onto the November ballot and has a loyal base of support among medical marijuana patients, but faces strong opposition from state-wide police departments and some reservation from the Citizen’s Initiative Review. With November getting closer and closer, it is anyone’s guess how Measure 74 will weather the incoming political storm.

“We came up with a balanced initiative,” said Klahr. “It doesn’t stop people from doing what they’re
doing now. Those who are growing do so out of the costs of their own gardens.

Under Measure 74, farmers would be licensed by the state to grow and distribute marijuana to medical marijuana dispensaries. This would, in effect, establish a system of privately owned, non-profit dispensaries, subject to state regulations. Supporters say this solves a common problem faced by medical marijuana patients: How to access the marijuana itself.

“One of the biggest problems people have is being able to grow their own or get someone to do it for them,” said Sandee Burbank, executive director of Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse, an organization dedicated to educating people about the use and misuse of drugs. She also uses medical marijuana to ease symptoms of breast cancer, arthritis and muscle spasms. “You need [a grower] with knowledge and experience, but you can’t pay them for it. You can only pay them for the dirt and the seeds.” Burbank says that MAMA is officially neutral regarding Measure 74.

Under existing Oregon law, a person with a medical marijuana card can buy or grow up to six marijuana plants, or 72 ounces of marijuana. It still prosecutes people under the Controlled Substances Act, however, sparing only people who are in “direct and unambiguous compliance” with the law. A simple possession charge, for example, requires proof of more than one ounce of marijuana. Also, Measure 74 proponents say that the existing law ignores the fact that different amounts and strains of marijuana effects each person differently.

Measure 74’s proponents say that a dispensary system solves this problem by creating standards of different strains to deal with different illnesses, effectively letting the system regulate itself.

“If you have a permit, you’re part of a government program,” said Klahr. “Their medicine will be standardized by consistently growing certain strains for different people’s needs.”

“The medicine may need to be tested, but even if that doesn’t happen, the market will drive the demand,” said Burbank.

The measure’s critics see serious problems with a dispensary system, however. The Citizen’s Initiative Review supported the measure by a 13–11 vote, but said that it wasn’t specific enough in detailing the operation and regulation of the dispensaries, or the enforcement of rules preventing fraud and abuse. They also say that employees are exempt from prosecution for “marijuana-related activities” as long as they are in “substantial compliance”, a loosely-defined term which roughly means acting in good faith, even when making a mistake.

In a statement, the 11 board members who voted against it said, “Proponents are saying ‘trust us’ before rules are made.”

“While some of the motives of the people involved with Measure 74 are pure, we have several problems with the clarity of it,” said Bob Caldwell, editor of The Oregonian’s editorial page, which has come out against the measure. “We don’t feel that it creates a system for medical marijuana. The impact of the measure continues the move in the direction of marijuana use in society. I understand that some people see marijuana as medicine, but I don’t know that that’s true.”

Police departments around the state have also condemned the measure, saying that dispensaries are potential targets for crime, and that they will lead to abuse of the drug by making it more available.

For his part, Klahr scoffs at such notions, saying that people with grower and dispensary permits would have the responsibility of being audited and testing the marijuana supplies.

“We would have a good security system in place. If there was any black market action, it would come out in audits, and the police would get involved.”

Whatever Measure 74’s fate in November, Klahr said that the public’s attitude toward and acceptance of medical marijuana will always depend on personal experience with pain and sickness, pointing out that, “You can be for, against or in the middle of the road on this issue, but when it’s your friend or family member, you see it much differently.”

MEASURES ON THE NOV. 2 BALLOT

Measure 70 – Veterans
Expands the availability of home loans for veterans through the Oregon War Veterans’ Fund.

Measure 71 – Government Administration
Changes the legislature’s meeting to every year instead of every other year.

Measure 72 – Government Administration
Authorizes lowest-cost borrowing for the state’s real and personal property projects.

Measure 73 – Mandatory Minimums
Requires an increased minimum sentence for some sex crimes and repeat DUIs.

Measure 74 – Marijuana
State to license marijuana farmers who can distribute crop to medical marijuana dispensaries.

Measure 75 – Casinos
Creates a gaming tax of 25 percent of gross revenues for education, state police and local governments across the state.

Measure 76 – Environment
Renews dedication of 15 percent of lottery proceeds to parks and natural resources.

—ballotpedia.org
Three years ago, Jesse O’Brien’s daily routine involved searing desert heat, sand storms, 50 pounds of armor and a set of desert camouflage. He now sits behind his desk in the Student Veterans Association office with Kevin Hershey. These two men, who have traveled the world, are now negotiating new roles as students, leaders and community advocates. They meet regularly with everyone from professors to administrators at Student Health and Counseling as well as outside organizations to advocate for the interests of U.S. veterans.

Since the first GI Bill was created after World War II, millions of veterans have been given the chance to earn a college degree in return for years of service in the military. During the first 12 years of the program, over 7.8 million GIs used their benefits to secure an education. After the Vietnam War, over 76 percent of veterans used their education benefits.

“UNCLE SUGAR OWES YOU”

Allen Roberts is PSU’s new veteran certification officer—a position created in 2009 to deal with the increasing number of veterans and the importance of following the requirements of the newer Post 9/11 GI Bill. His job is to help veterans with problems of any kind, ranging from initial certification, low grades or disability status to navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs’ complicated system. The certification office is buzzing with activity. Students wander in for assistance, while some wait for an appointment, although Roberts does a majority of his work with walk-ins. He sits on a simple black chair in the waiting room, talking to veteran and PSU alumnus Andrew Burnmeister, who hopes to return for his master’s degree, which may now be covered under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Roberts’s advice to college-bound veterans is peppered with colloquialisms and military vernacular; at one point, while encouraging Burnmeister to return to PSU, he said, “Uncle Sugar owes you.” A veteran himself, Roberts knows...
how to speak to GI’s. In an interview with The Spectator, he related the role of his office, and debunked misconceptions about military service.

“The importance of the GI Bill is it makes college attainable,” Roberts said.

CHARLIE MIKE: CONTINUE MISSION
Many veterans learned leadership skills and perseverance in the military, but it is only recently that PSU has offered them a place to hone and adapt those skills to civilian life. Only six years ago, there was no organization at PSU for returning veterans; no office acted as a hub for veterans or veteran concerns. These servicemen and women realized their duty to continue their mission because student-veteran needs were not being met. In 1994, Brian Friend, Jacob Meeks and other student veterans joined together with Saeed Haji in the Multicultural Center to form the SVA, with minimal funding or fanfare. In 1997, Vice Provost Jackie Balzer fielded veteran concerns and collaborated with faculty. The student group flourished.

“A few months after my arrival I met with a small student group of veterans,” Balzer recalls. “[Now] the SVA has a space and is thriving. My goal is to call attention to the needs of veterans and provide leadership with information about why we should be concerned with supporting these students.”

NOT MERELY GUNS AND AMMO
The SVA has gained support among students by collaborating with other student groups to foster greater understanding of veteran-related issues. Hershey, 2009–10 SVA president, stated that one of their goals was serving the varied needs of veterans.

“Veteran population is extremely diverse,” Hershey said. “Differences of religion, race and even foreign citizenship make it difficult to tackle many interests. Some veterans may want to be left alone and get on with their lives.”

SVA’s accomplishments for 2009–10 include collaborating with the Queer Resource Center for a panel regarding Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the biennial SVA and Muslim Student Association dinner and establishing the first Veterans Day celebration at PSU.

The group helped student veterans by raising money for the Jules Turner Memorial Scholarship in memory of a PSU student, and performing the play “The Telling Project” to create awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder and the veteran experience. “The Telling Project” has been performed twice at PSU, and two student leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., and presented it for President Barack Obama.

Balzer and the SVA hope to increase support structures for returning veterans, particularly with health services, counseling and educating staff and students about signs and symptoms of PTSD and depression. SHAC now sends a representative to monthly SVA meetings, and the group is working to address suicide risks and psychiatric emergencies among veterans.

CAN PSU STAND AND DELIVER FOR VETERANS?
How much support do returning veterans find at Portland State?

The job has just begun to accommodate student veterans as they return from combat half a world away. While PSU is not preparing specifically for an increase in student veterans, the university has made changes over the last few years to care for their specific needs.

To commemorate veteran service, and recognize PSU’s roots, administrators have set aside space for a veterans’ memorial park. The patch of grass on the corner of Southwest Market Street and 11th Avenue may someday be the location of a veterans’ park or a commemorative statue. For now, the SVA will continue lobbying, planning and representing the needs of students. Even if there is an immediate influx of students, this determined student group will keep leading the way with their vision of a student center for veterans instead of a student group office, so that no soldier is left behind in their search for higher education.

“The difficult we do immediately,” said Hershey. “The impossible takes a little longer.”
On the Other Hand
The political season is in full swing. However, Oregon politics are seeing something unusual this season—a spectrum of politically viable Republicans in a state bluer than Zac Efron’s eyes. Not just that, but across the state, a few Republicans are actually in the lead. So hang on tight—this midterm could get messy.

The most noticeable Republican in the lead is gubernatorial candidate Chris Dudley. He made so much noise after defeating his opponents in the May Primary that the National Republican Gubernatorial Committee is pouring cash into this race, something they don’t generally do in Oregon. Not only that, but they’ve forced Democrat candidate, two-time former Oregon governor and Kris Kristofferson body-double John Kitzhaber to turn to negative campaigning, something he’s almost exclusively stayed away from.

Dudley, a former Portland Trail Blazer, is a political newcomer. This has its advantages and disadvantages. Namely, you can’t pin him to past political mistakes, as he has made none. On the downside, people flock to his private life and events he has done. The main talking point has been lately that Dudley, while playing for the Trail Blazers, had a home in Camas, Wash. to avoid paying Oregon’s exorbitantly high property taxes. Meanwhile, he also purchased a home in Lake Oswego, which was closer to his place of employment, and apparently lived there more often than allowed under Oregon tax law. The conversation has thusly moved toward accusations of tax evasion.

What the conversation misses, though, is that Oregon’s property taxes are stupid high. A woman at the Dorchester Conference, an annual gathering of Oregon Republicans, complained to me that she had to pay “$4,000 a year for the privilege of living in my own home, which I’ve owned outright for over 20 years.” For a retired couple, that’s huge chunk of change. My parents, who own a million dollar house in Santa Barbara, pay as much in property taxes a year on their home as they do for the $120,000 condo they own in Portland.

Now, Dudley has his flaws: He has skipped out on a lot of opportunities to debate his opponent, has voiced few ideas on public policy and has refused to debate unless questions were supplied ahead of time. His lack of experience might be a bit disconcerting, but he’s been endorsed by local business leaders, including Nike owner Phil Knight. Plus, his stance on the OLCC (which is to essentially nix it) is a positive step in advancing Oregon into the enlightened 21st century.

Kitzhaber has been funded almost exclusively by state employee unions, which sort of tells you where his loyalties lie. The one time I tried to see him speak, at a union hall, I was escorted off the property, even after showing my press credentials. I was told that “professionals were already taking care of [covering the event].” Even after I left to the public sidewalk, the union members proceeded to shut off the outdoor loudspeakers because I was still there—i guess I wasn’t privy to what Kitzhaber was telling union members. I did manage to snake a killer turkey sandwich and soda before being made to leave.

Neither candidate granted The Spectator an interview. From experiences in trying to talk to both at public events, Kitzhaber’s people turned The Spectator away. Dudley was more personable and talked to us a bit, and even gave us his two cents on the fate of the OLCC—the one question on our sheet that was used in the debate. Incidentally, the Oregon Republican Party has now changed their official platform to incorporate Dudley’s call for the abolition of the OLCC and a whopping 50-percent drop in Oregon’s liquor tax. Such a decision would drop the price of a fifth of liquor by $4 on average. This is a significant number, as Oregon already features one of the lowest beer taxes in the nation and has since had a boom in brewing, with Oregon beers being known in the nation as the best, and winning worldwide competitions. This might be the GOP’s best move yet to entice younger voters.

The only debate scheduled between the two candidates will be on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. Check The Spectator website for more details after the debate.

Oregon’s Governor Race—Old vs. New

The same political story is playing out all over the country: A political newcomer taking on an established political figure. But Oregon’s story is a bit different.

Xander Almeida
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