Underage and for Sale

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ALSO INSIDE: TUITION RESTRUCTURING AT PORTLAND STATE P. 7 | DON’T ASK, DON’T REPORT P. 14
UPDATE: HECTOR LOPEZ BACK IN THE USA P. 18
Sex Traffic and Portland’s Role in Modern Slavery

Jeff Wickizer and Natalia Grozina

Jeff Wickizer explores Portland’s underground trade in human victims while Natalia Grozina unveils the truth behind slavery’s roots and recent developments.

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 reader,

Slavery is alive and thriving in Portland, one of the country's biggest hubs. What are local and national law enforcement agencies doing to rescue the millions of victims of international slave trade? Read our feature on sex trafficking to find out.

Meanwhile, your tuition is going up again this year and depending on how things go in Salem, you may not have anything to say about it. Will that be very different from how it is now? The only way to find out is to keep reading the only news outlet on campus which gives you the details and digs into the background of news that is important to you.

Recently, Portland State was littered with an anonymous pamphlet criticizing campus publications. For a full rebuttal, read our editorial on page 16. For now, it is sufficient to say that we at the Spectator, and all the other student journalists on campus, have the integrity to put our name on the articles we write, and we spend the time to properly report on them. To whoever wrote the Publications Watchdog: Come out and take responsibility for your words and actions, or remain an unethical, print-blogger.

Jonathan Miles
Editor-in-Chief
ASPSU Grade Book

EACH MONTH, THE SPECTATOR WILL BE HIGHLIGHTING AND GRADING ASPSU’S ACTIONS, CULMINATING IN A FINAL GRADE AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR. AFTER ALL, WE ARE IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND THERE ISN’T A PASS/NO PASS OPTION FOR ASPSU.

DANIELLE KULCZYK

STUDENT VOICE IN RESTRUCTURING: C+

According to Katie Markey, ASPSU president, the Oregon University System proposal on restructuring has been submitted, and will be considered in the coming legislative session.

Markey said that ASPSU will be lobbying the restructuring issue and is in the process of synthesizing the information into brochures, fliers and PowerPoint presentations to distribute to students.

“Things to look for in with the OUS proposal include the ability to have local boards, the tuition setting process, budget note authority and employee benefit packages,” Markey said.

STUDENT DIGNITY: C-

FOOD PANTRY – In another turn of events, Markey said ASPSU was recently notified that the door to the new food pantry room on the third floor of Smith Memorial Student Union has asbestos. This delay comes after both ordering and installation issues with the lock for the door. The food pantry is still located in the ASPSU office for the time being, and donation bins are scattered throughout SMSU.

INCLUSIVE SPACES – There is no new news on inclusive spaces. ASPSU is still working with Student Health and Counseling to make informative videos for the Healthy Campus campaign.

ACCESS TO STUDENT FEE-FUNDED SERVICES: B

In fall term, ASPSU’s re-prioritization plan made it into President Wim Wiewel’s Strategic Plan for the university. And now we wait. The goal of the re-prioritization is to give students more access to SMSU, and to have SMSU become more of a student union. Proposed changes could take at least a year to be decided upon and implemented.

SMSU RESTRICTIONS – In late November, some student groups began complaining that their access to rooms in SMSU for group meetings and events was being hindered. A limit was placed upon groups, restricting them to no more than four hours per week of room access (above four hours, student groups would be charged the same amount as non-university groups for room time).

According to Markey, this policy has been in place for years, but rarely enforced until now.

“The decision to enforce it stems from issues encountered with specific student groups,” said Markey. “I’m still working with [Student Activities and Leadership Programs] and SMSU to determine better solutions.”

Markey has a meeting this month with building managers.
Recess – ASPSU kept asserting that they would be starting “Recess” the first Thursday of each month in the Park Blocks, but Oct. 7 and Nov. 4 came and went with no sign of recess.

Now, Markey said that ASPSU is re-evaluating the idea.

“We have spoken to Campus Rec and are considering partnering and making it a once-a-term event,” she said. “This will allow for more partnerships on campus, more games and activities and more advertising.”

Tuition-Setting Committee – In December, Markey met with Lindsay Desrochers, vice president of Finance and Administration, to discuss Portland State’s tuition situation. According to Markey, every year, PSU administration works with ASPSU during the tuition setting process, but there has never been a formal process for student input.

As a result, President Wiewel has asked Desrochers to form a committee of students, and Desrochers has asked Markey to nominate students to be a part of it. As the deadline for setting tuition is March, meetings will likely start this month. As of press time, Markey did not have names of committee members or the date of the first meeting set.

Aspsu Elections – ASPSU has begun the process of forming the Elections Board, which runs student government elections in April and May.

Final January Grade: B-  
Markey seems to be back on the right track with the reigns of ASPSU. She is dedicated to getting the word out about restructuring, and the opportunity to create a student board that helps with the tuition setting process is huge. The cursed food pantry and nonexistent recesses are really the only things dragging ASPSU down this month. •

Oct. 2010 Grade: B-  
Nov. 2010 Grade: C-
Sh*t to do!

“Asian Americans in the American Spy Service in Asia”
Jan. 12
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Free
Smith Memorial Student Union, room 327/8
Lecture from Dr. Brian Hayashi of Kyoto University.

Plays from 20th Century Playwrights
Lincoln Studio Theatre, 1620 SW Park Ave
Jan. 13–15 and Jan. 20–22 at 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16 at 2 p.m.
$4, free preview Jan. 13
The Zoo Story by Edward Albee and Mountain Language by Harold Pinter. Presented by the Department of Theater Arts and the School of Fine and Performing Arts.

MLK Day Keynote Address
SMSU Ballroom
Jan. 20
7 to 9 p.m.
Free for students, $10 general public
Current co-host of NPR’s All Things Considered, and former ABC News correspondent Michelle Norris will speak about cultural unity in light of MLK Day, and promote her new book, The Grace of Silence.

Artist Lecture from Mark Allen of the L.A. Machine Project
Shattuck Hall Annex, room 198
Jan. 24
7:30 p.m.
Free
Knowledge. Technology and artists come together to do... art.

ASPSU Survey Results

DANIELLE KULCZYK

Last month, the Spectator asked about what you think of ASPSU’s role on campus via a written or online survey, to which nine students responded. Too few people responded to our survey for an accurate statistical analysis, but we received some very interesting comments from those who did. (Initials only will be used to identify respondents.)

“While I think they could [and should] provide a service, I believe that they instead focus on things that are far outside their sphere of influence. If they kept it hyper-local, they might actually accomplish something.” — R

“ASPSU should not be focusing on voter registration—it’s a waste of time and money. They should focus instead on actual student issues.” — N

“Students at large should get more involved in activities around campus. The focus is always on student govt [sic] but never students themselves.” — M

“More funding should go to student groups.” — A

“ASPSU should detach from OSA.” — R

“As long as ASPSU remains to be unaccountable, inactive, disorganized, and invisible, they will remain to be irrelevant to the student body despite honorable accomplishments and victories. Despite its long history of activism, it is sad to see almost every ASPSU administration I’ve seen not attempt to reach its full potential in reaching out to PSU students and truly making a difference on campus.” — C
Happy Hour at The Original
300 SW 6th Ave
Daily
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Get past Thirsty Thursdays at Cheerful and take MAX down to Southwest 6th and Pine for a change. Enjoy gourmet cheesy fries (poutine) for only $5, or regular fries for $2. Buy one drink (like a $1 Pabst, or $4 wine) to get many other items under $5. Or, try a house-made soda if you’re under 21!

Happy Hour at Rocco’s Pizza and Bar
931 SW Oak St.
Daily
2 to 7 p.m.
One of the oldest pizza joints in town opened a bar last year and is giving you a reason to stop by. $3 microbrews and $2.50 well drinks in the bar, or a slice of cheese pizza with a soda for only $5 up the block at their main location (949 SW Oak St.) for all you under-agers.

Brew Hog at North 45 pub
517 NW 21st Ave
Thursdays
6 p.m.
Each week there will be a guest micro-brewer onsite sampling beers, as well as Brew Hog ribs and $3 pints on a tented, heated patio. Runs until April 7.
Jan. 13 – Deschutes
Jan. 20 – Oakshire
Jan. 27 – New Belgium

Sunday Concerts at Rontoms
600 E. Burnside
9 p.m.
Free
Jan. 16 – Ocean Floor
Jan. 23 – Hosannas
Jan. 30 – Mnemonic Sounds

Opera for Lunch
Lincoln Hall, room 75
Thursdays
Noon to 1 p.m.
Free
Check out crazy good flouting from Sydney Carlson, on Jan. 13, crazy good horn from Melissa Robinson Jan. 20, and what can only be crazy awesome vocals from various Portland State singers on Jan. 27.
5th Ave Cinema
Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.

Jan. 7-9
Buffy The Vampire Slayer (1992)
dir. Fran Rubel Kuzui
Head cheerleader, Buffy, must assume her destined role as vampire slayer, and what ensues is the campy movie that gave birth to one of TV’s most loved series (and a new class at Portland State). Starring Kirsty Swanson, Tyler Perry and Donald Sutherland.

Jan. 14-16
The Blue Angel (1930)
dir. Josef von Sternberg
Originally called Der Blaue Engel, this odd German flick focuses on a college professor who becomes infatuated with a speakeasy singer and becomes entangled in a bizarre duel involving a magician and a brute. Starring Marlene Dietrich and Emil Jannings.

Jan. 21
Viking Fest 2011: Concert/ Fundraiser for At-risk Youth
SMSU Ballroom
Jan. 21
7 p.m.
$6 pre-sale, $8 door
Viking Fest is a mini musical festival presented by Alpha Kappa Psi. Bright Midnight is a traditional rock band with ’70s and ’80s influences. Driving guitars, thumping bass and powerful vocals give this band a dirty sound. To be honest, I did not like this band at first, I thought they were just another band who wanted to prove they were better than today’s acts by stylizing their sound after those of eras past. However, after I listened to everything on the band’s Myspace page, I found myself coming back and listening again and again. The vocals of Beau Atkinson are what hook you in at first, and if you are a fan of classic rock, the soft overdrive of the guitars will really interest you. This band is definitely worth seeing.

The Brave Chandeliers have that Portland sound of pop piano laced over guitars. The duo is local—Nick Drum fittingly on drums, vocals and piano, and Jon McNeill on guitar. They have the soul pop music going for them, too. There is nothing special about the way they play the guitar or piano, but when put all together, it gives for some pretty catchy songs.

Scott Brocket will be back by popular demand, but this time without his old band, Holding Out.
—Gregory Bertrand

Documentary:
Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100
Multicultural Center, SMSU room 228
Jan. 19
6 to 9 p.m.
Free
An inspirational story about a woman who discovers she’s a lesbian in 1919.
ARE YOU PAYING A TUITION TAX?

ACCORDING TO THE OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, YOUR TUITION DOLLARS ARE LANDSCAPING THE STEPS AT CAPITOL HILL. WE NEED A NEW BUDGET MODEL FOR PORTLAND STATE AND OREGON’S OTHER PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, THEY SAY.

LAST MONTH, A BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE APPROVED A PLAN SET FORTH BY THE OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, A GOVERNING BOARD THAT DETERMINES THE FATE OF PORTLAND STATE’S BUDGET AND YOUR TUITION COST. THAT PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE OREGON’S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES MORE AUTONOMY FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT, AND SOME SAY, LESS ACCOUNTABILITY TO THEIR STUDENTS. OREGON’S SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS ALSO SEEN THE PROPOSAL, AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT FUTURE GOVERNANCE OF THE OUS ARE LIKELY TO TAKE THE FOREFRONT IN THE 2011 LEGISLATION SESSION THAT BEGAN JAN 12.

A NEW AUTHORITY

JONATHAN MILES
If the proposal to restructure Portland State and OUS governance passes, it will mean the creation of a public university system with greater authority than its predecessor. Here’s a breakdown of what that means.

**AUTHORITY TO TAKE AND GIVE**
The OUS is looking for a K-12 block funding model that will give them the authority to spend their money however they want. In exchange, the State Board of Higher Education will guarantee some return to Oregonians for their investment. That guarantee will likely include targets for enrollment of Oregonians, the number of students receiving tuition remission (i.e. discounts), the number of degrees awarded and the number of employed graduates.

Depending on how well the collective universities hold up their end, the Board of Higher Education may get more or less money from the state each year. And, depending on how well Portland State does, we may get more or less of a cut from the board.

“IN SUCH A SYSTEM, THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION REMAINS A PUBLIC BODY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE STATE SENATE. AN ALTERNATIVE IS TO HAVE A STATEWIDE ELECTED BOARD. THE BOARD MIGHT HAVE TO BE EXPANDED SLIGHTLY BECAUSE OF WORKLOAD DEMANDS ON ITS MEMBERS AND TO HELP ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC, DEMOGRAPHIC AND SKILL DIVERSITY. A BOARD OF 15 MEMBERS IS SUGGESTED.”

—OUS GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

**AUTHORITY TO SELL**
OUS and Portland State want freedom in how they set tuition rates. The Board of Higher Education will set targets for affordability based on Oregon income levels, and Portland State will start a process of public input from students and faculty. Our university president would propose the result of that process to the Board and tuition would be set.

Unlike the current system where students go complain to the legislature about how much Portland State is trying to charge, this will front-load the process by giving students a voice from the beginning. How much clout that voice will hold is yet to be determined, and student government representatives in the past have decried the proposal as a certain path to unstoppable tuition hikes. The OUS proposal removes the legislature’s power to set a cap on
annual tuition increases; however, university President Wim Wiewel told the Spectator that our student government is largely in favor of the level of student involvement in the OUS proposal.

AUTHORITY TO SPEND
Though the state barely funds universities like Portland State, it appears to be micro-managing spending decisions. According to the OUS budget office, the state provided for about 37 percent of the “Education and General Services” budget for Oregon’s public universities, yet had control of 80 percent of the expenditures in that category. It’s the same for capital investments. Portland State cannot approve the funding of new capital projects without the approval of the state, even if the project is completely funded by revenue that is not from the state.

In other words, say you work on Wednesdays and Fridays, and make $300 a week. Your grandma gives you a $100 check for your birthday. You decide to get some flashy threads, but grandma comes in and tells you that you can only use that other $300 to buy khakis from Target. Not only do khakis suck, but you’re not going to wear them anyway and now you can’t afford to jump off the chain at your party! On top of that, the $50 you save by drinking Pabst all night goes back to your grandma and she gives it to your racist cousin Freddy in Alabama. Just like Oregon did to the OUS last year.

In 2009, $33 million of university reserves was used to make up for state revenue shortfalls. Unlike the Oregonian and the Statesman Journal, the Spectator is not ready to endorse the restructuring proposal in all its vagaries and pre-pubescence, but it’s sufficient to say that Portland State should have more control over how it spends its money, and students need to have a continued say in how much they are required to pay for a state education.

• The Oregon University System was created as a state agency in 1929, months before the great depression started.
• Oregon’s 17 community colleges were established as special districts within the state in the 1970s, and have the authority to propose property tax increases to supplement their budget.
• OUS receives about 30 percent of its budget from the State, while community colleges receive 50 percent of theirs, and Portland State, about 17 percent.
Sex Traffic

JEFF WICKIZER AND NATALIA GROZINA

PSYCHOLOGICALLY VULNERABLE, AND IN SEARCH OF AFFECTION, UNDERAGE GIRLS ARE EASY PREY FOR STREET-WISE AND CHARISMATIC PIMPS

Children as young as 11 years old are being forced into prostitution, according to the Portland Police Bureau. Portland police report an average of five cases of human trafficking each week, of which at least two of the victims are juveniles, and Portland police estimate a pimp earns $800 to $1,000 a day from each juvenile victim.

THE ‘MANUFACTURING’ OF JUVENILE PROSTITUTES

Young children are often in search of something elusive in their home life or circumstances. For young girls, this may be the absence of a “father figure” or the lack of love from a male role model. Some children may suffer from physical or emotional abuse and are looking for security and safety—basic needs of all children.

Special Agent Bill Gray of the Oregon Department of Justice said, “I learned from speaking with many of the prostitutes that the girls did come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and many were victims of sexual abuse at an early age.”

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY

Many of these young girls are runaways, escaping an emotionally unfulfilling home life, often combined with various forms of physical or mental abuse. Where there is a broken home, there are often physical, mental and economic voids to be filled. According to Gray, “This is when a pimp will insert himself as their ‘boyfriend’ or ‘salvation’ from whatever problems they are having at home. Their new boyfriend will do anything to isolate them from their family and friends.”

First there’s a romancing period, during which Gray said the pimp makes “promises of a better life, buys them nice things and clothes, and basically convinces the girl that he is in love with her.”

But, the pimp will soon tell the girl that he is short on money and they need to earn more to continue living the lifestyle. According to Gray, this is the “hook” that is set.

Pimping is all too glorified in popular culture. Setting the hook to lure a young woman into prostitution is so common among pimps...
that a self-proclaimed pimp, Mickey Royal, literally wrote a book about it called *The Pimp Game: Instruction Guide*.

Like Andrew Carnegie’s book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, this is a matter-of-fact guide book on manipulating people to your own ends. Royal outlines how to get a woman to totally depend on her pimp alone.

“Her family will become her number one enemy,” writes Royal, “and she’ll attack them with all she has because they are trying to keep her from that which brings her joy—you.”

The despicable book details how the transformation from young, naïve girl to slave-prostitute takes place over a long period of time.

“After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails are fine,” Royal writes. “She will develop a feeling of accomplishment.”

Royal heartlessly describes the final goal of breaking the woman’s spirit until she has “no sense of self-value,” and the pimp “can put a price tag on the item you have manufactured.”

**POINT OF NO RETURN**

Gray points out that “pimps often have control over numerous girls at the same time that all work together as a group. Usually the veteran girl of the ‘family’, also known as a ‘bottom girl’, helps keep the younger and newer girls in line and working.” He added, “They are all striving for the affection of their pimp.”

The family aspect also provides a deterrent for girls to leave because they have developed a bond and a sense of responsibility to the girls they work with. Another factor is the home life from which many of these young girls left.

“If she were being abused at home, it would be pretty hard to convince her to return there,” Gray said.

The dependency on illicit drug use cannot be ignored. Many of these young girls turn to drugs to escape the psychological and physical abuse they experience on a daily basis. Or often, the pimps will force them to take drugs, creating a dependency which only the pimp can fulfill.

Ancillary crimes are another trap that is used as leverage to gain control over these young girls. Teri Williams, a former Portland prostitute, explains, “Usually the pimps will get you involved in other things first. It might be a credit card scam or a check cashing scheme. Once they have something on you, then they hold it over you to force you into doing what they want you to do.”

In Williams’ case, she was a prisoner to her pimp, as she told the Spectator, “I would have a cavity search done on me to make sure I wasn’t hiding any money or planning a getaway, then I would go into my room and be locked in there.”

**GOING UNDERGROUND**

In the past, “johns” and law enforcement alike could go to Southeast 82nd Avenue in Portland and find underage prostitutes littering the streets, peddling sex for cash.

“ANYONE CAN CONTROL A WOMEN’S BODY, BUT YOU GOT TO CONTROL THEIR MIND.”

—*THE MACK* 1973
A HISTORY OF SLAVE LABOR

THE GREAT EMPIRES OF GREECE, ROME AND RENAISSANCE EUROPE WERE ALL POWERED BY SLAVES. IT WAS NOT UNTIL 5,000 YEARS LATER THAT PEOPLE EVEN BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVES ARE NOT JUST PRODUCTS, BUT IN FACT HUMAN BEINGS. WHEN LEADERS FINALLY DECIDED TO “ABOLISH” SLAVERY—AS THE U.S. DID WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT IN 1865, EVERYONE TOOK A DEEP BREATH—BUT JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING BECOMES “ILLEGAL” DOES NOT MEAN IT CEASES TO EXIST. BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND IN PLACES YOU LEAST EXPECT, 27 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STILL ENSLAVED IN THE WORLD TODAY, ACCORDING TO THE ASSOCIATED CONTENT (“SLAVERY STILL EXISTS,” 2009).

ONLY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES HAS HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING BECOME A GROWING PRIORITY FOR MANY GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD.


ALTHOUGH 27 MILLION IS A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT IS ONLY 0.0043 PERCENT OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION, AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY GENERATED BY SLAVERY IS RELATIVELY LOW.

“IF HUMAN TRAFFICKING GENERATES $32 BILLION IN PROFITS ANNUALLY, IT IS STILL A TINY DROP IN THE OCEAN OF THE WORLD ECONOMY” SAID SLAVERY EXPERT KEVIN BALES IN HIS BOOK ENDING SLAVERY: HOW WE FREE TODAY’S SLAVES.

BALES IS PRESIDENT OF FREE THE SLAVES, AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND LOBBY GROUP THAT WAS ESTABLISHED TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MODERN PRACTICE OF SLAVERY AROUND THE WORLD.

“When I worked vice there was always a significant number of prostitutes working the streets,” Gray said. “As the city has responded to the many complaints of the businesses and citizens, street prostitution is barely visible these days. Much of the prostitution has gone indoors via the escort services and Craigslist type businesses.”

One can open the Yellow Pages and find dozens of advertisements for escort services, which are merely fronts for organized prostitution, and all throughout Portland, private “lingerie modeling” businesses have popped up. The crackdown on Craigslist’s “erotic services” has scattered the thousands of prostitution solicitations to other sites that allow similar postings.

Recently, the City of Portland has decided to increase the allotted budget dedicated to fighting sex trafficking; however, without increased cooperation from victims of forced prostitution, it is highly unlikely that prosecuting pimps effectively will be possible. Gray pointed out that when he worked in the vice unit there were six officers working day shift and four to six working graveyard shift. He believes that number has dwindled to only a few officers today.

“I believe the shift away from vice investigations has much to do with the way these crimes are treated by the courts. Prostitutes very rarely go to jail, even after multiple arrests” Gray said.

He points out, “The pimps are there, but without a willing victim[come forward], are very hard to prosecute. As a general rule, most girls will not testify against their pimp under any circumstances.”

The transient nature of the sex trade and the mobility of pimps have also made it difficult to close in on them, even when they have a victim who comes forward. If a prostitute winds up getting arrested multiple times, sensing increased

CITIES ALONG THE I-5 CORRIDOR RANK HIGHEST IN THE NATION FOR CHILD PROSTITUTION, ACCORDING TO FBI STATISTICS.

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, THE FBI RESCUED 69 CHILDREN FROM SEX TRAFFICKING DURING A 3-DAY SWEEP OF THE NATION, CALLED OPERATION RESCUE V.

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

ONE OF THE REASONS IT IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE TRAFFICKING IS BECAUSE, UNTIL RECENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PRECISELY DEFINE IT. THROUGH THE EARLY 1990S, TRAFFICKING WAS MAINLY VIEWED AS A FORM OF HUMAN SMUGGLING OR A TYPE OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION.


THE WAY THE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO DEAL WITH HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING SO FAR SEEMS PROMISING. LAST MONTH, THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A BILL TO AID VICTIMS OF MODERN SEX SLAVERY AND PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH THE TOOLS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE SEX TRAFFICKERS WHO EXPLOIT UNDERAGE GIRLS AND
scrutiny, the pimp will move his girls onto the next destination such as Seattle, Las Vegas, Los Angeles or San Diego, which are all easily accessible along the Interstate 5 corridor. Once they have worn out their welcome in a given city, they will move onto the next.

THE SOLUTION
While there are several different avenues in which to attack this epidemic, the most successful may be a preventative measure aimed at educating children at school and at home.

“The best luck I ever had at prosecuting a pimp and getting the girl out of the life is when the family gets heavily involved,” Gray said. “They need to do everything they can, such as counseling, drug treatment and supporting the investigation and prosecution as well.”

The reality is that once a girl is manipulated and captive inside the lifestyle, the odds of successfully getting out are slim. Preventative education on the lifestyle and how these pimps lure young girls into the trade will save many from falling into their trap.

If you or anyone you know is a victim of sex trafficking you can contact the Sexual Assault Resource Center crisis line at: 503-640-5311 or visit at www.sarcoregon.org.

LOCAL BRANCH OF A GLOBAL NETWORK

MANY PEOPLE THINK HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING IS A PROBLEM THAT PLAGUES OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, OUR OWN CITY IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY—THE SECOND HIGHEST, ACCORDING TO FBI STATISTICS. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT ALSO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ESTIMATES THAT 50 PERCENT OF THESE VICTIMS ARE CHILDREN.

RIGHT NOW, CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT IN LOS ANGELES IS THE NATION’S ONLY COMPREHENSIVE SEX TRAFFICKING REHABILITATION PROGRAM, PROVIDING LONG-TERM HOUSING, COUNSELING, SCHOOLING AND SCHOLARSHIPS. THIS MONTH, PORTLAND IS SupPOSED TO OPEN ITS FIRST SEX TRAFFICKING SHELTER. ALTHOUGH NOT AS COMPREHENSIVE, THE JANUS YOUTH PROGRAMS WILL HAVE EMERGENCY BEDS FOR VICTIMS.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER, THE AVERAGE AGE OF ENTRY INTO PROSTITUTION AND THE PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY IN THE U.S. IS 12 TO 14 YEARS OLD, AND NEARLY 300,000 CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FOR SEX TRAFFICKING EACH YEAR—STATISTICS THAT SEEM UNIMAGINABLE IN A SOCIETY THAT PRAISES ITSELF FOR MODERN-DAY VALUES AND AN EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
Don’t Ask, Don’t Report
OR
How Republicans Helped Repeal “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

XANDER ALMEIDA

News commentary is an interesting thing. So is the lack of worthwhile, in-depth reporting in the coverage of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” If you’re like me and have been following the lame duck session on the skewers with a fanatical obsession, you’ve probably read the many headlines about the GOP continually shooting down any attempt to repeal the policy—a policy that has barred gay and lesbian armed service members from openly serving since 1993 (with an outright prohibition before that, which was more of a just “Don’t Tell” policy, when you think about it). But that’s really a half-truth at best.

But wait! I hear you saying, “But the GOP totally did hold it up and vote against it!” Half-truth, my friends. Here’s the skinny: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) did something crazy. (Don’t be shocked.) Sen. Reid continuously put the repeal of the ban within a defense spending bill, which is a common practice when you want something controversial passed but do not think it will pass on its own merits.

Here’s where the whole truth comes in: Some Republican senators told Sen. Reid that if he put up the repeal as a standalone bill, it would pass the Senate. So naturally, Sen. Reid sponsored the standalone bill and this great victory for gay rights was passed and the Armed Forces of the United States got stronger by allowing everyone to serve openly!

Except that’s not what happened. Sen. Reid, content with the headlines of being a faux gay rights champion while Republican bashing, decided to throw it all again at the Senate, tucked within a defense spending bill. And for the second time, it failed. The same senator who called this bill “common sense over discrimination” decided it would be more fun and lucrative to play politics with human rights than to get the job done.

But wait! I hear you saying again, “The ban totally did get repealed!” Well, yes it did. But the standalone repeal bill was not sponsored by Democrats. It was sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and an Independent whose name is not Bernie “Self-Proclaimed Socialist” Sanders, but rather the unlikely Joe Lieberman who left the Democratic party because he didn’t find them war mongering enough. And (Surprise! Surprise!) the repeal passed the Senate with 65 votes, which is about as bipartisan as things get in Washington.

DADT WAS REPEALED ON DEC. 18, 2010 BY A 65–31 VOTE, WITH EIGHT REPUBLICANS AND 57 DEMOCRATS VOTING YES. THE BILL WAS OFFICIALLY SIGNED INTO LAW ON DEC. 22, ENDING AN EMBARRASSING CHAPTER IN U.S. SOCIAL LAW—THUS WE JOINED MILITARIES ALLOWING OPEN SERVICE SUCH AS ISRAEL, COLUMBIA, ALBANIA, CANADA, THE PHILIPPINES, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

But wait! There’s more! The recent national conversation about DADT that led to its repeal was started by a constitutional challenge put forth by the Log Cabin Republicans (who got a federal court in California to rule that the ban was unconstitutional, which is more than any liberal group had gotten.) And once the

ALSO, INCLUDED WITHIN THE DEFENSE SPENDING BILL WAS THE DREAM ACT, WHICH PINKO-COMMIE LIBERAL AND SPECTATOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JONATHAN MILES WROTE ABOUT IN A FEATURE STORY (“IS THIS THE AMERICAN DREAM?” OCTOBER, 2010).
judge ruled on that, President Barack Obama, who campaigned on the repeal, decided to sic the U.S. Justice Department on them, to fight against the repeal, complaining that he didn’t think the courts ought to decide the matter.

Of course, he could have just sat on his hands and let the repeal fall. Of course, Sen. Reid could have just issued a standalone bill and called it good. But, Sen. Reid played games with the issue and the president fought against a judicial solution. So it was left to pseudo-Democrat Sen. Lieberman and Republican Sen. Collins who had to swoop in and save the day for gay service members, which put the Republicans back on track to continue within their fine (though recently lost) tradition of sticking up for civil rights.


P.S. I know what you’re saying, “But most Republicans totally did vote against the standalone bill!” Sure they did. But the uber-socially-right wing of the GOP is obviously starting to falter. So give ‘em a break and be happy one of us stood up and totally did what your party was too incompetent to do. You’re welcome. •
Recently, an anonymous pamphlet entitled “Publications Watchdog” was distributed on campus in, among other places, distribution racks of existing publications. The Spectator was thrilled to see that someone had the initiative to put such effort and thought into openly criticizing the established media on campus.

As a rule, our magazine does not print anonymous letters to the editor, and the few signed letters we have received were so poorly written that they were not published, lest they embarrass the author whom obviously did not pay very much attention to grammar, spelling or reason. Whoever authored the Watchdog wrote eloquently and took at least some time to research their topic. For that, and for being brave enough to do so publicly, the Spectator applauds them. However, a few corrections must be made for the sake of accuracy.

**ERROR: DATA MISSING**

A piece of information that may not be available to the Watchdog mathematicians is that the OBS only shows allocations made at the end of the previous year, by the outgoing SFC. Actual spending, determined by current editors of the publications, is only available by request. And, since the Spectator doesn’t generally spend its time trolling publications’ updated budget reports, we cannot comment on which one has spent the most to-date paying for well-researched stories.

We can say, however, that the Vanguard’s decision to decrease its printing to twice-weekly was not due to budget cuts, as the Watchdog would have you believe. The campus newspaper actually received about $6,000 more from student fees than last year. What the authors of the Watchdog didn’t bother to find out is that all student publications are now required to adhere to Oregon’s minimum wage law, rather than doling out tiny stipends to reporters and editors. Because all student reporters and editors were previously working for far less than minimum wage, this change dramatically inflated the Vanguard’s budget, forcing it to cut costs elsewhere.

Furthermore, the Vanguard was not the only publication to receive a boost in student fee support during a time when the SFC was viciously cutting budgets across the board. The
Spectator also received an increase, due to the fact that our magazine has, as the Watchdog puts it, "improved a bit." And, that smaller slice of the pie that the Rearguard takes is the result of a budget cut due to lack of leadership and inability/unwillingness to print issues. But, we’ll let the Rearguard defend itself to the Watchdog.

WHO ARE YOU?
As for the Watchdog’s attack on Spectator content, there are only two possible rebuttals: 1) Make up your mind, and 2) WTF?

The Watchdog writes, appropriately, that Spectator editors once printed, “whatever drivel suits their fancy,” such as cover headlines that read, “Illegal Immigrants are Terrorists.”

Current editors of the Spectator are ashamed of the content that was printed by some of our predecessors. And we are not surprised that there is an underlying animosity towards our magazine among students on campus. However, our efforts to become more focused on news, while still providing the niche service of conservative commentary, should not be diminished by calling our content, “a watered-down version of an already not so good drink.” Though that is a bitingly well-written insult, it is not anywhere close to the truth. What the Spectator used to be was a cheap soda with high-fructose corn syrup in a plastic bottle—a drink that required the least effort to make, and provided indigestion to any consumer.

Today, the Spectator is the super-food of campus publications. Yes, it feels like it’s easy to read with its fruity gonzo-stories about Burning Man parties and concise articles next to colorful infographics. But, it’s packed with the things your mind needs, like how much money Portland State spends on each student, what you get back for paying the highest mandatory student health fee in the state and what might happen to your tuition costs when the Oregon University System is restructured.

We would love to defend our content, tit for tat, against the assaults of the Watchdog, but unfortunately we don’t know WTF they hate about our content specifically. (Other than being upset that we occasionally publish “half-assed social interest stories,” and are forced to use a Myspace photo when the subject of our article is lost in Mexico.) As far as we’re concerned, Spectator staff and contributors put our whole asses into everything we do. And, speaking of contribution, if anyone at the Watchdog wants to learn how to write an article fit for print, the Spectator accepts freelance submissions on the 20th of each month. Or, you could simply tell us who you are by writing a signed letter to the editor.

The fact is, our job as a student publication is to foster a public dialog about issues that matter to students. We invite the Watchdog to be a part of that dialog. But, please have the decency to put your name on it. •

To read the full text of the Publications Watchdog, visit www.portlandspectator.org
Since being deported to Mexico City, Hector Lopez has suffered harassment and physical harm, according to his former lawyer, Siovhan Sheridan-Ayala. In an e-mail to the Spectator, Lopez explained that the ordeal started before he ever landed in Mexico, having been wrist and ankle cuffed for the entire 20-plus hours of travel time. According to Sheridan-Ayala, Lopez has lost 20 pounds since that trip.

Though some believe that Lopez is breaking the law by living in the states, Lopez is determined to earn citizenship. Based on his plea for amnesty from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Lopez was allowed to enter the U.S. on Nov. 17, and was detained in Florence, Ariz. Since his arrival back in the states, Lopez has found a new advocate and lost an attorney. Texas businessman Ralph Isenberg describes himself as an immigration advocate and is careful to clarify that he is not a lawyer.

"People contact me when they’re in trouble," said Isenberg in an interview with the Spectator, noting that he is also managing the case of a man from Frisco, Texas who was deported to Bangladesh. Isenberg said that Lopez was allowed back into the U.S. based on what ICE calls a “credible fear interview.”

"99.9 percent of the time you’ll get a reasonable fear interview," said Isenberg, which he described as the fast track back the country you were deported to. "He is in a normal cycle now, same as anyone who came to this country seeking asylum."

The Oregonian recently reported on the temporary return of Lopez to his home in Oregon, where he was able to spend Christmas with his family.

"His release is nothing short of miraculous," said Isenberg, who orchestrated an interesting event that led to Lopez’s trip from Arizona to Oregon.

First, Isenberg called a friend, Rev. Peter Johnson (a longtime civil rights advocate and cohort of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.). Isenberg asked Rev. Johnson to go to Florence “with a bible and a toothbrush” to ask ICE officials to switch places with Lopez so the young man could see his family on Christmas. As Isenberg tells it, police were on the scene, but had no legal grounds on which to remove Rev. Johnson, and a tense scene ensued.

"There were 50 to 60 people looking out their office windows at what was going on,” Isenberg said. It was at this point that Isenberg sent a message to Patricia Vroom, chief counsel for ICE in Arizona that read, “You must have a beautiful view of the mountains if you can’t see what’s happening in the street right now.” Shortly after that, Vroom arranged Lopez’s release and he was on his way back to Oregon.

“This is the difference between having a lawyer and an advocate,” said Isenberg, who is confident that Lopez will be admitted back into the U.S. as a full citizen by the end of a process that could last six months to a year.

The next step for Lopez was to appear before a court in Arizona on Jan. 6 to begin the process of defending his right to U.S. citizenship.

“All we’re doing is to ask ICE to use the mechanisms available to them, and to look at Hector’s case on a case-by-case basis as they are supposed to be doing,” said Isenberg, adding that they are relying on ICE to, “make the right decision.” •
The DREAM is Dead

JEFF WICKIZER

The DREAM Act, caught in the political cross-hairs of Republicans seeking to defeat a lame duck Democrat Congress, suffered defeat on Dec. 18, 2010.

Like many Obama-led initiatives before, the House of Representatives approved the DREAM Act, only to have it shut down in the Senate, with most senators standing close to their party line. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), in an interview with Talking Points Memo, had this message for proponents of the DREAM Act, “To those who have come to my office, you’re always welcome to come. But you’re wasting your time. We’re not going to pass the DREAM Act or any other legalization program until we secure our borders.”

Sen. Graham added, “It will never be done [as a stand-alone bill].” Sen. Graham voted against the DREAM Act when it was part of a defense-spending bill in September.

SEN. GRAHAM, ALONG WITH SUPPORT FROM SEN. JON KYL (R-AZ), IS ALSO CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REPEAL A PROVISION OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT, WHICH GUARANTEES CITIZENSHIP TO ANYONE BORN WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. KYL ADDS, “THE 14TH AMENDMENT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED TO PROVIDE THAT IF YOU ARE BORN IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU ARE A CITIZEN NO MATTER WHAT. SO THE QUESTION IS, IF BOTH PARENTS ARE HERE ILLEGALLY, SHOULD THERE BE A REWARD FOR THEIR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR?”
Politics—that great American blood sport—would be nothing without a good story, and last November’s Congressional midterm elections, in which Democrats lost the House of Representatives, had a doozy of a narrative. Remember the story of the ragtag Tea Party rebels taking on The Establishment and winning, handing the evil Barack Hussein Obama a crushing defeat and paving the way for a return to fiscal responsibility and conservative values? That was a great story, alright.

Too bad it wasn’t what actually happened. This was a fairly standard race in which most incumbents survived, a few newcomers won and Washington kept right on going in the same direction it always has. Journalists love to write about “game-changing elections”, but the game will remain largely unchanged once the new Congress starts work this month. If you voted for a candidate who promised to stop the “Obama agenda” dead in its tracks, it is my unpleasant duty to inform you that you got suckered. The current political status quo will likely remain: Republicans will try to obstruct anything and everything Democrats do, Obama will urge unity and realist party leaders like senators Harry Reid and John Boehner will iron out lukewarm compromises.

The few conservative firebrands who did win, like Kentucky’s Rand Paul and Florida’s Marco Rubio, are in for a rude awakening once the new session starts; they are about to find out how politics actually works.

True, a Republican majority in the House does make Obama’s life a bit more difficult. There will bills galore designed to roll back Obamacare—that is, if the 20-state lawsuit against it fails. And well, beyond that, there don’t seem to be any specifics about the incoming agenda. Oh, there are plenty of broad, nice-sounding platitudes about “shrinking the government” and “reining in wasteful spending,” but nothing about what they will actually do to shrink the government and rein in wasteful spending.

They’re overdue for a few harsh realities. Obamacare won’t be repealed as long the insurance industry has anything to say about it; after all, the new law allows them to hike up their rates as they like and run their own reviews of how well they’re complying with “reform”. Those legislative earmarks that Republicans make so much noise about are here to stay, too, unless they can figure out another way to get federal money for their home states and thus keep their jobs. The new kids in town are about to learn what self-styled small government reformers have learned for generations: The federal government is a beast not easily starved.

While watching all the Republican chest-thumping that followed the Democrats’ “shel-lacking” in the midterms, I was reminded of the night I covered the Democrats’ landslide Congressional victories in 2006 as a lowly news producer for KBOO-FM. Everyone at the victory party thought that, now that our team had won, every wish we had made upon our liberal stars—impeaching Bush, the end of the Iraq War, health care reform that actually meant something—was going to come true.

The first one never happened, and the latter two arrived only in heavily compromised, deeply flawed form. In short, all three visions became victims of politics. The peace movement learned a hard lesson then, one that conservatives will have to get their heads around: Even the most passionate movements tend to fizzle out once they elect mere politicians to represent them. Movements don’t have to compromise; politicians do. Movements don’t have to work with the opposition; politicians do. Movements don’t have to run for re-election every two to four years; politicians do.

If there is any “common ground” to be shared between liberals and conservatives in the wake of the Congressional midterms, it is that neither has really won anything. They can still rally the troops by demonizing the other side, of course, and this reversal of fortune will probably give both sides plenty of fodder. But nothing of any real consequence will change. Welcome to politics in the real world. •
There are a number of points that obviously went over my esteemed colleague’s head in regards to the oncoming red tide in Washington. While Mike Munkvold clearly cried himself to sleep on Nov. 2 after the results came in, he appears to have blacked out the entire night—most of us on the right knew we had to get down to businesses. Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) correctly said “I think we got a second chance on life,” from the American people. And we did. Munkvold has said many times there is a lot of rhetoric on the right and not a lot of solutions.

Well, here are a few things the GOP has come up with that have clearly escaped Munkvold’s Huffington Post bookmarked newsfeed:

“The president’s Office of Management and Budget views $125 billion of mis-spending by Medicare,” said Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA). A simple crackdown on Medicare fraud could save more than the Democrats complained would be lost over 10 years if the Bush-era tax rates were extended for 10 years. (They’ve only been extended for two, by the way.)

And that was just from the Jan. 2 Sunday morning talk show round up.

Munkvold also stated, “This was a fairly standard race in which most incumbents survived, a few newcomers won and Washington kept right on going in the same direction it always has.”

I guess it was a fairly standard race if you can consider the third largest House shift in U.S. history to be standard. I also find it hard to state that things will keep on going on as usual when the 112th Congress was only just sworn in on Jan. 5.

Munkvold’s statement of “Even the most passionate movements tend to fizzle out once they elect mere politicians to represent them,” also falls short considering that, unlike a lot of Democrats within Congress, the vast majority of the new class of Republican’s have not held any elected office previously. That’s the stark difference. Having spent most of their lives in a world where one is actually accountable for the money they take in and spend without the benefit of a 13 trillion dollar debt ceiling, these newbies kind of get the basic mechanics of what you can afford with that you have.

The only bit in which I think we can agree is that yelling back and forth at each other from ideologically puritanical standpoints is a worthless endeavor which should be derided by the people. •
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