

# Sununu travel story highlights lazy press

Poor John Sununu, and just when he thought it was safe to go back in the limo. The American media have been having a field day with the travel arrangements of the Bush administration's chief of staff.

First, Sununu was caught using military aircraft to go on such official business as ski trips and other important matters of state. After being nabbed for running up tens of thousands of dollars worth of military flight time, he still hadn't learned his lesson. Next, he

**Does a trip to New York in a government car really merit being the top story on network newscasts?**

got busted for using a government car and driver to travel to a rare stamp convention. Was that enough to teach the wandering Sununu a lesson? Nope. His latest breach of travel ethics involves soliciting free rides on privately owned corporate aircraft. Some guys just can't catch a break.

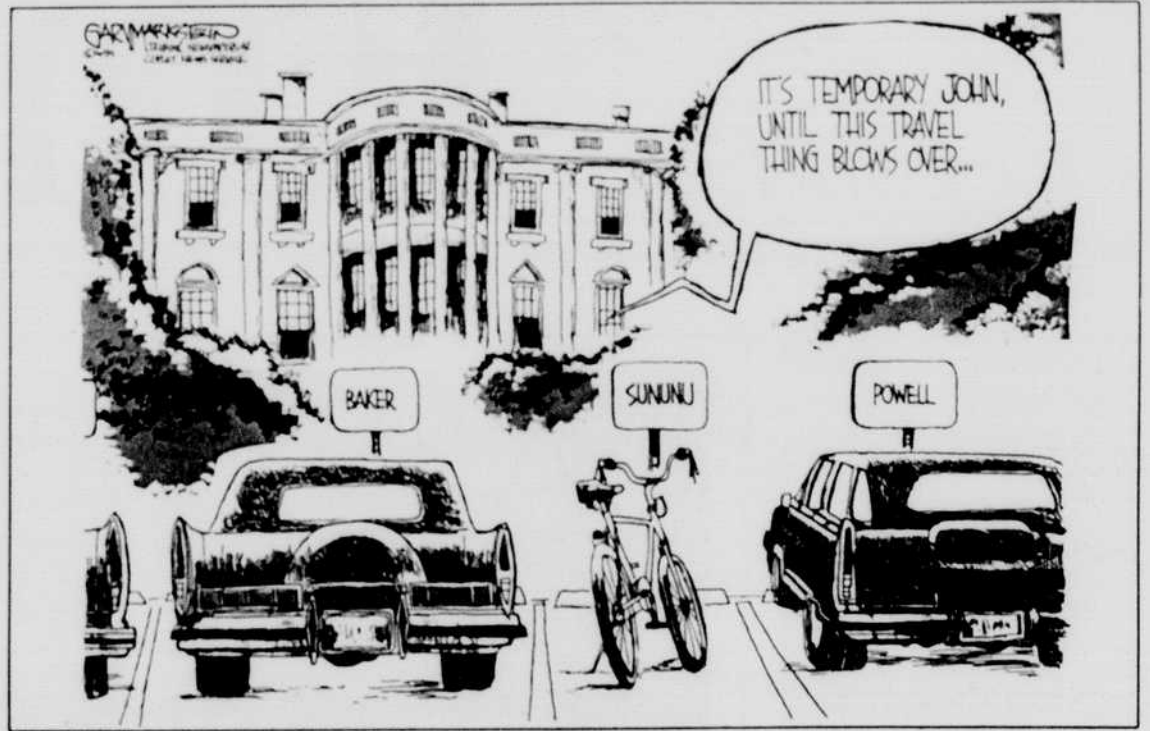
True, having government officials bilk tax payers for personal joy rides is a bad thing. And it is good that diligent members of the press have caught and possibly put an end to such practices.

But does John's "guide to free travel in the U.S." really deserve the national coverage it has been receiving? Does a trip to New York in a government car really merit being the top story on network newscasts? If it does, Americans should feel very good that there are not more pressing issues needing coverage.

More likely, it is probably the case that this story was easy to find, and now that it has a lot of attention, it is even easier to perpetuate. But where was the press when S & L directors, including George Bush's son, were bilking tax payers for billions of dollars? Where was the press when Oliver North and "all the colonel's men" were covering their Iran/Contra tracks?

And most obviously, where was the press, these alleged watchdogs on government, when Americans were fighting in the Persian Gulf? (To this date there have been no independent tallies of Iraqi casualties by any mainstream U.S. press organizations.)

After a little scrutiny, the entire Sununu travel episode really does point out an injustice to the American people. But it is not Sununu's vacations that should worry Americans. Citizens should be more worried about a press corps that seems to ignore the stories that really matter, like those mentioned above, and instead focuses on the easy to cover stories like Sununu's trips — which in the long run are about as significant as the color of wallpaper Barbara picks out for the White House bathroom.



## LETTERS

### Insulting ad

I find the advertisement against racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination to be highly insulting. The portrayal of the skinheads as being Nazis and the only ones who are bigots is wrong and false. There are Nazi skins. There are homophobic and bigoted punks.

However, this ad is highly misleading. It appears to the reader as though all punks are Nazis, or all skins are. This is not true. The skinhead movement started out as the unity of the working class regardless of race. The punk movement started out, and mostly is, against discrimination. Most punks are against and fight Nazis and bigoted people and attitudes. This ad, like all ads, is blatant manipulation of peoples' impressions of "abnormal" people.

Perhaps you should focus more upon the blatant discrimination present in housing situations at the University, hiring practices by the military and large corporations, and the corporate world of racism and sexism.

It is time that the focus upon racists moved from a few small groups to the overall reality of the big, bad world. The most dangerous bigots are those in power who manipulate and control the marketplace and try to control our lives. Not a few random skins or punks who are stupid. This was just another attempt to focus peoples' attention away from the real issues — that of white male-dominated society inbred with heterosexist, classist and racist attitudes.

Greg Zobel  
History

### Monks welcome

Regarding Mary E. Locke

Klein's letter (ODE, May 31): There is a very rational answer for your question, "Why don't I room with Tibetan monks?" etc. I live in a house with five Christian roommates. We all have a common direction, so we work as what you might call a team. Living close together helps us to execute our goal in a more concise fashion. Would you allow us this privilege?

Now, as far as monks are concerned, if there are any Christian monks out there, three of my roommates are getting married, and there are some openings, so please apply now! Monk status will definitely improve your chances of being accepted for housing.

Oh, and by the way, nice quiz in the Emerald, too. I'm afraid I didn't score too high. There was a time when being radical had connotations of going against the flow. Sorry to break it to you folks, but when everybody is living a self-destructive lifestyle, it makes you a conformist if you do it too! Down with the institution of these selfish ways that breed soul pollution; we need in-ternal revolution."

Sincerely on the case and in the face of every "open/closed" minded liberal.

Bob Weigel  
Lab tech

### Open for debate

There is much we do not yet know about AIDS. Although it is generally believed that AIDS is brought on by a virus — human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) — I've recently learned of a provocative alternative hypothesis, which, curiously,

seems to have received hardly any coverage in the media.

Thanks to a couple of recent public television programs presented on "Tony Brown's Journal" (Saturday, May 11 and Saturday, May 18), this radically different thesis has begun to receive the attention it should be accorded in a democratic society committed to open debate and the careful scrutiny of conflicting interpretations in the search for the truth.

Dr. Peter Duesberg, an eminent molecular biologist based at Berkeley, Calif., contends that the virus which has been alleged to cause AIDS behaves unlike any other viruses known to cause infectious conditions in humans. For example, other viruses don't have a "gestation period" of up to 10 years before their noxious effects surface.

As a result of their independent research in recent years, both Duesberg and the French scientist who discovered HIV have now come to regard it as a relatively "benign" virus — until it interacts with another noxious agent within the body.

Duesberg believes that this other deadly precipitant (which has the power to neutralize the body's disease-fighting defenses) is produced, in American victims, by psychoactive drugs like cocaine and certain aphrodisiac-type stimulants known to be used by some male homosexuals.

The Duesberg hypothesis seems plausible. It deserves a fair, public airing.

Ron Rousseve  
Professor of Counseling  
Psychology

## LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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