

EDITORIAL

Unintelligent work in our intelligence

The United States hired a good spy, but too bad he was not one of our spies.

Aldrich Hazen Ames, the Central Intelligence Agency officer moonlighting as a Soviet spy, was arrested earlier this week. The arrest brings questions to mind about the CIA. The agency is intelligent. So intelligent it doesn't even know whom they have working for them.

Ames had access to a wide selection of "top secret" files while serving the CIA. Keep in mind he was hardly a low man on the totem pole. As a matter of fact, he was chief of the counterintelligence branch of the — you guessed it — Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

For some strange reason the 10 agents from our home turf working in Russia, in intelligence, happened to have been removed while Ames was at work. All 10 of the U.S. agents were convicted of treason and executed by the Soviet authorities. Now that is some good unintelligence work.

For some unintelligent reason a man working in our own unintelligence agency was doing some intelligent things, but those working with him were too unintelligent to see it themselves.

Ames was earning \$70,000 a year while working for the CIA. Yet for some reason he could afford a house that would have consumed nearly eight years of his salary alone. Sound suspicious?

Ames and his wife went on a credit card shopping spree, to say the least. They ran up a credit card debt that would have taken more than seven years of his salary to pay off. (A bad bill to be stuck with seeing as payments are presumably hard to make while spending time behind bars.)

Of course they would need adequate transportation to substantiate their living situation — a Jaguar. And the total cost for the house and the credit card bills, leaving the car out, would have been 15 years of CIA paychecks. (The Soviets and the Russians paid him \$1.5 million for his services.) Maybe the CIA should have looked into this. It certainly sounds a little unintelligent.

One thing that Ames' arrest proves is that spying still exists, and to little surprise. Today the Cold War is something that merely exists in history books. In the height of the Cold War the presence of spies was apparently necessary. The U.S. was in need of intelligence information to keep on top of the arms race. But that is merely a past chapter in a large volume of books.

A question that does evolve is the importance of the CIA in the post Cold War era. Certainly some intelligence will continue to be needed, intelligence in foreign governments who have an interest in the U.S. government, for example. But it is estimated that \$30 billion a year is spent on the spying industry. That is a great deal of money that could be better spent on other, more intelligent things.

The biggest unintelligent things in the scandal are the United States and Russia. Both are spending a great deal of money and energy trying to find the deep dark secrets that are buried in intelligence, but the two are allies. Figure that out.



LETTERS

Ludicrous

This letter is an attempt to respond to the ignorance fostered in Marius Meland's opinion column in the *Emerald*, Feb. 4. His claim in regard to the "true" state of crime in the United States is ludicrous. It is this sort of viewpoint which breeds a society in which the eye is continually averted from the horror which may lie directly before us. His allusion to the quiet, peaceful nature of Eugene does not consider what is going on when those streets are not illuminated by sunlight. And, especially from the viewpoint of a woman (although in no way limited simply to women), I can assure him all is not as peaceful as his misted perception conceives.

There is no doubt the mass media plays a large, if not the only, part in the creation of the average U.S. citizen's information base; a disturbing idea in itself. However, aside from this realm, the reality of the matter is submerged in statistics such as the fact that over one million homicides were committed in the United States last year. A revolution is under way in our midst, yet Meland continues to rely on the assumption that "there is no crime wave."

Overall, I rely on the hope others will understand the flawed argument presented by Meland. I anticipate this will serve only as a printed version of such thoughts.

Heidi Printz
History / English

Burl knows

Many thanks for David Thorn's more balanced and thoughtful Feb. 14 opinion piece in the *Emerald*. It prompts these thoughts.

Assuming humanity is superior in some ways to other species, who cares? When an individual obsesses over her/his "superiority" to other individuals, this is usually a symptom of immaturity, insecurity and egotism.

I choose to believe that the merit of an individual cannot be measured by comparing that individual on some single, uniform scale with other individuals. Each individual has her/his own intrinsic value, and

so does each species. These ultimate values are incommensurables; they cannot be meaningfully compared, prioritized and ranked. Are apples "superior" to oranges?

Mr. Thorn suggests "survival of the fittest" as a uniform yardstick to measure species by. I guess that makes cockroaches superior. More power to them, I guess.

Is it possible that colonies of ants or bees have a communal consciousness comparable to our intelligence? If they did, would we know it? What about dens of rattlesnakes? Halls of Congress? Did I just repeat myself?

To quote Burl Ives (I'm middle-aged with children now and I can do really stupid-sounding things like quoting Burl Ives if I want to):

"Mr. Rabbit, Mr. Rabbit, your ears are mighty long;

Yes dear God, they're made that way

But every little soul must shine, shine.

Every little soul must shine."

John Davidson
ASUO Legal Services

Bewildered

I'm sorry to hear that there aren't enough bike wrecks on campus to keep Jake Berg happy. But don't be sad — I have a wonderful solution! Gather 'round, *Emerald* staffers, 'cause this is a neat idea you all should try.

Here's my idea: First, all you *Emerald* folks come on out of that stuffy little office atop the EMU. OK? Now wait for your eyes to adjust; that sunlight sure is brighter than the fluorescents you're used to. Wait! Don't hop into your shiny automobiles! No, try one of these bicycles instead. No, no, there's no place for an ignition key, sport; you use your legs. Steady, now, pedal around campus. Whoops, that was a nasty spill! That's all right, at least it made Jake happy.

Okay, try again. See the neat things that student groups are working on? See all the lectures and concerts and workshops that would make wonderful original articles? Imagine not having to fill space everyday with wire stories and silly editorials complaining about bicycle groups like Critical Mass and their requests for special lanes and

covered bicycle parking. Hey, watch out for the wet leaves...! Oh dear — well, now you know why bicyclists complain about wet seats; that was a big puddle, wasn't it?

Yes, you can go back to the office now. I sure hope that little tour made you happy. Please come out again sometime and make us all laugh, instead of shake our heads in bewilderment.

S.W. Conser
Independent Studies

OCA targets

James Patton doubts the Oregon Citizens Alliance tried to remove homosexual professors from their jobs through Measure 9. He challenged me to show where the OCA "attempted to remove professors" and he will then stand with me and others "for nine hours with a 'Ban the OCA' sign at Valley River Center" (*ODE*, Feb. 14). Well, here goes, James. See you at Valley River Center this Saturday.

Just prior to the Measure 9 vote, OCA director Lon Mabon appeared at a local forum. He was asked to clarify the intent of Measure 9 (who better to know?! Mabon explained that "any Oregon public school teacher or professor publicly identified as a homosexual should lose the right to teach even if he or she never mentions the word homosexuality in the classroom" (*Register-Guard*, Oct. 30, 1992). I appreciate this challenge and opportunity invited by Patton, a political science major demonstrating an inquiring mind, to clarify why many citizens have stood at Valley River Center these past four Saturdays. Our signs urge others to see *Schindler's List* and recognize the chilling parallels between Hitler's hate agenda against Jews (homosexuals, gypsies, disabled) and similar fascist politics promoted by the OCA.

So perhaps we'll see Patton at Valley River Center this Saturday (3:30 to 5:00). Perhaps not. If he does show, I'd like to suggest he reconsider his 'Ban the OCA' sign, though. For groups like the OCA have a right to exist, if only to remind us of the wrongs that can and do occur when discrimination is tolerated.

Carol Berg
Eugene

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