

EDITORIAL

Whitewater rippling Clintons' reputation

The Whitewater fiasco that is floating the Clintons through turbulent waters is marring the president's reputation beyond repair.

The accusations are simple, but the case is complicated. What began with the purchase of 230 acres along the White River in Northern Arkansas has resulted in possibly the biggest misfortune in Clinton's political career.

"It's an investment I made 15 years ago that lost money instead of made money because the property market turned around at home," Bill Clinton said. "It's a simple, straightforward thing, and it will be shown."

If it were so simple, then there would be nothing to unveil and nothing to cause such an interest in investments the Clintons made 15 years ago. And it seems that every attempt by the Clintons to unveil and cooperate results in another trip-up that makes the investment seem like more than simply a loss of money.

Although the exact involvement and the extent of the Clintons' knowledge in the project remains uncertain, the whole scheme is different than most. Granted, many things in the Clinton administration are different than most. The Clintons seem to have a close-knit relationship with many of the people with whom they are involved. Their recruitment of various members of their political assemblage seems to have roots that extend beyond a professional relationship. Maybe this is a way of taking care of their own ideology, a practice that generates in places like Little Rock, Ark.

The Clintons' relationship with James McDougal, the real estate investor who helped pioneer the Whitewater investments, was close-knit as well — so close that the investments were split evenly between the Clintons and McDougal, but don't bother looking for a contract between the two that established the financial interests because there isn't one — another close-knit Little Rock agreement. One would believe that if the initial investment were split, the profits would be split as well. McDougal reported a profit and the Clintons claimed to have had none. Actually, they reported a loss of more than \$46,000.

One thing that has been established is that more than \$10,000 was funneled through the Whitewater account, but there is no relationship that links the money to the real estate. This has become the key interest in the investigation.

Guilty or not, President Clinton has been caught in some fast-moving water, and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight, which causes a terrible blow to the Democratic party as well. A loss of faith in the president and the entire party comes at a devastating time. He has attempted to tackle some hefty projects while in office, but unfortunately for him the more that is unveiled in the Whitewater scandal, the deeper his hopes for support sink.

Clinton has called the investment "simple," but it is turning out as anything but simple. One thing that is simple is the fact that Clinton's support in office is running out fast. Hopefully, for his sake, it won't run totally dry before his term in office does.



LETTERS

What's wrong

Lia Salciocia's article "Saferide not sexist ..." in the March 14 *Emerald* illustrates what is wrong with mainstream feminism. Males are responsible for their own personal protection, but females must be afforded special protection such as Saferide. This is more evidence of the feminist campaign to enjoy the benefits of society with no risk and little responsibility.

I must say, though, that there is certainly someone clever among them. Someone took this recipe for a lack of success, added nine parts victimization, turned the heat up and voila! the Women's Movement.

Damien E. Marquez
Eugene

Embarrassment

This is in response to Mr. Shannon's letter in the March 10 *Emerald*. I too am an Irish-American. So are millions of other people in this country. In fact, nearly everyone I meet is part Irish. If the University had an Irish Student Union, probably at least 75 percent of the campus could claim membership. So no offense, Mr. Shannon, but I hardly think that you are a member of an "oppressed minority."

Yes, our people have been oppressed and discriminated against, but what race on earth hasn't? The things the Irish have suffered pale in comparison to the crimes wreaked on some of the other peoples on this earth because of their skin color or their religion. Yes, I've been teased because of my white Irish skin, but people generally don't treat me as an inferior because I'm so pale. (Except in California.)

And if you're tired of being stereotyped as a "Guinness-guzzling, potato-eating, Euro-centric, IRA terrorist Mick," then don't act like one! Drink something else! I'll take a glass of whiskey over Guinness any night of the week. Who needs an Irish history month when we've already got St. Patrick's Day? Everyone likes a holiday that's an excuse to get drunk, even if they don't have a drop of Irish

blood in their whole body. And there are probably plenty of "Celtic" professors already on this campus — just ask your profs if they're Irish. Most people tend to associate Celts with basketball, anyway.

Just because the *Emerald* editors leave it up to the student body to bite back at the ludicrous letters they get is no reason to embarrass your proud Irish ancestors with such a silly letter. So *pogue mahon*, Mike.

Erin Rogers
English

Bono knows

In the March 10 *Emerald*, I read a disturbingly funny letter by John Eccleston. I couldn't help laughing at Mr. Eccleston's criticism of Bono's comment at the Grammys and I knew that if Bono had read it, he'd be laughing, too. In his ignorance, Eccleston proved that Bono is succeeding in "fucking the establishment."

Yet it was this ignorance that also made the letter disturbing. My advice to Eccleston: don't criticize what you don't understand! Eccleston obviously doesn't know much about U2. If he did, the first thing he would realize is that by "establishment," Bono was talking about the media. Through their recent albums and their new image, U2 is trying to "fuck" the media by showing us how it manipulates us and holds control over our minds.

U2 has become what the media want, but it is really a mockery. Bono the star is a mask that reflects our media-influenced belief that rock 'n' roll stars are flashy, sexy, arrogant gods and goddesses. As he once said in an interview, Bono thinks it's funny that we, including Eccleston, are believing the myth.

People need to hear Bono so they won't continue to be fooled by the media; they will see reality instead of a lie. Those who applauded him at the Grammys understood the message he is trying to convey by saying "fuck establishment." Eccleston doesn't understand and this only reinforces Bono's image. It is the media's influence on our

beliefs, manifested in people like Eccleston, that has made Bono a "Frankenstein," a hideous mask of society.

Liesl Niemeier
Undeclared

Understanding

Regarding your article on Michelle Parks (*ODE*, March 14, "Women's advocate fights injustice"), I am compelled to take issue with her judgment on whether someone from one ethnic group can be competent to study and/or teach the cultural heritage of another.

Following Michelle's logic as reported in the article, African-Americans would be limited to studying African-American culture and transmitting it only to other African-Americans. In the same way, I suppose we would have to limit faculty positions in the Germanic department to actual Germans and Scandinavians. Her position undermines and limits the entire concept of cross-cultural study, indeed any kind of cultural studies.

One of the purposes of studying literature is to come to grips with experiences other than one's own. To say that I cannot feel the same as an African-American does when I read *The Invisible Man* or *Another Country* does not mean that I am altogether incapable of comprehending the experience. For that matter, there are no two African-Americans who would feel exactly the same way about these or any other books. No one ought to be precluded from the study of *anything* merely on the basis of his or her race or cultural experience. The experience of blacks in American is a *human* experience, and as a human and a humanist, I feel qualified to understand it, just as I feel that you, Michelle, are fully capable of understanding the literature of Germanic-speaking peoples that I study, cultural differences notwithstanding. We may not have the *same* understanding, but we both have something to contribute to an understanding of the material.

And Michelle, if you need to fill out your schedule spring term, may I suggest "Scandinavian Women Authors"?

Joseph Renaud
German

Emerald

Oregon Daily

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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