

Only death could really defeat Nixon

By not taking any real blame for anything except "some mistakes" in judgment, former Nixon showed himself to be the same amoral, calculating, sneaky bastard he has always been.

— Lee Siegel
Editorial Page Editor
Oregon Daily Emerald, Aug. 14, 1974

Well, it seems the *Emerald* has come full circle.

It was almost 20 years ago that the *Emerald* joined its voice to those of millions of other Americans, begging that justice be done and that President Richard Nixon, who had resigned from office just days before, be brought to trial on charges in connection with the infamous Watergate scandal.

Thanks to a pardon from his successor, Gerald Ford, Nixon was never convicted of any crimes relating to Watergate, although the specter of wrongdoing shadowed him for the rest of his life — a life which came to an end Saturday, the result of a stroke suffered earlier in the week. Nixon was 81.

Journalists and historians alike have been scrambling to capture the life of Richard M. Nixon — a man who left office in disgrace (the only president ever to resign) but remained a force in American and international politics for two more decades, nonetheless.

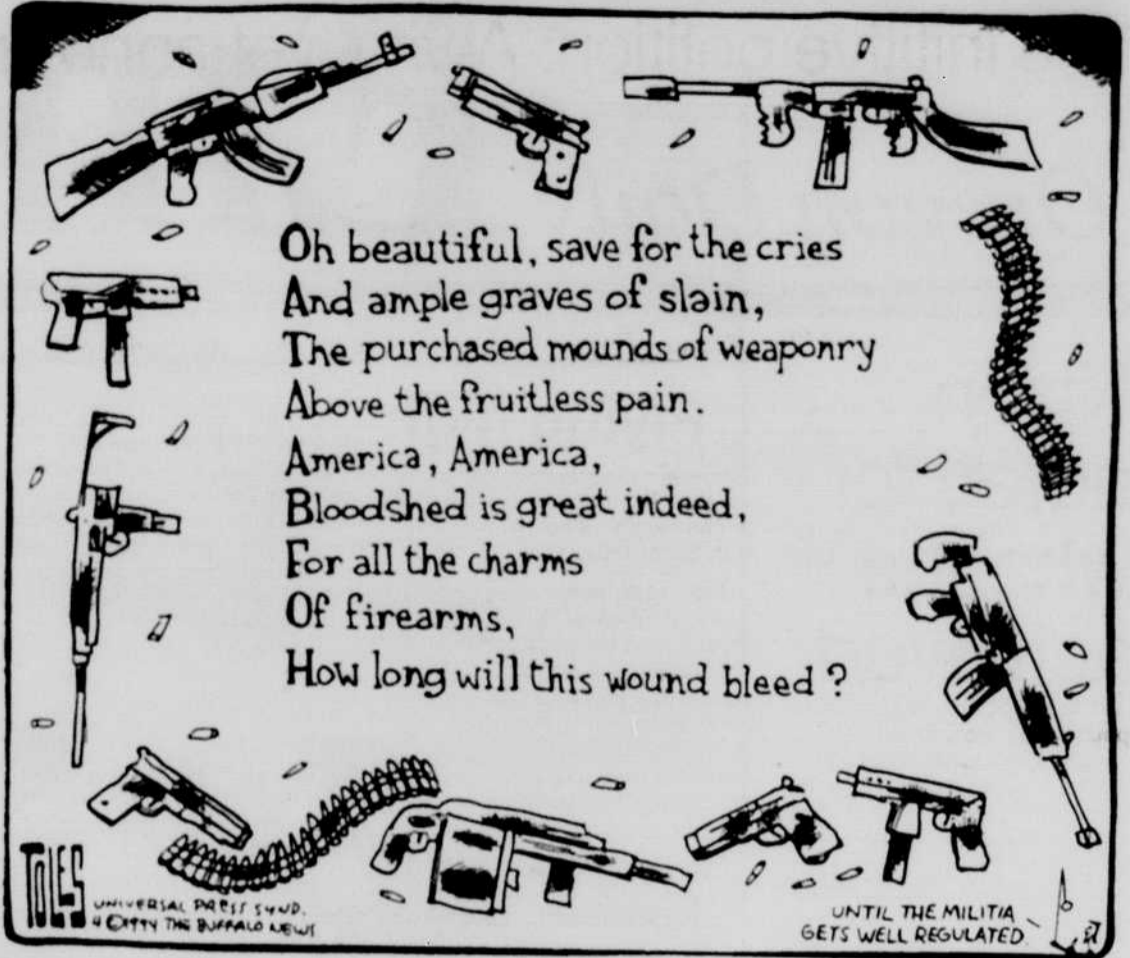
What else would you expect from a man who, upon narrowly losing the presidency to John F. Kennedy in 1960, ran for governor of California and promptly was defeated? And came back to run for president again in 1968? The man was the Comeback King, whatever you think of his politics.

Even Watergate wasn't enough to make Nixon give up. Although he never served in an elected post again, he was America's de facto ambassador to the world. Just this winter, he went on a tour of Russia, consulting with many of that country's leading figures (although he was snubbed by Boris Yeltsin). Nixon earned his pension.

Of course, such foreign policy duties were nothing unusual for Nixon, whose successes on the international front were among the most impressive for any American president. It was Nixon who opened the doors to China; it was Nixon who vigorously pursued detente with the Soviet Union; it was Nixon who began the long-overdue withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.

Nixon's domestic efforts should not be forgotten, either. His administration saw the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and it was his signature that transformed the Clean Water and Clean Air acts from legislation to law. Health care, welfare — Nixon was there.

So the time has come to re-evaluate President Nixon. His dishonesty and abuses of power notwithstanding, he deserves to be remembered in a better light than as the "sleazy crook" Siegel called him 20 years ago. Although the Watergate scandal should not be glossed over, it should also not be considered the whole story of Richard Nixon.



LETTERS

Bad people

Jack Orozco in his remarks to the *Emerald* regarding his resignation said, "There is so much fucking hypocrisy."

What, hypocrisy? Poor Jack, he thinks he's the victim of an atmosphere of hypocrisy that he and other student leaders on campus have fanned into an inferno of racist remarks, personal attacks and plenty of wasted time.

These student leaders are the ones that say in effect, "If you don't agree with me, you're a bad person, and probably racist. We want diversity of opinion, but only if it agrees with ours." What this attitude has done is degrade procedures that are important to many student groups and involve matters of the whole student body of the University into shouting matches and immature battles.

One example is the March 17 Incidental Fee Committee hearing where members of MEChA used extremely aggressive tactics to win their budget increase of 16 percent. Some IFC member said, after the meeting, that committee members were intimidated by the debate and their intimidation affected their vote. I hope the ends justified the means.

Disclaimer: I am not singling out the Chicano/Latino student groups at the University. There are examples from all over the ASUO/IFC-related realm that highlight this point. Many student leaders at the University have overlooked one big part of the leadership: maturity.

A note to the *Emerald* editors: When other letters come portraying me as a racist moron, please include a note that at least I'm a nice guy.

Aaron Ray
Journalism

Expand recycling

I would like to take this opportunity to urge students to vote yes for Ballot Measure 4 on

April 26 and 27. This ballot measure proposes to expand the recycling program campus-wide.

I've been involved with campus recycling in different capacities for the past two years and am very familiar with the benefits it provides to students. The recycling program gives students the chance to have a direct impact on a local and global level.

The program allows students to apply their knowledge through action and the evidence of how successful it has been is apparent around campus in: refillable mugs, 100 percent unbleached and other recycled products, outside public drop-sites, worm composting in the child-care centers, an informational display in the EMU and the creation of the Environmental Issues Committee.

All of these things were initiated by University students and are part of the positive opportunity offered by the recycling program to individual students and the campus at large. I sincerely hope that students renew their commitment to a program which affects the entire student body and is a positive force for social and environmental change. Vote and vote yes for Measure 4.

Kim Letven
Student recycler

Wonder why?

Congratulations to the ASUO and the *Emerald* for perpetuating student apathy. The ASUO elections committee, part of whose job it is to promote all things regarding elections, did a marvelous job of promoting each of its presidential debates. Not only was there ample notification in the media (none), flyers were posted as far away from the EMU and ASUO headquarters as 20 feet. Nice job! The debates changed time and place from one to the other, and even students who gave a shit had difficulty finding them.

And kudos to the *Emerald* for the colossal blunder (*ODE*, April 18) in the presentation of dark-horse candidate Todd Barnhart

and Greg Hamilton. Headline and photo caption screw-ups happen, but that was ridiculous!

No wonder student apathy is so high on this campus. Even those in power around here don't seem to have much regard for the ASUO elections.

Pat Daly
Pre-journalism

Oregon's future

As a student at the University and a native Oregonian, I am deeply concerned about Oregon's future. We are faced with a myriad of problems, including the state budget and the OCA. In a time like this we need a strong leader with the courage to tackle Oregon's problems. That is why I am so excited that John Kitzhaber is running for governor.

As a state senator, John Kitzhaber tackled many tough problems and built a consensus in a community that was facing very difficult and frightening obstacles. Growing up in Roseburg, I remember when Kitzhaber fought to close the Winchester Dam in response to the concern that fish were dying in its turbines. He succeeded in shutting down the dam and in passing legislation that would prevent similar dams in the future. This is just one example of his consensus-building skills and his commitment to the health of our environment.

I believe that Oregon needs John Kitzhaber. We need his leadership and his courage to tackle the tough issues facing Oregon. He served as a senator from Douglas County and is the father of the Oregon Health Plan. Kitzhaber has the experience that Oregon needs in the next four years. Much will be decided for education, the economy and the environment that will affect our families. That is why I am urging you to register to vote, educate yourself about the issues and vote for John Kitzhaber in the primary election on May 17.

Kimberley Hanks
Political Science

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