

PERSPECTIVES

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Outwit, Outplay, Outprotest



LONE VOICE IN THE WOODS

BRET JACOBSON

Nobody is as weary of fad TV shows as I am, but when it comes to co-opting a populist hit in the name of local political satire, I'm all for that. So, as the time draws near once again to decide this University's membership in apparel license monitoring groups, it is time to remember the activists of the past and get ready to play "Hippie/Activist Survival Center Island."

The contestants on our island this year read like a list of the usual suspects. Jay Breslow, ASUO president, leads the cast of returning characters. Arrested last year as one of the local protesters, Breslow is a politician at heart, which makes him an early favorite.

Another strong contender for the last hippie standing is surely Maria Roper, Worker Rights Consortium staff person, who is in it to win and isn't going to back down from any local yahoo like Breslow.

Other players who return from prominent appearances last year include Randy Newnham, a spokesman for the Human Rights Alliance, and Sarah Jacobson, also from HRA. Both were vigilant and ready at a moment's notice to condemn those who dared have a world view opposed to their own beacon of wisdom. Jevon Cutler, formerly of the Survival Center, is loud and active, as any good hippie protester should be. Also on our island, we mustn't forget local icon Frog. Although he wasn't officially a member of a complaining group during last year's snafu, his sheer willness and rugged endurance suggest a keen survival instinct.

As the game begins, the lights come up on a rainy, flora-filled park just west of the University. The small crowd meets and greets each other, sizing up the opponents. Jacobson eyes Cutler; Newnham glares at Breslow; and Roper tickles Frog.

In their first immunity challenge, all participants are forced to find the most purely organic foods available within one mile and return to camp. The crowd races off, with Cutler and Jacobson heading for the local falafel stand, Newnham marching to a natural tea house and Frog scurrying off to a treasure trove of wheat-germ goodness. Unfortunately, Maria Roper looks dazed and out of place, having never before left her New York City WRC office. Winner of the immunity challenge: Frog.

Thus, with Frog immune from being tossed, the tension builds for the remaining contestants. After small side deals are made among the group, the vote comes up, as announced by the very bellicose host, Laura Close. First off: Sarah Jacobson. Unwilling to yield her principles for victory, Jacobson loses because she won't play the game. The defeat is the work of a master politician, possibly a Jay Breslow.

And the rounds continue in the same manner. Next off is Newnham. No particular reason, other than the rest of the group didn't take to him very well. Next goes Cutler, leaving Breslow, Roper and Frog. Strong personalities, strong wills toward victory. Next off is Frog. Sorry, but personality can only carry you so far.

That leaves Roper or Breslow to be the ultimate winner, dependent upon the votes of the Survival Center Island members previously tossed off. After a close finish, Laura Close announces that between the two master politicians and true believers, Maria Roper is the ultimate Survival Center Island winner. This is shocking, of course, to the crowd, considering Roper doesn't attend the University or live in the area.

Such a shocking finish can only be followed by a more galling finale. Unhappy at the loss, Breslow demands a recount. He grabs at Roper's face, pulling off a synthetic mask to reveal none other than: University President Dave Frohn-mayer!

"I wanted to show my social conscience and say, 'Common sense be damned,' and I would've gotten away with it, too, if it weren't for you meddling kids."

Bret Jacobson is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached at bjacobso@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the editor

Community policing abolition adverse

Eugene Police Chief Jim Hill's recent announcement that he's abandoning community policing seems more like a budget-busting tactic than sound public-policy decision-making. Although the police services budget has nearly doubled since 1991 and the serious crime rate has declined 3 percent, Hill suggests he needs yet more money to implement the widely popular community program.

Even though community polic-

ing has a goal of reducing crime and at the same time reducing cost, old guard officers apparently believe the program is "soft on crime and is primarily social work." The strong-arm approach of law enforcement that the entrenched public safety personnel seem to favor has already proven to be a disaster in community relations.

We believe that intimidation and harassment are all too common in Eugene law enforcement, and the exercise of authority is not balanced by attempts at problem solving. The resulting alienation between police and the community reduces the safety of all. Hill's en-

thusiasm for New York-style, zero-tolerance policing suggests that he looks forward to further conflict between citizens and police.

The lack of responsiveness by the Eugene Police Department and the city government to citizens' concerns has led to the formation of the INDEPENDENT Police Review Project. As a citizen group independent of government influence, the IPRP will monitor city law enforcement policy and seek to implement objective citizen police review.

Randy Gicker
 Sherry Franzen
 IPRP

Bowl game made me a Duck fan

Having the pictures developed from my recent trip to San Diego reminded me of something I intended to do earlier.

I am an alumnus of the University of Texas and a fan of its football team. I traveled to San Diego with the hope my team would win the game and I would go home happy.

The point of my letter is that my "other" team won the game. I knew nothing about your program or your fans, but I now know the

University of Oregon can be very proud of both. You have an intelligent and fast team, and you have some of the classiest fans I have encountered. I have become a Duck fan and will follow the program and wish it all the good fortune it deserves. I will still have to pull for my "Horns" when the two meet, though.

I just wanted to say thanks and hello to all the Duck fans I met and hope we can do it again in the near future. The national championship game would be great. Go Ducks!

Steve Kirkpatrick
 Highlands, Texas