

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511  
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union  
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403  
 E-mail: editor@dailyemerald.com  
 Online Edition:  
 www.dailyemerald.com

# COMMENTARY

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Thursday, May 23, 2002

## Letters to the editor

### Think before you thump

All day Tuesday, I heard the thumping bass emanating from the EMU Amphitheater coupled with loud screaming about giving trucks away and how great Joe Romania is.

It is annoying for me at work, let alone in class, and I can't imagine what people closer to the noise felt like. I hope no one was taking any tests. Once I found out that it was a Joe Romania "come try to win your gas guzzler" event, I found myself wondering why the University, which prides itself on being an environmentally friendly campus, would allow a private, for-profit company to come and peddle its not-so-environmentally friendly products.

These days there's loud music blasting from the amphitheater, but hey, it's spring and time to celebrate, right? Okay, that's fine. However, when classrooms are being abandoned because of construction noise, perhaps we could give thought to the classrooms and offices close to the amphitheater and even more thought concerning which messages the University is sending.

Chris Holman  
 senior  
 international studies

### Minority party members deserve primary voice

Can we really choose our representatives and gubernatorial candidates? Not if we are members of a "minority" political party, according to elections rules. Those registered with a minority party, such as the Pacific Greens, are only allowed to vote for nonpartisan candidates in primary elections if no Greens are on the ballot. How absurd!

I am registered as a Green because I believe the party stands for environmental and political integrity. Not because I want to be excluded from doing my duty as a voter to pare down the field of candidates for the general election. And to those who would suggest minority party members would simply do their best to manipulate the outcome of a primary election, you're right! May the best candidate always win, whether she or he is a Democrat, Republican or Constitutional Party candidate.

Eric Martin  
 junior  
 journalism

### Bush family linked to Nazis, terrorism

What's all this talk likening the Green Party to the Nazi "green police" by conservative fanatics in the May 14 Emerald ("Welcome to the Stale Ideology Amateur Hour")?

If one was interested in getting to the truth of the matter, one would have to look no further than the shady past of the Bush family. The Bush family fortune has been derived from many crooked schemes.

On October 20, 1942, the U.S. government under the "Trading with the Enemy Act," seized the shares of a company called Union Banking Company, of which Bush was a shareholder and director. This company helped finance the German Steel Trust, which provided iron and explosives to the Nazis.

Another company, ran by Prescott Bush and his father-in-law, George Walker Herbert, was seized because it was a Nazi front. "This company was called the Silesian-American Corporation and was vital in supplying coal to the Nazi war machine," according to the Draheim Report from the Dallas Libertarian Post. How much Bush coal was used to fire the incinerators at the Nazi death camps?

The Bush past is filled with unsavory partnerships with some of the world's leading terrorists including Saddam Hussien, Manuel Noriega and also bin Laden. Let's see — if the Nazis could be called terrorists, the Bush family has made a whole lot of money in dealing with terrorists. A simple Internet search query, "Bush Nazi," will yield results.

Andrew Vern Reed  
 junior  
 sociology

### Take Back the Night needs both sexes to succeed

We, as women, were proud to attend the Take Back the Night rally. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather with others and speak out against sexual violence, sexism and hatred. It was, however, disheartening that not all supporters were given equal opportunities during both the march and the celebration that followed.

The crowd was instructed, in no uncertain terms, that the front of the march was reserved for women, and the middle area was to be reserved for "gender queers." We attended the march together, as women, along with two of our friends, both male, one gay. Given the demographics of our group, we were forced to the back of the march, out of what the leaders designated the "safe space."

It is counterproductive to place gender limits within a cause that strives for total equality. We, as women, need to embrace the men that are fighting by our side for equality, liberty and safety. By telling these men that they can not be on the front lines of the battle, we send them the message that we, as women, have been getting for centuries — "You are not strong enough. You are not good enough. We do not need your help."

Until we can accept that every voice, regardless of gender, deserves to be heard, we will never be able to accomplish all that we, as humans, are capable of.

Andrea Lipstein  
 junior, family and human services  
 Rachael Osolsky  
 sophomore, psychology



Steve Baggs Emerald BAGGS

## Launching an idiot offensive

In "The Godfather Part 2," Michael Corleone travels to Cuba on a money-making mission right before the revolution jumps off.

In that last scene prior to the chaos, the sunlight seems like it's been turned up to "11" as Michael and his posse of capitalist cronies sit on a rooftop, literally having their cake and eating it, too.

Everything seems just a little too perfect, which is how things always seem right before you realize you've been walking around all night with a giant chunk of parsley wedged between your two front teeth.

President George W. Bush currently has a large chunk of something stuck in his teeth, but none of his top advisers seem to be telling him.

It's called crow.

Perhaps they haven't said anything because they don't notice. When you see a man walking around with crow in his teeth day after day, you tend to become desensitized to it. And for Bush, crow has become a set of false teeth.

First it was tough talk about an American military plane and its crew held against their will in China, followed directly by his statement of desire to keep trade channels open with Beijing. Then it was maniacal ravings against the "axis of evil." Now, in a multi-faceted scheme to distract the public from the fact that he and his administration most definitely knew about the possibility of terrorist attacks taking the form of airborne suicide bombers, Bush has once again launched an idiotic offensive.

Against Cuba, one of the most impoverished countries in the Americas.

Cuba isn't our enemy. Their government is. Of course, that's exactly what Bush has been saying recently, in a blatant attempt to pander to Cuban-American voters in Florida.

Once again, however, what he's saying and what he's doing seem to be in direct conflict with each other.

Bush has demanded the release of political prisoners, independently monitored elections, free speech for opposition parties, and a new govern-

ment that is fully democratic.

I can't fault him in theory. It really sounds like he cares about the Cuban people.

The only problem with this little pipe-dream of humanitarianism is that he's making these demands while at the same time squeezing the economic vise-grip of an embargo that's been steadily draining the wealth of the average Cuban for the past 40 years.

If Bush is so worried about the state of human rights in the world, then what exactly is he thinking continuing to do business with China, or

Malaysia, or Saudi Arabia for that matter? All of those countries have committed human rights violations that make Cuba's look like one of Robert Downey Jr.'s state-mandated trips to a celebrity rehab center.

And if political prisoners are causing the president to lose sleep at night, then I suggest he get off his high horse (I'm dropping clichés like Alan Houston drops mid-range jumpers) and pardon Leonard Peltier, a man who is being held without one shred of hard evidence that he committed any murders.

For that matter, if free and democratic elections are such a point of contention for Senor Bush, why did he seem so eager to wrap up the controversy that surrounded the last presidential election, and get into office?

Because it all comes down to the money and the power.

It is impossible to punish Castro without punishing the rest of the country. And even then, Castro will still be in a position of power, and hence capable of remaining relatively exempt from said punishment.

End the embargo now.

E-mail columnist Jacob TenPas at [jacobtenpas@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jacobtenpas@dailyemerald.com). His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.



Jacob  
 TenPas  
 Columnist

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