

# Tout education over dry housing

*Editor's note: Jeffrey Adam Hotchkiss originally sent this commentary as a letter to University President Dave Frohnmayer.*

Over the past few weeks, a lot has transpired within the realms of the University's greek community. There have been mandates handed down (including efforts designed to prevent those mandates from going through), as well as numerous letters, editorials and articles having been written, all regarding the issue of "dry housing." I thought it seemed about time you heard from someone very knowledgeable on the subject, a respected member of the greek community here at the University.

I have been a fraternity member here for several years, and in that time I have seen, heard and learned many things. Along the way, I have developed a good understanding of how our greek community works and what is necessary in order to run an efficient and productive greek community. Turning to dry housing is not one of those necessities.

Moving past the reasons for not forcing greeks to go dry (i.e. increases in off-campus parties and drinking and driving), I would like to

## GUEST COMMENTARY

**Jeffrey Hotchkiss**

present another resolution for you to consider. I do agree on the matter that overconsumption of alcohol and underage drinking is a problem not only within the greek community but also throughout the University. I have seen and dealt with far worse problems from drunken individuals who are not affiliated with Greek Life than from those who are — such as those involved in the Halloween riots — but that is another topic. By forcing fraternities to have dry housing, a "problem" is not being solved, but merely swept under the rug.

In my opinion and experience, education is the surest way to go. In educating greeks, specifically new members and freshmen, about the dangers of alcohol and how to handle themselves if they do choose to drink, we would solve a great deal of the problems we're facing. I have taken several of the classes and weekend seminars where alcohol was the topic of discussion, and I learned

more on the subject than I ever had ever imagined possible. This school already has an excellent resource in Miki Mace, the Substance Abuse Prevention Program director. Perhaps these classes ought to be mandatory for those entering the greek community, and potentially for all students entering the University.

On a separate point, throughout all the words that have been exchanged on this subject, those involved in Greek Life have come out looking flawed. I would like to point out the most recent University awards ceremony and bring attention to, as well as congratulate, the numerous fraternity and sorority members who were recognized. A number of students won various awards and were inducted into several academic honor societies, including the Friars, Koyle Cup, Bess Templeton Cristman and Dean's Service awards. Whether these individuals included alcohol in their greek and college careers has certainly and obviously not hindered their accomplishments.

Jeffrey Adam Hotchkiss is a senior political science major and a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

## Letters to the editor

### U.S. government needs to disclose information

I would first like to laud Victor Wold's call for a revolution in popular thinking about the war on terrorism ("Citizens can not give up privacy rights," ODE, May 30). My letter is directed to a far more pernicious problem: Conservative pro-war media bias on the part of nearly every major American news outlet.

Americans who desire an honest objective analysis of their government's attitudes and activities should be on notice that they are not receiving the full story. Sen. Dick Armey was recently quoted in a respected British daily, The Guardian, as advocating the forcible complete removal of the Palestinian people from Israel. The Guardian expressed its shock that Armey's comments went almost completely unreported in the United States while they, of course, elicited the shock of nations around the world at a time of great tension for the region.

We may well wonder why it is

that we as Americans are reviled around the world when we are not privy to information like this. Our leaders are busily pursuing policies that serve to destabilize the present situation in the Middle East and plant the seeds of hate in hearts of those who might not otherwise call themselves our enemies.

If we do not wish to be held accountable by terrorists for our government's foreign policy, we must first be able to make ourselves aware of what is going on. I encourage Americans to be intensely critical of domestic news outlets and to seek objective information about the war on terror outside of this country.

Colin Barey  
law student

### Violence is no cure for terrorism

One truly has to wonder whether or not Tym Parsons' comments ("Ruthlessly crush terrorist states," ODE, May 29) were meant as a dark satire of current American politics; perhaps in an attempt to epitomize the most extreme and

dangerous views floating around lately in American sentiment.

Though I believe this is the case, for any who might sympathize with Parsons' uninformed words I would add that there was once a man with similar feelings and emotions — who attacked ruthlessly in the name of "security." I am referring to the one we all love to use as a baseline for immorality, the late Adolf Hitler.

Further, let us ask ourselves, "What is a terrorist?" A terrorist is you or I, when we are reared in an environment so oppressive that there seems to be no way out other than through violence. A "war on terrorism" in a literal sense (i.e. not as an empty political tactic) is akin to choosing hand grenades over food to "go to war" on hunger.

"Terrorism" is as old as civil conflict — it is in a sense almost human nature. Attempting to convince the oppressed people of the world to be passive and complacent by shooting and bombing them unfortunately only makes the situation worse.

William Moglia  
senior

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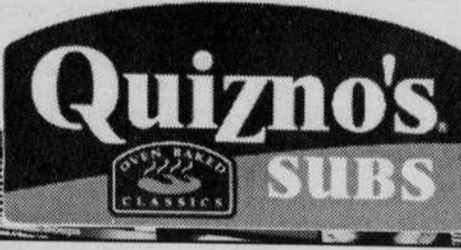
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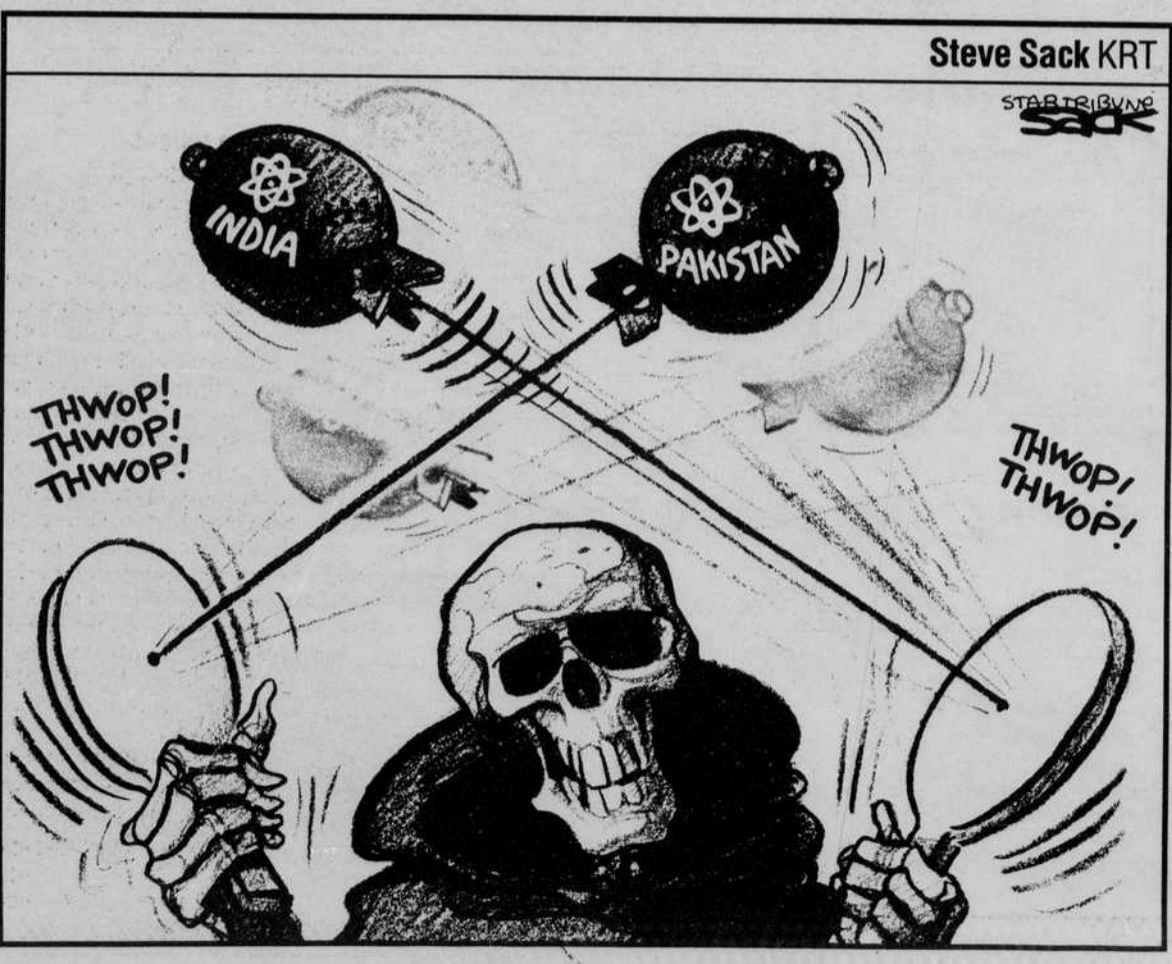
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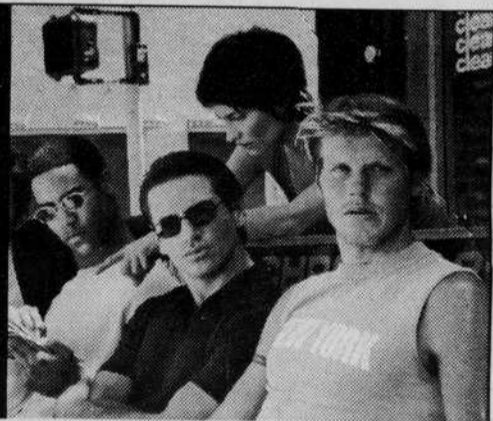
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