

# COMMENTARY

## Emerald takes cheap shots

**GUEST COMMENTARY**  
**Bret Jacobson**

The low opinion of the Emerald's news judgment have been thoroughly reconfirmed after the paper has again decided to take the least intellectually taxing manner of dealing with the critical and provocative public policy debates that should be of great joy to those who express a desire for thoughtful, rigorous public discourse.

When the Emerald published Ryan Nyburg's guest column mocking Oregon Citizens Alliance director Lon Mabon and his gubernatorial run ("A few 'wacko' suggestions to help Lon Mabon get elected governor," ODE, Aug. 13), it chose to continue its disheartening pattern of hypocrisy and setting aside its stated values in favor of cheap shots at controversial figures with whom it disagrees philosophically.

Clearly there is an overwhelming majority of Oregonians, myself included, who do not support government intervention into the personal lives of its citizens, and this trend toward libertarianism can be seen in most University students. That fact means a serious critique,

or even a well-crafted satire, would be fully appropriate and provocative to the discourse over the future of the state's relationship with its gay citizens.

Furthermore, the strong disdain for government intervention in personal matters and the repeated failure of Mabon and his organization could have been far more valuable in convincing students that exclusionary and bigoted policies are not optimal for a society.

The Emerald, however, chose not to go the route of appealing to its readers' highest intellectual abilities and chose instead to pander to the quickest, most juvenile thought processes to be found in our community. This, of course, is nothing new for an organization that has shown deep and increasing flaws in recent years in its news judgment and personnel matters.

For two out of the previous three

years, the Emerald has chosen editors who do not demographically or ideologically fit the mainstream of campus opinion and for the previous three years has continued to demonstrate declining interest in providing an intellectually balanced and sound medium for public discourse.

Therefore it is incumbent on students — for, the faculty and administration are already too far gone in their own respective worlds of finance and ideology to be motivated to increase the quality of intellectual pursuit here — to do their best to think critically about what they hear from student leaders and what they read in the Emerald and all campus publications. The best way is simply to ask one's self, "What's the other side to this argument, and which side is more defensible?"

Unfortunately, in this case, just about any other side would be more defensible to the lazy, juvenile stylings of the Emerald and Nyburg.

Bret Jacobson is the publisher of the Oregon Commentator.

### Letters to the editor

#### Nation X is the real threat

President Bush is worried about Iraq obtaining weapons of mass destruction, but there is an even bigger threat. There is one rogue Nation X that has used chemical weapons in war and has even dropped atomic bombs on civilian populations.

This nation refuses to allow itself to be held accountable for war crimes by any world court and has the world's largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. Nation X thinks it owns the world and has started more wars in the last 100 years than any other nation.

Historically founded on slavery, Nation X talks as if it invented "freedom" but at the same time finances the enslavement of peoples

all around the world. Nation X financed the destruction of Palestine and the enslavement of the Palestinian people. Nation X has supported many dictators, including Saddam Hussein, when it served its own political purposes or to gain natural resources.

Nation X — the United States of America — cannot see its own "evil" because the human ego blinds perception. Bush says the world hates us because we love freedom.

In truth, the world hates us because we are liars and hypocrites and are fast becoming Nazis of the 21st century.

Christopher Calder  
Eugene

#### Cookie is missed

I spent much of my youth hanging out in the businesses of 1980s' 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street.

As one of Cookie's buddies, I want to thank you for the sweet story about her ("Passing the tongs," ODE, Aug. 13).


So often on issues like building demolition (Les' Barbershop), new Eugene Police Department regulations regarding 13th Avenue and the passing of local color, the critical mass of the University community has about a four-year memory.

My favorite Cookie story: One day walking past her stand, she said, "Hey John, I am going to die poor."

"Why?" I asked. "I've given up buying Oregon scratch-it tickets."

Cookie did care, she is missed and she did make a difference in my life. Thanks again.

John Muir O'Brien  
junior  
pre-journalism




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