

**NEWS STAFF**  
(541) 346-5511

**JEN SUDICK**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**STEVEN R. NEUMAN**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**JARED PABEN**  
**AYISHA YAHYA**  
NEWS EDITORS

**MEGHANN CUNIFF**  
**PARKER HOWELL**  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTERS

**MORIAH BALINGIT**  
**AMANDA BOLSINGER**  
**ADAM CHERRY**  
**KARA HANSEN**  
**ANTHONY LUCERO**  
NEWS REPORTERS

**CLAYTON JONES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**JON ROETMAN**  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

**STEPHEN MILLER**  
**BRIAN SMITH**  
SPORTS REPORTERS

**RYAN NYBURG**  
PULSE EDITOR

**NATASHA CHILINGERIAN**  
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

**AMY LIGHTY**  
**RYAN MURPHY**  
PULSE REPORTERS

**CAT BALDWIN**  
PULSE CARTOONIST

**DAVID JAGERNAUTH**  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

**JENNIFER MCBRIDE**  
**AILEE SLATER**  
**TRAVIS WILLISE**  
COLUMNISTS

**ASHLEY GRIFFIN**  
SUPPLEMENT  
FREELANCE EDITOR

**GABE BRADLEY**  
NEWS FREELANCE EDITOR/  
DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT

**DANIELLE HICKEY**  
PHOTO EDITOR

**LAUREN WIMER**  
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

**TIM BOBOSKY**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

**NICOLE BARKER**  
**ERIK BISHOFF**  
PART-TIME PHOTOGRAPHERS

**BRET FURTWANGLER**  
GRAPHIC ARTIST

**KIRA PARK**  
DESIGN EDITOR

**WENDY KIEFFER**  
**AMANDA LEE**  
**DUSTIN REESE**  
**BRIANNE SHOLIAN**  
DESIGNERS

**SHADRA BEESLEY**  
**JEANNIE FRYRS**  
COPY CHIEFS

**KIMBERLY BLACKFIELD**  
SPORTS COPY EDITORS

**AMANDA EVARD**  
**AMBER LINDROS**  
NEWS COPY EDITORS

**LINDSAY BURT**  
PULSE COPY EDITOR

**ADRIENNE NELSON**  
ONLINE EDITOR

**SLADE LEESON**  
WEBMASTER

**BUSINESS**  
(541) 346-5511

**JUDY RIEDL**  
GENERAL MANAGER

**KATHY CARBONE**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**REBECCA CRITCHETT**  
RECEPTIONIST

**NATHAN FOSTER**  
**AIBING GUO**  
**ANDREW LEAHY**  
**JOHN LONG**  
**MALLORY MAHONEY**  
**HOLLY MISTELL**  
DISTRIBUTION

**ADVERTISING**  
(541) 346-3712

**MELISSA GUST**  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

**TYLER MACK**  
SALES MANAGER

**MATT BETZ**  
**HERON CALISCH-DOLEN**  
**MEGAN HAMLIN**  
**KATE HIRONAKA**  
**MAEGAN KASER-LEE**  
**MIA LEIDELMEYER**  
**EMILY PHILBIN**  
**SHANNON ROGERS**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVES

**KELLEE KAUFHEIL**  
AD ASSISTANT

**CLASSIFIED**  
(541) 346-4343

**TRINA SHANAMAN**  
CLASSIFIED MANAGER

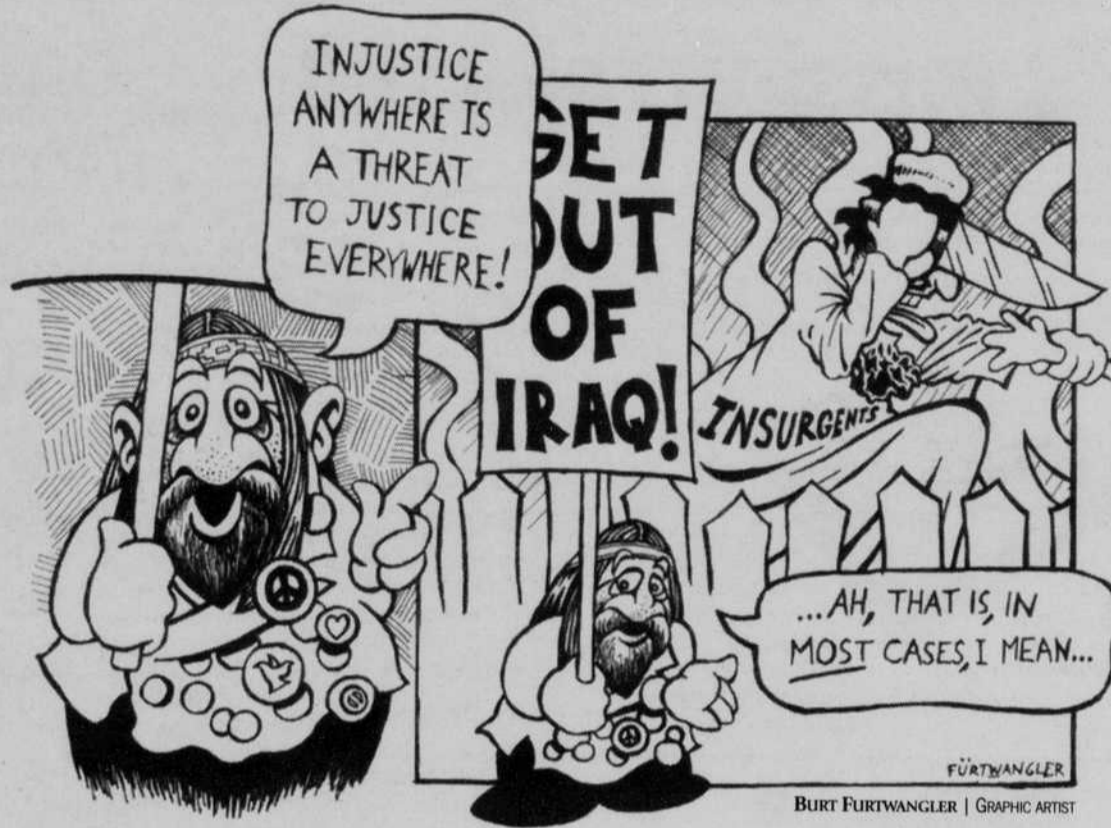
**KATY GAGNON**  
**SABRINA GOWETTE**  
**LESLIE STRAIGHT**  
**KERI SPANGLER**  
**KATIE STRINGER**  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
ASSOCIATES

**PRODUCTION**  
(541) 346-4381

**MICHELE ROSS**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

**TARA SLOAN**  
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

**JEN CRAMLET**  
**KRISTEN DICHARRY**  
**CAMERON GAUT**  
**JONAH SCHROGIN**  
DESIGNERS



BURT FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

■ Guest commentary

## Noncommittal language lost election for Democratic Party

HANOVER, N.H. — Two months after the election, much of the grassroots energy that brought a supposedly unelectable liberal within one state of beating a wartime Republican incumbent has dissipated. This vacuum has allowed weak but vocal factions within the Democratic Party to lay claim to the party agenda. Although it has been quite some time since the unnecessary and murderously unsuccessful conflict in Iraq was considered a popular war, hawkish Democrats are blaming John Kerry's defeat on his failure to support the protracted ordeal enthusiastically.

More generally, these Democrats are arguing that the party should become more charitably disposed to overseas conflict. Defense is a worthy goal when it is non-partisan, as it was in Afghanistan, but the conservative Democrats are advocating a dangerously militaristic hard-line as a road to popularity.

A recent and increasingly influential opinion piece by Peter Beinart, editor of *The New Republic*, illustrates the confusion and intellectual bankruptcy of the Democratic Party's right wing. His lack of forward vision becomes immediately apparent as he compares the war on terror to the Cold War. This analogy forms the backbone of his analysis, and it forces the reader to conceive the future of the Democratic Party in the language of the Bush ideologues.

Beinart's article represents a surrender to the language and agenda of the Republican right. The idea of the Cold War still represents fear, paranoia, and political opportunity for those who exploit it. Through this language, the 21st century

international effort against terrorism was abandoned in favor of an adventure in Iraq. Democratic lawmakers, following logic that bears a striking resemblance to Beinart's, authorized that war.

Precisely because election-conscious Democrats were afraid to appear "soft" (Beinart's word for non-hawks), thousands of people are dead and the U.S. is the proud owner of a brutal guerilla war. Beinart tells us that the real lesson of Nov. 2 is that Democrats should lead America into conflict Rambo-style while Republicans struggle to keep up. Although he professes opposition to America's decisions in Iraq, the next Iraq is precisely where his logic leads.

Beinart is no lone nut. The Democratic Leadership Council, a conservative Democratic think tank, heartily endorses his program. Although the DLC generates little popular enthusiasm within the party's grassroots networks, it is well funded by narrow interests. In the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the DLC still maintains that the war in Iraq was an excellent policy decision but was mishandled. On its Web site, the DLC lists defense and the "war" on terror as its top priorities.

Grassroots organizations were responsible for getting Kerry within one state of winning the election. The nebulous, DLC-style language of the Kerry campaign ensured that Kerry, would, in fact, fall short. Voters preferred John Kerry when he was drawing clear-cut distinctions between himself and Bush, as seen in their first debate. People doubted John Kerry when he claimed to have "supported the war but totally disagreed with the

administration's handling of the war."

That language lost the election. That is the language of the DLC, not the liberal heart of the party. Ultimately, offering a watered down alternative to the conservative Republican agenda will not make the Democratic Party a party of government. Voters prefer and respect original ideas from political parties. A party that has a real agenda can make a stand. When a party decides the best option is to react to the other party, it will never have the initiative.

Liberals must distance themselves from DLC-like cheerleading for conflict unless they want to share the shame when that violence returns to the U.S. It would be better for the Democrats to embrace the war-wary liberals and the domestic security emphasis that liberals have steadfastly championed.

There is an inordinate amount of fear in the modern Democratic Party. Every election loss, every unfavorable poll, every accusation of liberalism is seen as the end of the party. Wake up. The supposedly liberal, unelectable, flip-flopping and cold Massachusetts senator lost by just three points in a national election. Keep that liberal activism and vision alive. As the war turns sour, the meaning of "moral values" will change. "Immoral" will come to mean "unjust" as the government leads us into crisis.

This nation's enthusiasm for conflict is declining daily. Today's Democratic Party needs to be ready to meet the demands of tomorrow and not mimic a conservative movement that is blind to the future.

Tim Mosso writes for *The Dartmouth*

■ Editorial

## Committee threatens free speech on campus

In an already disgrace-filled year for University student leaders, the Programs Finance Committee's recent attempt to muzzle the *Oregon Commentator* is the most disgraceful moment yet. In fact, all prior examples of the PFC's contempt for students' rights (and money) pale in comparison to this ignorant attack on campus free speech.

In the PFC's note of rejection to the *Commentator*, it stated that several unspecified issues of the magazine "contain material that is in violation" of an Oregon statute designating incidental fees for programs "advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students." The PFC then had the gall to lecture the *Commentator* on what an immense "privilege" it is to be recognized as a culturally advantageous program, a privilege that can be "revoked" at any time. The threat is clear: Write so much as one article that we don't like, and your entire publication will be punished.

The PFC provided few clues to what specifically set the members off, and it leaves the concept of "culturally advantageous" so vague that it renders it meaningless. Committee members' attitudes seem to be, like pornography, that they know it when they see it. In an open letter to the PFC (posted online at [www.oregoncommentator.com](http://www.oregoncommentator.com)), Daniel Atkinson, publisher and board member of the *Commentator*, brilliantly rebukes all of the PFC's haphazard accusations. The letter is so well argued that it, in and of itself, proves that the magazine is a culturally advantageous project.

One problem with the PFC's position: The *Commentator* has never published anything remotely inconsistent with the law — constitutional or otherwise. We hate to break it to the PFC, but last time we checked disagreeing with liberal dogma does not constitute hate speech. Apart from that, the PFC has absolutely no right to adjudicate what is acceptable campus expression. It is on a perverse and illegal power trip. The real question students should be asking themselves is: How culturally advantageous are our student leaders?

Ironically, by challenging the *Commentator's* recognized status, the PFC has legitimized the magazine's mission, the very mission that it has chosen to reject. In part it reads: "We believe that the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate — instead of the current climate in which ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality interfere with academic pursuit."

We need to embrace this attitude now more than ever. Many liberals and conservatives alike have a lot to learn about tolerance. Protesting an idea does not mean trying to silence that idea. Publishing an idea does not necessarily mean endorsing it. And listening to an idea is not the same as embracing it. Rather than cleansing campus speech of everything potentially upsetting, we should be encouraging truthful expression even if it is ugly, uncomfortable or controversial.

Every student who cares about his or her right to speak freely on this campus should support the *Oregon Commentator* as it continues to fight for the funding that rightfully belongs to it.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Jennifer Sudick** Editor in Chief  
**Steven R. Neuman** Managing Editor  
**David Jagernauth** Editorial Editor  
**Gabe Bradley** Freelance Editor

**OREGON DAILY EMERALD LETTERS POLICY**

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged, and should be sent to [letters@dailymerald.com](mailto:letters@dailymerald.com) or submitted at the Oregon Daily Emerald office, EMU Suite 300. Electronic submissions are preferred. Letters are limited to 250 words, and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submissions should include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style. Guest submissions are published at the discretion of the Emerald.