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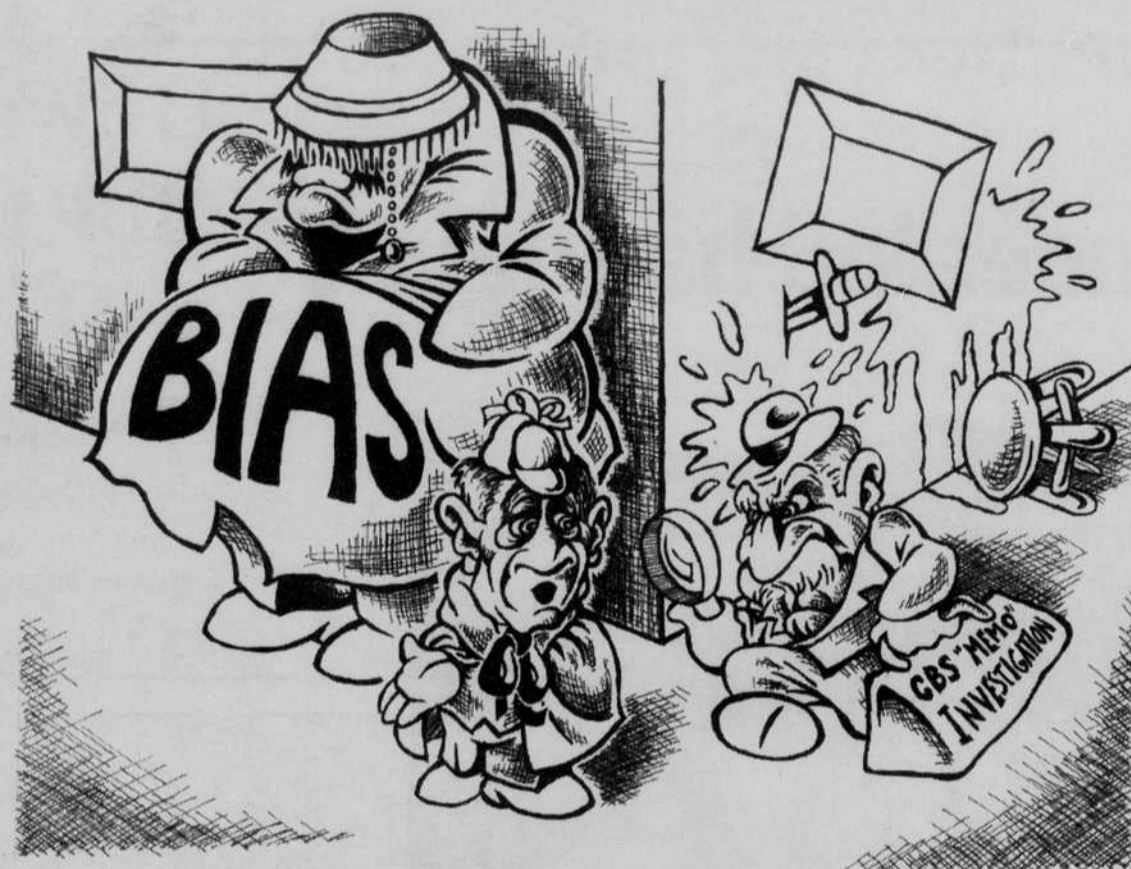
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"... MIGHT AS WELL PACK UP, WATSON ... WE'RE
OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO FIND THE CULPRIT HERE!"

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

■ In my opinion

Thoughts on Dubya's W

Nov. 3 — It was hard to keep my eyes open as I stumbled in the general direction of the Emerald office. I had stayed up nearly all night eating cake and watching the returns. Long after my wife had gone to bed, I was downstairs with just the light of the TV, loading up on sugar and caffeine to keep awake for any breaking developments.

When consciousness finally left me, I slumped down on the couch for a few hours of rest, still not 100 percent certain if President Bush had been re-elected. Little did I know that I was about to get one of the best wake-up calls of my life. I snapped awake as Dan Rather announced that John Kerry was about to concede — and he had the memos to prove it.

I ran upstairs to wake my wife and share the good news. Though she didn't share my level of early-morning enthusiasm, she managed a thumbs-up and a hug. I polished off the rest of our election-night cake and headed for the office.

All around me, people moved like zombies. I'm sure they had stayed up late as well. I collapsed on my desk, exhausted. No way was I going to class today. At long last the election was over, and my horse had won. I needed about a week and a half of vacation.

Fast forward two and a half months,



GABE BRADLEY
THE WRITING ON THE WALL

and I am pumped. President Bush is going to be sworn in to his second term Thursday. The three day, \$30 million GOP end-zone dance is a chance for Bush supporters to chant "four more years" for the last time until Jeb runs for re-election in 2012.

In 2000, George Bush wasn't my first choice for president. He wasn't even my second or third. I was for John McCain all the way. But Bush is what we got, and if you ask me, he ain't half bad. I know that statement is bound to get me in trouble on this tolerant and accepting campus, but I'll take the risk.

I'm not a Republican, and I've never voted a straight ticket for either party. But there was no competition between the two candidates for president this year. Is Bush my ideal pick for leader of the free world? No. But until those clowns at the DNC can scrounge up a halfway-respectable candidate, I will continue to stand by my man, G-Dub.

I am as upset and outraged as the next guy about the extremely disappointing choices presented to the voters in the national elections lately. But I don't get too hung up on the lesser-of-two-evils issue, because I'm trying to make peace with the reality of American politics — you go to the polls with the candidates you have, not the candidates you'd like to have.

So here's to four more years of President George Walker Bush. Here's to Social Security reform and a frustrating lack of press conferences. Here's to tax code simplification and four more "Bushisms" calendars. Here's to finally getting Osama and spending political capital.

And think of the side benefits. Four more years of George Bush means four more years of Laura Bush, who will eventually learn to control the crush she has on me.

The worst thing for me about four more years of Bush? It's a toss up between stunning deficit growth and the Bush twins. I pine for the days when you could trust Republicans with money — back when they were the party of fiscal responsibility.

Anyway, here's to you, Dubya. Don't disappoint me.

gabebradley@dailyemerald.com

INBOX

ASUO's integrity hinges on incidental fee repayment

The ASUO representatives who attended the finance retreat need to pay back the incidental fees used. I find the new self-punishment that makes no attempt to replace the fees to be void of merit. The ASUO representatives have

broken the trust placed in them by misusing the fees. They are breaking the trust again by refusing to follow through on their earlier commitment.

Clearly the self-punishment process has not worked. Their failure to adequately take responsibility raises significant questions of whether ASUO representatives are able to successfully

fulfill their appointed duties. The first step to rebuilding trust is to replace all incidental fees used for the retreat. If they don't, I encourage all fellow students to vote out the current ASUO representatives in the coming election and show them that integrity matters.

Sol Hart
Graduate Student

■ Editorial

OUS, state handgun policies need reconciling

When Brian Stubbs fought the Oregon University System's anti-concealed handgun policy, he exposed a serious conflict between OUS and Oregon law, a conflict that has yet to be resolved.

It is a classic dilemma: How do we balance individual rights with the safety of the community? Is it worthwhile to infringe on the rights of 4.1 percent of Lane County residents that hold Concealed Handgun Licenses in order to provide for the safety of the rest of the campus? Does doing so really increase safety, or would allowing trained gun users to carry their weapons actually be the safety-conscious thing to do?

These are important questions that the campus community must debate. The motivating factor should be the safety of students. One thing is clear: The legal conflict between the OUS policy banning handguns on campus and the Oregon statute that allows them on campus needs to be reconciled.

One opinion would be for a Concealed Handgun License holder to bite the bullet — so to speak — and openly violate the concealed weapons ban. The University has yet to enforce the policy, and pushing them to do so would force the courts to make a ruling one way or the other. The courts managed to dodge the issue in the Stubbs case because he begrudgingly chose to comply with the ban.

Another opinion would be for anti-gun groups to lobby the state to change Oregon law. Allowing the OUS to simply ignore a state law seems to be a poor way to deal with an issue this emotional. If the university system wants to ban firearms in the classroom, more power to it, but it should do so in a legitimate way, by amending state statutes.

■ Out loud

"I would've either blacked out or thrown up." — Nancy Hopkins, a biologist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on why she walked out in the middle of a talk by Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers, in which he suggested that "innate differences" might explain why fewer women succeed in math and science.

"They should use on him the same torture methods he used on others." — Ahmed Ali, a van driver in Baghdad, reacting to news that Charles Graner will serve 10 years in prison for his role in abuse at Abu Ghraib.

"I think one of the things I've learned is that sometimes words have consequences you don't intend them to mean. 'Bring them on' is a classic example." — President Bush, sort of admitting he made a mistake by baiting terrorists to attack U.S. forces in July 2003.

— Quotes compiled from various news sources

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 14 article "East Wing remodeling underway inside EMU," the headline and summary were inaccurate. The EMU administration's Master Plan to remodel the wing was halted due to a shortage of funds. Sections of the east wing have been renovated, but not as part of the Master Plan.

Also, in the photo accompanying the Jan. 14 article Eugeneans back LTD drivers at demonstration," Justin Kamerer's name was misspelled as Kemerer.

The Emerald regrets the errors.