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In my opinion

Bridging the Atlantic

During his tenure as secretary of state, Colin Powell ranked as the most immediately likable visible member of the first-term Bush administration. After receiving wide bipartisan support at his confirmation, Powell worked both as the president's spokesman and, for a while, as a steady, audible foil to the administration's swelling hawkishness. As the term wore on and the war on terror demanded increasingly tight devotion to the administration's ideology, his credentials remained impressive, but his reputation as a thoughtful, independent counterpoint waned.

It is in part for this reason that incoming Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's first weeks at the post seem, well, refreshing, if not cheery. Her first-term hawkishness has given way, at least so far, to a more amicable public demeanor: Her latest trip took her to Paris, where she told an audience of diplomats and students at Institute d'études politiques, the elite French politics school, that America and Europe ought to move beyond a "partnership of common threats" to one of "common opportunities, beyond the transatlantic community."

While setting Rice's first major keynote speech in Paris underscores that Franco-American (and, largely, Euro-American) relations have been defined since 2002 more by disagreements over presumptively common



TRAVIS WILLSE
RIVALLESS WIT

threats than partnerships, European diplomats seem largely pleased with Rice's recent, more dovish overtures. French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier proffered at a joint press conference "a new phase, a new sheet" in Euro-American affairs. Using — oddly appropriately — family therapy language, his program for revitalizing the relationship called on both "to speak and listen more to each other, and respect each other's convictions."

Right-of-center former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing offered measured praise, hailing her talk the "affirmation of a new line of American foreign policy," but pointed out the difficulty of America's ostensible goal: "The main aim of America is to see the spread of freedom, but that is not enough to organize the world."

Whether Rice's visit guarantees a new foreign policy more palatable to Old Europe has yet to be seen: After the (relative) unilateralism of the invasion of Iraq (and France's and Germany's disapproval), even paranoid

cynicism might be due. Europe and the American public alike will get a better taste of what international (mis)adventures Bush's second term will hold when the president visits Brussels this month.

If parliaments are as welcoming to future U.S. foreign policy efforts as diplomats have been to Rice's overture, the present appears to be a remarkable opportunity to realign interests between the world's two most important economic powers, and one that the Bush administration ought to embrace legitimately. (Much of Old Europe's press remained more skeptical: In a BBC translation, the French daily Liberation asked whether the Bush administration has "really undergone a strategic conversion to the virtues of multilateralism and dialogue [or if Rice's speech is] a mere tactical adjustment resulting from his difficulties in Iraq.")

A steadier Euro-American foreign policy relationship might presage more danger in the Middle East: While the United States has busied itself in Iraq, the European Union has been the primary player in Iran's nuclear energy debacle. At best, the combined international pressure might elbow the rogue state into dropping its nuclear ambitions outright. But such optimism, too, is best counterweighted by a healthy dose of cynicism.

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Guest commentary

Media cuts threaten independence

For more than a century, the Oregon Daily Emerald and other student publications have served students and the University community well, both as vibrant contributors to the campus and by providing important learning experiences for student journalists. It is my general policy to stay out of public debates about funding student publications on campus, in order to protect the independence of the publications and of student government. However, as both a journalism educator and as a member of this community, I am deeply concerned about recent actions of the Programs Finance Committee toward the Emerald and the Oregon Commentator.

Independent student publications make it possible for student journalists to serve the campus community by acting as watchdogs for the public interest. At the same time, independent

student media are all to some degree dependent on the financial support of the organizations and individuals whom they must aggressively investigate. This ambiguous position — true of independent student media on every campus — requires that funding sources take special care to avoid even the appearance of censorship. Even when we do not approve of the content of their speech, we must continue to uphold and protect students' right to speak.

The cutting of the Emerald's budget and the continued challenging of the Commentator's mission statement appear to be based on disagreements over the content of the publications. If this is the case, the PFC is acting in clear conflict with established legal principals.

These publications do not have formal ties to the School of Journalism

and Communication, yet the opportunity to work on publications that are truly student run is for many of our students a defining part of their experience at the University. Taking full responsibility for the content of independent student publications is an important lesson for student journalists. They must understand journalists' legal and ethical obligations and expect to be held to high standards.

When student journalists fall short of our expectations, readers and advertisers must hold them accountable by means other than content-based funding cuts that have the real potential to chill all student speech on campus. To do otherwise threatens the existence of independent student media at the University.

Tim Gleason is dean of the School of Journalism and Communication

INBOX

Emerald blows Sunriver 'scandal' out of proportion

Am I the only one who thinks this ASUO Sunriver "scandal" is completely overblown? Normally, the pages of the Emerald merely serve as a diversion on my way to the crossword puzzle in the back, but I couldn't help but notice how much controversy was developing around this completely normal (and equally irrelevant) incident.

So a few University students drank

a few beers and took a few hits. Big deal. I know they are elected officials and should be role models and everything, but honestly, I'm glad that our student senators are normal human beings who partake in a few normal human vices. The students elected them, after all. Is it any surprise that they behave the same way as those who put them in office? You can retort with all the idealistic rhetoric that you want, but honestly, the events at Sunriver affected nobody except the

people who were there.

This relentless news coverage is simply making things worse. The real villain here is the uptight student who has decided that this issue is his business. If the Emerald is looking for something interesting to write about, write an investigative article about the repressed emotional trauma that might drive a person to petition for the ruination of his peers.

Evan Stewart
Undergraduate

Editorial

PFC hiatus hints at structural revamping

It is a damn shame that a branch of our student government needs to be dismantled in order to ensure a fair budget hearing for campus publications, but here we are. This delay is exactly what the doctor ordered. The ASUO Constitution Court did what needed to be done and they should be commended for temporarily suspending Programs Finance Committee members Eden Cortez, Dan Kieffer and Mason Quiroz, leaving the PFC unable to continue its monkey-business-as-usual.

The fact remains that these three members have admitted in public they are unwilling to maintain viewpoint neutrality. They might as well have said, "We are unfit to be in student government." Their performance during the Feb. 1 Oregon Commentator budget hearing throws into doubt every budgetary decision that has been made by the PFC this year.

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, the PFC will have to revisit all of its funding decisions and make some cuts, in order to meet their benchmark. Hopefully they will analyze the role their personal biases, either for or against certain programs, played in their decisions and attempt to apply a more fair standard. This process should, of course, be undertaken without the services of Cortez, Kieffer and Quiroz.

In fact, Quiroz should never have been let back to his post after denouncing the PFC during the Feb. 1 hearing: "I don't support this part of the branch of student government anymore. ... I resign from my position right now. You guys are sleeping with the devil." But it was he who brought the fight for gender-identity sensitivity to a budget process and warped it into a fight for free speech. He has nobody to blame but himself.

Recent comments by ASUO president Adam Petkun has reassured us that the Commentator will survive this brouhaha one way or another. We should now turn our attention to creating structural change within student government to ensure that we don't have to deal with this year after year.

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CORRECTION

Tuesday's story 'Security for the Future' misstated Rep. Peter DeFazio's plan for Social Security reform. DeFazio's plan would lift the cap on wages subject to the payroll tax and would also offer an exemption from the tax on the first \$4,000 of wages.

In Brian Smith's column on Wednesday, Smith used quotes from a Feb. 8 column by ESPN's David Schoenfeld that were attributed to an advance copy of Jose Canseco's upcoming book, "Juiced." The quotes were later revealed to be falsified by Schoenfeld. In an initial version of his column, Schoenfeld made no reference to the quotes as a hoax. The Feb. 9 edition of the story included mention that "secured an advance copy," was also to be known as "making it up."

The Emerald regrets the errors.

OREGON DAILY EMERALD LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged, and should be sent to letters@dailyemerald.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.