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"SELF-SERVICE ONLY, LAD . . . I'M STILL BUSY PRETENDING
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THIS STUFF BEFORE!"

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

In my opinion

10 reasons not to kill Bush



JENNIFER MCBRIDE
QUASHING DISSENT

Recently in Georgia, the president gave a speech only to have someone chuck a hand grenade at him. Lucky for all, the blast cap did not explode. Though originally thought to be a dud, the FBI later revealed the weapon was far from safe.

I can't possibly guess the assassin's reasoning, but I've heard enough people on campus proclaiming their hatred of George W. Bush to know that some wouldn't have shed many tears. And that's a shame.

If the assassin were looking for a way to hurt America, blowing up the president would be a good idea. Bush's martyrdom would put the last nail in the coffin of the liberal agenda. So, for those Bush-haters out there, here are 10 reasons you should stop praying for an assassinated G.W.B.:

1) Killing the president immediately generates sympathy for his cause. If the president died tomorrow, there would be no question that all of his nominees for the judicial branch would make it through the Senate.

2) A dead President Bush leaves a live Dick Cheney in charge. Need I say more?

3) The Pakistani political situation is drastically fragile. Should President Bush die, Musharraf's brutal, mostly secular dictatorship probably will be replaced by a brutal, religiously fundamental dictatorship, reducing the United States' chances of bringing in Osama bin Laden to nil.

4) Any criticisms of the administration will be regarded as more unpatriotic than ever. In the next election, you could expect to see Democratic primary candidates proclaiming that their Republican counterparts aren't "fit to

follow in President Bush's footsteps."

5) Killing President Bush could spur another spate of international invasions, with or without U.N. approval. The U.S. military cannot deal with invading another country without further hollowing our ability to defend ourselves and respond to threats from other countries, such as a nuclear North Korea.

6) The news cycle would be justly co-opted. With the media so focused on one story, there wouldn't be time to examine important issues such as the government suppression in Uzbekistan or Egyptian election tampering. In fact, all foreign news that didn't directly affect the assassination would probably grind to a halt.

7) President Bush's status as a martyr would leave the electorate more polarized than ever, especially if liberals were seen as publicly irreverent to President Bush's memory. It would be a little different if natural selection decreed death-by-snacking, but toasting an assassin's success leaves a decidedly bitter taste in the national mouth.

8) Jeb Bush's popularity would skyrocket. He would undoubtedly win the Republican nomination and then the election in 2008. With the Supreme Court full of near-zombies, I would prefer a different man to pick the

people who are going to strangle us with laws.

9) Killing George Bush won't end any of the policies people disagree with. An assassination would merely strengthen our resolve to stay the course in Iraq, keep troops in Saudi Arabia, support our Israeli allies, etc. Policies don't die just because the president does.

10) Slaying President Bush is simply immoral. Anyone who advocates purposefully killing someone defenseless (and a democratically elected leader, no less) is clearly value-challenged. I don't understand the logical contortions some people must go through to be anti-death penalty yet pro-assassination.

In all seriousness, I don't hate President Bush. I dislike a lot of his administration's choices, but I think he's a good man doing a difficult job. As a leader, you're always going to be hated. I am too often shocked by the vitriolic repulsion many people feel for our leader and America in general, especially because the loathing is often poorly informed. I've met people on this campus who see America as the worst human rights abuser in the world (unlike the angelic paradise of Cambodia) and people who sway liberal not because they actually know anything about issues but because it's popular.

Liberalism has to be more than a college fad or a collection of loudmouths whose idiotic comments stir headlines. The rabid dislike some people feel for a man they've never even met makes me ashamed to be a Democrat.

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INBOX

Threats to OMAS staff harmful to civil discourse

I am sorry to report that colleagues in our Office of Multicultural Academic Support recently have received a significant amount of vitriolic mail, including personal threats in response to news stories about math and writing courses sponsored by OMAS.

These programs have recently been

the subject of considerable attention, both enthusiastic support and considerable criticism. While there is no indication that these threats originated within our community, I cannot state strongly enough how we must support civil discourse and avoid personal attacks.

Every member of our community is well within his or her rights to express views freely, without retaliation, but we will not tolerate such

threats. The University has a proud tradition of freedom of expression. The way we handle this important challenge today will define our future ability to implement any tangible actions that will move toward a more inclusive and welcoming community. We must accept these challenges with openness and commitment.

Dave Frohnmayer
University president

Editorial

A look back at blunders, successes of the ASUO

Looking back on Adam Petkun's term as ASUO president, it is clear that with accomplishments and mistakes, there are things Adam Walsh, who begins his term as ASUO president today, can learn from the Petkun administration. With this in mind, we present a retrospective on the ASUO leadership of 2004-05.

In his first major action, Petkun opted to ban University graduate Dean Neiwert, husband of then-ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert, from performing contracted work for the ASUO. Petkun told the Emerald the decision was prompted by concerns about the appearance of nepotism under his administration. He made the right move by taking swift action and not mincing words.

Hot on the heels of the hiring ban came the infamous October ASUO Sunriver finance trip, in which elected student officials drank and smoked marijuana at a retreat paid for with student incidental fees. While Petkun remained clear of scandal (mostly because he did not attend the retreat), his lack of hands-on action in the immediate aftermath marks a leadership failure. Great leaders push for accountability within their organization, and Petkun's weak decisions showed the retreat attendees that it would be easy to evade being punished or being held accountable.

When this year's Programs Finance Committee wrongfully attempted to stall the budget of the Oregon Commentator pending the approval of its mission and goals statement, Petkun's logic prevailed. Emerald columnist Travis Wilse pegged the situation best in his column "Praising Petkun" (ODE, March 3): "Where other administrations have faltered, Petkun remained true to the spirit of viewpoint neutrality, even citing and bringing copies of the Supreme Court's Southworth decision."

When election season rolled around this term, Petkun's decision to endorse a set of insider candidates might go down as the greatest personal blunder of his presidency. Shirking the responsibility of leading the government in trade for a yellow T-shirt and leaving management of the election in the hands of ASUO Vice President Mena Ravasipour was irresponsible.

The ASUO Executive registered a record number of voters in last fall's registration campaign, kept its campaign promise to eliminate the "sketchy scheduling fee" and cemented the final capstone in an almost decade-long march to provide Eugene with a housing standards code — all good things. We should consider the past year as a fitting example of what student government can teach the ASUO's future leaders.

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