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■ In my opinion

a DEEP, dark secret

So now we know. W. Mark Felt is Deep Throat.

Felt, former second-in-command of the FBI, fed information about the Watergate break-in, investigation and cover-up to Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward, who with Carl Bernstein led the journalistic world in informing the public about one of the greatest scandals in American history.

Deep Throat's identity has been a puzzle for more than three decades, during which time Woodward, Bernstein and the two other people who knew his identity — former Post editor Ben Bradlee and Woodward's wife — guarded the secret.

Suspicion has long centered on Felt as Deep Throat, especially after James Mann wrote a May 1992 article for The Atlantic magazine that championed the idea. Slate columnist Timothy Noah has advanced Mann's view for years.

But until this week, it's all been guessing games. That changed Tuesday when Vanity Fair dropped the bomb, releasing from its upcoming July issue a story written by John D. O'Connor, a lawyer friendly with Felt's family.

In the story, O'Connor quotes Felt as saying, "I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat." After some initial dithering, Woodward and Bernstein confirmed Deep Throat's identity Tuesday.

Felt did his nation an enormous service by blowing the whistle on Watergate. Richard Nixon's henchmen broke into private offices and tape recorded conversations at the direction of the president's closest advisers, who, with the president himself, concealed the crime and lied about it to the American people.

Domestically, Watergate was just the tip of the iceberg of the Nixon administration's misdeeds. The Nixon White House ordered the Internal



CHUCK SLOTHOWER
TAKING ISSUE

Revenue Service to conduct tax audits of its political enemies. The CIA opened mail, installed wiretaps and conducted break-ins against U.S. citizens. Executive branch agencies used illegal methods to surveil American citizens, subvert political opponents and quash dissent.

At the same time, Nixon and his predecessor had lied their way into dramatically expanding the Vietnam War, which cost roughly 58,000 American lives and many more Vietnamese. Nixon continued to cynically mislead the American people on Vietnam at every opportunity, from the unconstitutional bombing of Cambodia to Nixon's pre-election "secret plan" to end the war. Nixon handed control of American foreign policy almost entirely to Henry Kissinger while keeping Congress in the dark.

This is a long way of saying that the Watergate cover-up was simply the first crime to nail Nixon to the cross. Felt deserves credit for helping the Post inform the public about an aspect of the Nixon administration's misdeeds.

Felt is not perfect. He was convicted of authorizing illegal FBI break-ins, though he was pardoned by Ronald Reagan while his case was on appeal. He may have had a personal vendetta against Nixon, who passed him over for the top post at the FBI.

Now 91, Felt also betrayed Woodward and Bernstein by handing a huge scoop to Vanity Fair — Woodward and Bernstein deserved to be the

first to tell the world Deep Throat's identity. Also, the behavior of Felt's family indicates an attempt to profit from his courage.

Yet, without whistleblowers like Felt and Daniel Ellsberg, the man who leaked documents concerning government treachery in Vietnam, democracy would suffer from lack of oxygen.

"I've come to think of whistleblowers as good people," said Ken DeBevoise, a University assistant professor who has taught many classes on Watergate as well as Vietnam. "One of the dangers of government is when it becomes too separated from the people. And the best way to do that is secrecy, of course."

Nixon had that nailed, and it took Felt, Ellsberg, Woodward and Bernstein to tell the American people what they needed to know. However, as DeBevoise pointed out, Woodward and Bernstein's role in Watergate is probably overstated.

"They had very, very little impact on Watergate," DeBevoise said. "All the time, behind the scenes, ... the Justice Department was doing the same investigation, and that was what brought Nixon down, was the legal system, the courts of the country. And that would have gone on had Woodward, Bernstein, Felt, any of those guys never even existed."

Fair enough. But Felt, at the very least, provided valuable information to Woodward and Bernstein that clued the public into the scandal while the wheels of justice slowly turned.

Felt stands as an example of profound individual courage, and his case reaffirms the value of anonymous sources to quality journalism — without him, Nixon may have gotten away with it for far longer.

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■ Out loud

"I just had to lock myself in the room and say 'stay stoned, don't go outside.'" — West University Neighbors Chair **Drix Rixmann**, on his attempts to not bring home too much of the free goods left in alleys by departing students.

"The Senate and the Executive once again substantially increased the incidental fee. (It) is hypocrisy at its finest — student leaders voting to increase their own fees while lobbying the state legislature for a tuition freeze." — **Mike Sherman**, former ASUO senator, on the activity of this year's ASUO Student Senate.

"I didn't even have a black instructor on this campus until my third term here." — University senior **Margarita Smith**, on the necessity of offering courses through the University's Office of Multicultural Academic Support.

"I just took it all in, and it just came out perfect." — Oregon's **Sarah Malone**, after setting new school and personal records for the javelin throw in the NCAA West Regional Championships.

"The fire alarm goes on and people don't leave." — University Fire Protection Manager **Chuck Campbell**, on the need to take campus fire safety seriously.

"As a first draft, it has many drafts to go." — University emeritus math professor **Richard Koch**, asking for clearer definitions within the University's Five-Year Diversity plan.

"Eugene prides itself on being an independent-minded community that supports independent businesses. But every time I say that I have to remind myself how many independent businesses have gone out of business in the last 10 years." — **Evon Smith**, whose parents founded the Smith Family Bookstore.

"Not to beat the subject to death, but I would have liked to see individual senators take responsibility for what happened on the retreat." — Former ASUO Senator **Austin Shaw-Phillips**, looking back on the Sunriver retreat.

"They need to spend more money on things like education and Social Security. I'm a political science major, so like, I think differently." — University sophomore **Anh Nguyen**, on a Senate bill to lift federal restrictions on stem cell research.

"If you're trying to run a baseball team and you can't pay your free agents what other teams are paying, you're going to lose your top players." — Associate professor of physics **Stephen Hsu**, discussing University faculty salaries.

"Every man dies, not every man really lives." — A quote on University student Joel Nathan Meyer's Thefacebook profile. Meyer drowned Sunday at Lake Shasta.

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CLARIFICATION

On June 1, the Emerald ran an article ("University's food services hold clean inspection reports") citing the number of violations in recent EMU and residence hall eatery health inspections. Andrew Smash's score was not included, and representatives from the company said students were asking why. The Lane County Environmental Health Department does not usually release the scores of businesses that are in the process of closing. The business' score was a 98 out of 100, with two violations.

— Emily Smith

INBOX

Editor's note: These letters are all in response to Jennifer McBride's May 25 column, "10 reasons not to kill Bush."

Add family man to the list

Jennifer McBride's "10 reasons not to kill Bush" column left out a few reasons not to kill President Bush. Did the fact that he is a father, husband, son, brother and uncle escape thought? Publishing a piece outlining the reasons to not kill someone, reasons which have nothing to do with his role as a family head and caring human being, is absolutely reprehensible. Thank you for providing me with more information about why I view most around my campus as shortsighted and hateful toward our nation and leader.

Chris Harrelson
Georgia

Any death is a tragedy

The main "reason" to "stop praying" that Bush be killed is that for anyone to

be killed is a tragedy, for any president to get killed is a tragedy for an entire nation. Jennifer McBride seems to have some trouble figuring this one out.

Jerry Peragine
Pennsylvania

Cheney would do better

I am a retired libertarian Republican living in Thailand. I saw this column on the Drudge Report and found it well-written, thoughtful and insightful. My only point of disagreement is the segment on the vice president. Cheney is much brighter and less religious than George W. Bush and thus would do a better job both at home and abroad.

Jack Kirwan
Thailand

Shocked at the uninformed

Beautifully put, Ms. Jennifer McBride. I've tried and failed to come up with the words to describe what you so simply and clearly phrased:

"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.

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."

I'm shocked as well — not only do I find these people often fundamentally uninformed, but their arrogance and hypocrisy (decrying with every sound bite they've ever heard on NPR every American foreign policy choice they remember to spout out while at the same time enjoying every benefit derived therefrom and sacrificing nothing to enact their supposed "beliefs") almost overwhelms me, and I have to exclude people from my life lest I hemorrhage from frustration and nausea or worse.

Robert Kabakoff
New York

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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.