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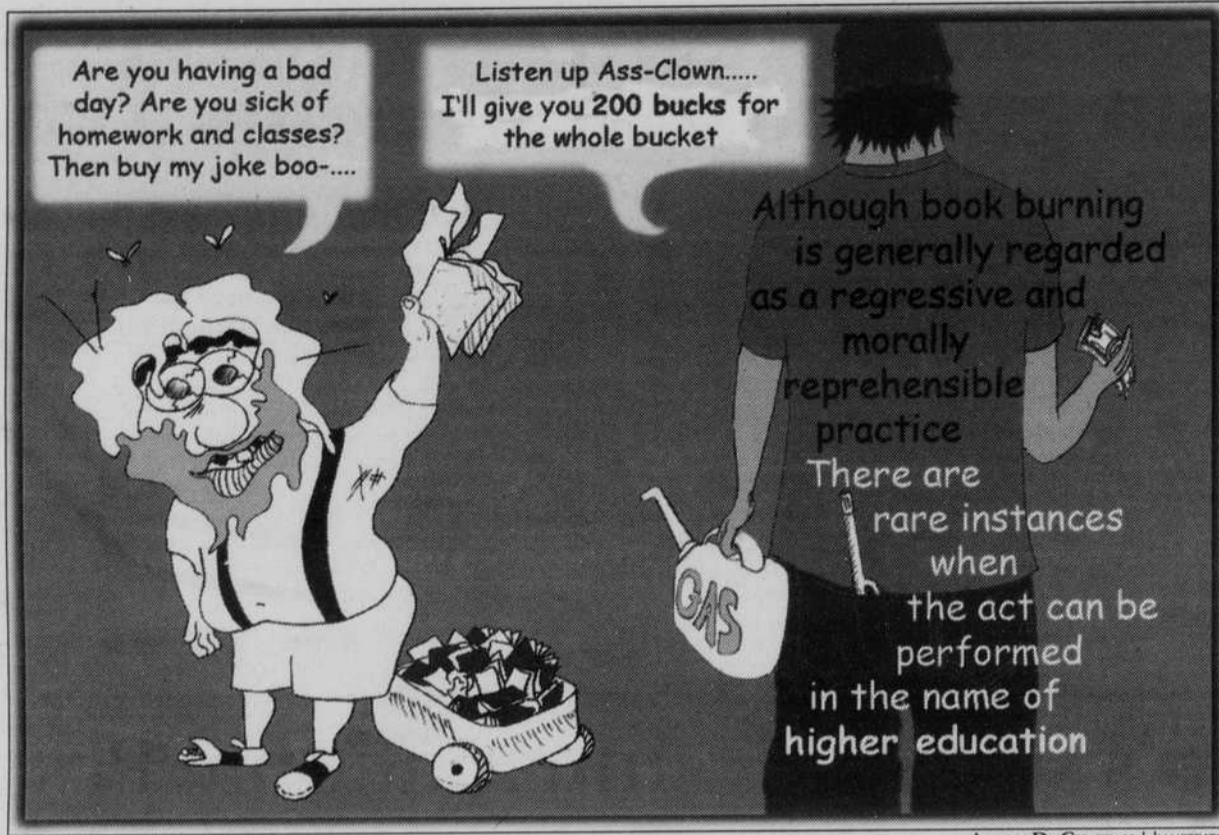
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■ In my opinion

War perpetuates Terrorism

The war in Iraq has been removed from its prestigious position as love child sprung from the media and military. Now, "Iraq" pops up on front pages and news briefs simply as a warning bell that death toll numbers will appear momentarily.

America, at least the sect of America without personal ties to the war, now leaves Iraq on the back burner of any political discussion and usually avoids the topic for fear of hearing "old news."

Well, here's something brand spanking new that is not new at all. A historical road map inextricably tied to 9/11, terrorism and the attack on Iraq has led us to exactly this place: On Saturday, three suicide bombers attacked restaurants in Bali, killing at least 19 and injuring more than 100. The restaurants were located in an area heavily populated by international tourists, so it's no surprise that America has condemned the bombings for their role in the issue of terrorism.

Ergo, it is also no surprise that suicide bombers would wipe out eateries on a fabulous beach resort in the first place.

Most terrorists remain unaffiliated with any nation, giving them neither a country to fight for nor a specific cause to win. Instead, since 9/11 especially, sites of Americanized or Westernized culture have become the battlefield for rogue terrorists.

Ironically, America has turned around and made Islamic culture the battlefield for the U.S. Army. Iraqi citizens were not at the helm of the 9/11 airplanes; however, George Bush and the American media managed to convince 45 percent of this country's citizens that Saddam was "personally involved" in the trade center attacks. America sees no difference between the Islamic extremists who suicide-bombed our buildings and the Islamic



AILEE SLATER
FURTHER FROM PERFECTION

citizens now trapped in American-Iraqi crossfire, thanks to our vigilant stand against Saddam Hussein. Anyone, on that side of the world at least, is expendable if a larger purpose is served: Ending Terrorism.

Which is exactly the same mentality employed by those responsible for 9/11. The World Trade Center was not solely occupied by American citizens bent on taking over the world. The towers included kids in daycare and international tourists, but the 9/11 hijackers considered those people expendable. Like America's attitude toward casualties in the War on Terror, the 9/11 suicide pilots also saw themselves as serving a greater purpose: Fighting a culture of capitalism and globalization that is undeniably linked to specific cases of Islamic suffering.

The war in Iraq is certainly a globalization of American ideals. Is it any wonder that terrorism has not yet ended?

The majority of the world has condemned the Bali bombing, just like the majority of the world condemned the U.S. decision to strike Iraq. Iraq was attacked nonetheless. Why should it pressure rogue terrorists to hear such condemnations when empirical evidence only shows that World Condemnation wields no concrete power?

The United States subscribed to a system wherein global opinion does not matter long before terrorists realized that they could blow up a beach

and receive no real punishment. The people of Earth are far too torn to work together, and rogue terrorists take shelter in that atmosphere of arrogant individuality, or if you will, "patriotism."

When I began crafting this article, I expected to produce a piece on what a suicide bomber is and why such a person is so dangerous. I expected to explain why suicide bombers in particular are so frightening, so capable of destruction. I expected to explain how the continual creation of suicide bombers across the globe could be tackled; this from my own, Western perspective.

The idea I set out to prove did not end up being the idea that I now believe.

A suicide bomber or pilot is no different from an American soldier: A courageous individual willing to both kill and die for the ideals of a leader, community, or nation. Until the United States extricates its armed forces from Iraq, there is no reason that we Americans should be pious enough to expect suicide bombers to ever go away.

Our nation must take off its blinders and stop deeming everyone, except ourselves, irrational. Only when we can see the rationality behind an Islamic extremist can we see the irrationality behind the American military platform. And vice versa, as America tends to make it. As long as there is an irrational enemy, there will be a rationalized war.

I don't know about you, but I am not a hypocrite. I am, however, tired of talking about the war in Iraq. If I stand in solidarity with the American soldiers, then I stand in solidarity with the suicide bombers in Bali. On the other hand, if I stand in opposition to war, then I stand in opposition to war.

I stand in opposition to war.

aslater@dailyemerald.com

■ Editorial

Smokers don't want to be protected from themselves

At the end of September, the Eugene City Council urged the development of new rules that would, ostensibly, reduce the health hazard of secondhand smoke.

The ruling? That outdoor smoking "enclosures" must now be 75 percent open. Under such City Council direction, a smoking area with both a roof and more than one wall would not be permissible.

The Eugene City Council has claimed that better ventilation will reduce the health risks of smoking, but who are we kidding? The only people who frequent smoking areas are smokers — otherwise known as people comfortable with the idea of inhaling smoke. Smokers are already prohibited from smoking inside any city building; now, they won't even be allowed protection from wind and rain when trying to smoke outdoors.

As long as citizens over the age of 18 have the legal right to smoke a cigarette, the city of Eugene has little business protecting smokers from themselves. If the lungs of non-smokers are the City Council's true concern, they should consider the fact that opening up smoking areas only creates an abundance of secondhand smoke flowing into the faces of passersby.

For \$15,000, Eugene can surely accomplish a feat greater than rebuilding smoking enclosures. Smokers don't have a problem with their own secondhand smoke, and non-smokers will be less likely to inhale toxins if smoking enclosures stay enclosed. The only public hazard we see is a Eugene governmental body that wastes time and money on unnecessary legislation.

Renters need to understand and assert their rights

Students renting homes or apartments with clogged drains, broken thermostats or rotting floors in Eugene don't have to be soggy, cold or light-footed anymore.

Under the city's new Rental Housing Code, tenants now have the power to force landlords to act quickly and ensure proper plumbing, heating, weatherproofing and structural integrity, but renters must educate themselves.

According to the new code, a tenant must file a written complaint to the property manager, and the property manager has 10 days to respond to the complaint. If the owner fails to respond, the tenant may file a complaint with the city. The city will investigate, and if the complaint is valid, a written order will be issued for the landlord to make any needed repairs. Each day the landlord doesn't respond to the complaint, there will be a \$250 fine.

Since July, there have been several tenant complaints that are not covered by the new code, including mold, chipped paint and appliances. There has only been one violation involving a broken window (ODE Sept. 30, "Few complain after housing code change").

All student tenants (University Housing renters, too) should know their rights. The Housing Code, more than a decade in the making, exists to aid renters. Take the action necessary and write to your property manager. The law is in your favor.

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