

■ Guest commentary

CampU.S. Strike focuses struggle for peaceful future

Most people I meet in my daily strike for peace on campus are unaware that making and selling weapons has been America's top industry since 1950, that we have sustained this weapons-based economy by sponsoring, supplying and creating more than 200 wars in 55 years, and that about 310,000 companies and 350 colleges are on the Pentagon's payroll.

My refusal to study inside classrooms, after three years of intensive research, is part of a terminal project goal to draw attention to disordered national priorities that concern all Americans. (For the record, I am the only peace studies student in the United States licensed to use the RAND Corporation's defense database, and I spend approximately 200 hours a year accessing the Pentagon's Statistical Information Analysis Division. I study year-round without traditional breaks; I am completing all coursework outside of class, and I completed my grad-

ing requirements long ago.)

My graduate project is an information outreach campaign to make us safer with a reasonable defense so we don't send our citizens to wars created for profit and waste our future wealth.

I came to the University to get away from wasteful Pentagon programs that flooded companies for which I worked. In my 15 years in Silicon Valley, I refused security clearance (and higher pay) three times because our taxes were not making America safer or more prosperous. I received my Bachelor of Arts here, and began graduate studies after Sept 11. In my third year, I found Pentagon combat programs in development at our schools, including the University.

The European Union develops its technology for alternative energy and medical advancements and then for a reasonable defense. The United States develops its technology for battlefields first, at tremendous detriment to do-

mestic prosperity. Nearly every problem our planet bears is caused, exploited, or worsened by this priority.

While I strongly support research, even some weapons research, I am just as strongly against wasteful spending, and America's "defense" is excessively offensive. Research should benefit people first, and funding education should reflect that priority.

I sincerely doubt that those who conduct Pentagon—funded research on our campuses have taken the time to study our National Defense Strategy and the Pentagon's Future Combat Systems program—the primary beneficiaries of such research. Secondary benefits come at too great a price.

If the Postal Service started issuing billion-dollar stamps and began mailing weapons around the world for huge sums of profit for itself, Americans would demand change. The Pentagon receives and wastes more taxpayer dollars than other U.S. agencies

combined—all the more reason Americans should be in control of what it exports, and what it engenders: declining domestic prosperity and much more.

Our founders taught us that when government strays from serving us we have a duty to alter or abolish it and institute new government to protect our future security. If we adopt a people-based American economy, our problems can be addressed.

The CampU.S. Strike for Peace Campaign urges citizens to recognize that addressing symptoms, while necessary, falls short of effecting change. People must demand a change in America's priority, from weapons for profit to human prosperity, or the out-of-control misspending of our wealth will deliver us the same fate that befell the Soviet Union.

History's greatest lesson tells us to take the profit out of war, and until we do that, we will increasingly suffer from the misdirection of our advancing

technology. Both major parties have sustained the war industry for 55 years; both are saturated with corruption. Changing administrations without changing priorities will not alter our course. America cannot be a peace-loving nation—nor can its people ever truly prosper—as long as its top industry is making and selling weapons.

Only by focusing popular demand on the single greatest cause of our problems will we prevail over our problems. We are all cogs in the war machine unless we stand defiant against it or actively support those who do.

(The author, **Brian Bogart**, has been invited by members of Parliament to attend the December 2005 International Peace Conference in London as one of 1,000 delegates from the United States, Britain and Iraq. To contribute to The London Fund to make his journey possible, please visit the Help Us page at strikeforpeace.org.)

INBOX

Respect is intrinsic to University's mission

Now that we are settling into the new school year, I would like once again to discuss community standards at the University of Oregon.

This university has long been dedicated to supporting and preserving the freedom of thought and expression for all its members. These freedoms are so important they will underscore the report on diversity I expect to receive in the near future from the Diversity Executive Working Group.

Community standards are a critical part of what we are and what we stand for at the University of Oregon. In fact, the University of Oregon Affirmation of Community Standards, a resolution passed by the University Senate in March 2000, is prominently and permanently displayed in the Free Speech Forum at the Erb Memorial Union. The fact that the resolution holds such a place illustrates the importance the University ascribes to values contained in the resolution.

Among the points in this affirmation of standards is the University's long and illustrious history in the areas of academic freedom and freedom of speech. The University seeks to foster a culture of respect that honors the rights, safety, dignity and worth of every individual. We respect the privacy, property and freedom of others. The University rejects bigotry, discrimination, violence or intimidation of any kind. We practice personal and academic integrity and we expect it from others. We also promote the diversity of opinions, ideas and backgrounds, all of which form the lifeblood of this great university.

It is especially important to remind ourselves of the importance of these standards when we see behavior that does not exemplify the qualities contained within the affirmation of community standards. Displaying a lack of sportsmanship at athletic events or being unwilling to consider different

points of view are just a few examples.

Respect for the rights of all is an integral part of our mission at the University of Oregon. We should keep this in mind as we continue with this academic year.

Dave Frohnmayer
President, University of Oregon

Editorial misconstrues merit of Bogart's project

News coverage in the Emerald on Brian Bogart's courageous strike-for-peace has been admirable. The ongoing story is rare and deserves the attention the Emerald has given it. So it's difficult for me to suggest that a recent editorial ("Protesting Not a Valid Substitute for Classes," ODE Oct. 4) reveals a misunderstanding of Bogart's effort, which is wisely approved by political science professor Jane Cramer.

Maybe a little jealousy creeps in when student writers covet Bogart earning credit "for sitting outside for hours each day," while classmates invest hours in the classroom. To the contrary. When he is not explaining the peace problem to pedestrians, Brian continues intensive individual study of the course and its text — when outdoor elements permit.

The Emerald editorial failed to make note of the great number of morning and evening hours Bogart has spent — and continues to spend — monitoring and studying Pentagon and research Web sites on his computer. It acknowledges Bogart has been given a freedom the Emerald supports for students, namely "leeway to pursue their interests." But it doesn't go far enough. While exploring and documenting sinister aspects of military funding for campus research, Bogart also does a public service rarely achieved by one student's study.

By contrast, the Emerald ignores its journalistic responsibility of investigative reporting by responding to University officials' claim that "no weapons research is being conducted

here" with the rebuttal: "We sincerely hope this is true."

That is naive, lazy journalism.

"Students," concluded the editorial,

"deserve to know what their school is up to." If absence of investigative reporting leaves a dangerous vacuum in student awareness, how fortunate that one student, Bogart, works hard for all

of us to bring facts to light.

George Beres
Former manager of the
University Speakers Bureau

The Out List

in Tuesday's paper was published incorrectly due to an error by the Oregon Daily Emerald Advertising Department. We acknowledge the importance of this list both to the people listed and to the University community and apologize for the situation created by our error.

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Get movie showtimes on your phone. (Ride, date and popcorn found separately.) **Google SMS.**

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