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## May we please speak now officer?

On Friday the 15th of October around 4:45 p.m. I was switching buses at 5th and Main. As I turned the corner and began to walk west, I heard what sounded like a fleet of emergency vehicles headed my way. Six Portland or Multnomah police cruisers turned the corner onto 5th Street at a reckless speed, accelerated for one block then came to an abrupt stop a short distance from where I was standing.

My first reaction was to look behind me for an escape route from whatever catastrophic event had necessitated six police cars. When I turned back toward the scene, I was surprised to see a crowd of people, who were in close proximity to the now-stopped police cars, were not moving away from the scene and some were moving closer.

The bus I was transferring to would stop on the same corner where the crowd was gathering, I had faith that if there were a dangerous situation, people would have been told to disperse, so I walked into the crowd. When I arrived at the corner, the crowd had become more dense, and I realized I was crossing through a procession of about 30 to 50 people. Some were carrying signs and almost all of them were chanting.

I successfully pushed my way through the crowd, accidentally stepping on some feet, and crossed the street. I realized I was not going to miss my bus, which was the foremost thought on my mind, so I focused my attention on the scene behind me. A procession of people were protesting the incarceration of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

I was not familiar with the name. I thought it was probably a political prisoner from another country. By this time the police had left their vehicles and were outfitting themselves with riot gear. I now felt like I was in another country. The scene that was unfolding in the middle of a crowded Portland rush hour did not look any different than some of the many scenes we are shown by media coverage of places like Indonesia, Somalia or China.

I am amazed whenever I see footage of armed police beating and harassing unarmed people. I wonder, who sent them there? What threat could a group of unarmed protesters pose to armed and trained police? If there is a threat, why instigate a violent reaction by blocking the road or arresting protesters for peacefully opposing oppressive forms of government policy? Of course the answers to these questions are many, but at the same time only one. Those men are there with batons and guns because they believe they have been sent to protect the current form of government. Good or bad, right or wrong, those men are there because they were ordered to be there. So what threat to the government could come from a hundred or even a thousand unarmed civilians gathering peacefully for a noble cause?

They may block traffic but people

do that on a daily basis. Even reckless drivers are not beaten, and most are not even ticketed or arrested. There are accidents that cause bodily damage or even death when hundreds of people gather in an area, but of course, this could happen at any gathering. If the issue under protest is of a sensitive nature there may be fighting, but should people be subjected to harassment, police violence or arrest for something that may happen, no matter how probable? So why are protesters around the world subjected to such extreme forms of prejudice and violence?

Consider the protest at Tiananmen Square. What terrible weapon of destruction could the peasantry of China wield? What horrors were anticipated and prevented with the use of violence and incarceration? What evil could come from a nonviolent public display that could cause a man to obey an order to take up arms against his fellow countryman? The answer to all of these questions is: the dissemination of ideas.

Ideas, knowledge, and education are, as every ruling class knows, the most effective defensive and offensive weapon known to mankind. In the ante-bellum south the crime of teaching a slave how to read carried a heavy penalty. McCarthyism was effective in preventing ideas such as the formation of unions, and open discussion of social programs. Today, instead of crying ôcommunistô, we silence one another with the threat of being labeled politically incorrect.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is not a foreign political prisoner, he is a prisoner in the United States. Jamal is a critic of police violence against the colored population of Philadelphia. In 1982, he was accused of shooting a police officer and found guilty under questionable circumstances. He is facing the death penalty and will be put to death on December 2nd if his message is silenced.

Given these facts, it is ironic if not suspicious that the police of our racially segregated city have vigorously attempted to silence the students of PSU, during their peaceful protest of Mumia's treatment, with the threat of violence and arrest. Who sent them there? Was the brazen show of aggression necessary? Was it responsible? Would the police have acted as aggressive, or responded at all, if it were 20 to 50 students dressed in soccer or football uniforms and cheerleading outfits?

How far does our freedom of speech extend itself? Does it override bureaucratic regulation? Will it survive domination by the current money-driven corporate media. Is it a great stretch of the imagination to consider that we, as Americans, may not be any more free of thought, speech, or action than citizens of a less democratic nation of whom we have been inclined to feel superior? If you care to know more about Mumia, call the Free Mumia Coalition at PSU 287-4217.

Glenn McCarthy, student



## Do deer disregard danger diamonds?

I know you all have seen something in your life that you question the purpose of. I have found the yellow diamond caution

my belongings, when out of nowhere I hit this animal. I hit the deer with the left side of my car,



Mandy Good  
Staff Writer

then swerved and went down the steep shoulder off the road. In a state of shock and concern for this animal, I jumped out of

my car. I climbed up the slope and saw the deer was gone. Then of course I looked around, and there was no warning diamond. How was I to know I should proceed with caution? Should I as a driver, always drive as if there could be deer on the road? If that is the case then I don't think that we should waste the money of the taxpayers in order to post these signs. I see these signs as flashy, yellow diamond-shaped distractions that give a driver a false feeling of safety if there is not a sign present.

I wonder how many accidents actually occur where a warning diamond is present? The sign failed me [by omission!]

Is it the delinquent deer that is at fault or the people who give us drivers a false impression of the warning diamond boundaries?

When I was moving to Oregon City from Redmond, OR, I encountered one of these delinquent deer that didn't obey the warning diamond boundaries. I was driving along with my car packed full of

### CORRECTION

In our last issue, Mrcella Red Thunder's name was misspelled in a photo caption that accompanied the story, "AC Delco plugs into Clackamas Auto Department."

Happy Halloween!  
FROM  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT!