

## ★THE CLACKAMAS PRINT★

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# Stop sniveling, start saluting



Marvin Baker  
Staff Writer

I think I'm just about sick of all the pseudo-intellectual America bashing of late.

I've heard everything from students here talking revolution while waiting in line to pick up their financial

aid checks, to "peace" protesters advocating violence on the five o'clock news in order to force a halt to the war in Iraq.

I remember watching war protestors on television, and I was amazed at how Portland police coddled their little traffic-blocking behinds. It's like they were running a catch and release program that week. You know what halted the war? 300,000 buzz cut, Oakley sunglass wearing, Iowa corn-fed California vegetarian east coast gangster-rappin' attitude infected stereo bumpin' hogs rolling into Baghdad astride seventy ton tanks with nicknames like Anger Management.

Now, France and Russia want to keep the UN sanctions against Iraq in place until they are cer-

tain that no weapons of mass destruction are left. On one hand, I can see why France would be a little skittish in their foreign policy; to the best of my knowledge they are the only country that has come close to losing a war with Greenpeace. I guess it's important for a nation to take a firm stance against any potential aggressor after having your ass handed to you by Keiko's fan club.

On the other end of this vacillating duo, we have Vladimir Putin and co., the same men who brought you the Kursk disaster. This is the Leadership that lost a five hundred foot submarine in two hundred feet of water because he didn't wish to appear weak in front of his countrymen by asking the West for help. In the end, a Norwegian salvage crew accomplished in 12 hours what his own Navy couldn't in several days. Don't get me wrong, our very own "W." has some shortcomings, but the most that stands out in my mind is when the guy tried waving at Stevie Wonder.

Following suit in the slamming of America, and more painfully so, would be our lovely neighbors to the north, Canada, booing and jeering our hockey players and national anthem. Is that any way to treat your landlord?

To quote a famous comedian, "Canada is like

a loft apartment over a really great party. They're always yelling at us, "keep it down, eh" and then dropping by out of the blue to borrow a few tons of fish.

I understand world politics and the coming aftermath of this war are far more complicated than I could hope to detail in my own limited way. What I am hoping to point out is this: it is very easy to criticize when it's not you on the line making the calls for what is hoped to be the greater good. The men in power, of most any nation, did not get there through stupidity. And, in this country, many people have issues with the man who was given greatness as a graduation gift. For all Americans, the voice of protest and the spirit of debate are cornerstones of this nation (except maybe Ashcroft).

So, while you're hashing out the best way to infiltrate the capitol with a couple of friends over your recreational drug of choice, keep in mind that in this country a man like myself can commit a felony, pay the price and reenter society as a college student - a privilege in many countries - and receive monetary aid from the very same government that sanctioned me just four short years ago. That's a small piece of what I feel makes this country, and it's leadership, worth supporting.

## One million dollars wasted on babysitting



Cyndee Mady  
Opinion Editor

Enough Portland citizens threatened to hold anti-war rallies if our country invaded Iraq that city officials set aside a budget of a half a

million dollars in anticipation of the tribulations that assuredly lay ahead.

Little did they know, that figure would double.

On an April 15 broadcast of KATU news, Mayor Vera Katz announced that the recent anti-war protests inundating Portland's downtown

streets cost the city about a million in police overtime dollars. This dollar amount, according to Katz, was for the duration of March 19 to April 9 - a mere 22 days!

Katu interviewed several Portland residents who all seemed to be of the opinion that if speaking out for what they believe, and standing up for their right to freedom of speech means that the city's budget takes a loss, then it was money well spent.

These people represent a small percentage of Oregon's population. Since the opposing viewpoint was overlooked, allow me to take a stance in honor of my fellow citizens who might also think that the one million dollars wasted babysitting overgrown children throwing tantrums because they didn't get their way is not a productive use of our tax dollars.

Ironically, this information was delivered on April 15 when everyone was scurrying to meet tax-day deadlines, emphasizing the impact of the exorbitant blow to our city's budget, and how it might affect our future tax dollars.

Mayor Katz assured viewers that "they will cut corners" in other areas to compensate for their budget shortfall, but failed to mention where these cutbacks might come from.

Exercising your freedom of speech does not justify these expenditures, and it infuriates me that so many people can take such a nonchalant attitude when Oregon's economy is still in jeopardy.

It is a sad day in our community when threats coming from our own citizens cause emotional and financial turmoil for the very people who are trying to protect them.

## Private club scores complaints



Robb Egan  
Staff Writer

matter how wrong we think they might be, it isn't right for us to force them to think our way. It's up to us to persuade and help them to see the light, not extort them to." -- Big Gay Al, South Park.

Recently Augusta National, a private golf club that runs the Masters tournament as part of the PGA Tour, has come under heavy fire from members of the LPGA and the National Council of Women's Organizations, who feel its admission standard is sexist because it only allows male members. This is, of course, ridiculous and irrelevant. They have brought legal and political pressure up on the club and its sponsors to the extent that Augusta has dropped all sponsors for the Masters rather than face corporate pressure.

Women argue for sexual equality, spouting the same feminist doctrine they've been using since the suffrage movement, and yet

"I'm proud to be in a country where I'm free to express myself, but freedom is a two-way street. If I'm free to express myself, then the scouts have to be free to express themselves, too. No

seldom (if ever) do you see them protesting or suing an all-female organization. There are many schools, universities, clubs, etc. that allow only women into their ranks. Where is the equality there?

What about the LPGA, which only allows women who were born female to join, barring anyone who might have made the swap at a later time? So, while a man who makes the choice to become a woman will, in the eyes of the law and popular society, henceforth be considered female, she still can't play golf with the other ladies. And yet many of the women protesting for admission into the Masters are members of this same organization, an organization with a sexist and discriminatory admission policy. Hypocrisy, anyone? And here I thought double standards supposedly worked in a man's favor.

The freedom to express yourself without fear of persecution is the prevailing principle that our country was founded on, but what so few people realize, or will admit to, is that even those views which might not be fair, which might harken back to an era of prejudice and oppression, are as protected as those that might be more popular or politically correct. We live in a great age, where intolerance and bigotry is condemned by the masses, and where peoples of all backgrounds are theoretically equal in the eyes of the law.

Tolerance and equality should be achieved through education and understanding, not through the liberal application of political and financial pressure.

MICHAEL WEIR 2003 Masters Champion



## Grow up and start whining



Shadra Beesley  
Editor-in-Chief/  
Copy Editor

It is a little-known fact that if your car breaks down on a Saturday morning and you leave it on the side of the road after calling your roommate and dragging her out of bed to give you a ride to work, by the following Monday around 3 p.m when you drive the truck you borrowed from your cousin past the spot where you left your car, it will be gone.

It is also a little-known fact that all you have to do to retrieve your vehicle is call your neighborhood police department, and they will tell you which money-grubbing towing company was kind enough to take possession of your vehicle for you.

When I first discovered that the vehicle which had faithfully and reliably left me stranded every few weeks (when I was on my way to something very important) had been taken into the custody of the great county of Clackamas, I was relieved.

However, my celebration period

was cut short after I spoke to the owner of the towing company, which I will protect the name of by referring to it as "Seventh Circle of Hell Towing," and he told me that if I wanted to give him my car I had to pay \$50 for the privilege and sign the title of my car over; otherwise he'd send a collections agency after me.

Oh, and could I please bring down the face plate to my stereo so he could take possession of that along with my mortal soul?

"It's part of the lien," Mr. Hell said when I informed him that I would most definitely be taking my stereo with me in the event that I made it to the "Seventh Circle of Hell."

After doing some extensive "research" (a.k.a. crying to daddy), I was absolutely positive that I still knew nothing about the laws surrounding "liens." But I also knew that it was my right as an American citizen to bitch and whine until I got what I wanted.

The details of the negotiations that took place in the days that followed are unimportant.

Suffice it to say that our conversation ended with Mr. Hell telling me, "You must have misunderstood me," and that he had said I could take my stereo in the first place, which proves two things: 1. The male ego never quits, and 2. Grown-ups can get what they want by whining, too.

### Do you have something to shout about?

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Drop letters by B-104 or send to  
cccprint@clackamas.edu