

Mad Cow disease jolts consumers

Gluttonous Americans may benefit from scare

Has the Mad Cow scare changed your meat eating habits?

"I stopped eating beef. I haven't eaten at any fast food restaurants for like 2 months. You never know."

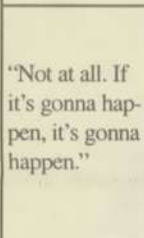


Siena Radford



"I don't eat meat, so there is no Mad Cow nothin' in my diet."

Jamie Halder



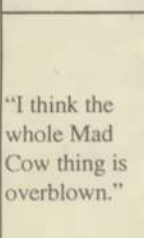
"Not at all. If it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen."

Jamie Peery



"I don't go to fast food that much; it's not that big of a deal."

Chris Rugg



"I think the whole Mad Cow thing is overblown."

Joseph Stone



"I don't usually eat fast food, but at my house nothing's really changed."

Brandon Hadley



Ben Maras
OPINION EDITOR

Be afraid, be very afraid—of cows?

Yes, cows. Who would have thought that old Bessie had it in her to unleash such a plague on humanity? Alright, to be fair, it wasn't just the fault of our friend the bovine; we had a little hand in it, too.

Mankind has created a monster. It kills everyone it gets in its clutches through a horrible death, without exception. It can slip through the most densely-populated city completely unnoticed; there is no cure or preventative vaccine. The worst thing is that it can't even be destroyed by heat—because it isn't even alive.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a.k.a. Mad Cow disease, is a degenerative disorder that affects the nerves of (mainly) cattle. It was spawned in Britain during the early '80s, first through sheep, then spreading to cows. It occurs when cattle are fed their own kind; in other words, when they eat feed that contains bovine protein (similar to the insanity produced by human cannibalism).

The term "Mad Cow disease" did not become a household term until 1996. Following the deaths of

10 young people, the British government admitted something was wrong with their meat supply, and they had been suspecting it for the past 10 years ... whoops!

It appears the tainted meat was sold to the British people without their knowledge, and the World Health Organization has said that the tainted meat and feed could have spread all across the globe and it is nearly impossible to determine where.

The British government's solution to the dilemma was to destroy any animal suspected of being infected with BSE ... except that the disease cannot be destroyed by heat, since it is not alive. Lab tests have determined that even after the cow is a smoldering pile of ash, the disease lives on, waiting for a new victim.

As little as one teaspoon of tainted feed can transfer the disease to the unsuspecting cow, and once it is consumed by humans, can develop into a variant of BSE known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD or vCJD). According to some, the disease can lie dormant for up to 30 years before wreaking havoc on the nervous system and turning the brain into Swiss cheese.

It is even thought that some 200,000 American senior citizens diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease may in fact have been suffering from misdiagnosed CJD, since brain biopsies are not common

procedures.

Although the disease is only present in the brain and spinal tissue of the affected animal, sloppy butchering practices can easily contaminate other tissue, not to mention that the aforementioned parts are used in the making of hamburger.

And now this monster is in America, home of the double-cheeseburger and the two-inch thick steak, but could this curse possibly be a blessing in disguise?

Is it possible that the tree-huggers were right about the many benefits of organic foods?

Although it may cost them a little more, maybe now America will start shelling out the extra dough to protect themselves from Frankenstein viruses and other health concerns, considering that organic food is almost infinitely more nutritious and tasty. Not to mention better for the animals and the environment.

It is said that "You are what you eat," and it is doubtful too many



people want to be hormone-injected, mush-brained cannibals. Since it seems the only way to get through to the majority of the American population is to scare them to death, this may be just what it needed to highlight an issue that has been growingly significant for many years.

Letters to the Editor

Profanity use questionable

I write to protest the profanity that was printed in the "Person on the street" column concerning gay and lesbian marriage. Are the comments of Elisabeth Bishop and "Skot" the best representations of CCC? I believe not. Just because they spoke or wrote the words is insufficient justification to lower *The Print* to their questionable standards—or lack of standards.

—LeRoy Cook

Editor's Response:

The above letter refers to page 4 of Issue 7 where profanity was used in direct quotes from students. We referred to the AP Style Guide in this matter; which to quote directly, said: "Do not use [profanities] in stories unless they are part of direct quotations and there is a compelling reason to use them."

We concluded that there was a compelling reason, being as the words were used in quotes on the Commentary page, and they were relevant to the intent and meaning of the quote. We also contacted other newspapers, including the University of Oregon's "Oregon Daily Emerald," whose managing editor advised us to print the words unedited.

—The Clackamas Print

Student says Opinion Editor blindsided by bias

I'm writing regarding the "State of Union..." article you wrote about President Bush. You are so completely blindsided by your bias that half of what said was completely wrong. Many things you wrote were incorrect. Starting off, yes, there is a "War on Terror." You obviously have forgotten about the capture of a dictator who murdered millions of people during his reign.

Yes, over 500 soldiers have died to find Saddam and restore peace in Iraq, but that's war! Lives are lost in war. It's not pretty and it doesn't make it easier on anyone, especially the families. Those soldiers fought and died for a cause.

Think about it this way: during World War 2, somewhere around 250,000 American soldiers lost their lives. That war was to capture and remove a dictator who was murdering millions of people. I totally believe that every life is sacred and those soldiers that lost their lives should be honored.

The next part of the article talks about the economy. We are in a recession!! Our president has very little to do with that. Our country has been moving into a recession since partway into Clinton's presidency. I'm

sure Clinton is glad he is out of office, because he would be blamed for all of this also. Yes, our economy is in a slump and many people are struggling, but President Bush has had almost no effect on that.

You have also never actually studied socialized health care before. Yes, everyone in our country would have health care, but in socialized medicine, the standard of care diminishes. In this system, if a surgery is performed incorrectly, it will not be redone correctly. It just costs too much to fix all the mistakes that are made. That person would just be out of luck. This has happened to me personally. I had a tibia-fibula fracture surgery performed in Canada, who has socialized health care. The surgeon messed up the surgery horribly.

I had the surgery redone one month later here in Portland. That redo would never have happened in Canada. The surgeon here told that if I wouldn't have had it redone, I probably would have been walking in five years after the initial surgery.

Also, in Canada, the government jacks up taxes to pay for

the country's health care. That's what would happen here if we would go to socialized health care. So, our taxes would raise and the standard of health care would diminish. Yeah, that sounds like a great idea!

On to the next point, which is on the gay marriage ban. This country was founded on Christian principles and morals. They are written over all the documents and memorials. We can take God out of everything in our country, but that will never erase history. The Holy Bible is extremely clear on homosexual relationships. They are strictly forbidden.

God intended man and woman to be one in the sanctity of marriage. Our country was founded on Christian beliefs and the further we get from that foundation, the closer we get to the destruction of our country.

Look at the great empires of history. What broke up those kingdoms? Pride, immorality, greed. That is exactly what our country is going through now. These things are driving us apart and will eventually destroy us.

I know that you are the opinion editor, and this article was your opinion. One word of advice: you need to include all the facts, not just skip over the details to make your side look better.

Sincerely,

—Andrew Wheeler
Clackamas Student

"You obviously have forgotten the capture of a dictator who murdered millions of people during his reign."
Andrew Wheeler
Clackamas student

Have an opinion on genetic engineering of humans?

E-mail letters to chiefed@clackamas.edu or bring them on a floppy disk to RR135 by this Friday at 1 p.m. Please include your name and limit all letters to no more than 200 words. Letters are not required to pertain to subject proposed above.

Submissions become property of *The Clackamas Print* and are subject to editing on the grounds of clarity, grammatical and otherwise.