

# Google colludes with commies

Google, China work together to keep some information unavailable

Derek Erickson

The Clackamas Print

The Internet contains more useless crap in one place than any other venue of information currently in existence. But while we Americans are surfing for smut or sports facts, there are people out there using the Internet for truth.

The Chinese people have had on-again, off-again access to search engines. In 2002 after being blocked by the Chinese government, Yahoo censored themselves and the Chinese gave up. Google was being shut off or blocked because they wouldn't censor themselves - until now.

Google.cn has been created for the Chinese people to use while the uncensored version, Google.com, is blocked.

Google created this Chinese site to conform to the Chinese government's regulations. Now things like "democracy" or "Chinese oppression" will come up with links, but if they're clicked the page will either be blocked or will route to a government friendly site.

Google has the numbers

in China to fight this. Before bending over to censorship, the Chinese government would cut off a user's Internet for a while if they searched for controversial topics. With the nation fighting itself, the information was still available.

The Chinese people, those that want truth, were counting on Google not to give in.

Google, however, decided to make China's battle their problem and used a new technology to further

oppress the Chinese people.

In order to provide the best service, Google uses geolocation to determine what part of the world a user's IP is from. This way they can spam the surfer with ads pertaining to cultural priorities.

Now, if a Chinese IP is located at non-government friendly sites, they will be blocked. This is effective in 90 percent of all cases, and for 80 percent of all IPs.

The great

equality (Communism) is in bad shape over in China. It has been since Mao Zedong got it started - but that is no one else's fight but China's.

Google is the most frequently used search engine on the Internet, and I'm told that the Internet is pretty big.

Google has more support in China than the government itself, because they are a doorway to information - the information that has been kept from these people for

too long. The Chinese people don't care if Google gets shut down now and again, because they know it's still out there.

But what happens when no matter how well they're connected, no matter how long they stay connected, that information - that understanding of what's really going on - is no longer available?

Google.cn is an abomination and a shame. I just hope that it's not a sign of a trend of corporate cowardice the future of information.

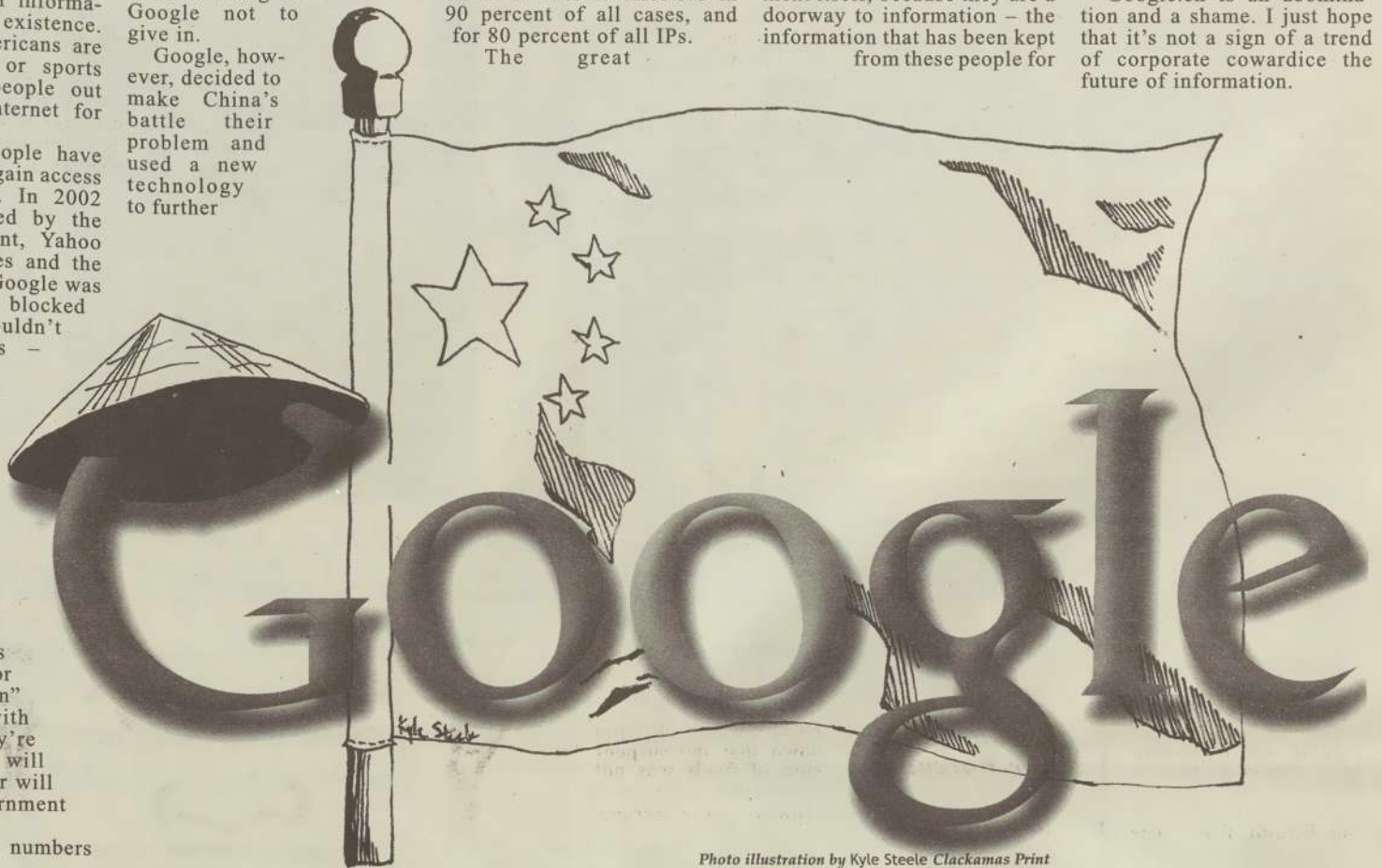


Photo illustration by Kyle Steele Clackamas Print

## Potter offers tax to save schools, legislature to blame

Laura Cameron

Commentary Editor

Who here remembers the campaign promise of President Bush v. 1.0: "Read lips: no new taxes"? It may have been a decade or so, but it appears that Portland has taken George H. W. Bush's ideals to heart.

I am talking here about Mayor Tom Potter's proposed tax increase to help cover the budget shortfalls facing Portland schools. Potter's plan would produce a four-year 0.95 percent city-wide income tax specifically to raise money for the five school districts within Portland.

Ever since Potter unveiled his plan, polls have shown that support for another tax to help schools is, shall we say, underwhelming. Portland taxpayers are feeling used and tapped out, and a good combination for those looking for funding sources.

We should have seen this coming. Three years ago Multnomah County passed a temporary 1.25 percent income tax to tide schools over while the legislature supposedly solved the school funding problem. Well, as usual the legislature didn't do a damn thing, and the tax ran out as planned. Now, once again, Portland schools are left with a gaping hole in their budget, and many are looking to taxpayers to help.

Opponents of the temporary Multnomah tax argued that there is no such thing as a "temporary" tax. By asking for another new tax, they say, Potter is proving them right. They're

angry at being asked to once again shell out to save the schools. But it's not Potter's fault.

The fault lies squarely with the state legislature. The Multnomah County I-Tax was made temporary because it was assumed that the time it bought for schools would be used to work out their budgetary problems. The legislature was given three years to come up with a stable funding plan for Oregon schools, and they failed utterly.

Sadly, their failure is now putting schools - and Potter - between the proverbial rock and hard place. If our readers will forgive the pun, we cannot afford to underfund our children's education. We cannot afford to leave our schools facing massive budget shortfalls - but perhaps, for a year, we should.

If we refuse to come to the schools' aid and leave them to their fate - and I admit, it makes me shudder to even suggest it - and simply stand back as they are forced to cut back farther and farther, perhaps the legislature will finally be shocked into addressing the school funding issue. If we let the schools flounder and constantly remind people that it's because the legislature failed in their promise to straighten out the school funding mess, perhaps Oregon voters will finally be motivated to vote out the useless blowhards in the legislature and vote in people who will actually try to find viable solutions.

The schools can't afford for us to do that, of course. But it may prove to be a necessary evil.

## The last word on the parking issue: pay up or shut up!

Ben Maras

Editor-in-Chief

It has been said that the best things in life are free. Whoever said this never tried to park.

Yes, it's time again to whip everyone's favorite dead horse: the parking problem here at the college. It's ridiculous that everyone complains about it without proposing any good ideas. Well here's one: paid parking.

Oh no, we can't do that, I'm already broke from tuition and books and gassing up my 4x4 truck to get here every day.

Tough. Deal with it.

The bottom line is that we at Clackamas are blessed to not have to pay for our parking. Most other colleges require students to pay for parking, and you know what luxury they get in return? Better parking! Imagine that.

It's a simple matter of monetary flow really. Here's how it works: you pay tuition, and combined with tax dollars, the college bigwigs allot the money to certain areas of college development, including parking. Things that are deemed less important (such as parking) get pushed to the back of the pile, and receive less of the meager amount of money.

At this point, there are a few options if more money is needed: seek private donations, raise tuition, or ask students to pay for certain things ala carte (like Scan-Trons ... but that's another story).

So we can't get something for nothing. It's called capitalism folks. Sometimes if we want things, we have to pay for it.

Now this is not to say I'm an Adam Smith by any means, I'm just observing how things work.

Of these options, there is some middle ground. The college could make a "paid parking only" lot near the most important buildings, and leave the rest of us to park out in the boonies. The money collected could be dedicated to more parking development (and filling Lake Barlow).

This could also be accented by a tuition raise, if needed, which when spread out among the students of Clackamas could generate a large amount of money for less than the price of a slice of Chartwells pizza.

Of course, we'd want to make sure that some money was given to benefit the bus riders in some way (maybe more covered space for when it rains?).

But in all reality, there's always parking here at Clackamas. It may require some realistic thinking, and forgoing the "Rook Lot Shuffle" when one arrives at 9 a.m., realizing one's doomed, and going to the Barlow Lot in order to make class on time. Need I even say how ridiculous it is for someone to circle a lot for 10 minutes to save a walk that would have taken them less than two? We all could use a little bit more walking too, let's face it.

But so what if we're lazy bastards? Hey, at least we're greedy too.