

# The great bottled water hoax

**Tayo Stalnaker**

Commentary Editor

Bottled water is the biggest marketing scam to ever hit the United States of America, and that includes tobacco.

Every day, I and dozens of suckers purchasing bottled water at the college and at my job. I used to be one of those suckers, until I actually did some research and watched an episode of Penn & Teller's *Bullshit!* that took on the bottled water hoax.

As it turns out, bottled water is no different than average tap water. In fact, a lot of it is tap water. Take for example, Aquafina and Dasani. These products are bottled by Coke and Pepsi and are made with the same tap water that is used to make Coke and Pepsi soft drinks. The brand Alasika's label reads "Alaska Premium Glacier Drinking Water: Pure Glacier Water From the Last Unpolluted Frontier, Bacteria Free," even though it actually comes from a city water supply.

According to a four-year study done by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water contains the same contaminants that tap water does, and then some. E. coli bacteria, cryptosporidium, giardia and arsenic are just some of the contaminants that the NRDC found in bottled water.

Another problem with bottled water is that it's regulated by the FDA and not the EPA. In fact, states that bottle their own water are exempt from FDA regulations. To make matters worse, bottled water companies do not have to remove E. coli and fecal coliform; the water is not required to be disinfected. It's only tested for chemicals once a year, and pathogens don't have to be filtered.

People who think bottled water tastes better than tap water, think again because the taste is mostly psychosomatic (it's all in their heads). Penn and Teller, on their Showtime program *Bullshit!*, filled up bottles with Los Angeles County hose water, put fancy,



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fake labels on them and had people taste test them. Most of the taste testers loved the fake bottled water and called it "crisp and refreshing," said that it tasted a

lot better than tap water and were willing to buy the faux spring water for insanely high prices (about \$6 a bottle).

What I'm trying to say is, please

don't purchase bottled water. It's a complete waste of money. On the other hand, if anyone wants to get rich quick, bottled water seems like the perfect market to tap.

## Letters to the Editor: Military Commissions Act actually not treasonous

While it is admirable that Cameron is attempting to create interest in a very important political issue, she creates interest only by first misleading her readers. She sets out to convince them of her opinion that the Military Commissions Act (MCA) violates the Constitution, is treasonous and dangerous for the American public.

However, it is doubtful that she has thoroughly investigated either the MCA or the Constitution. The MCA forbids courts from hearing an application for writ of habeas corpus when filed by or on behalf of aliens. It does not deny habeas corpus to American citizens, even criminal American citizens.

Cameron bases the majority of her criticism on the fact that the MCA somehow violates the Constitution and is also treasonous. She wrote, "National security does not trump the Constitution." Actually, it can. In Article 1, Section 9, clause 2 of the Constitution, the writ of habeas corpus cannot be suspended "...unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it." The framers of the Constitution did not define "invasion" or "rebellion," meaning that Congress today can define what a threat to the public safety is; it can be whatever they see fit. In passing the MCA, they have defined terrorists as an invasion, a threat to the public safety, and such a definition is perfectly legal.

The article's most glaring fault is Cameron's declaration that the MCA is an act of treason. "Yes, I said it. *Treason.*" Her readers are apparently supposed to take her word for it. If

Cameron had taken the trouble of actually reading the Constitution, she would have found "treason" specifically, minutely defined as follows in Article 3, Section 3, "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort." Nothing in there about passing controversial acts.

Finally, Cameron seems to believe that all of her readers share her political opinions; therefore, she begins the article by calling President Bush "Shrubs-for-Brains." Such name-calling is unprofessional, unconvincing and uninformative in a piece that seeks to both inform and persuade readers. If she can't investigate her claims and present them in a mature way, why should anyone (except ignorant Bush-haters who gladly accept her word as true) believe her?

Cameron does not allow her readers to form an educated opinion of their own concerning the MCA because she misrepresents and misconstrues the Constitution, coats the entire piece with partisan sarcasm and expects everyone to be on her side at the end. Those readers who refuse to investigate politics will perhaps agree with her. Those who, like responsible American citizens, take a look at the Constitution for themselves will find that unlike Cameron's claims, there is more than one possible conclusion.

Ella Dvoroff,  
Clackamas Student

To send a letter to the editor, email to [chiefed@clackamas.edu](mailto:chiefed@clackamas.edu)

## Ashtray cones need cleaning ... now

**Rev. Sam Krause**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

I smoke about a pack a day.

I smoke in the designated areas, and I don't throw my butts on the ground.

That is the agreement smokers have with non-smokers: stay 25 feet away from the doors and throw butts into the black and yellow Rubbermaid cones, and all will be good.

What happens if a smoker breaks the rules? A ticket for littering; and for smoking too close to a door, he or she must move into the rain.

What if a non-smoker breaks the rules? Wait, what rules? The one that says those Rubbermaid cones should be emptied on a regular basis.

I'm sure this rule isn't written anywhere, like all of the smoker rules painted on walls and windows across the campus, but that doesn't mean it carries any less weight.

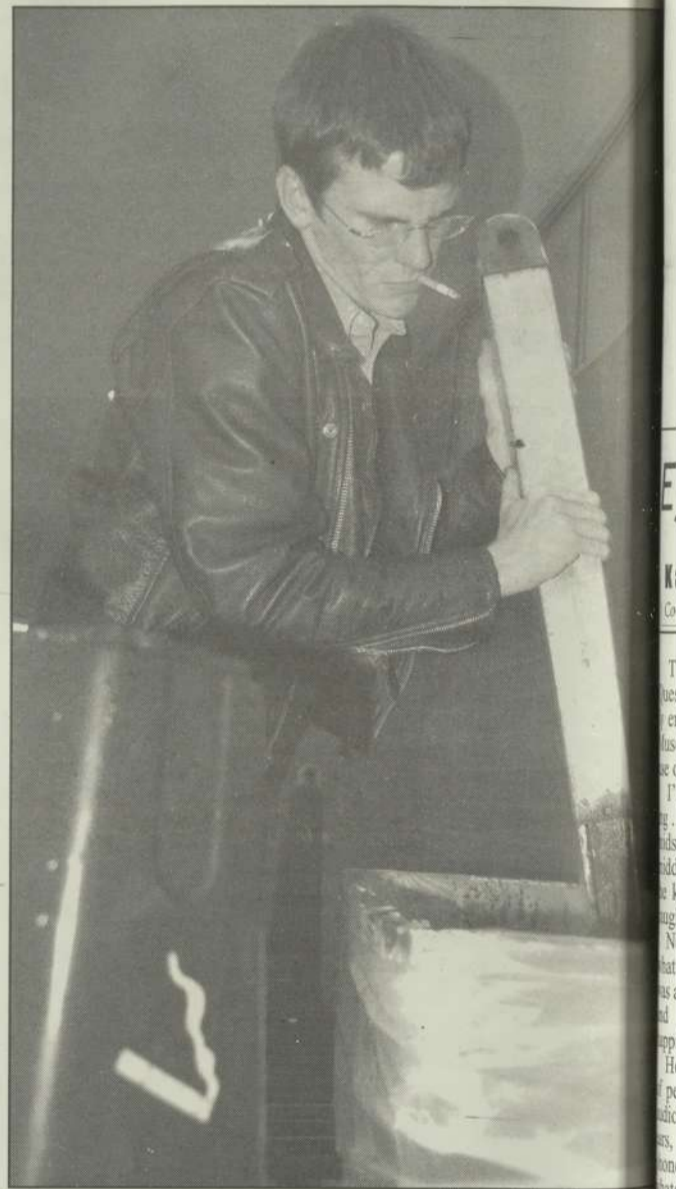
I've emptied at least four cones in the last two weeks - after the cones were filled and smoking. I can't stand the smell of burning cigarette butts, so I empty them.

This is not something I should have to do, but it was the least I could do to rid myself of that terrible burning stench.

Basically, smokers are all but forced to clean up after themselves, even though most of us dispose of our butts properly.

Truth be told, smoking is a nasty habit, and it's probably a good idea to quit. I, however, am young, invincible, and I'll live forever, right?

Whoever's responsibility it is to empty those cones, please get on it. Smokers are willing to follow the rules in order to satiate their addiction. I do.



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