

ternity Greg McNeill (who ardently defends Richard Nixon against his chest-beating Ronald Reagan-loving cohorts, and whose cell phone rings to the tune of "The Star Spangled Banner") ran for state House representative for District 8 against Floyd Prozanski. McNeill didn't win, but it was definitely a learning experience for this young man who is seriously interested in a political career. He currently holds the position of vice chair for the Oregon Federation of College Republicans, the statewide CR organization.

And then there is Scott Austin, an enigmatic young man from Pendleton whose political, intellectual and Biblical studies are sharp enough to cut any opponent to the quick. He ran unsuccessfully for state Senate against Susan Castillo back in 1998. Austin is something of a force to be reckoned with. A licensed teacher and UO grad student, he currently teaches high school social studies, with an emphasis in government, history and economics; he intends to put a perspective out there that challenges what he sees as liberal indoctrination through the school system. He freely admits, "I'm probably purely a fascist." (A fascist who, by the way, enjoys the occasional song by Britney Spears and *NSYNC, as well as most Southern rock style music.)

He thinks most of the general public is made up of morons. "I don't trust direct democracy, because I don't trust people." Austin is extremely bright (I suspect he could be genius-IQ material) and an articulate speaker. However, such comments as his Margaret Sanger Appreciation Day suggestion have contributed to his reputation for being extremely extreme.

There is something sort of curmudgeonly about Austin, though he is only 26 years old; he is set in his ways and fiercely opinionated in the manner of a conservative twice or even three times his age. While he is articulate, he sprinkles his more heated responses in our interview with fuck-shits, good-God-damned-wells, shit's-sakes and are-you-fucking-kidding-me's? He plans to marry a woman with "traditional" values who won't question his authority as head of the family. Ten years from now, he hopes to be "outside this shit hole," teaching full time and heading up a family of his own. "We're talking barefoot and pregnant," he says without a trace of

THE HELLIONS

The UO's *Oregon Commentator* (OC, www.oregoncommentator.com) has a staff that exudes less of CR's Tommy Hilfiger all-Americanism and more of the bawdy, boisterous college energy from *Animal House*. This end of the UO's conservative spectrum tends to be less concerned with moral conservatism, and much more focused on fiscal conservatism and a strong stance on individual liberties; several staff members describe themselves in part as Libertarians.



...this staff is all about getting the laugh, even, or maybe especially, the laugh fueled by bad taste.

This is a group of people who are fairly regularly referred to as fascist, misogynistic, homophobic and hateful. And they seem to almost wear those descriptors as badges of honor. According to its mission statement: "The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon ... providing students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by other student publications, professors and student groups. During its nineteen-year existence, it has enabled University students to hear both sides of issues. Our paper combines reporting with opinion, humor and feature articles. We have won national recognition for our commitment to journalistic excellence." To be raising such heat that readers would hurl names at the paper both ful-

fills their mission statement and evokes sheer joy at having rankled the masses.

Editor Tim Dreier (who would love to see a President Condoleezza Rice) is a wiry, semi-spiky haired economics major who combines trench coat and sneakers in a way that kind of works. He runs editorial meetings that feel a little like stand up comedian joke-offs with some news and substance sprinkled in. The upper echelon staff includes Managing Editor Brett "Irish" Callahan, who snorted sugar for a laugh in an article for this

The first issue of this school year is titled "Back to the Booze," and includes this pull quote on p. 14: "If you are a hippie, take a God damn bath and get a job, you lazy, socialist fuck..." (For what clarification this might provide, the pull quote is from "The 2003-2004 OC Guide to Survive." Feedback on this first issue included comments from an alumnus who noted that the f-bomb had been used with maybe overzealous frequency throughout the issue.)

For as offensive and crude as the writing might portray them, the OC crew is a bright and motivated group. They put out a magazine twice a month, and the common goal is, albeit from a conservative perspective, to fill the gaps they see in the campus's mainstream paper *The Oregon Daily Emerald*. (Imagine my confusion and mild dismay to find that OC stands in similar position to ODE as EW stands to the R-G.) They get along genuinely well as a staff, and the members I talk to value the social aspects of the group as much as the journalistic pursuits.

Good thing for the social aspect, because you can imagine the difficulty in widening one's social circle when you've just printed an issue of your magazine that drops the f-bomb on just about every prominent group on campus.

THE FUTURE

After their YAF trip to Santa Barbara, about 15 CRs convene for the weekly meeting to debrief on what they learned at the conference. Jarrett White is fired up from a talk by Ward Connerly, author of *Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences* and founder/chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute. White says to the College Republicans, "We at the college level want to do things that are outrageous. We wonder if this is what the party wants, if it's good for the party. Ward Connerly says yes. He wants us to be outrageous, to get in people's faces."

The club hums with excited inspiration, and they move in to plan their Berlin Wall project; to create a Rapid Response Team that will get conservative letters-to-the-editor sent in to ODE regarding any anti-American or one-sided journalism; to debate the notion of recall and the value of Schwarzenegger as governor of California; to further the mission, goals and values of a new conservative corps of youth.

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