

The Student Insurgent (October 2009)

21 years of thought and action

Various Authors

October 2009

Contents

Letters.	3
Clear-Cut	5
Born on the McKenzie	6
Have you been feeling the creative urge lately? Too much time on your hands?	8
G-20 Protesters Capture Headlines	8
CDLC Files Tort Claim Against City of Eugene	9
Cascadia Free State, Oppressed	10
A Clog in the Drain of Democracy	12
Free Expression Rocky in Mexico	13
Remembering the Struggle	13
Nobel Peace Prize	16
The Truth About Psychiatric Drugs	17

about us.

The Student Insurgent is based out of the University of Oregon in Eugene. We are a radical publication that seeks to deconstruct the existing social order to facilitate its replacement with one which is ecologically sound and functions on egalitarian lines.

We strive to be an open forum, somewhere the silenced and the oppressed can express their ideas and opinions free from the filters of the mainstream media.

Subscriptions are \$15 a year by mail. The Insurgent is distributed freely to UO students, the community, and prisoners.

submissions.

Submissions...The Insurgent encourages its readers and supporters to submit news and feature articles, short fiction and poetry, cultural criticism, theory, reviews, etc. Graphics, cartoons, and photos are more than welcome. Priority will be given to local news and analysis. We reserve the right to edit anything and everything we receive for grammar, clarity, or length. All articles, with the exception of unsigned Editorials, reflect the view of their authors and not the rest of us.

staff.

Co-Editors: Chris Pollard, Cimmeron Gillespie, Abby Bluth and Ashley Pennington.

Contributors: Brett Baren, Ashley Young, John Sheehy, Nathan Montgomery, Josh Kennett, and Matt Silbernagel.

this issue contains:

3/4 Letters

5 Lit

7 Art

8 Contest

9 News

12 More News

14 Opinion

18 Commentary

20 More Opinion

21 More Commentary

Letters.

Welcome back to all returning students and incoming freshmen. We here at SI hope everyone had a great summer, but sadly all heat soaked acid tops must come to an end. Hopefully y'all found time for sufficient rest and relaxation to retail in tai form and continue your studies with all that characteristic energy that quickly dissipates into frantic scrambles to find niches and parties to comfort aching hearts and minds. Don't let it happen to you! Find yourself a meaningful way to spend your time. Be creative! Be free! Develop your community into a collective based on cooperative

action, express your innermost thoughts without fear of censorship! We at SI strive to be a place that encourages and empowers people to do just that, feel free to stop by.

Now to catch up on some small tilings that should not go unnoticed. The tazing of Ian van Omman was found to have been legitimate against all rational observation. The construction of our beautiful concrete structures of indulgence (student athlete center) and pointless entertainment (new arena) on the eastern campus is in full swing. Some friends climbing in trees were so rudely pulled out by fuckin' Freddie's in Eliot state. And last but not least, we have our new overlord of corporate interest; let's have a round of applause for Richard Lariviere! We know you fully deserve this position of meaningless authority and puppetry! We sincerely wish you well and hope you get to sign lots of papers and speak lots of Sanskrit. Just student culture for capital and personal gain the more you corrupt yourself; we ask you not to be complicit in your own downfall. Anyway, let's make this year the most resistance laden in recent memory!

Your Insurgent Staff.

Student Insurgent

Nearing the end of growth

People thought the Earth was flat. Now we flunk economic growth is good for us. Both the same: not true.

What is true, besides the roundness of the Earth, is economic growth is good for those at the top of the economic ladder (a mere 10 percent controlling the vast majority of the wealth), but not so for the remaining 90 percent, who are straggling.

To make matters much worse, the environment is quickly getting trashed in the pursuit of growth. Species are quickly disappearing, along with clean water, air and land. It can't go on much longer.

The wealthy, and those who aspire to be, tell us how good and necessary growth is. They control the media shaping our world view to then benefit, telling us we all deserve more and more wealth and that we can all get rich together.

It looks bleak to me. We are nearing an end to our growth, not because we choose to cooperatively manage our combined impact, but because we overwhelm the Earth's ability to accommodate our massive and destructive growth. We are led by a small percentage of aggressive people who know the economic benefits of winning.

Together we stand, divided we fall. If we don't learn to live in cooperation with each other, and all life on Earth, we will cause our own destruction. Individualism, capitalism and the free market are not sustainable for our civilization. We need social and economic systems based more upon cooperation than competition.

PATRICK BRONSON

Student Insurgent

Attn: Eugene Free School

Tai Chi Instructor

I am writing to you, in hope that you can and will be able to provide me with information regarding the history of Tai Chi as well as Tai Chi's use as a health and exercise program.

Please note I am confined in prison and information as described in this request is not available in the inmate general library.

Thank you for any assistance and attention given to this request.

Sincerely,

Willie

Texas

Clear-Cut

Dee Allen

For Steve Jacobson

Clear-Cut

Land improvenient

To Selfish minds

"Development"

Clear-Cut

Introduction of strange

To the woodland expanse

Profits in die short range

Enter the longtmcks

Enter tire cranes

Workers activate saws

Roaring throughout the terrain

Ancient wood meets spuming steel

Guided by human hands

Stumps & brambles shall remain

Of (lie green cathedral that stands

Clear-Cut

Concentration

Upon long range

Devastation

Clear-cut

Disrespect

To the wild that made us

Behold, the greenhouse effect
Sing a soft requiem
To Hie disappearing forest
Its replacement:
A credit to “progress”
Downfall
Of wood & leaf
Grounded timber
In favor of concrete
The land is fallow
And then what?
Whether tees retail
Isn’t so clear-cut
Give or take another
Hundred years
Steady wanning of the earth
Confirms our darkest fears
Clear-cut
Concentration
Upon long range
Devastation
Clear-cut
Ambuscades
Unless we take to the wilderness
And block die sawblades.

Born on the McKenzie

Devlin Jones

I was bom on tire banks,
Of the Mckenzie,
Where the water runs cold
And the people run free.
I was bom on die banks
Of die Mckenzie,
Where deep mto yer neighbor’s
eyes
You always will see.

A life lesson in fear,
Trouble and woe,
We're always still leamm'
Well don't you know.

I was bom on the banks
Of the Mckenzie,
Where die water runs cold,
And the people run free.

I done Raveled far,
Seen Niagara falls,

<verse>

But it all just seems
Like bathroom stalls.

I was born on the banks
Of die Mckenzie,
Where the water runs cold
And the people run free.

All your trouble and lies
Will be laid aside,
As the water sighs,
At the riverside.

I was born on the banks,
Of the Mckenzie,
Where the water runs cold
And the people run free.

Won't you come on out,
And join with me,
I can tell you a rout,
But you gotta see.

I was born on the banks
Of the Mckenzie,
Where the water runs cold
And the people run free

Have you been feeling the creative urge lately? Too much time on your hands?

Then why not be part of the Insurgent's supra-fantastically awesome coloring contest!

How does it work, you ask? It's simple:

Step 1: Tear out the page with the mandala graphic (the trippy looking line sketch on the opposite page)

Step 2: Color within/without/across the lines to your heart's content. Entries will be prized primarily on their general creative awesomeness.

Step 3: Bring your entry to Student Insurgent HQ in the Survival Center (Emu Suite 1) where it will be reviewed by an international panel of art critiques, journalists, and other high profile elitists.

Winning pieces will be published in our next issue!

G-20 Protesters Capture Headlines

Ashley Pennington

Twenty of the world's most industrialized nations gathered in Pittsburgh last month to discuss tire failing global economy. Protesters also gathered outside the David L. Lawrence Convention Center much to the dismay of tire local police force.

The Group of Twenty, otherwise know as the G-20 stands in place of the G-8 which is made up of the finance ministers and central bank governors of nineteen industrialized nations, as well as a rotating Council presidency and the European Central Bank which stand as representation for tire European Union.

As the world leaders voted top ledge 1.1 trillion dollars to help the financial crisis, the news media's attention was drawn towards the streets where the clash between police forces and protesters turned violent.

The first day of the meeting, as protesters began to march toward file convention center, squads of police officers outfitted with plastic shields and batons fired sound cannons at the group. Shrill beeps emitted as the marchers were stopped in their tracks, forced to cover their ears in pam. Tear gas and stun grenades were also filed at the protesters.

Their offense? The group didn't have a permit.

The city of Pittsburgh released 300 people who had been arrested on minor parole violations, in order to free up over 1,000 jail cells to prepare for the event.

By the end of the Summit, police arrested 190 people, hr total, 50,000 dollars worth of damage was done to the surrounding area. Twenty thousand of which was attributed to one individual who was accused of breaking 20 windows and doors.

Two people were also arrested that Thursday for allegedly directing protesters using Twitter, this is the first time anyone has been arrested in the United States, for using the social networking site.

There has been a call by University of Pittsburgh students for an investigation into police behavior after the police wrongfully arrested and brutally treated the University students.

The G-20 Fact-Finding Committee will publish its findings with regards to these investigations by May 2010.

CDLC Files Tort Claim Against City of Eugene

Eco Advocate

On Friday, August 7, Josh Schlossberg and attorney Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center filed a tort claim notice against the City of Eugene regarding a March 13, 2009 incident where Schlossberg was falsely arrested, injured, and jailed by Eugene Police Department Officer Bill Solesbee while Schlossberg was legally distributing brochures from the edge of a public sidewalk in front of Umpqua Bank in downtown Eugene. Schlossberg, a local forest activist, was civilly informing bank customers of the irresponsible logging and harmful pesticide practices of Umpqua's chairman of the board, Allyn Ford.

This incident of unlawful police misconduct is another in a growing list of alarming incidences where EPD officers have violated basic first amendment constitutional rights of Eugene citizens, while using excessive force, seemingly directed at chilling free speech in the politically charged, left-leaning city of Eugene. Schlossberg's lawsuit is based on claims of deprivation of civil rights, interference with constitutionally protected activities, false arrest and imprisonment, failure to train and supervise law enforcement, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, negligence and gross negligence, as well as claims based upon deprivations of federal and state constitutional rights, including cruel and unusual punishment. As expected, acting Chief of Police Pete Kenis once again rubber-stamped the actions of Officer Solesbee by failing to admonish or correct the flagrant unconstitutional conduct of this police officer. Schlossberg continues to suffer acute and chronic pain and discomfort from a neck injury brought on by Solesbee during the arrest.

The charges of "intercepting communications" and "resisting arrest" were dropped after prosecutors viewed Schlossberg's confiscated digital video footage clearly showing him legally standing at the edge of a public sidewalk. The tape shows Officer Solesbee illegally demanding he leave which Schlossberg is in the process of doing, while stating to Solesbee that he believes the officer is in error for forcing him to leave the public sidewalk. Solesbee falsified police reports and attempted to file unwarranted charges against Schlossberg as a result of this incident; and the Chief of police has ratified this dishonest conduct once again.

Solesbee's police report claims Schlossberg was "concealing" a videocamera ("intercepting communications", yet Schlossberg's audio/video footage shows Solesbee verbally acknowledging being filmed.

Solesbee is shown on the video footage demanding Schlossberg's camera. When Schlossberg refused to give him the camera (video footage ends here), Solesbee charged Schlossberg, wrenched his arm behind his back, forced him to the ground where Schlossberg laid his head, and proceeded to place a knee on Schlossberg's previously injured neck, while handcuffing and arresting him. Solesbee's police report states he charged Schlossberg with "resisting arrest" simply because Schlossberg "tensed" during the arrest. Schlossberg was lodged in solitary confinement in the Lane County Jail and was refused the right to contact his attorney until being released from custody later that night.

In July of 2008, Schlossberg filed a citizen complaint against Officer Solesbee after witnessing a May 30 anti-pesticide demonstration, where Schlossberg maintains that Solesbee used excessive force while arresting Ian Van Omiun whereby the officer deliberately slammed Van Omiun's skull into the pavement.

Schlossberg says: "I can't say with absolute certainty that Officer Solesbee specifically targeted me as retribution for filing a complaint against him last year, or for my role as an outspoken political organizer, but there's no question in my mind that Solesbee and other members of the EPD have shown a blatant disregard for the constitutionally granted, first amendment rights of Eugene citizens, and that little has been done by the City of Eugene to discourage this disturbing criminal behavior."

Attorney Lauren Regan added, "We have seen a disturbing trend regarding police response to activists and their constitutionally protected activities. By utilizing a militarized presence, heavy-handed tactics, tasers, and unjustifiable arrests against non-violent citizens, law enforcement is attempting to scare people into silence and apathy. This case will determine whether the citizens of Eugene still have the constitutional right to lawfully convey thoughts and ideas to their fellow citizens in public forums—a quintessential principle of our democracy."

-From portland indymedia.org

Cascadia Free State, Oppressed

Cimmeion Gillespie

This summer, Earth First!, Cascadia Summer and other affinity groups blockaded and occupied a logging road in Elliot State Forest. They were asking that the Oregon Department of Forestry "buyback all sales in Elliot state forest, namely because we need to save this carbon and biodiversity reserve", says Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, a spokeswoman for Cascadia Summer. Cascadia Free State created a blockade of logs, an overturned van and roughly 45 persons.

Also constructed were a tri-pod, a bi-pod and a sky-pod. As one Cascadian said, “The structures are complicated and tire people are dedicated.” After two days, the group was issued an eviction notice horn tire Oregon Department of Forestry (ODE). All in all, the blockade held off loggers for four long days. One ODF agent is said to have remarked of the blockade, ‘This is impressive, what are we gonna do?’ The answer to that question came the next day, when the state called in some 80–90 persons. There were 40 State Troopers, decked out in green camo and ‘less than lethal’ 11 **insurgent** weapons; 10 black-clad Sheriffs aimed hke a SWAT team; 10 Special Forces agents who hiked in the back way; ODF members; engineers, who cut the blockade; Sheriff’s marine patrol in a black SUV; high angle rescue ‘aerial patrol’; National Guard; state detectives; plain clothes forest seivice members; local sheriffs and deputies in brown; video crews; and other liaisons. Traveling on windy gravel logging roads, tire entourage arrived at 9:40am, their attitude that day was summed up dining a press conference when Sergeant Stone said, “I don’t care about the earth, I am just here to exploit it and enjoy it.”

On the morning when the law enforcement group arrived, the Cascadians were in the midst of their morning routine- breakfast, dishes, creation of a monopod, and maintenance of the pods already in place. A massive and collaborative undertaking was taking place. All were carrying on with theft duties when the shrill whistle of warning told Cascadians of the impending police confrontation.

As reports from Cascadians claim, “First the state troopers wandered around grabbing anyone who was not locked down, gradually dragging and pulling people out of the brush, or who had been away from camp when the wammg came. Then they spent ten minutes staring around looking confused, until one of the officers began directing the removal of people — those in arm bars, U-locks, cutting out barrels, and the overturned van... Then the police targeted a sunken barrel which one Cascadian was locked to, taking some two hours. Next officers seemed to prioritize getting down tire pods... ignoring two lockdown barrels. They offered several plans of increasing bravado, all of which were severely dangerous and potentially deadly. Those who were locked-down explained the disadvantages and risk of pursuing some of tire proposed plans. The officers eventually called in the National Guard. The Guard arrived and began their work to get access to tire pods. All the while, the police were filming tire dismantling of the whole setup, as part of a training video.”

The small state army arrested some 27 persons, 16 of which were in lockdowns. There was one woman in a sky-pod, a man each in a bi-pod and tri-pod, four people in banel, and nine in ‘black bears’ (arm covers winch can’t be pulled apart). When asked if they were effective, one member ‘Badger’, of the lockdown replied, “If we weren’t effective, they wouldn’t be here. We stopped them yesterday, we will today and must tomorrow!” One Cascadian, ‘Spindle’, said, “It would cost them less money to just buy back tire timber sale; not to mention tire associated risk.”

The ODF also detained every Cascadian not locked down, as well as a medic, a hiker nearby, and all direct support persons. “My handcuffs were too tight, 9 hours I had to

wait in that van. My arms were swelling and I was only let out to relieve myself once. No food or water was given. By the time we got to the police station, other people, who I had never met, commented that my hands were swollen,” says ‘Kodiak’, a person who had come to see the goings on in public land, but was arrested for being in the area. The public land also had barricades, with state troopers and sheriffs. However, the operation had a price tag, the Register-Guard claims that the Sheriff’s department spent \$50,000 on the operation.

Why was ‘The Elliot’, as opposed to other sites, selected for blockade? One member in the Cascadia Free State, ‘ Mulleri, replied, “It is a destructive practice, logging. We saw large frees coming out of the Elliot, ODF has a history of destructive practices, especially here in the Elliot and in Tillamook. We needed more than litigation, or protesting, I wanted to do tilings that really made an impact. ”“Another Cascadian‘Wulf’, said, “There is only twenty percent of native forest remaining in Oregon. We must preserve whats left.” Trying to prevent another area from being covered in mono-cropping or replacement frees, Earth First! and Cascadia Summer took a stand. Another Cascadian, ‘Phoenix’, offered an articulation of the Forest Defender’s position: “We need to live with the earth, and treat it with the respect it deserves. We need to live sustainably, off the land and with the land. Without a competitive hierarchy.” For more information on Cascadia Summer and Forest Defense, visit: www.forestdefensenow.org.

A Clog in the Drain of Democracy

Devlin Jones

The Obama administration has offered solutions to a plethora of problems. They have promised to: keep the broken promises to rebuild New Orleans; to federally fund advancements in science and technology; to build clean energy jobs; to increase fuel economy standards; and to stimulate economic standards via job creation, access to refinancing and financial accountability and transparency. The list is a long one, tire spread so fantastic- it is a dream of renovations. Yet, these promises are like putting a new layer of wallpaper on a rotting wall.

In addition to tire hailing hst of promises, the healthcare proposal offered recently by the president is a farce. It is an insurance plan for uninsured Americans that claims to offer protection. The proposal is a great intention, but effectively ignores the problems of the existing system. It offers to cover those without coverage, but coverage is still only an insurance policy- chronic medical issues will still cripple the policy holder’s savings. Further, the policy ignores the fact that private companies, whose primary motivation is the acquisition of money, simply cannot offer genuine care oi service. The companies, who are looking out for then profit margins, are largely unable to reducing the scope of services provided.

The Obama administration's plan is flawed, but even still, it cannot make its way through Congress. The plan is stifled by fears of socialism and interference with the free market- as though socialism would leave people paying medical bills. In Socialist theory and practice, if everyone is fundamentally equal then they are given equal care and treatment based upon their needs. In comparison, under the capitalist system, everyone is unequal and struggling. Failure under Capitalism, even if it is from sickness or injury is considered one's own fault. That is the difference between communal responsibility and individual accountability.

This American system is overrun by futile debates of socialized agenda. It is amazing how the richest country in the world still reckons with the simplest problems like how to care for one another. Congress continues to bicker while the people suffer. And while the debate continues as to how to patch the failing system, the fault lines keep getting bigger. Private industry is only effective for small groups, thousands perhaps millions who have similar interests. However, when billions of people require unique and specialized care, industry cannot meet their needs without letting large gaps 'fall through the cracks'. In the health industry, letting people fall is tantamount to letting people die and this is simply unacceptable.

Free Expression Rocky in Mexico

The Government of Criminals

"Este Gobierno De Criminales."

-Hernandez Castillo

Attacked for writing 'graffiti' on the subway walls in a Mexican subway. Hernandez Castillo was shoved and beaten for expression and so beleaguered and backed into a corner he took over a subway and held it for some time. The repressive regime which limits free expression, then called Castillo mentally unstable. When Mexican authorities began to assault Castillo, tried to run away, the authorities threatened to shoot him and so he pulled a gun on them and they fired back. State escalation caused the deaths of several citizens and the wounding of several more in a subway on 9/18/09. The next day, over a thousand Mexican troops crowded the subway and furthered the state repression. It can be no surprise that repression when faced with resistance offers no alternative but further repression. This example of regression under the guise of civility is indeed a "government of criminals."

Remembering the Struggle

Cimmeron Gillespie

Do you remember Shaandin Garcia? If the answer is 'yes,' then the name is probably accompanied with high emotions. Four years ago, she was a doctoral student at the

University of Oregon, College of Education and a woman of color. She was attending classes at the U of O and noticed that there was little in the way of ethnic diversity among faculty and even less among courses or content. She soon related the situation to department officials, and in an article the Register Guard she recounted her conversation with them. "She has been advised to drop out if she's unhappy with the situation and she has been told that advocating for change is unprofessional" (5/12/06).

How did the situation get so bad? Well it began with Oregon's history. During the 19th century, US civilians were encouraged to participate in a 'colonizing' of the military-occupied Oregon territory. The Oregon territory became the land of the pioneers, who trekked long distances over mountainous terrain. Due to this resource intensive move, slaves were prohibited. "Oregon was geographically predisposed to be a free state, but ideologically was predisposed to be a slave state". However, a few minorities did make the journey or were already in the territory, so a small population of central-south Americans, Asians, members of the indigenous population, and American Africans settled there, as well. Their presence became a thorn in the side of 'The State of Jefferson' and the idea of an all white nation. This sentiment born of racism, gave rise to exclusion and 'Sundown Laws' which prevented minorities from owning property in cities, or being out past dark respectively. Shanty towns such as the area of Glenwood between Eugene and Springfield were created as a result.

The racist mentality also fueled hate groups. In 1920, Eugene had the highest Ku Klux Klan to population ratio in the nation. When the sundown and exclusion laws were finally erased from the books at the end of the 20th century, nearly 1/3 of the state voted against the change. So even in recent history, hate and prejudice remain a prominent part of the historical culture of Oregon. Needless to say the environment in the area is relatively less than friendly to people of color.

This discrimination affects the University, because there are respectively fewer persons of color than in other states, which makes the qualified personnel almost necessarily from out of state. When individuals of diverse backgrounds are attracted, the cultural environment can be unwelcoming or at least overwhelming. To have a significant majority of colleagues and community of one racial-ethnic background and one person 'different', presents a situation of isolation. Many persons of color have encountered this problem, so many that a list of ethnically diverse business professionals who have left Eugene for that reason was assembled — the 'Exit-Files'. But before persons of color can begin work, there are difficulties in recruitment.

The University faculty is not unionized, so attracting faculty from out of state is difficult, especially when searching for qualified and competitive instructors, among institutions offering higher pay and better benefits. Though much of the situation may have arisen because the university had what was then considered a top-notch program, receiving lots of grant money for special education research, this facade of large grants and a nationally recognized program may have allowed the program to overlook a serious lack of ethnic diversity. This however was not good enough for Ms. Garcia, who decided to take on the system and try to make the College of **Insurgent**

Education a better facility for learning. She tried to teach the school and community about the necessity of diversity. For her it was everyday life, working in classrooms that didn't provide adequate training.

So she had meetings with the Mayor, the University president, and held town halls and public meetings. It was necessary to begin "managing change". Jefferson, one local school, refused to hire students or graduates, because of "cultural incompetence". This added economic pressure, so that if other schools deemed the university was putting out unequipped students, it might shed light on inequality in other departments. There was a great deal of talk with little action, until under pressure the university caved and paid for an outside audit of the College of Education. The audit became the linchpin of action, suggesting rapid and radical changes to the curriculum and nature of the school. "The College desperately needs a well-conceived, realistic, clearly stated diversity plan"(Rankin Report.)

Carlos Cortez, a noted ethnic studies figure in academia, came to the University of Oregon and wrote what came to be known as 'The Rankin Report'. This paper outlined some grave concerns and recommendations, "the college [of education] curriculum, in general, seems, to lack coherence in the way they address diversity. Moreover, some faculty' seem to feel inadequate about addressing the issues academically or dealing with the topics of diversity when it arises in their courses or other aspects of campus life." (Rankin Report). Cortez called for three main points of focus:

1. More faculty of color who feel a sense of security
2. Development of diversity into courses and programs
3. The faculty must incorporate the theme of diversity throughout their coursework

The recommendations were extensive and clearly worded. The plan was something of an indictment of the situation in the College of Education and therefore the University slowly began considering reforms. Shaandin Garcia continued to press the issue seeing its first steps undertaken. A student movement was built, reinforced by one paragraph in the Rankin Report, "be proactive, not re-active. [The re-active steps] do not always communicate effectively concerning those steps. As a result, what gets noticed are reactions to a specific situation, making their actions seem like band-aids rather than measured actions taken within a clear diversity vision."

As a struggle, things succeeded, empowering students to reform their conditions using concerted social pressure. Though the University was not entirely pleased to have their hands forced, the historical background and contemporary situation is no excuse for injustice. The College of education has been changed for the better, although their transformation is far from complete. Diversity continues to be an issue of struggle, its institutional roots run deep all over the system. Not just ethnic diversity needs reform, but fights for departmentalization of international studies, women's studies and yes,

ethnic studies have been slow coming. But through concerted efforts and proactive approaches, we, as students, and the university, as an institution, can be improved.

As for Shaandin Garcia, when she applied for her degree, the university sent it to her before she took the test. So she graduated, knowing that her hard work won an improvement in the education of all future students in the College of Education and empowered students all over the campus to stand for justice. As long as we remember her struggle, we can carry on our own with joy of success in our hearts.

Nobel Peace Prize

Ashley Young

As everyone has most likely heard, Obama was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Since the announcement of the award, there has been much uproar throughout the nation and the world as questioned the surprising turn of events.

The Nobel Peace Prize is engrained into our society as a prize that is awarded to those who have done amazing things towards moving the world to a state of peace, yet it has had a tumultuous past. The Prize has been awarded to deserving people such as Martin Luther King, Jr, Mother Teresa, and Nelson Mandela. It is obvious why these people received the prestigious award— they DID things, they changed the world.

But why does Obama deserve the award? Has he made a significant change, left a mark, solved a problem? The official reasoning behind his award is “his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples” (nobelpeaceprize.org). This flowery language turns me off and makes me suspicious. He is also the first recipient to be awarded the prize with the adjective “extraordinary”. That seems superficial to me.

The main objection to the award is that Obama has laid out plans for things, he has made promises, he has said things, but nothing has come of it. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars are still going on. Obama himself recently deployed more troops even though he had promised to pull out before entering office. As president of an Economic and Military super power, and as one with as much international popularity as he, I expected more. I expected things to happen, problems to be solved, promises to be kept.

Another little known fact, that seems to be the crutch of the nay-sayer’s argument, is the fact that Obama was nominated for the prize after he had been in office for only twelve days. In order to be considered for the prize one must be nominated before February first.

This brings up a legitimate question, at the time of his nomination, what had Obama done to deserve it? He had been in office for TWELVE DAYS. I cannot stress that point enough, the idea is so ridiculous to me. He, for all likely purposes, hadn’t even moved in yet. Had he saved a falling intern while rearranging the oval room? Had

be broken up an argument between his girls concerning the nuclear weapons of the world? I mean these speculations sound ridiculous but honestly they are well founded questions. If he had done something prior to office that would warrant this a war'd I would shut my mouth and accept it but he hasn't. He was awarded the piize for his actions while in the office, for twelve days. A CB S newscaster was quoted saying that Obama was awarded this prize for not being Bush.

Did president Obama deseive this award? Do lus actions show that he is trying to make the world a better place? No.

The Truth About Psychiatric Drugs

Steve Berk

Living in a developed country is a 'strong predictor' that a person newly diagnosed with schizophrenia will never My recover." This statement was made in 1992 by the World Health Organization. It's a statement that seems surprising to many of us. After all unlike poorer countries, the west has institutions specifically designed for dealing with mental health. But it is true. It's also just one piece of evidence which supports the disengagement of medication towards treating people with psychological labels.

When these studies were first completed, they resulted m huge outcry in the western psychiatric field. Many psychologists argued that the people studied m poorer countries had not been schizophrenic, but had some lower degree of psychosis. The WHO responded with a two year study m 10 countries. This time participants were people who meet the criteria for schizophrenia by western standards. The results were that 63% of patients in poor countries had good outcomes, in comparison witli only 37% in rich counties. The difference is that doctors in poorer counties don't usually use medication due to lack of access.

As we look back at tire history of mental health, many would frown on practices from the late nineteenth, early twentieth century. Practices such as refrigeration therapy (consisting ofkeeping patients m cold temperatures till they lost consciousness), the spinning table, or the infamous frontal lobotomy seem barbaric in our eyes. But how will history look back on treatments from oiu own tine towards people with psychiatric labels? When one really looks at the situation, it seems hard not to conclude that contemporary practices are just as harmful and disturbing.

Now, psychiatric drugs are marketed by the drug company as effective ways of treating mental illness despite strong evidence to the contrary. One of the most cited studies showing the effectiveness of neuroleptics, (psychiatric medications) was conducted inthe early 1960's by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The study lasted six weeks and found that 75% of those treated with medication were either "much improved" or "very much unproved." However after three years the one year results were published winch showed that medicated patients were more likely to be re-hospitalized.

Further studies showed that 7% of patients who had taken the placebo relapsed and that there was a positive correlation between dosage intake and relapse. The biggest dosage group, patients taking more than 500mg, had a 65% relapse rate. In response to these findings, NIMH researchers began once again to ask the question about how people labeled with mental disorders can be treated without medication. Once again, studies showed more success for those not taking medication. A 1977 study found that 45% of those treated with neuroleptics were likely to relapse in comparison with 35% of those not treated with neuroleptics.

One theory to explain this comes from Guy Chouinard and Barry Jones at McGill University in Montreal. They argue that the brain responds to the drugs by physically changing its chemical compound. Because neuroleptic drugs block dopamine, the brain responds by becoming increasingly sensitive. It in effect returns to its own relative state of equilibrium. Only now it is dependent on the drug to maintain that equilibrium. People build a tolerance to the drug just like any other drug user.

Today many studies show the same thing about atypical or second generation antipsychotic drugs. Most studies which supported second generation drugs were fabricated or influenced by the pharmaceutical companies. In 1995 after the first generation of neuroleptics had come to be widely used, studies showed relapse rates for schizophrenia to be 80% or higher than in the pre-neuroleptic era. In the next few years repeated studies came out linking neuroleptics to early death. Then in 2005 NIMH reported newer neuroleptics to have "few if any" benefits in comparison with the older generation.

As you can see, numerous studies have all pointed to the same thing: psychiatric drugs in the long run do more harm than good in treating people diagnosed with mental illness. I am not suggesting people on psychiatric drugs stop taking them. That is a decision only the individual can make, but to make that decision in the best manner possible, shouldn't the public know all the facts?

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Student Insurgent
1228 University of Oregon
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