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EDITORIAL

Unpack it

Senator should comply, release diaries

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., has one last chance to set the record straight on his involvement in ethics charges that have been made against him. If he doesn't, the Senate should.

The Senate ethics committee has subpoenaed 8,500 pages of Packwood's diary in its investigation of sexual harassment charges against him. But Packwood has refused to comply with the demand.

The committee is seeking Senate approval for a court suit that would force Packwood — under the threat of legal punishment — to comply.

Packwood has claimed through his lawyer that the committee is on a fishing expedition. He also has said details about the sex lives of other lawmakers are contained in the diary.

But it is time for Packwood to turn over the diary, settle the issue and expose what he wrote about his involvement in the charges made against him.

Senate investigators should use care and not release any information that would be harmful to other senators. But they should not back away from their attempt to obtain the diary.

If Packwood has nothing to hide, he should abide by the subpoena. His reputation cannot be further harmed if he has done nothing wrong.

If he does have something to hide, that will be made clear when the diaries are turned over to investigators.

Whatever the result of the investigation, it is time for it to be completed. Senators should vote to make Packwood turn over the diaries. By doing so, they can show they are serious about preventing sexual harassment in the highest levels of government.

OTHERS' VIEW

If history teaches us anything, it is that military force is not to be used half-heartedly. If U.S. soldiers are sent on foreign adventures, they better be allowed to use the necessary force to get the job done.

U.S. troops were sent to Haiti as part of a U.N. team to help Haiti move from a military dictatorship to a democracy with an elected president.

Violent mobs and ruthless soldiers clearly threatened the U.S. diplomats in Haiti and would endanger any U.S. military personnel sent to aid in Haiti's return to democracy.

Unfortunately, the U.S. soldiers scheduled to land in Haiti were given no power to protect themselves. Under Clinton's original orders, most would have been defenseless, and the few members that would have weapons would carry only light side arms.

There's one easy way to end the dictators' smugness. Assemble a large fleet off their coast. Invade Haiti like we invaded Panama. Crush all opposition. Arrest the military dictators. Install the democratically elected leader of Haiti by force.

This isn't a polite solution; it may not even be a practical one. But if we decide to use military force in Haiti, we better do it right. Gunboat diplomacy works only if we're willing to shoot.

Half-hearted military actions unwisely risk lives, prevent the United States from achieving its goals, and tarnish our military's reputation.

— The Daily Texan
The University of Texas

EDITORIAL POLICY

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"IS THIS MISSION HUMANITARIAN OR NATION-BUILDING?"

PAT HAMBRECHT

Random art thrives in Lincoln

Since Halloween 1990, Sludge has infected Tuesday's midnight airwaves with random music. Tonight is its three-year anniversary. The first time I tuned into 89.3's Sludge, I thought a raving schizophrenic woman had taken the KZUM-FM radio station hostage.

I had been flipping through the FM radio frequencies looking for one of the numerous yuppie jazz programs on public radio to mellow my mood with after a long day. I turned to KZUM and heard Sludge instead.

"How are you? How are you? How are you? How are you?" a woman screamed through my stereo. I waited for her to start singing. It didn't happen.

I listened to her babble and curse in a depraved singsong on the radio for 10 minutes. Then I called KZUM for an explanation.

"Are you playing a recording of a woman screaming?" I asked when someone answered the phone.

"She's singing," a man answered.

"What's she singing?" I asked.

"Silent Night," he said.

"Oh," I said. "Could you play 'Kentucky Rain' by Elvis Presley?"

"We'll try!" he promised, but never did. Instead the radio show called Sludge played disco, Nancy Sinatra and random car commercials, backward and forward, for the rest of the night. The more I listened, the more I loved it.

Two weeks later, I visited KZUM at midnight to watch the Sludge show happen. I met its creators, William "Vince" Berrigan, 28, and Bernie McGinn, 23.

Berrigan and McGinn were dressed in frumpy Ivy League clothing. They had huge, wild hair. Their appearance, laughing eyes and quick manner made them resemble members of an Albert Einstein cult.

Berrigan and McGinn began their show by playing three records simultaneously: a radio drama, a collection of spooky sound effects and a recording of a Christian children's show



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called "Amen!" featuring Erick the puppet.

They played the records backward and forward while occasionally introducing noise from other sources. Together, the records sounded like this:

"Today a woman asked me to kill her. I felt absurd just sitting there. Don't open your face, Peaches. Why is the church helpless? Hi, this is Jimmy Buffet, I can't stand the pain anymore. Today a woman asked me to kill her."

"Why do you play random recordings?" I asked them.

Berrigan answered, "It's kind of like a big melting pot, and it turns into this big Frankenstein of sound."

McGinn said, "Sometimes it works, and sometimes it's super-boring. There's an art to stitching it all together. It has merit as an art."

Berrigan said, "We find a record, drop a needle on it and somebody on the record will say something that's just totally out there."

I asked Berrigan if people were ever irritated by his show.

Berrigan said, "Once, we played a haunted house record with the sound of someone getting whipped next to a recording of Jimmy Swaggert praying. People heard it and thought it was blasphemy."

"But blasphemy is subjective," Berrigan said. "It's only blasphemy if you're a believer."

Whether Berrigan and McGinn are reckless blasphemers or music pioneers, they're not alone. Random music has a long tradition from mod-

ern bands like Negativland to pioneers like Aliester Crowley and Hugo Ball.

Ball was the founder of the Dadaist Random Movement. In an effort to destroy art, he would recite poems randomly or perform plays in three languages at once.

Sociological rebels like Malcolm McClaren used Ball's theories to create anti-art punk and the Sex Pistols. Virtually all new rock bands, from Nirvana to the Breeders, owe something to Ball.

Random music also has a long occult history. Aliester Crowley, nicknamed the "most evil man in the world," would tape random sounds and then listen to the tapes backward to hear the voices of the spirit world.

"All things satanic are inverted," said Jason Gildow, a UNL mystic scholar. "All satanic symbols are parodies of holy symbols, like the crucifix and holy communion."

The Beatles and Led Zeppelin used Crowley's inversion techniques to create reversed instrument effects and backtracking in the studio. The bands impact on rock music has spread Crowley's sound to the world.

Berrigan and McGinn are neither Dadaists nor Crowley students to my knowledge. But who cares? Whether freestyle musical stitching or satanic Dadaism, Sludge is still rock and roll to me.

Hambrecht is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Family values'

Thomas Eads' letter (DN, Oct. 29) claims society's ills are due to a departure from traditional, religious family values.

I disagree. The greed-based capitalistic system these upstanding families supported and gained from is the real problem, and it is meeting its demise. The rich are getting richer at the expense of the poor and middle classes. Frustration, violence and despair are the inevitable result in a money-oriented world where conformity is essential to success.

The minorities these fine religions oppressed for so long are rapidly becoming a majority. Homosexuals are

tired of hiding who they are. Women are tired of being cast into a role simply because Eve tempted Adam in the garden of Eden. Even many men no longer care to portray the unemotional, manly role these often dysfunctional families taught them. Many of us want to pursue our happiness and be ourselves, not conform to the appearance and thoughts of the religious right.

Jesus Christ made two main points in his life: love one another and do not judge, be tolerant. The pharisees and their followers were judgmental and intolerant, and Jesus was loving, accepting and hung out with sinners. This is why they killed him. No doubt he would be killed again today, for

people have not changed.

Paul Koester
senior
soil science

Death penalty

If Roger Bjorklund is found guilty, he should be put to death. This case is the best argument for the death penalty. It hits close to home. How can you not feel for the Harms family? Only through the execution of whomever is found guilty of this crime do I believe that Mr. and Mrs. Harms will feel any type of justice has occurred.

Mark D. Mercer
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