

# opinion

## Hatfield doesn't wash, as a Republican

Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield is a quirky sort of guy, at least for a Republican. Sometimes he just doesn't wash as a Republican. Not that lurking behind his moderate composure is a ranting and raving Democrat. Hatfield doesn't wash as a Democrat either.

Hatfield ended a ton of speculation by announcing on Friday he'd run for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate. There really were neither smoke-filled rooms, nor clandestine meetings — the intrigue over whether Hatfield would run was largely media made. He was silent — and if a politician is silent the media gets antsy and speculative.

Hatfield is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, arguably the most important committee in the Senate. Hatfield, since the death of Henry Jackson, D-Wash., is probably the most powerful U.S. Senator in the Northwest. Hatfield, after 33 years in public office, has reached the pinnacle of his career.

So why is Hatfield quirky? Because he reacts issue to issue. Where are the knee-jerk politicians of old?

In Silverton, where Hatfield traditionally stands to toss his hat into the ring, he reaffirmed his intentions to combat "chronic unemployment, rapidly depleting natural resources, crumbling public facilities, uncertainty in the financial markets and a cancerous arms race."

That's good stuff. Who wrote that?

Hatfield's position on nuclear weapons has set him at odds with the usual Republican ilk and the guy in the oval office who acts on behalf of the country.

In Eugene on Saturday, Hatfield said he and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass planned to introduce a nuclear freeze resolution as an amendment to the national debt ceiling. The bill goes before the Senate this week.

Kennedy and Hatfield, now there's a pair of strange bedfellows.

Hatfield is obviously pro-peace, anti-war, and yet has been staunchly anti-abortion. In fact, pro-choice groups have lumped Hatfield among Jesse Helms, R-N.C., Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and refer to them as the "4-H Club."

Not only is Hatfield rather quirky, he's weirdly anachronistic. While in Eugene Hatfield said Pres. Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower was the only president to understand the concept of national security in the nuclear age. Ike Eisenhower?

Hatfield went on to note that Ike, unlike most presidents, didn't fall under the sway of the Pentagon and "what Eisenhower so rightly labeled the military-industrial complex." It's a little late to pay heed to Eisenhower's warning — even if it may be true.

Ironically, Hatfield gets a better rating from the national liberal journals than from the national conservative journals. In the areas of economic, foreign and cultural issues, the liberal journals rate Hatfield exceptionally higher than the conservative journals.

Hatfield is quirky — admirably so. Oregon voters appreciate that. But don't consider his re-election a sure thing. There's a politician looming on the horizon who has made quite a name for herself and just might win Hatfield's Senate seat.

## Meetings may squash parking plan bugs

The West University Neighborhood parking plan is beginning to smell a little sweeter than before, if only because the city staff has been meeting with the local groups they'd previously overlooked.

All last week city staff held "advisory" meetings with University students, Sacred Heart Hospital employees and Bureau of Land Management employees. They were seeking solutions and that's a step in the right direction. The City Council will be reconsidering the parking plan Nov. 9.

We're still not wholly satisfied with the parking plan at present, but we'll reserve any endorsement or condemnation until we see if there are any positive changes as a result of the advisory meetings.



## letters

### Hello hello hello

After reading about "Ol Ma Bell's Divestiture" (Oct. 27) I was left with the impression that Pacific Northwest Bell has given up on any opportunity to avoid phone rate hikes. "We fought hard against the divestiture," according to PNB Public Relations Director Bruce Hall. But in the same article Hall is frustrated that Congress has recently delayed the implementation of access charges.

Though frustration on the part of the phone company may be justified, it is not reason enough to hurry up with the divestiture before the consequences are fully considered.

The goal of universal telephone service established by the Communications Act of 1934 is in great danger. In Michigan, AT&T's own figures indicate that a tripling of phone rates as proposed there would force 24 percent of Bell's customers to give up their phones. In the Telecommunications Act of 1982 (a bill which AT&T successfully lobbied against), it was stated that "over half of the elderly households who are living on the knife edge of poverty would be denied their lifeline to the outside world if the kind of cost increases we have heard about from the experts come true."

The U.S. telephone service in the past was the envy of all the world precisely because everyone was connected to the system. When one household loses a phone, a ripple effect spreads to everyone who might have needed to contact that household. The collective value of universal phone service cannot be measured. This is why another solution to local phone rate hikes must be found.

Fortunately, there are other options. First of all, the "subsidy"

which AT&T has paid to local operation companies in the past must be continued. This subsidy has been grossly mistitled. In actuality, the payment was a justified sharing of joint costs. Not just AT&T, but the other long distance companies should pay their share of the joint costs. The absence of this provision is not only unfair, but it endangers a half-century old commitment to universal phone access.

Before we hurriedly accept all proposed rate increases, the other options must be explored. The consequences of putting a large part of the population out of touch is too important to ignore.

Carol Benedick

### Start explaining

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* owes the student body, faculty and staff of the University two explanations.

First, the *Emerald's* Board of Directors needs to explain why it voted to remove me as a member of the Board without citing cause. The Board ignored the wishes of the student body by voting to expel the students' representative. Next year, it could vote to remove the student-at-large the day after that person is elected, and the Board appoints the replacement. The Board admitted that my involvement with *Oregon Commentator* does not constitute a conflict of interest or breach of ethics, by failing to remove Richard Burr, editor and president of the *Commentator*, and by not voting at all on whether two other Board members' appointments involved conflicts of interest. The Board admitted Burr and I were being singled out.

By voting on whether to remove Burr, an ASUO presidential appointee, and me, the Board callously ignored the wishes of the student body. By removing me only, it showed its motives were purely personal and political, and admitted that it can't accept alternative viewpoints or criticism, all charges Board members did not contest. As for me, I had intended to resign anyway.

Second, the newspaper staff needs to explain why the Board vote wasn't mentioned in the paper until at least 4½ days later. Is it not newsworthy that a body essentially impeached and removed, without citing cause, an elected public servant?

If the *Emerald* wants to be so independent of students, it can send back the Incidental Fee Committee's huge check and not ask for another one.

Dane Claussen  
senior, journalism

### Gets bothered

I would like to respond to Sterling Coke's very pertinent question concerning the responsibility of elected officials to their constituents.

Yes, Coke, it does bother me when those "we" select to office don't express "our" views. However, I have a feeling that your young Republican ideology differs radically from the beliefs of most students on campus. We have at this University a student government that is politically motivated in a humanitarian and concerned fashion. As a general rule, the ASUO is doing a fine job of expressing my views, and I hope it continues on the political course it has taken.

While on the subject of elected officials, let us consider our man behind the wheel in Washington. Aside from drastically affecting the lives of his own people (an accepted and almost unavoidable phenomena in all societies), Pres. Ronald Reagan has taken it upon himself to dictate morality to a major portion of the world. I am speaking here of the recent U.S. invasion of Grenada, as well as the CIA's "covert funds" fueling a reactionary war against a people struggling for survival in Nicaragua. I encourage you, Coke, and anyone interested in a first-hand account of the situation in Nicaragua to attend a presentation by the Oregon Women's Delegation which recently visited that war-torn nation.

I feel obliged also to mention something about Reagan's intent to place Pershing missiles in Western Europe. More than a million western Europeans participated in demonstrations this past week in response to "our" president's go ahead for the project. It is obvious that such a decision can only increase world tension and further escalate an already out-of-control arms race... and who gave Reagan the right to so omnipotently control the destiny of so many million human beings throughout the world? The American people did, and it is time that we as a collective entity repeal that right. Those directly affected by American policies abroad have very little choice in the matter. Politicians are swayed by public outcry; it is time that we cry out against the violence perpetuated by our elected officials against the people of Nicaragua, Grenada, and Western Europe, as well as elsewhere around the globe.

One last point, Coke: I do respect the fact that you've taken the time to express your views.

Randall Harbour

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