

editorial

Right-wing senators are violating a trust

The right-wing of the Republican Party is at it again. It was announced earlier this week that three conservative, Republican senators — Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala.; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; and John East, R-N.C. — recently sent a questionnaire to a nominee for a federal judgeship. The candidate, Joseph P. Rodriguez of New Jersey, was asked to state his opinion on 22 issues, including the death penalty, school prayer, the right to bear arms, the equal rights amendment, affirmative action and busing. Rodriguez was also asked to list his membership in political organizations as well as itemize all political contributions he has made during the past 10 years.

The three senators, who are members of the Senate Judiciary Committee — the committee that initially approves appointments to the federal judicial system — plan to use Rodriguez's responses as a litmus test, by which they will determine his qualifications for the federal appointment. The questionnaire comes at a time when there are 115 vacant federal judgeships.

Although senators have in the past tried to determine the political orientation of potential federal judicial appointees, there has rarely ever been such a blatant attempt to appoint judges who espouse a specific political philosophy. A judge should be both flexible and impartial in interpreting legal questions. But the Republican triumvirate wishes to ensure that no federal judge will be appointed who strays from the tenets of the 1980 and 1984 Republican Party Platforms.

Denton and East made a similar attempt in 1981 to establish a litmus for a judicial appointment, during Sandra Day O'Connor's confirmation hearings for her appointment to the Supreme Court. But rather than respond to their questioning she said, "Such a statement by me as to how I might resolve a particular issue or what I might do in a future court action might make it necessary for me to disqualify myself."

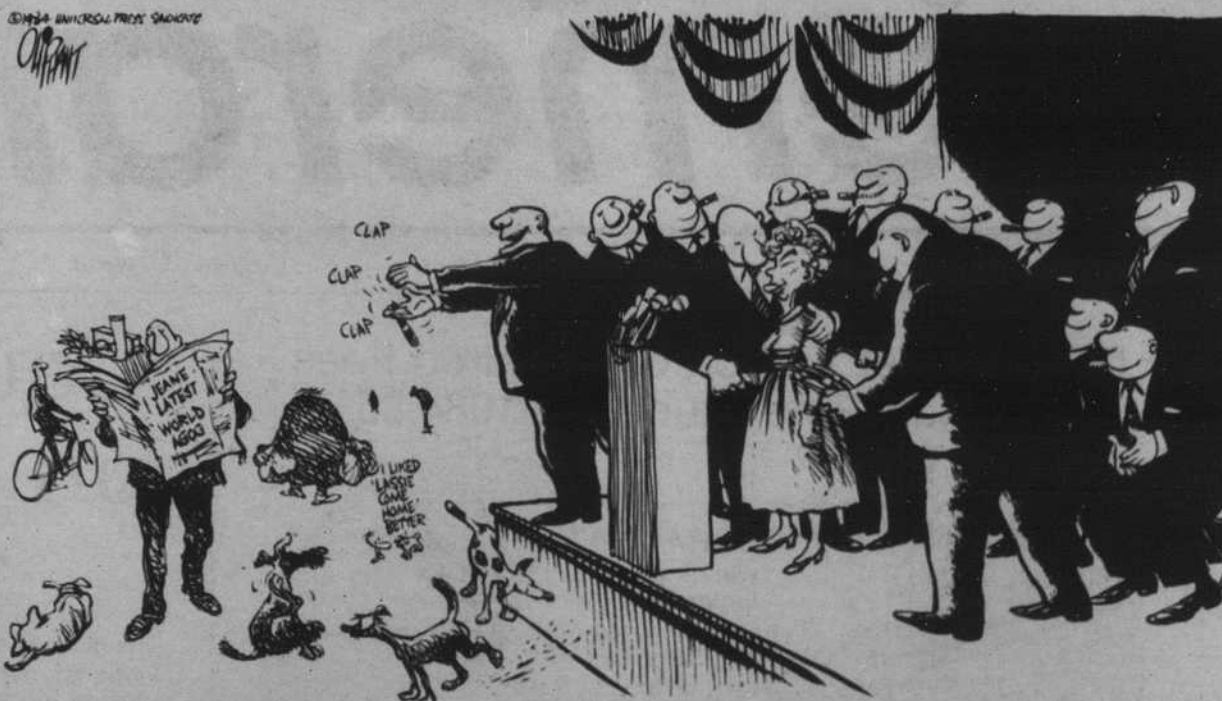
If the sanctity of the judicial system is to be preserved, efforts such as that being undertaken by the three Republican senators should be rejected by their colleagues. The qualifications of a judge should not be determined by his or her club memberships or political affiliations. Rather, the quality of a judge should be determined by his or her knowledge of legal precedent, current law, judicial procedure, and the ability to fairly hear cases with far reaching implications. A judgeship should not be a political appointment, but instead it should be an appointment that is based solely on merit.

New frat policy is a plus for the Eugene community

In response to a number of incidences involving fraternity members, the University's Greek system will initiate a new program this weekend. The program will require University students to show identification before they will be admitted to Greek functions. Anyone who wishes to attend a function will be required to register on a guest list. The Greek policy is an attempt by members of the Interfraternity Council to acknowledge the responsibility that fraternities have for the actions of guests who attend their parties.

Fraternity and sorority members should be applauded for their acceptance of this social responsibility. As members of the Eugene community they should continue to ensure that their members and guests will obey the law and protect the rights of those who live within their neighborhoods.

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"OK, IT'S OFFICIAL, FOLKS! JEANIE KIRKPATRICK HAS JOINED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—LET'S HAVE A BIG HAND FOR THE LITTLE LADY, FOLKS! C'MON, LET'S HEAR IT FOR JEANIE, A GREAT GAL! YEAAA."

letters

For Munion

When Edmund Burke said "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing," I doubt he was specifically referring to the University campus elections. But even so, it is gratifying to see good men running for offices in our own little government.

In particular, I am pleased to see Ron Munion throwing his hat in the ring for a position on SUAB.

Having known Ron pretty well the past year, I can attest to his leadership and organizational abilities. Whenever something needs to be done, Ron is always there to create order from chaos and unity from strife.

He subscribes to the theory of leadership that says "don't just give orders — real leaders have to work harder than anyone else". He is always the first one on a job and the last one off.

A well-rounded person, Ron has the insight and ability needed to work with people from every background. He listens and understands problems and suggests solutions without being judgmental.

In short, I think he's the kind of man we need to have on SUAB. When election day comes and it is your turn to vote, remember the words of Edmund Burke and cast your ballot for Ron Munion — he can do the job.

Clint Kaster
Journalism

For Bilyeu

I am writing this letter to draw attention to an error made somewhere in the ASUO elections publicity.

My name is Becky Bilyeu and I am not only running for a position on ASPAC, I am also running as an SPA endorsed, write-in for the journalism seat on SUAB. My name has only appeared once in the Emerald, and it was under the ASPAC list. However, I am most definitely interested in the SUAB position, and would like to draw the attention of my journalism peers to no. 6 on the ballot, (note I am running as a write-in).

At the moment, SUAB (Student University Advisory Board) has a low self-concept and often talks about abolishing itself. This move is unnecessary and very harmful to the students here at the University.

I feel SUAB has definite potential and power that shouldn't be wasted. With the right people who are willing to push and work hard, SUAB can accomplish a lot.

Some major issues I'm concerned with are campus safety, a need for more creative cluster options — such as women's and minority studies, and basic physical needs of the campus — such as more bike racks and ramps on the sidewalks.

I know as a pre-journalism major I still have a lot to learn about the School of Journalism, but on the whole I feel I have a lot to offer the students at the University, if I am elected.

Becky Bilyeu
Pre-Journalism

Outrageous

I am outraged that Ron Munion would lie to the students in his letter (ODE April 11). Ron alleges that I appear in a photo at a military protest. I was not at the rally and have never attended any of these protests.

Ron either did not care to get his facts correct in his attempt to slander me or does not know what I look like (which seems odd since we have had classes together). I must say that I am disappointed in Ron for his lack of concern for proper information.

I had previously given him credit for having some integrity and political intelligence, but I see that was a mistake. In his attempt to slander me and spout off his rendition of my lack of concern for students' rights to alternative lifestyles, Ron clearly demonstrates his desire to convey information to suit his needs, not the students.

I believe this demonstration of deception and ignorance on Ron's part is clearly an indication of the type of SUAB representative he would be. By feeding false information to students cloaked in his pseudo-humanitarian concerns is very indicative of Ron's style.

I believe his concern for students and alternative lifestyles runs about as deep as a creek in the summer.

I challenge Ron to a discussion on alternative lifestyles and general student rights for the campus to see, allowing them to make their choice in determining who is the real student representative.

Donna Lawrence
Candidate for SUAB no. 4

oregon daily emerald

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.