

Editorial

Precautions assure fair election results

As the elections draw to a close this evening, questions about the ballot counting arise. Last year controversy developed because 50-60 percent of the ballot counters were affiliated with SPA. The potential for two SPA members to be paired to count ballots and to manipulate the process was apparent to Doug Green, former vice president of the Student Senate. He compared the situation to Ferdinand Marcos' efforts in the Philippines elections.

Fortunately the Election Board has taken several precautions to prevent any similar controversy from arising this year. Two new safety measures have been added to the counting process.

Although the people counting the ballots have not been selected yet, each member of the board will submit a list of potential counters. These individuals will be screened by the board today and must be approved by a consensus. The board members are looking for people with no political affiliation.

Once the counting starts, the counters will tally the ballots then place them in a bag. The bag will be sealed and marked with the number of the ballot box the ballots came from and the names of the people who counted the ballots. This will allow officials to pinpoint any errors if a challenge arises.

Aside from these two new procedures, the candidates are allowed to send one representative into the counting room. The Oregon Commentator and the Oregon Daily Emerald also will have representatives there. These representatives can act as watchdogs and prevent any cheating.

The Elections Board has taken strong precautions against any wrong-doings in this year's elections. This year's ballot counting should be clean and fair.

Rapist's release reflection of prison reform problems

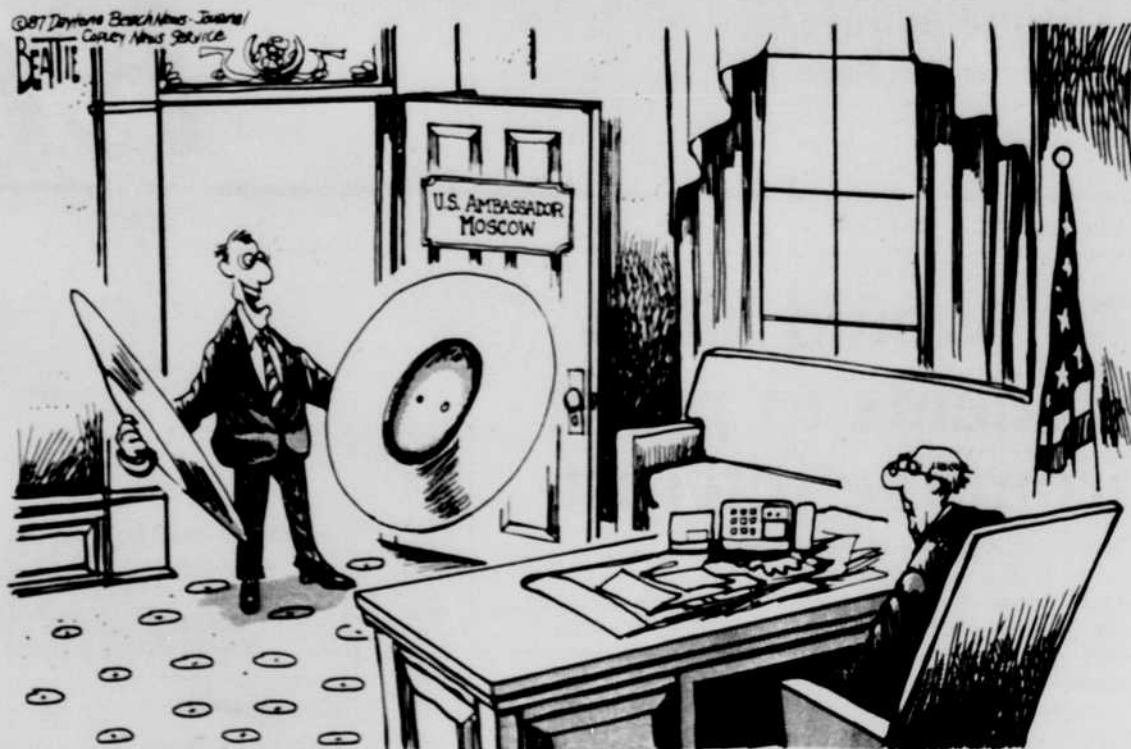
Lawrence Singleton is being released from jail after serving only seven years of his 14-year-and-four-month sentence. He will live in Antioch, Calif. Considering his crime, however, the people of Antioch are justified in their fears.

After picking up a 15-year-old hitchhiker, Singleton brutally raped the girl, cut off her arms below the elbows and left her to die beside the road. He was convicted of the crime, but is being released early for good behavior and community service.

Singleton will receive psychiatric counseling and is forbidden from drinking alcohol. But the police of Antioch are now worried about vigilante action against Singleton. The problem with this man's release lies not only in the chance he will rape again, but the fact he was let out after serving less than half of his sentence.

Granted, America's penal system is far from perfect. Jails are overcrowded already and something needs to be done. But releasing a criminal who has committed such a brutal and vicious crime as this one, is unjustifiable.

Our penal system must be enforced to provide a sense of safety to society. Releasing violent criminals after only seven years is not the answer.



"It's a counterespionage technique... first you whisper about SDI so they turn up their earphones..."

Letters

Playground slap

I want to comment on the irresponsibility demonstrated by Kimberly Sargent in her letter to the editor (ODE, April 14). Sargent's portrayal of the CSRL coalition is not only completely inaccurate; it is underhanded and rude!

I'd like to think that the majority of students regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations would never resort to such degrading and irresponsible political tactics.

CSRL is a coalition of a very diverse group of students. It does not accredit itself with any political ideologies or biases. The group's central bond is simply its responsible approach to student government. CSRL is not reactionary and is nowhere close to being "extremely right wing," as Sargent asserts.

Let's get serious Miss Sargent! Play the game fair or GET OUT! I also sincerely hope that Sargent's slanderous tactics are not representative of other SPA members.

Miss Sargent: take your playground politics elsewhere and please get some class!

Cory Wynne
Student senator

Hysteria

Ms. Sargent, congratulations. Your attempt to discredit and incite paranoia about CSRL was very creative (ODE, April 14). You have proved yourself to be a master of falsehood and fabrication. Perhaps I can help you remove your blinders.

CSRL is not affiliated with any political ideology. Our members encompass the political spectrum, and we share a common belief that Suite 4 is an improper vehicle for partisan/personal politics.

Never have we advocated "slashing" or "eliminating" student programs. We encourage diversity of all kinds, and believe that funding decisions should never be based on politics. Narrow-mindedness cannot be tolerated from any political viewpoint.

While Sargent accurately pointed out that I was a cheerleader, she conveniently failed to mention that I am a law student who graduated with a double major in international studies and French. Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. My numerous activities included Mortar Board, ASPAC and vice president of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

My running mate, Karen Gaffney, to name just one qualification, is currently EMU Board chairwoman and has dealt with a budget of over \$3.5 million. I would certainly call that experience.

To label us right wing was about as far off target as you can aim. But then it seems to me you were aiming blinded with misinformed hysteria. All of our candidates have a commitment to responsive leadership. This can only be accomplished by eliminating personal politics as a substitute for student government.

For innovative representation, vote Brooks/Gaffney and CSRL.

Kasey Brooks
ASUO presidential candidate

Just wondering

We, the editorial staff of the Oregon Commentator, wonder how much time and effort the Emerald devoted to due process before making its ASUO presidential endorsement.

The Frichette/Cooper agenda is not "stale," as the editorial claims.

Among Frichette's goals are making Saferide more self-sufficient by renting the vans to groups for daytime use, making the ASUO publication, The Record, an independent student paper, and most important, changing the tone of the ASUO Executive to be more casual and accommodating.

In addition, we feel that Frichette's emphasis on substance abuse training is well advised. Substance abuse is a national epidemic, and one that greatly affects the campus community. The Greeks are addressing the problem, and being vice president of the Interfraternity Council, Frichette is knowledgeable about the policies the Greek system has implemented. We are sorry the Emerald finds this issue "uninspiring."

We also are surprised the Emerald criticized Kasey Brooks for having ties with the Athletic Department. How is this a conflict of interest — or more so than Sarah Lachkar's ties to SPA? Let us remind the Emerald and all concerned that the Athletic Department's budget is determined by the Incidental Fee Committee, or by popular vote — not by the ASUO president.

Both Frichette and Brooks are highly qualified candidates. The choice is not an easy one. We hope those truly concerned about student government will take the time to become familiar with the candidates and issues before making their decisions.

Duane Dungannon
Oregon Commentator

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