

# Editorial

## Bad news for Hart, but campaign is new

All political candidates enjoy the limelight of media attention, but presidential hopeful Gary Hart is getting more than he bargained for.

A report of Hart's possible tryst with an actress, published in Sunday's Miami Herald — and subsequently picked up by virtually every major paper in the country — has the Democratic front-runner backpedaling to regain lost political ground.

The story brings to the surface questions regarding Hart's judgment, the role of the press in pursuing such a sensitive and personal story, and the impact it will have on his campaign.

The Miami Herald reported Hart and Donna Rice, an actress from Miami, entered Hart's Washington, D.C., town house last Friday night and didn't come out until Saturday. Hart and Rice have denied any moral wrongdoing, and both claim their relationship is strictly professional.

The report has renewed the womanizing issue that has dogged Hart since he announced his candidacy last month.

Yet Hart and his campaigners claim the story was built on a shaky foundation; citing that the reporters who tailed Hart did not cover the town house's rear door, which Rice said she left through Friday night.

Whether or not Rice spent the night, Hart still demonstrated an incredible lack of foresight and poor judgment by allowing himself to be put in this situation.

Hart is well aware of the womanizing issue, and this latest episode has fanned the flames of innuendo, which can only hurt his campaign.

Many may condemn the Herald's reporting of this incident as an invasion of privacy. But this type of coverage is valid in order to hold candidates accountable to their words. Hart has claimed to be an upstanding family man.

Moreover, Hart brought the scrutiny on himself when he challenged the press in a New York Times Magazine interview to follow him around.

Tired of the womanizing issue, Hart stated, "If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'd be very bored."

However poor Hart's judgment was, The Miami Herald also has some atoning to do. The story was legitimate, but the reporting was a bit shoddy.

The Herald's investigations editor admitted in the New York Times that between 11 p.m. Friday and midnight, only one reporter was viewing the front of Hart's residence while the back was left unobserved. Between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. Saturday no reporters were on the scene.

With such a sensitive issue, The Herald should have stationed someone at the rear entrance. Similarly, the paper should have obtained more substantial evidence that there was a tryst before printing the story. The Herald was the only paper privy to this scoop, so time was on its side.

Although this is a setback for Hart, he can comfort himself with the fact he is still the Democratic front-runner. He may even benefit from "the sympathy effect" if The Herald's report proves to be shot with inaccuracies.

Better news yet for Hart is that it's still very early in the campaign, and America has a notoriously short memory.



## Letters

### It's a shame

As a participant and observer in the political realm on this campus, I find Jodie Mooney's statements (ODE, April 29) to be not only appalling, but unfounded as well.

First, I note a disparity in her numbers. She claims it was the athletes who voted Brooks/Gaffney into office. Funny, but the Athletic Department informed me that there are about 400 athletes. This can only mean that the other 1,000 voters are not athletes.

Secondly, it seems only natural to me that students vote for candidates who they believe will best represent their interests. As 1,427 people expressed that concern and voted for Lachkar, so did the 1,621 voting for Brooks. It was not only athletes. It was me and 1,100 other students voicing a concern.

The most abhorrent comment Mooney made, "I believe the students who voted for us were the mature, concerned students of this campus... I cannot respect the intelligence of the voters who voted for them (Brooks/Gaffney)," besides having offended 1,621 student voters, makes me wonder exactly how representative Lachkar and Mooney would have been, had they been elected, of these "immature, unconcerned and unintelligent" students!

Likewise, Jodie, isn't the term "unconcerned" more appropriately applied to those students who did not vote? Voting, in and of itself, is an act of concern.

While I still hold firm to my political convictions, I wonder what happened to Students for a Progressive Agenda and their main goal of representing all students, regardless of personal opinion. To me, it's a shame.

Laura Romano  
EMU Board

### Poor treatment

Whereas I respect the rights of groups to defend and protect from distortion and abuse those traditions they revere, I am dismayed by the treatment of Norma Cordell by the Coalition of Women of Color.

Ms. Cordell integrates spiritual teaching from a variety of cultures and eras to communicate their basic point of commonality — that the distress of the earth and its people today is a reflection of the separateness and pain we all hold within us.

Ms. Cordell teaches and guides individuals to release that pain so that they and the earth can begin to be healed.

Ms. Cordell has been leading workshops, counseling and teaching in this area for 10 years, is accessible to the public and willing to listen and communicate.

If the coalition truly believes that Ms. Cordell is falsely representing Native American traditions, why haven't they approached her before this, and why did they wait for a public forum to air their concerns?

As it was, the coalition's ac-

tions were far more focused on discrediting Ms. Cordell than in investigating whether she is actually dishonoring sacred traditions in her work.

It is unfortunate that we as women perpetuate the curse of fear and suspicion that feeds today's dominant military cultures. I hope that this experience brings us closer to a more fruitful means to settle our differences and further the uniting of peoples of the earth.

Alice Tallmadge  
Eugene

### May Day

Let me see if I have understood the May 1 front-page story correctly:

This university, an agency of the state of Oregon, supported by the taxpayers of this state, not to mention a recipient of federal funds, is going to charge fees according to the race of the student.

This was some kind of May Day joke, right?

Joseph W. Dehn III  
Eugene

### Stay in class

A few words about the Eugene teachers' strike.

It's nice to know the Eugene teachers are standing up for their right to bargain for whatever it is they want, but it would also be nice for their students if they would do their bargaining in the classroom.

I came from a school district in which the teachers continued to teach while they were bargaining for better pay. They did this twice and they got what they wanted.

Striking is an effective tool for laborers to bargain with management, but not in education. Auto workers can strike for a couple of weeks and no cars will be made. The workers will get what they want, and management will lose money. In education, the students lose. Let's face it. You didn't get into teaching to become rich; you did it to help the students.

Patrick Alan Perkins  
Undeclared

Thursday, May 7, 1987

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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