

EDITORIAL

Two parties do not satisfy constituents

The Oregon Student Lobby made an error by omitting independent and Libertarian candidates from its voter guide this year.

Libertarians and independents are usually not given much of a chance to win elections in the United States. We pride ourselves on having a two-party system.

The United States is hung up on the number "two" when it comes to parties. This perpetuates the fallacy that there are only two worthy candidates in any race.

Candidates that are not Democrats or Republicans are generally regarded as out of the mainstream and, therefore, not legitimate alternatives as legislators. Democrats and Republicans control our country's Congress. Given our country's problems — and the lack of solutions for them — other parties deserve to be recognized as alternatives.

These days most Democrats and Republicans increasingly rely on political action committee money to survive. Third-party candidates do not receive these donations because studies show that PAC groups tend to support sure winners so they can receive political considerations after the elections.

Twice in the past 22 years, independent candidates have played influential roles in presidential elections.

In 1968 George Wallace ran as an independent candidate and received about 20 percent of the popular vote. Some analysts believe this enabled Republican Richard Nixon to defeat the official Democratic candidate, Hubert Humphrey, because Wallace was a Democrat.

In 1980 John Anderson ran as an independent and received 6 percent of the vote. Ronald Reagan still won the presidency, but Anderson's tally was a significant number of votes for an independent.

Western European countries have as many as 20 parties participating in their governments. In the United States, third parties must work extra hard to receive the same coverage as the "Big Two."

Millions of Americans don't vote in elections because two candidates do not satisfy everyone's views. It's time to give equal voice to lesser-known parties so that all people can feel comfortable casting a vote.

It's up to the media, citizen groups and students to listen and actively involve other parties in the political debate.

RIVERZ



Nobel Peace Prize finds real winner

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to a truly deserving recipient this year. Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts have boosted the potential for peace on a global scale.

He has changed the character of East-West relations, allowed revolutions to take place in Eastern Bloc countries, ended a war in Afghanistan and has begun to free the Soviet people from their chains of repression.

Despite the dramatic changes in which he has played important roles, there are still those who feel he does not deserve the award, citing problems remaining in the Soviet Union.

Ethnic feuding and struggles for independence are troubling issues in the Soviet Union. But it is important to remember that without Gorbachev's reforms, these conflicts might not have been permitted to occur.

Soviet citizens who are critical of Gorbachev should keep in mind that with change and reform comes a certain amount of hardship.

It is also interesting to see how quickly

people forget. Critics should remember that if it were not for reforms instituted by Gorbachev, they could be hauled off to the gulag for criticisms they now make freely. In fact, citizens who still refuse to give their last names to reporters exemplify the lingering effects of previous restraints.

Although the economy is still suffering, the Soviet Union is a much freer society.

Some experts claim Gorbachev is not responsible for reforms that have taken place in his country. These critics say he only reacted to pressures from the masses.

But there are two roads the Soviet leader could have taken. Rather than allowing gradual change, he could have taken the hard line and tried to stifle the urge for freedom. This could have resulted in a bloody civil war.

Even discounting his overtures for peace toward the West, his handling of the potentially violent situation in his own country is enough to earn him the peace prize.

LETTERS

Coke is it

Coca-Cola is one of several United States companies that have ostensibly sold their interests in South Africa. It continues to do business, however, in the land of apartheid.

Did the decision makers who awarded the University's soft drinks contract to this company consider this fact?

Jiffin Arboleda
Journalism

Not elite

In one swell foop last Saturday, the University was brought to its knees and, I am hopeful, to its senses. The University of Washington, which has long been able to afford better players, has put us in our place. Even worse, the lowly Beavers are now ahead of us in Pac-10 standings as a result of their one win this season (I don't need to add comment to the fact they tore down the goal post after the game) because their win counted.

Perhaps now we, as a university, can get past this ludicrous annual exercise in Rose Bowl fantasy and player idolization

(enough of the "air Bill" chants; he's just an average quarterback, not the messiah) and get a handle on our true place in sports.

As a member of the Pac-10, the University is merely fodder, along with Cal, Stanford, ASU and WSU (the Beavers don't even count as that respectable) during football season. Wake up and smell the bed sheets — we're not that good. Beating San Diego State, Idaho and Utah State doesn't count for squat. So the "fighting Ducks" are a lousy Oh-and-two! team — BYU was fun, but they aren't in the league.

I will root like hell at Autzen come Saturday, but I will not be deceived. The Ducks are my favorites; we're not among the elite.

J. Taylor
History Graduate Student

Only guarantee

Kelly Mattern wrote (ODE, Oct. 10) it won't matter whether Derek Horton is innocent because after the *Emerald's* article, he will be "branded a sex offender," which she believes will hurt him.

Hurt what? His reputation? I think it's unlikely Horton will suffer emotionally from the publicity. And socially? Will his friends think less of him? No!

Perhaps some women would recognize him and be afraid. You claimed you'd be one of them. I say Horton would suffer no more than other men from a general awareness among women that "some men can't be trusted."

You said it's wrong that you would be frightened if you were to meet Horton. I think it's wrong that you *should* be frightened.

The difference is, when you know a man is capable of rape, you are afraid. But when you believe a man is not capable of rape, you can relax, right?

Wrong! The only guarantee (if one exists) that you will not be raped is to be afraid — of all men. That is wrong.

Most of us take our chances, of course. Many women, including myself, don't want to be separate from men; we don't want to appear to be against men. But the fact is, men are forcing women to doubt and fear.

Horton won't be any worse off. But what about the many women on campus who are raped by men whose names and photos we'll never see?

Consider who the *Emerald* might be helping.

Jennifer Rothstein
Journalism/Psychology

Ad scams

Is anyone else out there disgusted by Mark Hatfield's new stance as an environmentalist?

While his recent television ad boasts that he is tough on toxic waste, in 1980 Hatfield voted for an amendment to slash the Superfund from \$4.1 billion to \$1.6 billion.

In 1982 he voted against increased funding for the administration and enforcement of toxic dump cleanup.

And in 1986 Hatfield voted to table an amendment to increase outlays for the Superfund cleanup program.

Furthermore, he has received substantial contributions from Martin Marietta Aluminum and Gould Inc., both creators of Superfund sites in Oregon.

Don't fall for this ad scam. Year after year Senator Hatfield has worked to gut pro-environment legislation. The League of Conservation Voters rates Hatfield's environmental voting record at 46 percent — nothing to be proud of.

Vote for Harry Lonsdale if you care about the health and natural beauty of Oregon. Harry truly is an environmentalist — and he's in touch with Oregonians.

Nena Lovinger
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.