

'Marketing technique' was just simple fraud

Don't look for state Sen. Peg Jolin, D-Cottage Grove, to be teaching any business or economics classes at the University; not with the way her "marketing techniques" have backfired.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission concluded there was a "strong and clear appearance" that Jolin used her political office for personal gain when she mailed a letter to constituents, asking for money to repair her pickup truck.

In the letter, Jolin claimed her campaign was \$10,000 in debt, and the truck was damaged while her husband Dennis was putting up campaign signs. Later Jolin admitted her coffers had a \$28,000 surplus, but defended the letter, calling the slightly shady tactic a "marketing technique."

Call it a misrepresentation of facts, or any other euphemism you wish. But bluntly stated, Jolin duped her constituency. Whether the letter slipped through an elections-law loophole is not the point. Legally, Jolin may not have done anything wrong — that is up to a court and the state Elections Division to decide. But ethically, Jolin was false to her constituency.

The Ethics Commission meets next Tuesday, and could possibly rule on the incident. If Jolin is found guilty, she faces a possible \$1,000 civil fine — a slap on the wrist, but it's something.

'I could have gone back there and used the bathroom as you suggest, but I would much rather take a dump in the woods.'

— Dennis Jolin

Jolin's troubles may not end there. Secretary of State Phil Keisling has asked the attorney general's office to convene a grand jury to indict Jolin on breaking Oregon's undue influence law. So far, that hasn't happened.

The mini-scandal is not without its comic elements, most of which have been provided by Jolin's husband. Dennis Jolin told the Ethics Commission investigator he had been putting up campaign signs in Cottage Grove when he rolled the pickup, but a tow-truck driver put the scene of the accident several miles away on a seldom-used logging road.

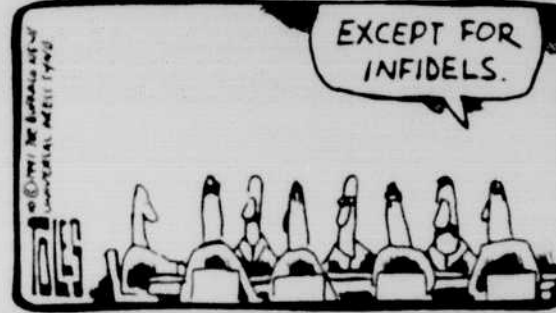
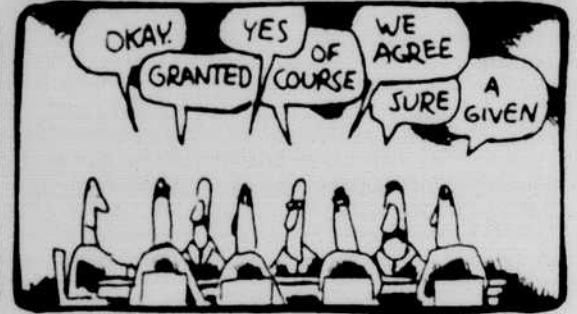
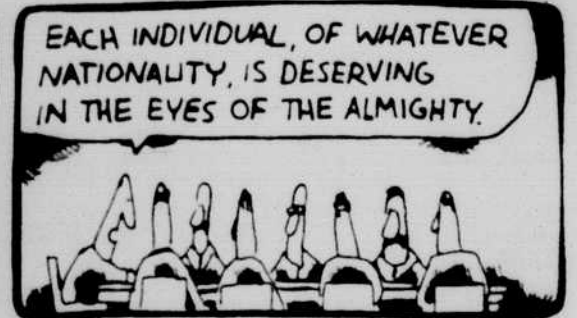
Dennis Jolin explained he had driven up the logging road in search of a bathroom. When confronted with the fact that there were several public restrooms much closer to Cottage Grove than the logging road, Jolin responded with one of the more colorful quotes ever to appear in the local press (*Register-Guard*, Oct. 29):

"I could have gone back there and used the bathroom as you suggest, but I would much rather take a dump in the woods."

When compared to Watergate, Teapot Dome, Credit Mobilier and other great, historical scandals, Jolingate isn't even in the running. But it should be important to Cottage Grove voters.

Hitting up constituents for money is a necessary part of life for lawmakers, but there should be some way of preventing them from misstating facts in doing so.

In the real world, such actions would be deemed fraud. Let's see what the Ethics Commission and the Elections Division calls it.



LETTERS

Stupid taxpayer

Your editorial "No one watching ..." (*ODE*, Oct. 16) is good and cynical — it appears that America is waking up from its strange love affair with a singularly cold president. This great "popularity" poll (popular with whom? OCA?) seems quite unreal.

With the insane deficit climbing daily higher, the economy is in shambles, but does he care? The deficit includes such items as our dirty "off-budget" war we so gloriously won, as well as the ongoing S&L scandals (now also banks) with their assets sold off at bargain prices.

Who suffers? The stupid taxpayer!

Then there is the continued arms production (our "durable goods"), nuclear and all, even though there is no enemy and we have enough on hand to blow up the world a million times over.

But then, it keeps Bush cronies happy! Then add to the debt the constant loss in the Forest Service where mad road-building consumes more money than is generated by timber sales; these are bargain basement for Japan.

Do we have problems? The prez is busy traveling while our cities are going bankrupt.

Hilde K. Cherry

Eugene

Caddyshack?

In regard to the letter from

the little boy in Texas (*ODE*, Oct. 28) who wanted postcards from our "beautiful city" for his classroom wall, I have only one thing to say: You'll get nothing and like it.

John Borgonovo
History

Submit

At this moment the International Student Association is putting a newsletter together for fall term. In this newsletter we want to represent all students and their ideas. Therefore, we would like to hear from you about upcoming or past events, topics that may be of interest to foreign students and staff, or just an expression of your creativity. We would like to circulate this newsletter as soon as possible. The deadline for the material is Nov. 6.

Please mail your submission to the ISA office, EMU — Suite 206, and remember, ISA is not only for foreign students!

Lisette Sens
Student

For the glory

In response to Heatherle Himes' letter (*ODE*, Oct. 25): I took her advice and went to thank my local police officer for laying down his life in my service. But as I crossed the street to weep tears of gratitude

onto his feet, the slinky pus monkey gave me a ticket for jaywalking.

That made me think: I'm paying this glorified meter maid's salary through my tax dollars, and what service do I get in return? He protects me by ticketing jaywalkers? Now, I know that not a day goes by when someone isn't brutally maimed or robbed by these jaywalkers, and that each ticket handed out means that there is one more jaywalker who'll think twice before they hurt anyone again, but isn't there a better way that our tax dollars could be spent?

I mean these cops that spend all day doing nothing but catching harmless students en route to class shouldn't even be trusted with pointy scissors, much less a gun.

And to be perfectly frank, I would feel better if my tax dollars were spent on getting pigs and cattle roaringly drunk on the most expensive wine in town. At least then I wouldn't be paying for officer Barney Fife's professional wrestling tickets on weekends.

So next time you see a policeman ticketing a victimless offense, stand directly behind him and mimic his actions for the amusement of passers-by. It may not be mature, but it makes me feel better.

Mark Anthony Russell
Eugene

