

# Ain't nothin' but an Elvis stamp

Well, the people down at the U.S. Postal Service have finally done something right.

Go ahead, try and guess.

No, it's not another postage raise. Something better. The postmaster general, with much fanfare and flourish, unveiled last week two possible versions of a new Elvis Presley stamp.

*Awright!*

Now that's something we can all be happy about. The King of Rock n' Roll will soon grace the upper right-hand corner of love notes, phone bills and yes, maybe even letters to the editor at this very newspaper.

The King's stamp is a long time in coming. Those American flag stamps are getting boring and staid. Elvis on a stamp is exactly what this country needs to get itself out of this postal rut.

After all, if you can't lick the back of Elvis' face and slap it on a Christmas card, what good is the postal system?

However, the best thing about the Elvis stamp is there are two possibilities to choose from — the Young Elvis and the Old Elvis (hereafter referred to as YE and OE).

From this corner, YE is the choice. If this nation is going to commemorate the King, the stamp should reflect him at his best. The YE stamp conjures up those irreplaceable memories of gyrating hips, weird hairdos and those bad Elvis movies where the cast would break into song without due cause or provocation.

By comparison, the OE stamp only brings back the King's final nightmare years, unless you're a tabloid reader who thinks Elvis is alive and working as a fry cook in Utica, NY.

Do we want to remember Elvis as a bloated, neurotic drug user? Of course we don't.

Go down to the post office. Vote for the YE stamp.

It's what the King would have wanted.

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The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community.

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

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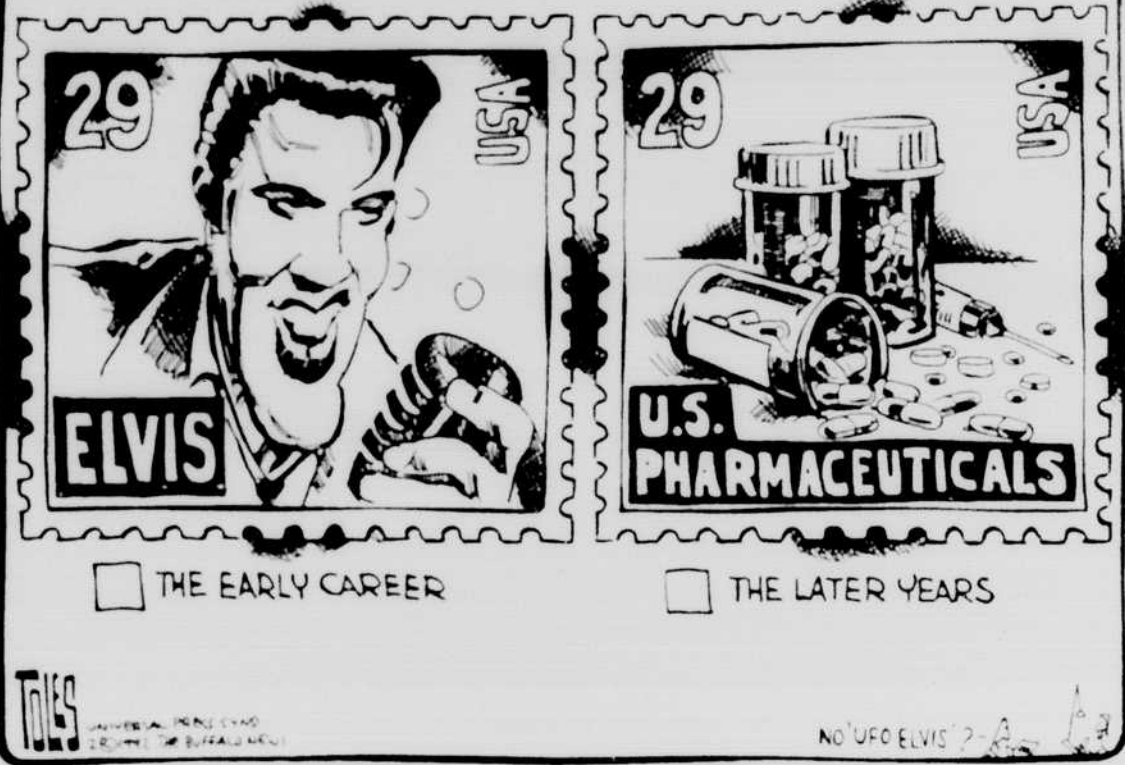
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## CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR THE ELVIS STAMP



## OPINION

# Primaries: Silly, agonizing ordeal

**THE FINE PRINT**  
 BY DON PETERS

OK, for anybody who hasn't watched the news or read a paper in the last couple of weeks, here's a rundown of recent presidential primaries.

First the Democrats. Paul Tsongas won New Hampshire and Maine (barely), but slipped in South Dakota and finished out of the money.

Bob Kerrey finished back in the pack early on, but rebounded in South Dakota to win.

Tom Harkin took second in South Dakota, but is considered a dropout-in-waiting.

Jerry Brown gave Tsongas a race in Maine, but the "Moonbeam" campaign has been unsuccessful everywhere else.

Bill Clinton, the darling candidate, hasn't won a thing.

Now for the Republicans. George Bush won both primaries, but Pat Buchanan (the political equivalent of a pit bull) scared him in New Hampshire, and favorite son candidate "Uncommitted" finished a strong second in South Dakota.

David Duke is still missing in action (for which we give thanks), but was last seen in Texas making comparisons between himself and a soft drink.

Like Coca-Cola, Duke believes he is the "real thing."

What "real thing" Duke was referring to had not been determined at press time.

Analysis: I have no idea what's going on, and emigration looks like a viable option.

I'm not alone. Political pundits collectively shrug their shoulders when faced with deciding who is "winning" the nomination race. They're all waiting for tomorrow's seven contests and Super Tuesday the next week.

Until then, it's all up in the air, but what was once suspect-

**No insult to New Hampshire voters intended, but any state which put John Sununu in the governor's mansion does not deserve such political clout.**

ed is increasingly becoming evident: Primaries are a damn silly way to choose a presidential nominee.

I'm not saying individual states should not have the right to voice an opinion on presidential candidates. Far from it. But our present system, however it was once intended, has now become perverted into an agonizing ordeal for politicians and voters alike.

The presidential campaign, which now traditionally begins the second Wednesday in November each leap year, has become almost too much to bear.

After all the post-election posturing is done, and a slate of candidates has stepped forth, we voters are subjected to months of watching Peter, Dan and Tom standing in cow pastures, microphones at the ready, trying to get a presidential hopeful to say something worthwhile.

Election by sound bite is the name of the game.

The drawn-out primary process is a trial by flamethrower for potential candidates. The politicians' lives are scrutinized and any slip-up or minor infraction brings the mass media running with the exuberance of a vulture to carrion.

The surprise becomes not an overabundance of people wanting to be president, but that anyone would willingly subject themselves to the primary process.

In addition, the idea of New Hampshire getting first crack at the candidates, and thus setting the agenda for the rest of the campaign, makes me a little squeamish. No insult to New Hampshire voters intended, but any state which put John Sununu in the governor's mansion does not deserve such political clout.

By the time the process is half over, political analysts have invariably informed the public who is going to win the nomination, and later primaries turn into lame-duck coronations.

The solution is simple. Here's my plan:

- Step one — Politicians would be forbidden to announce their candidacies until April 1 (appropriate) of the election year. Breaking this rule would result in severe penalty. Personally, I favor confining the candidates for one month in a bare cell with Jesse Helms as a roommate.

- Step two — The primary elections — all of 'em — would take place on Aug. 1. All primaries award delegates on a strict percentage of vote ratio.

- Step three — Nominating conventions would be held Sept. 1. Like the current process, all delegates are beholden to the subscribed candidate for one ballot only. If no one has enough to win on the first go-around, it's every candidate for him/herself. Vice presidential candidates would be chosen by a country-wide lottery because they don't to a thing anyway.

- Two candidates are picked to battle for the presidency. See how simple that works? No more long election seasons, no more turning tiny states into political litmus tests.

Besides, who wants to see Peter, Dan and Tom in cow pastures anyway?

*Don Peters is an editorial editor for the Emerald.*