

Election '92: Lions, tigers and bears!

With proposals under way like the official "Let's Keep California on Our Side" metal-cable link-up project, and the introduction of relevant campaign topics like the "Bombard and Eliminate White Bread" effort, sand-box tactics are at their best.

OK, so there is no attempt to keep California, and white bread is here to stay, but don't let the lies bother you — they fit right in with the '92 presidential race.

Voters have recently had the pleasure of experiencing an often inaccurate, exaggerated, half-true campaign, whether they know it or not.

Some examples: When Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin was still in the race, he ran an ad stating he was the "only one with the guts to stand up for your family" by voting against the president's authority to negotiate a free-trade agreement with Mexico. Must have been rough, going it alone like that. Luckily Harkin didn't really have to find out: 38 other senators and 192 House representatives joined the man in his quest for the ultimate "no" vote.

Then there's Pat Buchanan, who promised to "use the line-item veto to stop wasteful government spending." Great idea Pat, though there's one small problem — a presidential line-item veto doesn't exist.

But don't worry; our boy Bush got him back with an ol' half-truth to the left. Bush claimed that Buchanan's "America First" trade policy "threatens 164,000 jobs in Georgia."

Though the figure does account for the total number of Georgia's trade-related jobs, the ad alludes to the possibility of Buchanan killing them all off. Buchanan has stated, however, that his get-tough stance would shield those jobs while creating more via increasing exports.

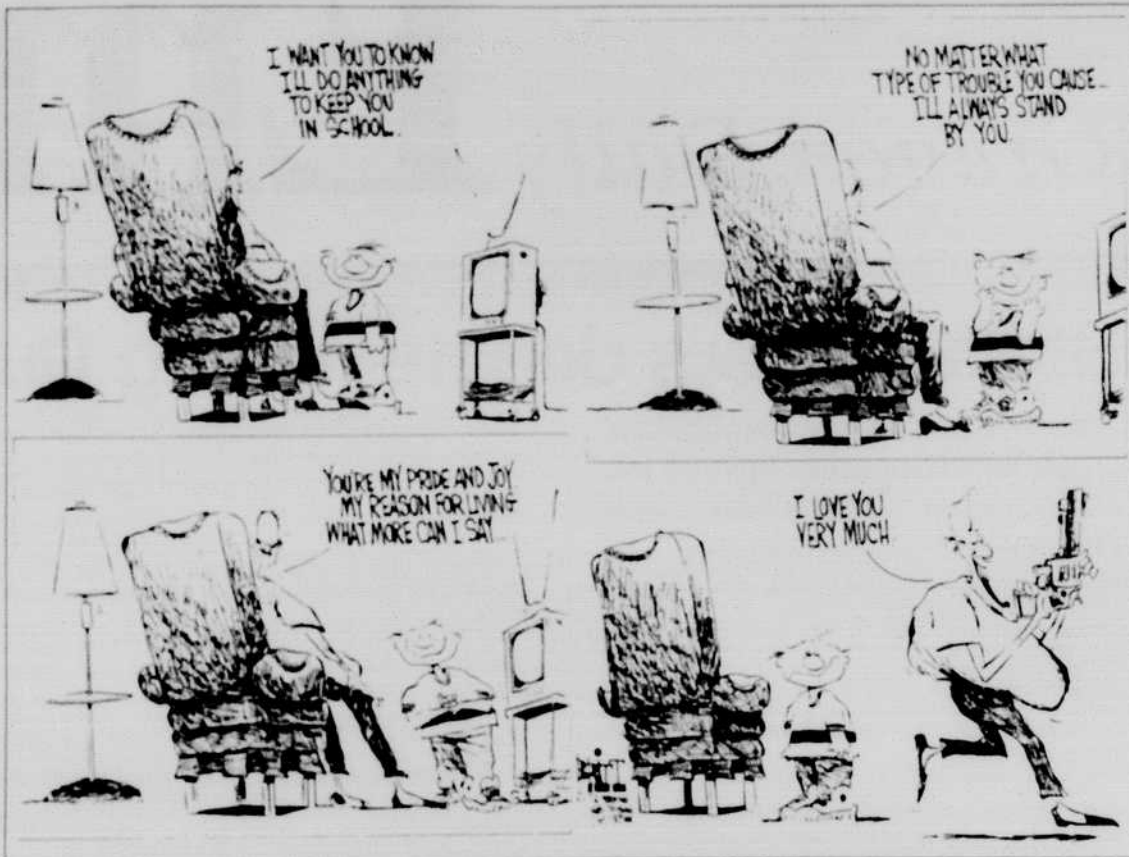
So, do truth in advertising laws ring a bell? What about laws requiring the media to report the truth? Though rules like these are admittedly bent and often broken, the ideal remains a good goal to shoot for.

Truth.

Nice sound to it, huh? An ideal our politicians should be held accountable for. (Especially considering it was such a scare commodity in the 1980s.) This tolerance of fantasia in our presidential race is ridiculous.

These candidates obviously feel they can get away with fooling "their" public, and sadly, they are. Assuming the political leaders of this country are hell-bent on the highest standards of morality, or at least decent enough not to intentionally deceive (lie to) the public, voters tend to swallow every slice of apple pie they are fed.

Considering this campaign serves as an indicator of this country's political future, it's in our best interest to begin demanding accountability from these individuals — now.



LETTERS

Sorry

Editor Jason Moore and GTF/writer Gary Murrell of the *Student Insurgent* have not deigned to apologize to those Jewish students who took offense at their articles. A paper that is supposed to stand against racism did not, does not, and probably will not apologize to the Jewish students who feel the finger of discrimination coming from their paper.

Instead, the editor in chief and the writer of the articles that many believe are hateful at least, and racist at most, personally attack the director of the Jewish Student Union on the *Insurgent's* pages. They call him "McCarthyite" and a "demagogue."

That's what they do. But what they don't do is apologize for a possible misunderstanding, for hurting someone's feelings.

Why?

Human history has seen thousands of years of Jewish persecution and slaughter committed by propagandized and insensitive non-Jews that culminated with the Holocaust only a few decades ago. And now, here at the University, non-Jews like Jason Moore and Gary Murrell at the *Student Insurgent*, have been labelling the campus rabbi and the Jewish Student Union director "McCarthyite" and calling the local Jewish community organization "deadly ... will use any means to get you."

It is so sad to see the seeds of hate in our university's backyard.

Brian Jones
International studies

Illiterature

Regarding the bookstore's decision to keep *Penthouse* on the shelves. While I applaud Timothy Layden (*ODE*, Feb. 6) for "being personally opposed to violence," I have to question the value of such an abstract attitude in the apparent absence of any will to penetrate the historical and psychological origins of violence against women (ironically, in view of his stated majors).

The uncritical abstractness of Leyden's support of the principles of free speech is troubling. Would he consider it virtuous support for freedom of speech if the bookstore were to offer the *National Enquirer*, but not the *New York Times*, to stock textbooks on "creation science," but not evolution?

How is it appropriate, then, for the bookstore to offer us the blatant misrepresentation of human sexuality found in the letters section of *Penthouse*, without at the same time providing access to quality erotica which might dispel some of the ignorance endemic to our culture on which *Penthouse* and similar illiterature depends for its readership?

Marek Lees
Men Against Rape

No Peters

This is anything but the "Fine Print," Don Peters (*ODE*, March 11). The suggestion to solve the University's financial woes through commercialization (humorous though they almost are), are abusive to the richness of the issue.

By trivializing the issue, your argument represents and endorses a belief that informed judgment is unnecessary. Furthermore, with the ominous prospect of the privatization of schools looming on the economic horizon at both the state and federal level, the jokes(?) you field concerning commercial answers are disturbing.

Public education is possibly the only forum left in which the possibility of personal development is not directly governed and dictated by the dollar. Obviously, the inequalities in funding of different school districts temper this argument, but it is my contention that the school system, in general at least, operates on an ideal of creating equality in education.

Leaving education to be governed by the marketplace is putting it into a realm where social inequalities already abound — especially for women and minorities. Privatizing education, in my view, can only lead to the unequal distribution of education akin to that of wealth in the marketplace.

Please, Peters, replace the useless, sophomoric wit of the "Fine Print" column with calls to informed judgment about this issue. Admitting that brevity does injustice to this issue, there are my 250 words.

Shalen Parker
Student

Disrespect

As fee-paying students, we attended the IFC/EMU meeting. IFC and EMU representatives got together to discuss the percentage cuts on costs of the EMU. A group of students presented a proposal to merely discuss the cost of the existing EMU management structure. The suggestion was to open a dialogue between the students, IFC, EMU Board, OPEU, and the GTF Federation discussing EMU budget changes rather than simply cutting student employment and GTF positions.

A debacle ensued. Committee members began to argue about procedural matters. Anita Stacey, an IFC member, left the meeting in disgust, refusing to listen to the students' proposal.

As students, we were greatly offended that she refused to listen to our concerns. Near the end of the discussion, an EMU official questioned the presence of the students. The official referred to the students as "the people" as one of the proponents of the proposal. Considering that the majority of students present were students of color, many of us resented the "your people" reference.

The student officials projected an attitude of disrespect and disregard for the students. This disrespect is greatly resented considering that they were discussing the students' future without student involvement. Although the OPEU, GTF Federation, EMU management, and the students agreed to open dialogue, we still felt the conduct of the EMU Board and the IFC was unacceptable. The EMU is for students, and student concerns need to be the priority.

Enrique Rodriguez
Felicia Lam-Rodriguez
Edward Beanes
Jorge Goicochea
Students

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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