

Ross returns to run really relevant race

He's baaaaaack. Ross Perot has answered the call of "good, decent people" and has agreed to rescue the presidential campaign from the clutches of the issueless two-party monster.

Perot said he intends to force a debate on the issues, but only on those issues he decides are deserving of his attention. That eliminates discussion of Bill Clinton's draft record, George Bush's knowledge about Iran-Contra and Dan Quayle's intelligence.

However, it also eliminates any meaningful discussion of health care, education, poverty, the environment, energy consumption and a myriad of other issues. Perot is a businessman, and as such, his focus is on the fiscal health of the country.

Few would argue that any issue is more important than the nation's economy. However, health care, education, etc., are all issues that depend upon a strong economy, and vice versa. But Perot is attempting to run a single-issue campaign, and the American people (hopefully) will vote for the candidate who offers the best complete package of ideas.

Perot's late entry into the campaign must be viewed with skepticism, if not suspicion. As voters may recall, Perot dropped out of the race in July when the media began investigating his background. In the months since then, both Bush and Clinton have undergone a grueling vivisection of their personal and professional lives. Meanwhile, Perot has been left virtually unscathed, with the exception of having broken some hearts with his initial pullout.

With less than a month to go before the election the Perot campaign needs to be examined with a microscope. Allegations of Perot's use of private investigators to spy on his employees is one of many questions worth looking into. Perot's 800-number, through which he tallied calls urging him to run, did not tally calls urging him not to run. Rather, those calls were counted as "Run, Ross, Run!"

Is Perot on an ego trip? Perhaps, but then again, what politician isn't? Only someone with an enormous sense of self-importance could survive the electoral process that the media have created. And while there is no legal requirement that politicians submit to for being grilled alive, it is only fair that each candidate goes through the same process, good or bad.

A best-case scenario has Perot forcing a debate on the issues between Bush and Clinton. A worse-case scenario has Perot becoming the central issue and distracting Bush and Clinton from a meaningful debate.

Perot can't win, and he must be aware of that fact. Whether his entry is the result of an overblown ego, or a true desire to help the country, remains to be seen.

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.

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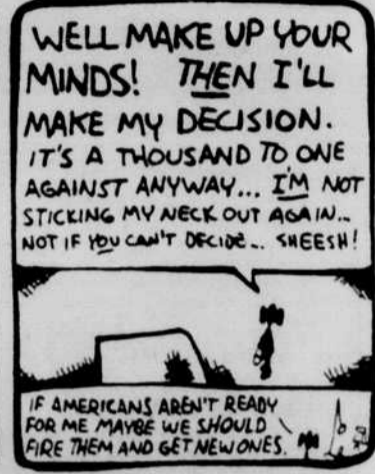
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LETTERS

Whole story

"Activists vow to protest in effort to save timber" read the headline on an Associated Press wire reprint in the *Emerald* Northwest news story (Sept. 28). However, the *Emerald* failed to reprint the entire article, as recorded in *The Register-Guard* (R-G, Sept. 26).

"Log-truck driver Jim Kincaid of Williams, who is out of work, took part in a tour of the (Sugarloaf timber) sale Thursday put on by the Forest Service. About 70 environmentalists and a few other timber supporters joined the tour."

This was the final paragraph of the *Emerald* article. To continue ...

"'God gave everything on Earth for man to use,' he said. 'I think it's a damn good timber sale. They'll be using helicopters to lift the logs out. There isn't going to be a lot of destruction.'"

"Environmentalist Lou Gold, who spends his summers atop Bald Mountain as the self-appointed guardian of the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area, said heavy logging already has severely hurt the area."

"'There is this ocean of devastation out there, and this is the only island of wholesomeness,' he said."

"There were no takers when he offered a \$100 bill to anyone who could show him a 500-year-old tree in the tree plantations surrounding the Sugarloaf Sale."

End of AP story as printed in *The Register Guard*.

Sadly, the editors of the *Emerald* chose not to inform us of these additional facts. Although not an originally well-written particularly balanced piece of writing, it is important to provide context to people's opinion and actions.

John Organ
 Political Science

Don't delay

By now you probably know the ASUO has been working

hard getting students registered to vote. Eleven thousand letters and cards were mailed out. We have also done weekend drives, door-to-door, tables and more. All we are asking is for you to register and vote. It only takes a minute and the ASUO will even pay for the postage.

Why are we doing this? Because this election contains ballot measures that directly affect all of us as students. We are also looking at candidates who have different attitudes about education.

Voting is the most powerful way as individuals we can shape our government. It is our way to let our officials know what we want and what we don't, but you can't be a part of the process if you first don't register.

You have until Oct. 13 to register. But don't delay, register today.

Bobby Lee
 ASUO President
John Thomas
 President, Student Senate

Bob started it

I disagree with the editorial the *Emerald* ran on Oct. 2. It read, "Packwood, AuCoin run empty race."

You are correct in viewing this race as one devoid of content. What you failed to look at is the history of Bob Packwood's political career. He has a well-developed pattern of manipulating political campaigns to ensure that important issues are not discussed.

This is what he does. He raises ungodly amounts of money in between his six-year election cycle, and then uses that money to intimidate and discredit his opponent.

This year he began his attacks on Les AuCoin even before the contested Democratic primary was completed. He realized he could not compete with AuCoin on their records, so he has deluged the air waves with character assaults on AuCoin. Do you expect the Au-

Coin campaign not to point out this history of manipulation? Believe me, Les AuCoin winning this race is contingent upon him forcing Bob Packwood to discuss the issues. He does not have the money nor the desire to play these mindless games. I would expect the *Emerald* to realize this.

Ryan P. Deckert
 Political Science

Trap-setter

Bob Packwood has set a trap for voters. He runs vicious, negative ads to which AuCoin must respond or risk our believing Packwood's claims. Then the two are seen as equally annoying and trivial.

Packwood needs to divert our attention because if we vote on the basis of how the candidates stand on issues, he will lose.

AuCoin was a leader in passing the Oregon Wilderness Act. Packwood wants to overturn the Endangered Species Act. AuCoin voted against the MX missile and Star Wars exotica. Packwood supported them. AuCoin wants a 60-percent cut in defense spending, with the money to go to education, child health, and similar programs. Packwood opposes any such cut. AuCoin favors banning log exports. Just last month Packwood blocked passage of a log export bill.

AuCoin fought for years for cable TV regulation. Packwood voted against this consumer protection bill (could his vote have anything to do with the \$45,000 he's accepted from the cable TV industry?).

Packwood's gambling that you'll look no further than TV ads. After all, a campaign treasury of millions of dollars of out-of-state money can buy lots of ad agency talent. Don't let him buy your vote. Look at the record and vote for Les AuCoin.

Patricia Daniels
 Comparative Literature