

# Bush's desperation growing tiresome

Desperation is defined in the dictionary as "recklessness resulting from despair."

We need look no further than the 1992 presidential election for proof.

As election day draws closer, George Bush is faced with a double-digit deficit in the polls and is heavily in danger of losing the White House to Bill Clinton. So Bush is doing what any red-blooded American does when faced with certain defeat — he's trying to lie, cheat and squirm his way to the victory circle. As he and his cronies see it, there's nothing to lose.

Well, except for integrity, honesty and a good conscience.

We all know that the president is not the most up-standing citizen in the United States. After all, almost every president has had his share of character difficulties. JFK had his alleged affairs, Nixon had Water-gate. Bush himself has been implicated in the Iran/Contra affair, one of the largest public deceptions in American history.

He also has publicly flip-flopped on countless issues only because it suits his audience. From pro-choice to anti-abortion. From one of the largest critics of "trickle down" to its largest supporter. From civil rights opponent in the 1960s to ... well.

Now we are expected to sit through countless as-sassinations on Clinton's character by Bush, because he says that character is the most important trait in the presidency. What he doesn't understand is that his character attacks on Clinton only reflect his own desperation. The draft? Who cares? There are more impor-tant issues this year.

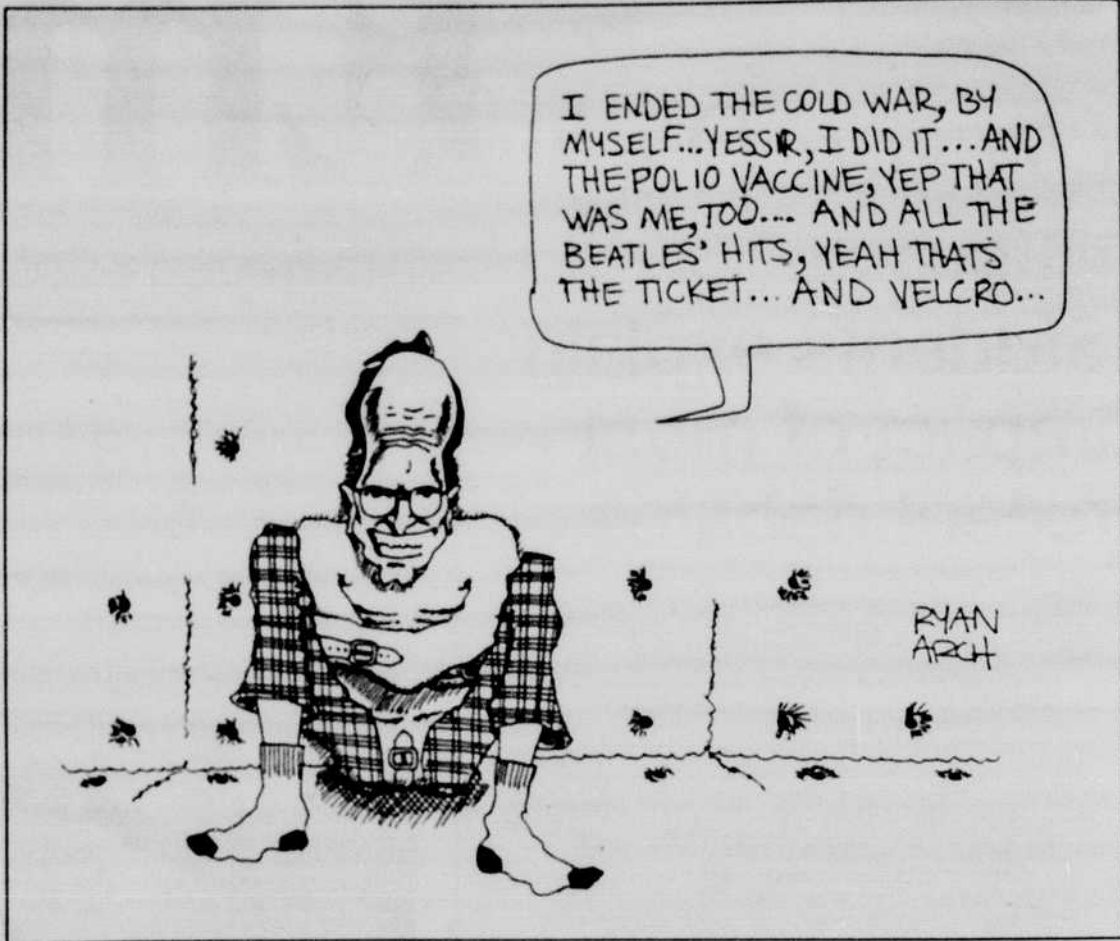
Now Bush has said he would, "do anything to be re-elected," a direct quote. It's not exactly reassuring when the president implies he will lie if he has to. And then he accuses Clinton of saying anything to get into office when he has already admitted the tactic is his own design.

Desperation? Bill Clinton traveled to the Soviet Union as a Rhodes Scholar, along with several other Rhodes Scholars. Bush, following the advice of a con-servative House member, accused Clinton of having contact with KGB agents during his trip, insinuating that he is a communist.

Well, George Bush has had several meetings with Soviet (now Russian) officials. In fact, he has met with the highest figure in the land (Gorbachev, then Yelt-sin). Has Clinton accused him of anti-American activities? No. But if we used George's logic, we could argue that Bush was planning to be head of the Communist party.

That sounds stupid, but Bush's logic is stupid — and desperate.

What is to be learned from these character attacks? Only that if Bush is elected, he can't be trusted to tell the truth. That if he is willing to twist the facts and dis-cuss only irrelevancies, how can we have faith in him to be president?



## LETTERS

### Get a clue

In response to Josh Docherty's letter "Belittling" in the *Emerald* (Oct. 19).

Let's not get caught up in self-righteous anger regarding alleged "indignation of the indigenous people of this continent."

I doubt the newspaper be-queathed the name "Geronimo" to the "dummy." If you haven't grown up speaking English, "Geronimo" is slang usually used by individuals hurling themselves off cliffs, trees, etc. The *Emerald* (bless its imagination) traditionally assigns catchy titles to "feature photos."

A dummy was hurled; a photo was taken; a title was given. And you want to complain about that?

You've never called someone "bananas" or "nuts" meaning "crazy" (stereotyping members of two highly respected food groups)? How about "square" to mean "nerd" (stereotyping a fine geometric shape)? How about angrily shouting "Jesus Christ" or "God damn it!" Surely, it never crossed your mind that the "majority" (most likely including yourself) out-rightly use the names of our salvation and creator to damn whatever is pissing them off (even if one doesn't believe in Jesus or God, these righteous dudes lay life's foundation for millions).

It's a cryin' shame that you've enough time on your hands to create "indignations."

You emphatically pointed your finger at the *Emerald* (a blessed escape from boring lectures), failing to notice you've three fingers pointing back at you!

Looks like you should spend less time worrying about things that don't much matter, spending much more time thinking about what you'll major in (since you're undeclared.)

**Billy Peffley**  
Psychology

### Beware

I believe that Ballot Measure 7 is one of the least understood measures that will be on our ballot this November.

Though it is cleverly written to look like a tax that someone else will pay, it is exactly the opposite. The homeowner will pay higher food bills, higher gas bills, higher utility bills and higher bills on other goods and services.

Businesses do not print their own money. All the money they get comes from the sales of their goods and services. Anything that causes their operating costs to go up increases the cost of their goods and services. If Measure 7 is passed, prices will go up.

Measure 7 is really a hidden sales tax that we all will pay. Our state government knows that the people of Oregon will not stand for a sales tax, so they have cleverly crafted this sales-tax-in-disguise in the hope that we will be gullible enough to fall for it. It's a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Norma Paulus, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, says that Measure 7 will not solve our school funding problems.

Tell our state government that we want less government, not more. Tell them we want to spend our money. We don't want them to spend it for us.

Vote no on Measure 7.

**Gary Lawrence**  
Willamina

### Nazi again?

A survey of seven fundamentalist-oriented Christian University campus leaders, published in the Oct. 5 *Emerald*, reported that all of these individ-

uals preferred to publicly remain neutral on Ballot Measure 9 issues. This saddened and disappointed me immensely. As the familiar song says, "When will they ever learn?"

I vividly remember the 1930s and 1940s. Growing up in Nazi-occupied Holland, I personally witnessed what happened when "good" people took a neutral stand. Most Christians, with some notable exceptions, preferred to remain neutral and/or indifferent to what was happening to our fellow Jewish country people. Repeatedly, Nazis told blatant lies about their fellow citizens, stigmatizing them as "less than human" and accusing them of corrupting major religious and cultural values. The rest is history.

Individuals of my generation vowed that this should never be allowed to happen again.

Today, OCA spokespersons repeat daily lies and false opinions about the behavior of homosexuals. These lies are repeated in the Voters Pamphlet. Passage of Ballot Measure 9 would mean these lies and opinions would be engraved on Oregon's Constitution. How would that affect Oregon's future history?

I know that Christians, whatever their Biblical interpretation viewpoint may be, recognize lying and vilifying as a serious sin. Particularly, when doing this would adversely affect so many innocent and good people.

I pray that all Christians, as well as other people of faith or non-faith, join me to reject bigotry and the OCA's attack on Oregon's Constitution. Please vote no on 9.

**Jacob Veldhuisen**  
Eugene

**Oregon Daily Emerald**

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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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