

An intelligent debate without Ross n' Al

Call it "the tale of two debates."

Such was the case Tuesday, as two separate pairs of political heavyweights clashed on cable-ready televisions all over America. The subject was the same — the merits and faults of the North American Free Trade Agreement. But all similarity ended there.

The debate that received vastly more attention was the Al Gore-Ross Perot face-off on CNN's *Larry King Live*. Watching the two men bicker and interrupt each other was like watching a couple of old farts arguing in a barber shop — plenty of rhetoric, a fair amount of slander, and virtually no substance.

But that wasn't the only diatribe on NAFTA that took place Tuesday. Earlier that day (and subsequently replayed several times) was another debate, this one on the much-ignored non-commercial cable network, C-SPAN. Participants in this clearheaded discussion of the trade agreement were Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who favors NAFTA, and Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Missouri, who is opposed.

Unlike their counterparts on *Larry King Live*, Gephardt and Gramm presented intelligent, well-conceived arguments on both sides of the issue. Gramm, for example, countered the argument that free trade with Mexico would cost American jobs by citing the example of the European Community, which didn't seem to suffer when it admitted Mexico-like nations such as Portugal and Greece.

Gephardt, in turn, charged that the NAFTA agreement would fail to improve the conditions in Mexico, particularly with regard to that country's labor movement.

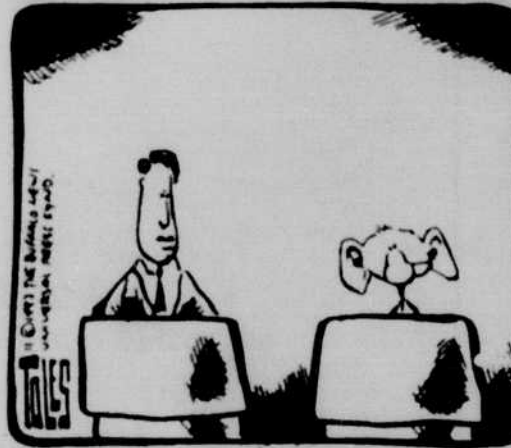
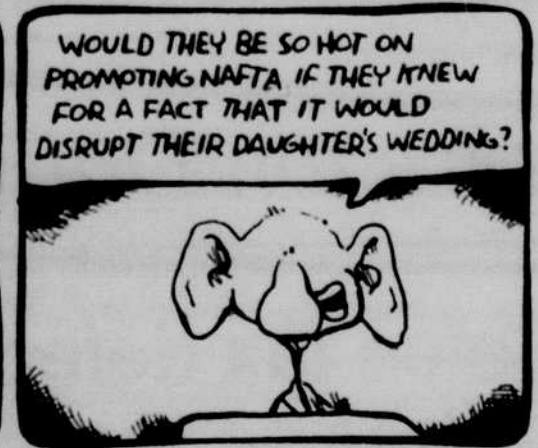
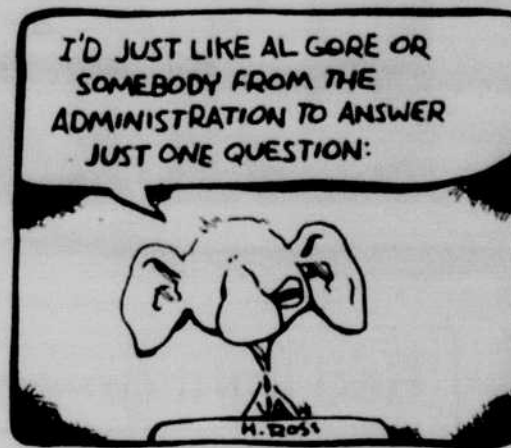
In the other debate, such respectfully articulated ideas were nowhere to be found. Both Perot and Gore did little more than insult each other and throw around accusations.

Gore bluntly insinuated that Perot was using NAFTA as a platform for his own political career. Several times Perot feigned ignorance, shook his head, and proceeded to say, "You're lyin' now." Neither man seriously addressed the question of NAFTA, choosing instead to play to CNN's close-up cameras, slyly aware of the way politics in the age of the sound-bite work. They know that a smile and a clever one-liner can sway millions of viewers one way or another. Not surprisingly, that's about all they offered.

Both Gephardt and Gramm, on the other hand, relied on the strengths of their arguments rather than engaging in personal attacks against one another. And, believe it or not, the speeches weren't boring, even though they were on C-SPAN (which probably attracts more viewers as an insomnia cure than as a source of entertainment).

Despite the superior quality of the Gephardt-Grumm debate over the childish spectacle of Gore and Perot, it received no apparent attention from the media whatsoever. That's not surprising, but it is disappointing.

It's difficult to expect the media to emphasize meaningful discussions of the issues when the public doesn't seem interested in watching them. But if Americans ever want to receive more information than can be conveyed in mere sound-bites, they're going to have to ask for it.



LETTERS

Lies

Most people don't know that giving false information to a police officer who is enforcing motor vehicle laws is a crime punishable by up to one year in jail, a \$2,500 fine or both. The law requires that any name, address or date of birth you give the officer be truthful. This rule applies to pedestrian, bicycle and driving offenses.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1994, giving false information to police will also get your driver's license suspended for one year. The DMV will suspend your license whether you plead guilty, are found guilty or forfeit bail.

If you don't hold an Oregon license, the DMV will suspend your driving privileges in Oregon even if you have a valid license from another state. In addition, news of the Oregon suspension could reach the DMV in your home state and cause action against your license there.

This new penalty will seem particularly harsh to students reporting permanent out-of-area addresses to officers, who may consider your failure to report your temporary local address as false information. If you are a student who uses a permanent out-of-area address, you should also report your local address to any citing officer. This will avoid a criminal charge and the resulting suspension if convicted.

Giving false information to a police officer is a bad idea. With computer information readily available, the officer will easily discover the lie. The likely result is that you will still face two charges instead of one, and the charge for lying is usually more serious than the charge you lied to avoid.

**Ilona E. Koleszar
ASUO Legal Services**

dollars to build a new bridge funneling high-speed traffic onto or near campus. Transportation alone uses more oil than our nation produces.

If you are concerned about any of these points, there are many things you yourself can be doing.

For instance, you could: ride your bike; carpool, for if every commuter carried one more person we could save 60,000 gallons of gas everyday; ride the bus — it's free for all University students; walk, skateboard or roller blade — you don't even have to find a parking spot.

Write your congressional representative. Do something! Get involved; join OSPIRG's Sustainable Energy Campaign. Come to OSPIRG's alternative transportation fair! Curb your car. Learn about alternatives that meet your needs and win prizes for coming. Today in the EMU Fir Room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Anne Morris
Eugene**

That's history

"History has made examples of men willing to sacrifice themselves for a cause.

"Those who die for religion are called saints and martyrs. Those who die for love are called heroes and tragic fools. We who will die for the state and economic justice are called leaders of the masses and revolutionaries.

"Perhaps the most noble revolutionary is the assassin. Though usually not living to see the fruition of his beliefs, he changes history with a single movement of his finger. He is the necessary instrument of change, the tool that changes the functioning of the machine.

He uses his life so that leaders may use their minds." Author?

**Edwin Marty
Anthropology**

Sleep-out

The Amazon low-income housing projects were originally created so that students with families could return to finish their education and not pay phenomenal rent prices and be burdened with the huge tuition cost as well. Unfortunately, the University administration seems to have forgotten that fact.

The students who live at Amazon have every right to an education and housing. That they are balancing raising a family with the additional responsibility of completing their education deserves our commendation.

What the University is doing is not in the interest of its students, but rather its pocketbook. Every student at this school should be outraged and concerned; after all, if they can do this to some part of the student body, who's to say they cannot make executive decisions like this about other areas of student life? It is sad that this institution seems to be run by money rather than concern for its students and their education.

If you are in any way concerned about this issue, if you realize how serious this decision is, come show your support at the OSPIRG/Amazon sleep-out. Meet the residents who could very soon become Eugene's homeless community. Stand in solidarity with members of the University. We will take over the EMU east lawn Monday, Nov. 15, and will camp until the next day. Come show your support.

**Kalpna Krishnamurthy
OSPIRG**

Gas pains

Did you know the University sells 4,500 to 5,000 parking permits each year for 2,900 spaces?

Automobiles are the No. 1 cause of air pollution in Oregon. The average car produces 19 pounds of carbon dioxide per gallon of gas. The city of Eugene is planning to spend millions of

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style

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.

The *Emerald* is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: Jake Berg
Managing Editor: Calley Anderson
Editorial Editor: David Thorn
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay
Freelance Editor: Jeff Winters
Sports Editor: Steve Mims
Editorial Editor: Jeff Pickhardt
Photo Editor: Anthony Forney
Supplements Editor: Kaly Soto
Night Editor: Rivers Janssen

Associate Editors: Scot Clemens, *Student Government/Activities*; Rebecca Merritt, *Community*; Rivers Janssen, *Higher Education/Administration*

News Staff: Dave Charbonneau, Ricardo Davico, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Sarah Henderson, Arik Hesseidahl, Edward Klopfenstein, Yin Leng Leong, Trista Noel, Elisabeth Reenstjerna, Lia Saliciccia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Julie Swensen, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Kevin Tripp, Amy Van Tuyl, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Subir Dutta, Nicole Herzmark, Teresa Isabelle, Jeff Marion, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Van V. O'Bryan II, Rachael Trull, Kelsey Wekel, Angie Windheim

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck

Distribution: Brandon Anderson, John Long, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor Judy Connolly

Production: Dee McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511
Business Office: 346-5512
Display Advertising: 346-3712
Classified Advertising: 346-4343