

# EDITORIAL

## Arm yourself for a real Civil War

A common cause. It can be a source of strength in politics, in society, in life. And yes, even in sports.

The stunning success of the Oregon Duck football team has brought a sense of community to the University campus.

On Saturday, the Ducks take the field in Corvallis against the Oregon State Beavers, in the most important Civil War in decades. If the Ducks win, they will be guaranteed the Pacific-10 Conference Championship and the University's first berth in the Rose Bowl since 1958.

But in order to do that, they have to beat the Beavers. The rivalry between the two schools has always been strong. Emotions and a desire for a year's worth of bragging rights has, on more than one occasion, allowed the less talented team to come out on top.

That's why the emotions of every true Duck fan need to be focused on the game this weekend, whether those fans are the lucky few stomping their feet in the stands of Parker Stadium or the many more cheering in front of a sports-bar's 60-inch Trinitron.

Emotions are what wins this game, and while the Ducks have arguably more fire than ever, the Beavers aren't exactly going to roll over.

If OSU wins (gag), the Beavers will have earned their best record since 1971: 5-6. That may not seem too much to a Duck fan who's been spoiled by four winning seasons and four postseason appearances in the last six years (counting this one). But to the Beavs, a 5-6 season is just one reason this Civil War is worth fighting for.

And then, of course, there's the joy of knocking Oregon, ranked 12th in the nation by the Associated Press, out of the Rose Bowl race. That's definitely one hell of a motivation.

The Ducks have their own reasons to win. Besides the Rose Bowl possibility, their first in 36 years, there's the first chance at nine wins since 1948. And it's always nice to beat the Beavers — something the Ducks have done only once in the last three years.

Of course, all these considerations could do more harm than good. When it comes right down to it, the players just have to go out and play a ball game, and try to concentrate on the task of winning the game. That's all.

The fans, on the other hand, have nothing better to do than be real fans.

Decorate your dorm windows, your cars, your apartments, your roommates, your parents, your cats, your dogs and especially yourself. With all the leaves brown and orange, let the campus get green all over again.

Wear green and yellow every day, except at the game itself, when you get together with four near-naked friends, shivering ecstatically in the cold, and paint your chests with D-U-C-K-S.

Just don't let this chance to be a real Duck pass you by. You'll get one more shot, it's true; the Ducks are going bowling somewhere, no matter what. But this is the Civil War. And it doesn't get any better than this.

Go Ducks!!!



### OPINION

## 'Tedness' key to Kennedy win



PRIMO A. J. FONTANA

Elections are over, and it's time to sift through the rubble and find what went wrong for the Democrats in 1994. Actually it will be easier to simply look at what went right, which was not much, and then compare and contrast.

In Massachusetts, as other mighty liberals were being demolished across the nation, Ted Kennedy trounced his Republican opponent Mitt Romney.

This was a rather interesting anomaly. While the voters were supposedly turning away from the Democratic establishment of Washington, D.C., Kennedy, one of the poster boys for business-as-usual, won in a landslide.

It was epic. The grizzled Catholic veteran against a young and handsome Mormon opponent. It was highly reminiscent of that great football rivalry between Joe Montana and Steve Young. As it always has been and always shall be, the old man decimated the young upstart.

We should be jealous. In Oregon, we had John "Fidel" Kitzhaber, who in football terms would be a third-stringer for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Denny Smith, who would be the water boy for a mediocre high school team. Massachusetts had two of the all-time greats.

It didn't always look like the results would end up as they did. When the Senate closed shop, Kennedy was behind in the polls, and he returned home to face the first true fight of his political career.

Then, like his counterpart Montana, he looked downfield

and began to drive. There he was battling, his fat red face gushing with sweat and his voice cracking from exhaustion during debates. But he fought and kept fighting, like a warrior. Those watching saw his hands trembling as he gestured with them in the air, fingers like 10 Polish sausages jerking around sporadically as he beat Romney down. It was beautiful.

He was old, overweight and ragged, but dammit did he earn every vote he received. While his opponent, just like Steve Young, had more natural talent and strength, he just didn't have that undefinable something that makes a winner.

If the Democrats are to survive for the time being, they must have more of that certain undefinable element, that which we shall henceforth term "tedness."

This is exactly what they lacked in the past election, and the reason that most are packing up their stuff and moving back home.

The Republicans were mad as hell. We watched them practically foaming at the mouth like a pack of rabid pit bulls in a butcher shop. What did the Democrats do? Did they fight? Did they get mad back?

Not even close. Aside from Kennedy and a few others, most liberals acted like lethargic pushovers. Look at our pal in the north, Tom Foley. His campaign barely started until a few weeks before the election, and once it did, Foley seemed only on the campaign trail by default. Through the entire process he seemed resigned to defeat rather than in a battle towards victory.

This is an idiotic way to run a campaign. Instead of pushing his impressive legislative career and his plethora of political experience, Foley practically apologized for doing his job, and quite well at that. His opponent, a no-name chump without a term in public office under his

belt, won simply by not being Foley. If he had shown some tedness, and battled like the veteran that he is, Foley could have held his seat for yet another term. But alas, it was not to be.

In other parts of the nation, when some Democrats finally woke up and started real campaigns, rather than focusing on the liberalism that brought them to office in the first place, they suddenly became Republicans. Especially in the South, candidates started trying to distance themselves from Clinton and the party, prove their alliance with the NRA, show their belief in family values and basically prove themselves in the areas for which Republicans have become known.

Let's be reasonable. If a two-candidate race comes down to what is essentially two Republicans, isn't it better to simply vote for the one who has been doing it for years rather than one of the bandwagon-jumping sell-outs of 1994?

This was the dilemma faced by voters all over the country. As any reasonable person would, they went GOP.

But what about Ted? Did he buy into that nonsense? Not even close. He embraced the principles of the Democratic Party and stood by them. For a man whom many consider lacking in character, this was an act of honor. Unlike his colleagues across the country, he espoused the beliefs of his entire career unapologetically. That is why he won and why Democrats who did not were destroyed.

The voters aren't dumb. They know when to call a spade a spade. Last week, they did so overwhelmingly.

Sorry Jim Cooper, Larry EchoHawk, Jim Sasser and the rest of you watered-down liberals. If you're going to run as a Democrat, you'd better act like one. And for God's sake, next time do it with a little tedness.

Primo A. J. Fontana is a columnist for the Emerald.

## 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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