

Congress must keep promises

When the new Congress begins work today, the newly elected Republican majority has many promises to keep with the American people, actually they have a contract with the American people.

Many may not agree with the contents of the much-touted "Contract with America" which Republicans plan to pass over the next 100 days. However, a number of Republicans ran for Congress on the platform of being honest with Americans and following through on campaign promises. Following through with those promises would be an excellent way to show that the Republican majority represents change in Washington.

Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House, has vowed to have the "Contract" read on the floor each day as a way to keep members aware of the promises made during the campaign. This is an excellent way to keep the Republican members focused on the job ahead of them.

If Republicans are to have credibility with Americans who elected them and prove that they are not part of the status quo in Washington, they will honor their commitments with the voters.

Anything less will show that while the new Republican majority may include a lot of new faces, it still represents the old way of doing business in Washington.

Clinton promises change too often

With the recent election of a Republican-controlled Congress in Washington, President Clinton has got to stand up for his beliefs.

While Clinton will inevitably have to negotiate with Congress on a number of major issues to avoid total gridlock, he shouldn't give in to every demand of the Republican leadership.

Capitulation to the new Republican majority in Congress will not get him any stature or respect in Washington. More likely, it will help him lose the next election.

The recent flap about Clinton supporting prayer in school was just one of the latest incidents of Clinton changing his opinion. He didn't overtly support the idea when the Democrats were a majority in Congress.

Conservative Republicans did not elect Clinton to the presidency. The majority of Republicans voted for George Bush or Ross Perot. While Clinton was elected to be the president for all Americans, it doesn't mean that he has to agree with everyone. Yet Clinton seems to be wanting to please everyone. With that attitude, Clinton is bound to fail as a president.

Clinton recently announced that he would run for reelection. He must take a stand on important issues that he believes in, as future of his presidency depends on it.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS 1995

ADVANCE OUR INTERESTS AND BALANCE OUR BOOKS!!!

BACK THE PRESIDENT WHENEVER I CAN.

I RESOLVE TO STICK WITH MY BELIEFS... WAIT... NO... NEVER MIND.



■ OPINION

Rose Bowl loss not a defeat for Oregon



ROBBIE REEVES

I've never been a football fan. In fact, I've never been a fan of spectator sports in general. I didn't go to a single Duck football game, home or otherwise, for as long as I've been on campus.

That said, I would like to congratulate the Duck football team for a job well done this year. But neither this column nor my congratulations have to do with football.

Let me explain. All throughout the fall, as the Ducks won game after game, I honestly didn't care. Wasn't important to me, I'd tell friends, as they marveled at the success of the Ducks and the even larger headlines in the following day's *Emerald*.

I just didn't care. Spectator sports were never my thing.

But the Ducks kept winning. Almost everyone I know went to the home games to cheer for the team, but I didn't. I had another job on campus and had to work Saturday afternoons, I told anyone who asked.

I didn't have time for the football team.

Civil War rolled around one weekend, and while everyone else was in Corvallis or watching the game on TV, I did my homework. I had an essay due Monday.

It wasn't until after the game that I discovered that Oregon won. That was nice. I still had another two pages to write.

Eventually, Rose Bowl fever broke out. What a nightmare for a non-believer.

Everyone sold Rose Bowl shirts, hats, signs—anything for a quick buck. Oregon, no matter how some out-of-staters pronounced the name of the state, was finally put on the map.

Then came the ticket sales and the long lines of people waiting, in many cases, overnight to buy a ticket for the

big game in Pasadena. I didn't get a chance to roll my eyes at friends who waited in lines early that morning because my eyes were closed and I was asleep. Spend \$50 for a three-hour game? In LA? Hah!

But people did. Lots of people. I always wondered why.

I figured by going home for winter break, I could escape the near-maniacal glee of rabid Duck fans here in Eugene.

I didn't. Home is Portland, and Duck fever was just as extreme there as it was here. Every television and radio station sent some reporter down to Pasadena to cover the latest exploits of the football team and band. Murders and fires had to wait for coverage. After all, the Ducks were going to the Rose Bowl.

I just couldn't win.

The Ducks didn't win in the Rose Bowl, but that really isn't important. It isn't even important that the team got to the Rose Bowl.

The success of the Ducks served a greater purpose than winning football games. It served to unify this campus behind a cause, which in this case, happened to be football.

People went to the games. Students packed Autzen Stadium. They did this not because the tickets were free, but because they wanted to support the team. Our team.

Students waited for hours to buy tickets to the Rose Bowl. They attended the game in Pasadena by the thousands, along with alumni and other supporters from throughout Oregon and beyond.

I know that many people throughout Oregon think the Ducks reaching the Rose Bowl is probably the best thing this University has accomplished in

years. This is reflected by the fact that the news has been dominated by the story for weeks.

Ideally, other University stories would be covered more by the Oregon media, and people would think of more than the Rose Bowl when they think about the University. While everyone heard about the Rose Bowl, few people outside Eugene could probably name five other current stories relating to the University. The University, after all, is a university for the entire state, not just Lane County.

Coverage of the events leading up to the Rose Bowl and the game itself was excessive. In a way, that was good, because it gave the University and the community something positive to focus on for a month.

The game was good for more than football, but it also might have been good business. Oregon as a state received more coverage nationally, and state officials hoped to promote Oregon tourism and attract business to the state while in California. After all, Governor Barbara Roberts rode on the Oregon float in the Rose Parade.

The Duck football season gave everyone a chance to come together for a common cause, to see the Ducks win.

Too often, those of us in the University community divide into groups amongst ourselves, losing sight of the fact that while we all have different backgrounds and beliefs, we can all agree on something once in a while.

So what if Penn State beat Oregon in Pasadena Monday? After this season, everyone came out a winner, and for that matter, smelling like roses.

Robbie Reeves is editorial editor for the Emerald.

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Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the commentary is submitted.

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