

Voter power

The editorial "Senate race stagnates at grade-school level" (ODE, Jan. 8) touched on very important issues. Oregon voters deserve more than school-yard, name-calling campaigns in order to make educated choices for their next senator.

The candidates in Oregon's special Senate election have failed to bring up important issues concerning the students of Oregon such as the environment and higher education.

However, we do not have to accept that. The fact is, 85 percent of people younger than 30 years of age consider themselves environmentalists. The fact is, there are more than 60,000 full-time students in the Oregon State System of Higher Education. The fact is, there's power in numbers.

We must hold our candidates accountable to the concerns of students by getting involved with non-partisan, issue-based campaigns. Join the Youth Vote '96, a coalition made up groups such as Oregon Student Lobby, the United States Student Association, Campus Green Vote and the PIRGs.

This is a way to get involved and make sure other students can cast informed votes in this and all elections of 1996.

Sadie Rogers
Undeclared

Butting out

Normally, I would not grace Lori Bettineski's opinion with a response (ODE, Dec. 4). However, Ms. Buttinski referred to the *Commentator* as a "news" paper and our readers as "those of you

who waste your time picking up the other reads on campus."

The *Commentator* is a biweekly journal of opinion. While we do carry news stories, most are written with a clear intent to persuade.

Our readers are those who have the patience to read four-page news stories and two-page commentaries that reflect a variety of viewpoints, but most importantly, do not reflect the watered-down pseudo ideology of other, less-bold campus publications.

Ms. Buttinski went on to write that "these publications lack both the experience and training students need to get into the field of journalism."

Apparently, *Reason Magazine*, the *Clackamas Review*, the *Singapore Sun*, *The Register-Guard* and the *Shelter-Island Reporter* all disagree, having hired former staff members of the *Commentator*. Ms. Buttinski then wrote, pathetically: "Honestly, what reputable news publication is going to take a clip from either of these two publications seriously?"

The clips of Friedrich Von Carp and Joe Harwood from the *Commentator* were apparently good enough for last year's *Emerald* editor, Kaly Soto.

Both were hired in news and editorial positions. Former *Commentator* editor Ed Carson worked for the *Oregon Voice* as well and as a result, obtained a job as the staff reporter for *Reason Magazine*.

Perhaps a little research would make Ms. Buttinski feel less lonely and misunderstood.

Farrah L. Bostic
Managing Editor
Oregon Commentator

Mean pea Gordon

Gordon Smith seeks to reassure voters that "meanness" is not in his "nature." But actions always speak louder than words.

In recent weeks, Smith has advocated discrimination in housing against citizens who are lesbian or gay. Denying these citizens equal access in shelter options is, frankly, mean.

Smith also campaigned for passage of the parental notification bill in the Oregon Senate last May. Fortunately, wiser and far more compassionate heads prevailed, and this dangerous bill was defeated. Sending teen girls to back-alley abortions to avoid telling their parents of pregnancy is, by anyone's yardstick, mean.

The majority of employees at Smith's Frozen Foods have little or no benefits. Many "get by" on a subsistence wage of \$5 per hour. These employees have made Smith's annual paycheck of \$2 million possible. Denying them decent wages and benefits is ... mean.

Gordon Smith cannot continue to claim that meanness is "not in his nature."

I'm voting for Ron Wyden, whose legislative record shows far more empathy for workers, the poor and the elderly. And you won't hear Ron Wyden promoting discrimination against any citizen. This country could well founder on the classicist, extremist policies of the young Turk Republicans dividing Congress. We don't need yet another pea in that pod. Gordon Smith is such a pea.

Carol Berg
Eugene

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Informational Meetings

- Jan. 11 7:00 @ Riley Hall/650 E. 11th Street (RA)
 - Jan. 11 7:45 @ Riley Hall (PA)
 - Jan. 12 3:00 @ EMU/Ben Linder Room (RA)
 - Jan. 12 3:45 @ EMU/Ben Linder Room (PA)
 - Jan. 15 7:00 @ Ramey Room/Hamilton Complex (RA)
 - Jan. 15 7:45 @ Ramey Room (PA)
 - Jan. 16 7:00 @ Carson Gold Room (RA)
 - Jan. 16 7:45 @ Carson gold Room (PA)
- (all times are pm)

Deadline for RA and PA Applications: Jan. 19th at the University Housing Office

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