

Jerry Rust represents student interests best

OUR OPINION: Jerry Rust is the best U.S. Senate democratic candidate

There are five U.S. Senate Democratic candidates: Bill Dwyer, Harry Lonsdale, Anna Nevenich, Tom Brugger and Jerry Rust. Jerry Rust is the candidate who will best represent students' interests.

Because we need a realist who will work for change and not a self-fulfilling politician, Rust is the best Democratic alternative.

He has not been trained to be a politician, but he is an environmentalist who understands the importance of education. Money and major corporations are not his main concern.

Rust believes in boosting the education budget, and that Oregon should stop dis-

investing education.

He plans to increase education monies by cutting deep into military spending and the tobacco industry.

In addition to Rust's strong stance on education, he will actually confront environmental issues. He is not afraid to condemn the government for ignoring the current ecological crises. Rust supports advertising this crisis, starting with improving ecological conditions in the Northwest by reauthorizing the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Other issues Rust supports are: increasing the minimum wage, supporting Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, respecting a woman's decision to choose, and keeping public lands public.

Smith: best alternative for Republican voters

OUR OPINION: Gordon Smith is the best Senate Republican candidate

There are five Republican Senatorial candidates: Kirby Brumfield, Robert Fenton, Jeff Lewis, Lon Mabon and Gordon Smith. Smith is the best senatorial candidate if you choose to vote Republican.

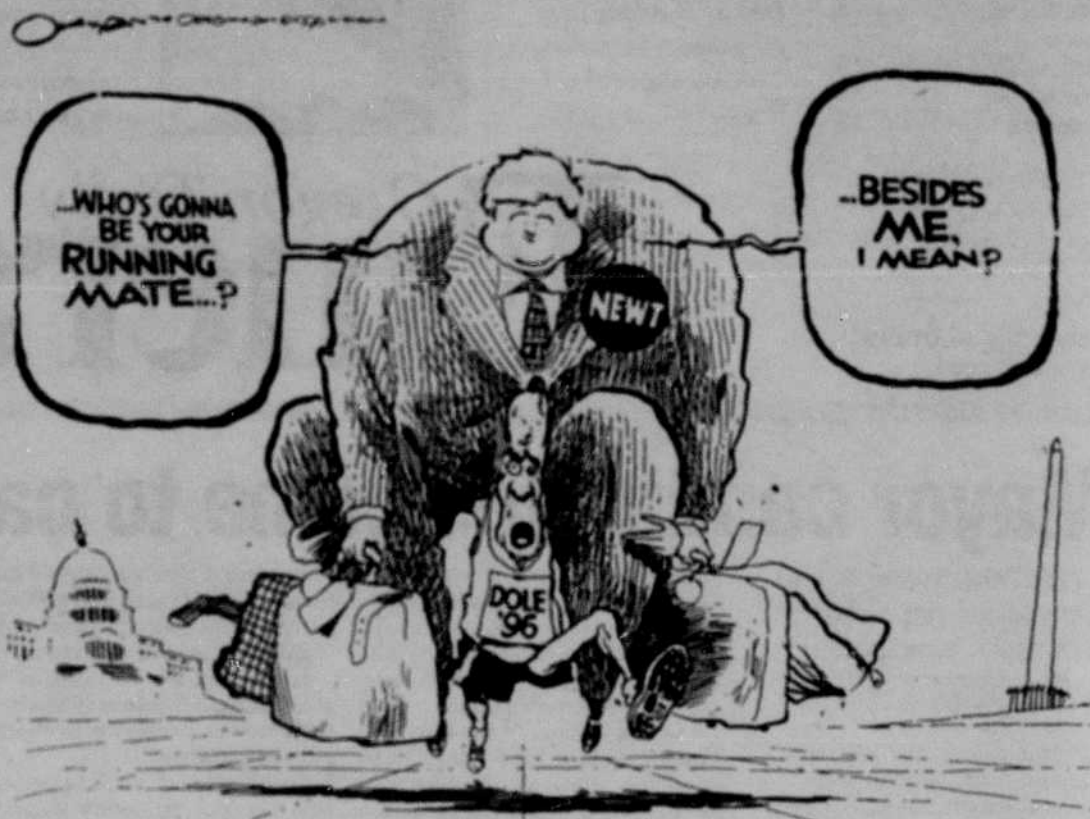
Smith is the only candidate who does not have many blatant flaws. Brumfield has "no illusions of winning." Fenton, age 67, has made no comment on education. Lewis desires to administer standardized tests to all high school graduates, though the SAT and ACT are sufficient enough.

Mabon closed-mindedly says that homosexuality, pornography and abortion are wrong.

While all of Smith's opponents have weak stances on education, Smith says he might support a tuition freeze. He also supports a \$500 tax credit for education, which would help parents until their children have graduated from college.

Smith also supports balancing the budget but cutting military spending and prioritizing federal spending for Social Security and Medicare.

Further, he believes we need more power in Oregon and less control from Washington.



Stranger rape: Take back the stereotype

It was like a scene from a horror film, only worse. The sexual assault of the 19-year-old University student that occurred in the sleeping hours of Sunday has created a whirlpool of emotion in which we all now spin.

We envision the young woman screaming as she is dragged into Pioneer Cemetery and sexually assaulted, and immediately we explode with anger. How could this happen?

In the aftermath of the attack, fingers have pointed in every direction imaginable.

Although these expressions of anger have proven personally cathartic for many, by fixating on last Sunday's attack we reinforce the cultural understanding of sexual assault that limits the definition of rape to a "stranger-in-the-bushes" image.

In the process, we ignore the long-standing national studies that report 80 to 90 percent of rape victims are acquainted with their attackers.

Women are taught that safety means joining self-defense classes, carrying a whistle and learning how to use pepper spray.

Meanwhile they stay home at night, avoid dimly lit corridors and look over their shoulders as they walk. Certainly these are self-protective realities.

However, if the discourse stops here, then rape education will have only addressed 10 percent of sexual assaults, while the silence surrounding acquaintance rape will remain.

Since last September there have been zero official reports of "unwanted sexual behavior" filed with the Student Conduct Program in Room 364 Oregon Hall.

"While rapes by strangers are still underreported, rapes by acquaintances are virtually non-reported," says Robin Warshaw, author of *I Never Called It Rape*. "Not only do women shy away from reporting sexual assault to authoritative bodies like the police, but 42 percent of rape victims tell no one about their assault."

Many survivors never discuss their experi-

ences because University and public policies continue to fixate on stranger rape prevention, while marginalizing all other forms of assault.

"On college campuses, when a woman is raped, university officials announce new plans for better lighting and expanded hours for escort services," Warsaw says. "[These are] positive safety precautions that have nothing to do with stopping acquaintance rape."



Keith Cunningham

Programs like Project Saferide, while crucial to promoting safety on campus, provide a misguided sense of security to their riders.

A haven from stereotypical stranger rape is guaranteed, yet the passenger is delivered to the place where she is most likely to become the victim of sexual assault; it is a "safe ride" from the stranger and a

delivery to the acquaintance.

This evening at 8, University women and men will gather in the EMU Courtyard for "Take Back the Night." During the event, the group will walk through Pioneer Cemetery, the site of last Sunday's attack.

But what will be taken back if we continue to focus on isolated instances of stranger rape, while turning our backs to all other forms of assault?

We cannot take back the streets, arm women with mace and truthfully claim that our rape-prevention work is done.

We must take back our houses, take back our bedrooms and take back the ways we continue to define rape in terms of the mythic stranger.

Only then will every form of sexual assault be seen as the horror show that it is.

Keith Cunningham, a senior majoring in English, is a columnist for the Emerald. His e-mail address is: keithc@oregon.uoregon.edu

LETTERS

Tasteless and sexist

I disagree with the editor's note following a letter to the editor about Keith Cunningham's "springtime" column (*ODE*, May 14).

I must say that I found the column to be fairly tasteless and sexist, but I am used to illogical, distorted and unclear arguments in this section. I was just glad that the introduction, body and conclusion of this piece supported each other.

However, I did read Cunningham's piece as a straightforward account of his feelings about the season.

Now, I am confused to find out it was intended as "pure sarcasm."

Sarcasm about what? Doesn't sarcasm have to be about something? Doesn't a journalist have a responsibility to his reader to be clear about what he is being sarcastic about?

Does the editorial staff of the *Emerald* feel any responsibility to print quality work?

Anne Tillinghast
Comparative Literature

Unfair festival

The Willamette Folk Festival,

sponsored partially by University students will be held this weekend on the EMU lawn. This is the perfect opportunity for students to sell crafts and make a little cash, if the student has an extra \$75 to shell out for space. The only alternative is to be a strolling vendor for \$30.

Many established companies that can afford the cost will have booths, expecting to make a nice profit from the students and consumers.

However, the representation of crafts from students is likely to be very low.

Maureen Lynch
Undeclared

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