

COMMENTARY

Friday, November 1, 2002

Editorial

Read more

For all of the Emerald's endorsements, as well as a guide to all of the local and state races and ballot measures, read our pull-out guide in the middle of today's paper.

All of the Emerald's election coverage — including full stories about the ballot measures and Q & A interviews with the candidates — is available at

www.dailyemerald.com

Our conscience doesn't let us pick Spanovich for governor

We really wanted to write a gubernatorial endorsement that would break the mold and get people riled up. We wanted to give the Oregon Commentator fodder for a whole article. We wanted to endorse write-in candidate Gary Alan Spanovich.

A majority of the editorial board believes Spanovich would be the best governor — he offers enlightened leadership and a change in the way Oregon does politics. But there's a lot at stake in this race.

Spanovich is a man of compassion, and he hopes to bring that ethos to politics, to give Oregon a real vision for the future. He would work with leaders in the state to develop compassionate, workable plans of action to benefit most Oregonians. He has extensive experience teaching college students, and he has worked with students to bring Nobel laureates to Portland State University for a conference on world peace.

Spanovich's compassion has taken him to India — homeland of his Buddhist beliefs — four times to personally improve the lives of people there, including organizing and raising money to build a school for 100 street children.

In an interview with the Emerald, Spanovich recalled the days of Gov. Tom McCall, when Oregon had the sense that it was creating a different way of life — a better way of life. Today, Spanovich said, there is no larger vision, and Oregon politics is mired the status quo, which means money and influence in leadership, instead of vision and values.

We wholeheartedly agree. We want a different, better vision for Oregon than is represented by our current two-party choices. Democracy is corrupt when voters find themselves voting not for the best candidate, but against the worst candidate.

Nevertheless, there are stark differences between the two leading candidates — Ted Kulongoski and Kevin Mannix — that are important to us and that we believe are important to students. Kulongoski says he represents choice for women's bodies, support for state services and protections for the environment. Mannix emphatically does not; his moderate mask isn't even affixed very well.

The easy thing to do, then, would be to endorse Kulongoski. But we cannot, in good conscience, overlook the fact that we believe a better candidate exists.

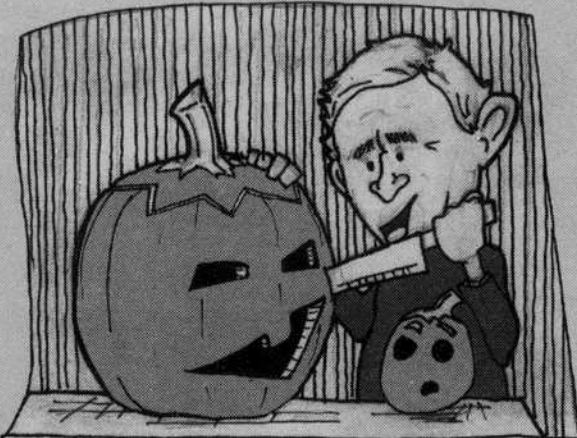
For some people, democracy means everyone votes for what they believe is best, and then after an election, everyone's voice gets heard at the Big Compromise Table.

For others, the compromise happens within themselves, before the election. They pick from a pre-determined set of choices, and then the winners make the rules.

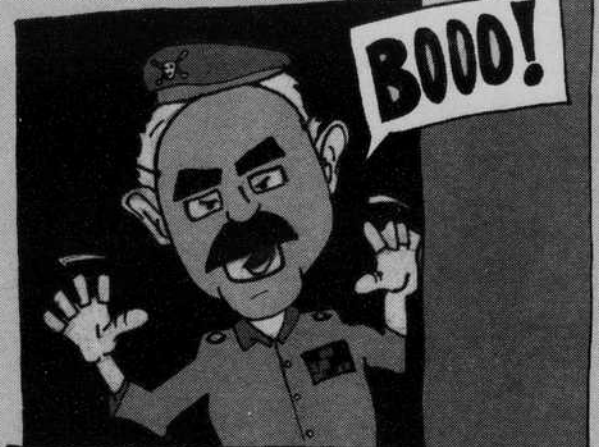
We're not telling students which school of thought is right — the system is flawed. But our conscience tells us the only endorsement we can make is for University community members to vote their conscience. Whatever you choose, please vote.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com.

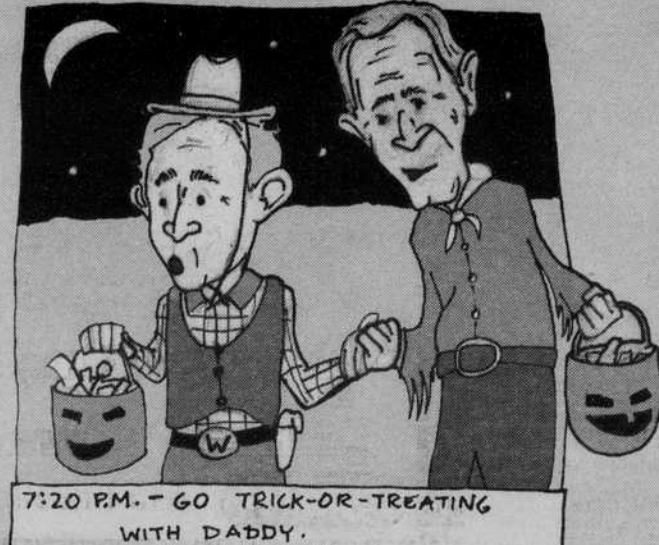
HOW I SPENT MY HALLOWEEN - BY GEORGE W.



3:15 P.M. - BLOW OFF MIDEAST PEACE TALKS TO CARVE PUMPKINS.



5:03 P.M. - SCARE THE BEJESUS OUT OF WHITE HOUSE TOUR GROUP



7:20 P.M. - GO TRICK-OR-TREATING WITH DADDY.



9:08 P.M. - GO TO BED WITH MASSIVE TUMMY ACHES.

Peter Utsey Emerald

Letters to the editor

Human services require political attention

As the political dialogue is hijacked to narrowly focus on taxation and terrorism this election season, the electorate is inadvertently taxing and terrorizing even more than our education system. Human services are beyond the crisis stage in this land of child poverty and substance abuse.

As the media virtually ignores funding cutbacks for mental illness, elderly care, counseling services, the arts, health needs and so many more essential services for those who desperately need them, what little humanity we have left is called into question. The interests of those who can afford to buy media messages are trampling the common sense approach of serving vulnerable citizens.

Rarely reported studies show that prevention is cost-effective four to seven times over when serving at-risk people and families. It saves prison costs, other crime costs, health care costs and other social services costs by simply providing help to people with needs.

Disabled, poor, and drug addicted people are not bad people. They, along with the uneducated, children with behavior problems and domestic violence clients will help themselves if given proper intervention that they have not been previously afforded.

As service-provider cuts are being ignored and long-term Measure 11 inmates are finally being released with few prospects and little assistance, the question arises: Is the rising cost of caring so little about each other really worth it?

Mike Meyer
 junior
 family and human services program

Vote no to help Oregon's economy

This is in response to the editorials about Measures 23 and 25 (ODE, Oct. 28 and Oct. 29). Voting yes on both measures would negatively affect Oregon's already suffering economy.

Voting no on Measure 23 is voting yes for improving Oregon's economy. It is preposterous to believe an 8 percent income tax increase is not huge. Most people's taxes are approximately 30 percent of their salaries. Another 8 percent on top of that means it would be difficult to earn a decent wage. Consider the people who have medical and dental insurance.

Not only are insurance benefits worthless if everyone has free health care, but Oregon insurance companies would go out of business, which would add to Oregon's already ridiculously high unemployment. This relates to voting no on Measure 25.

Raising minimum wage another 40 cents will make Oregon's minimum wage \$1.75 above the federal minimum wage. Oregon also has the highest unemployment rate. A high minimum wage and a high unemployment rate are related. Raising minimum wage forces employers to lay off employees, raise prices or both, because they cannot afford to pay \$6.90 an hour and expect to earn the same profits.

Those who rely on \$6.50 per hour may see their wage change if Measure 25 passes — not from \$6.50 to \$6.90 per hour, but from \$6.50 to zero per hour, with a trip to the unemployment office.

Voting no on Measures 23 and 25 is good for Oregon's economy.

Luke Aillaud
 junior
 journalism

Bradbury's actions fight the hype

Before you cast your ballot in the elections, stop and think about what Senator Gordon Smith stands for. The attack ads of the Republican Party and Gordon Smith have done more than stretch the truth. Recently, the Republican Party ran an ad saying that Bill Bradbury decided to clearcut his own property 10 years ago. Ray Wood, owner of Ray Wood Logging and the man who helped harvest timber on Bradbury's property, denies this allegation.

The truth is that Bradbury went far beyond state environmental laws to protect the health of his land. Smith is running deceiving attack ads to look moderate and divert attention away from his own dismal environmental record.

Let's take a look at some of Sen. Gordon Smith's far from moderate votes:

The National League of Conservation Voters ranking (2001) — 0 percent; failed to give support for Senate Bill (H.R. 2217) to restrict drilling and mining in our National Monuments; voted against amendment (H. Con. Res. 83) to increase funding for environmental programs in 2002 federal budget; offered amendment (H.R. 2217) to suspend endangered species protection for Coho Salmon and two other endangered fish in Klamath Basin of Oregon and in California.

Bradbury believes in a sustainable environmental policy and has received endorsements from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club. This November, don't believe the lies. Vote Bill Bradbury for United States Senate.

Kevin Curtin
 sophomore
 political science