

Forum

Nader STILL persistent through election

CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

One must ask, does Presidential candidate Ralph Nader really think he can win the presidency, or even get on the ballot? Nader, who announced his run for presidency on Feb. 24, is hoping that his fifth run will yield the glorious result that is the presidency. However, we all know he has no chance. So, why is he even running?

Every four years since 1992, the 74 year-old Nader has stepped up on some podium and announced that he will be, yet again, running for the presidency as an Independent. And independent he is. The man has lost followers (except for members of websites like DraftNader.org) over the years, mainly because Americans are becoming increasingly frustrated with his difficulty "letting go" of the fact that there is no hope of his election. In the 2000 election, the highest number of votes he received was 418,707 votes in California, and the lowest a little over 4,500 in Wyoming. His popularity only deteriorated over the next four years, as the highest number of votes he received in 2004 was 99,873, the lowest 2,153 in Delaware.

If Nader hadn't run in 2000 and 2004, the Democrats would have had an extremely good chance of winning, because most independents (if they didn't have Nader) would probably sway on the side of the liberals.

Most of Nader's support comes from the Green Party, which, according to gp.org, is committed to environmentalism, social justice and renewing democracy without corporate impact. Those ideas are very similar to that of liberals and Democrats. They are far from the conservative views. Nader's run in this race could really hurt the Democrats, as he usually takes one to two percent of the overall vote.

That one to two percent could be the difference between 49% and 51%.

According to Msnbc.com, Nader has said that he won't be "giving" votes to John McCain. "Not a chance," Nader told *Oregonian* reporter Bob Herbert in a recent interview. "If the Democrats can't landslide the Republicans this year, they ought to just wrap up, close down, emerge in a different form," he said. Let's hope he's right,

otherwise there will be some very angry liberals knocking on his door come Nov. 12. During the 2004 election, President George W. Bush won by 537 votes; votes Democrats say belonged to Senator Al Gore. Nader has stated that Bush and Gore were very similar, and it was Gore's fault that he did not win more states.

The one question that remains unanswered is "why?" Why is a man whose name strikes fear into the

hearts of Democrats and laughter from Republicans still running, or, by this time, crawling? Nader, on average, has represented about two percent of our population. Yes, his supporters matter and deserve a voice in politics, but they can be fairly represented by a Democrat. It's time for Nader to throw in the towel and put an end to the legacy of losing that has plagued the Democrats since 2000.

Poor audience behavior detrimental to performers

JON HELMKAMP

co-Editor-in-Chief

Imagine spending countless hours memorizing lyrics or lines, rehearsing, and committing to giving your best performance, only to have members of your audience completely disregard your performance. Unfortunately, this is all too common in the performing arts.

According to John Ares, Performing Arts Technical Director, some of the most common misbehaviors are audience members putting their feet up on the wood handrailing or on the back of seats, eating and drinking even after being told not to, and even making out during the performance. "How gross would that be, if that were happening right next to you?" Ares asked.

I can tell you from experience that there is nothing worse than seeing your audience tuning out your performance. By far, the best example of this is during assemblies. I've performed with the band and,

this year, sang the national anthem with the Jazz Choir. Both experiences I've had performing at assemblies led me to feel completely disrespected and enraged

"Bad audience behavior can affect student performers in several ways; the biggest effect may be one of shaking their confidence. Many times, those people up on stage may

them laugh again. The actors can work hard for months in rehearsal but the real magic of theatre doesn't really occur until there is an audience to share it with," Ariel Heston, senior, said.

Some behaviors that people don't seem to understand as being rude include getting up and leaving in the middle of a piece, texting, or using flash photography in the middle of a performance.

"Flash photography is extremely dangerous as well, particularly to dancers, who have a sea of black around them and then suddenly they have a blinding flash go off. They can lose their balance, or become disoriented and could end up in the orchestra pit, or crashing into a wall," Ares said.

This behavior issue isn't only a problem with students, but also a problem with the community. According to Ares, one of the main problems is that adults in this area did not grow up with cultural experiences. He thinks that most of their experiences with a "theater" is a movie theater, where food is allowed—and encouraged—inside the theater, and it is "acceptable" to dump food and trash on the floor. There is a major difference in etiquette between a movie theater and a theater of performing arts.

For the sake of all the members of the performing arts, something has to be done. Respect needs to be shown to all performers. Those performers deserve the chance to give their performance to the best of their ability without worrying about whether or not the audience is paying attention. So be aware of how your behavior as a member of the audience affects the performers. Do not text, talk, listen to music or use flash photography during a live performance.



Argan, played by Avik Bandyopadhyay, senior, sits between Cleante, played by Tyler Harmon, junior, and Angelique, played by Jordan Scott, senior, in "The Imaginary Invalid." Audience distractions, such as lights from cell phones, can affect the performers' ability to concentrate throughout the presentation.

Photo submitted by Jon Ares

at the thought that all of our hard work was falling on deaf ears. Our audience, for the most part, was more interested in talking, texting, or listening to their iPods. But anger and frustration aren't always the biggest issue.

Last year I was given the opportunity to play harmonica with the Jazz Choir. The first time I performed in public, I was terrified, it being the first time I'd played in front of a large group of my peers. Luckily, I had a good audience that night. That audience helped build my confidence. Had that audience been distracting during my performance, I can imagine how terribly I would have been shaken.

be up there for the first time, and it might have taken that performer a lot of work to build up the confidence to get up there in front of their peers. How sad is it to ruin all that hard work with some booing or howling, or other disrespectful activity?" Ares said.

Performers want to be given respect and, if appropriate, want an audience that interacts with the performance. "Having an engaged, attentive audience that reacts to what is happening onstage gives off a great energy to the actors that they can feed off of. Hearing the audience laugh at your first joke makes an actor even more motivated to make

Amplifier

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