

opinion

One opinion to another

When the topic of a conversation turns towards politics, almost everyone is blessed with an opinionated mouth.

Calling a political candidate a "dirty rat" doesn't necessarily mean he is a long-tailed rodent caught in a Kansas dust bowl. Or how about "Turkey?" Does this mean that the candidate will be stuffed and baked for Thanksgiving dinner? Very doubtful.

These phrases simply state that everyone has an opinion.

We argue over which television show to watch, which ballot measure is better and what we should fix for dinner. But the most important bi-product of the opinionated mouth is that we all think we're right, never wrong.

The news media has created avenues in the form of editorial pages to voice opinions without obstructing the objectivity of its news coverage. Editorials are written to voice the opinions of the editorial board of a specific editor. Letters to the editor are welcome from citizens in the community who want to express their opinions.

This is what an opinion page was designed for... opinions. Without them, we would be a very dull lot indeed.

C.B.



feedback

To The Editor:

This is to respond to the reprint of an editorial published in the "Print," Vol. XII, No. 6. The article, entitled "Honest Bob vs. Tricky Vic," was featured in the Oct. 27 issue of Portland State University's "Vanguard."

As a staff reporter for The Print, I am surprised at—and take exception to—the reprinting of such sensationalism. The article, particularly in its comparison of Vic Atiyeh to Richard Nixon, borders on yellow journalism and slander constituting—to quote from the Oregon Journal—"the worst type of demagoguery."

Quoting the writer, "like the Nixon campaign, Atiyeh's run is heavily financed by wealthy, right-wing business and special interest industries..."

"Atiyeh's legislative record reveals a man of vacillating postures and opportune changes of opinion."

"His campaign, like Nixon's is all rhetorical fluff and obfuscation. Slogans like 'It's time for Atiyeh' are as vapid as Nixon's 'Four more years.'"

However the writer, obviously a Democrat, describes Straub as being "a leader of unquestioned integrity." Evidently he failed to read the recent Oregon Journal report

in which State Senator L.B. Day filed an election complaint charging Straub with using "his state office, the services of state employees and state funds in his effort to get re-elected." In my book, that clearly constitutes a question of integrity.

I am a registered Democrat, but my attack is not on my party or on Gov. Straub. Neither is it against the Republicans or Mr. Atiyeh. What I find disgusting is that the appeal to the reader is based on emotional responses that leave no room or criteria for logical, researched judgment. If this is the type of writing that constitutes "journalism," I would

suggest the reporter turn to writing for someone such as Rona Barrett.

I endorse neither candidate, but I do feel the public should—and should be able to—research the issues and decide the merits on its own, and not take the

word of any mud-slinging son who comes along cannot do this we will be a double-minded man, in all his ways, being bold and for as the waves.

Eugene Lawson

the print

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STAR WEEVILS



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