

Shot down in flames

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I wish to take this means of thanking *The Print* and the entire publications and journalism staff here at the College for all of the positive and informative articles that have been published promoting the ASG and all the activities we provide for the students, staff, administration and community.

We have been very pleased to see articles such as: "Etelz Outlines ASG Goals," "Car Rides," "ASG Holds Meeting," "Outdoor Program Offers Resource," "Wachs Plays at Coffee House," "Red Cross Prepares for Drive," and also a full page on "Senate, Student Elections," and for being so willing to accept editorial comments such as my recent editorial on the importance of voting (Oct. 29, "Election Votes Do Count").

It is a good feeling to know we have your support and I feel a very open communication system has been established between *The Print* Editor Thomas A. Rhodes and myself. I am also pleased to have J. Dana Haynes in attendance at all ASG meetings. I thank you and commend you for your promotion, and positive journalism.

One particular article in the Oct. 29 issue of *The Print* entitled "Ryan Victim of ASG Mess, Shot Down in Flames," I feel blemishes that positive journalism and communication and unjustly casts a negative shadow on the ASG. It is this article I wish to address. First I can't help but reflect upon the positive and good that this article possesses. In our daily lives we often see government and the press at odds and this article reflects that on the college level. It should be a learning experience and for that the article is good. (sic) It also has brought the ASG together because we have a lot of pride in our work, the good job we are doing and will continue to do this year.

I appreciate the editorial criti-

que of our performance and welcome them at anytime. My only hope is that they reflect the truth, and that all concerned are considered before publishing such an article. I wish to analyze this article and possible provide some interesting information and comment.

"Why did ASG Senate Candidate Sue Ryan end up as a write-in when her name should have been on the ballot?" The reason Sue Ryan's name and the names of Shirley Oxley and Jean McAllister did not appear on the ballot is because the list of candidates were turned into the elections office Thursday, Oct. 16 at 3:30 p.m. before their petitions were turned into the ASG."

Ryan claims her petition was "legally submitted at noon, at least one hour before the deadline. Petitions turned in at noon would have been turned in five hours before the deadline or one week after the original deadline. The original deadline was 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3. We chose to extend that deadline to 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, because we wanted to have more students informed and applying since on the Oct. 3, there were only 13 names. The problem arose not from a deadline by us, but by the county elections office.

In the article, writer Mike Rose said, "I don't see any reason to rush the petitions down to the elections office. The county elections office did not set a deadline."

This is just not true. There was a reason to rush them (the names) to the elections office because Activities Director Debbie Baker and I were informed by Ben Marberry of the elections office that in order to have them (the names) processed and to be able to use the polls, we must have the names in his hands by 4 p.m., Thursday. The article also stated that "No one who was involved with the election can explain

why Ryan's name was omitted from the ballot..." Actually no one who knew was consulted before the article was published, including myself and Debbie Baker. Also when David Buckley, student program specialist, told the author point blank why (he thought) it occurred, he omitted this information from his article.

In regards to why many voters made the mistake of punching the write-ins instead of writing them in. Certainly we had no control. When the names were not on the ballot we carefully decided the best way to include the names. We even had several voters try each different way and chose that the easiest to understand was the method we used. (sic) It is all a learning experience and the ASG wanted the (sic) improve voter awareness by having our Senate Elections done with actual polls. Many students didn't know how to vote, number of ballots were stuck in the machine, some students tried to push buttons. Still others tried to use their student body cards in the machine. All write-ins that were properly written-in were counted.

Other editorial comments such as, "no one was in charge or knew exactly what was going on. Aside from all this, student body elections "went good!" (sic) and, "The Three Stooges would admire the coordination that went into this years student body elections," are all unnecessary comments. Nothing was mentioned that it was the largest number of candidates for senator in college history or that the voter turnout was one of the largest in history and that a larger number of individuals manned the polls than in previous elections. This was possibly the reason all student body were not initialed. Actually no one voted twice and safeguards are taken before counting the ballots to make sure no one voted twice, and that they are a student. We also made it possible for students who did not have their student body cards to vote and then their names were checked as well. A lot of coordination and effort did go into the election and I thank all who worked from ASG in the elections. Its not an easy job.

If Sue Ryan wished, she or any candidate who had a complaint, they, through the constitution of the ASG and the elections code, have three school days to submit it in writing. Perhaps her efforts would have been better used to come to us and not the paper. I apologize to the three individuals whose names did not appear on the ballot but hope that they will consider being on



the list of applicants now being taken for two senate positions that are currently open. I sent a letter inviting all who were not elected to apply. I was very concerned that there was room in the paper for this article and not room to announce the two open senate positions and the opening of an ASG Art Director position. I also am concerned that no articles have been in the paper about the new student orientation, ice cream feed, pumpkin carving contest, Halloween dance, the success of the Senior Retreat, and positive comments on the senate elections success, or on the film series, video programs, and more information on Coffeehouses, mini-programs, and Jack White. I strongly urge less emphasis on the negative and more emphasis on positive in

future articles in *The Print*. also ask that all those involved be considered before publishing an article such as this.

--ERIC ETZEL
Student Body President

(Ed. note: Reporter Mike Rose's sources for the story in question were ASG Vice President Neva Barker, in charge of student body elections; Ben Marberry, Coordinator, Special District Elections, Office Of County Clerk Clackamas County; David Buckley, Student Program Specialist; and the following student body elections workers: Terry Kemp, Tammy Edmisten, Ed DeGraw, and Randy Evans, and, of course, Sue Ryan.

Armageddon on Horizon soon

By Thomas A. Rhodes

"Doom!" "Gloom!" Disaster ahead for the nation!" I can read the headlines now. How could they? How could the American voter be suckered into voting for a leader that refuses to acknowledge that all people (men and women) are equal? How could the American voter vote for a man who promises cuts in taxes while raising the budget for the military by millions (if not billions) of dollars?

How could the American public vote for a man who wants to tear apart the American frontier by letting the oil companies loose to drill holes where ever they please? How could the American voter vote for a man who still thinks that using a gun to solve foreign problems would be better than diplomacy. How could the voter elect the man who cut state funding to the senior citizens, the handicapped, and increased taxes three times while governor of California?

How could the American voter elect a man to the highest office in the land who would only have to pay a dime to ride a Tri-Met bus? Nothing against the elderly, but if one were to look at a picture of Jimmy Carter when he first became President and look at a picture of him now, one would notice that he looks like he gained 20 years in age. What will America do with a 90-year old President in four years?

How could the American voter do this?

staff

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office: Trailer B telephone: 657-8400, ext. 309, 310
editor: Thomas A. Rhodes

assignment editor: Matt Johnson; news editor: David Hayden
arts editor: Michael L. Rose; feature editor: Steve Lee
sports editor: Rick Obritschewitsch;

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staff writers: Linda Cabrera, Edward M. Coyne, Amy DeVour,
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