

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor need to be turned in by 1 p.m. on the Friday before publication. All letters need to be signed. Letters should be 500 words or less. Send to the Print at: e-mail: CCCprint@clackamas.cc.or.us phone: 657-6958 ext. 2309 Fax Number: 655-5153

Our address is: Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon, 97045; Barlow 104; (503) 657-6958, ext. 2309. The Print reserves the right to not print Letters to the Editor.

## Media shies away from unpopular candidates

**Karin Redston**  
Staff Writer

With all of the negative campaigning in the senate race by Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, candidates from other parties have had little, if any, media coverage.

According to the State of Oregon's voting pamphlet, there are six parties providing candidates for former Senator Packwood's seat. They are the American Party, the Democratic Party, the Libertarian Party, the Pacific Party, the Republican Party, and the Socialist Party. All but two parties are, for the most part, excluded from media coverage.

In a country whose constitution guarantees a multi-party system, the Democrats and the Republicans have maneuvered to eliminate any chance of participation by other parties.

The closest anyone has come to establishing a successful third party has been Ross Perot. The disturbing part about this situation is that the media has strongly supported this established system.

Mass media has always claimed to be speaking for the people but, in reality, it tends to represent the views of the few. They represent the views of the

wealthy few who own the various newspapers, radio and television stations. Media coverage or lack of it has made or broken candidates running for office.

Ideally, journalists are objective and non-biased. In reality, this is not the case. Lack of reporting of smaller political parties, not allowing all candidates to debate the issues and endorsements of candidates have put the media in a very powerful position.

Major corporations have bought out major networks and radio stations and have systematically terminated those who do not agree with their corporate point of view.

The last few years have seen many radio announcers, newspaper reporters and television newscasters out of work because they did not follow the corporate line.

Any party, no matter what the size deserves the right to be heard. This includes fair debates and equal news time and coverage. Journalists have a responsibility to report as fairly and as accurately as possible.

To exclude any party is bias and this Oregon senate election has been anything but fair to the candidates and to the United States electoral process.

## Campaign ads become childish as race nears end

**Brendon Neal,**  
Opinion Editor and  
**Brad Zimmerman,**  
Assistant Feature Editor

The current senate race between Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith has broken down into a mudslinging contest.

Almost all political campaigning eventually degrades into candidates insulting their opponents, with complaints becoming more frivolous as election time arrives. However, this is one of the worst state campaigns in many years.

Claims include wasting tax dollars on cleaning up pollution caused by his company (Smith), untrustworthy (Wyden), being a career politician (Wyden) and many other insults, with more sure to come.

An unusually severe case of mudslinging came into the media spotlight on Jan. 9. The Teamsters Union put out a radio ad against Gordon Smith. It indicated that several deaths and injuries at his business were caused by bad working conditions. Wyden wouldn't even condone it. He has asked the Teamsters to remove it, but they said no for now, saying that they would take his complaint into

consideration.

Do these commercials work to the voters' advantage? Does knowing all the distorted truths about the politicians' past give us

“  
**If voters keep listening to and accepting these commercials politicians won't ever change their ways.**  
”

a better idea as to what they will or won't do for Oregon if they are elected?

If the information was backed by fact and published by someone other than their opposition, it might help, but not the answer to the above questions is no, as is. The information is unsubstantiated and appears to be name calling. They raise anger and confusion in the viewers by taking subjects such as environment, use of taxes, without giving the hard facts on politicians.

We would like to see fewer commercials overall. And those that would run should have "pure" fact, with sources cited, dealing with their past political activities. People do things that they shouldn't, but it doesn't necessarily make them bad politicians. More often the claims against them hurt their effectiveness rather than what they actually did.

What we need to know about, is what they have stood for in their last term in office, or at least no more than six years.

A real danger of current political advertising is the loss of potential candidates. People with skeletons in their closets, even minor ones, are often afraid to run.

Voters need to convince candidates that their mudslinging doesn't work. This is especially true in a Senate race like this one where the two major candidates are tied in the polls.

If voters keep listening to and accepting these commercials, politicians won't ever change their ways. We need to encourage candidates to give us what we want before they are elected as well as after.

## Voters need to take a hand in nation's future

**Ryan Humphris**  
Assistant Opinion Editor

Leave it up to our government to screw up again. The Christmas present our country received was, yes, another Federal shutdown.

Why this surprises me, I do not know. The Republicans and Democrats are up to their old tricks again, never seeming to agree on anything. But, in fact, they have agreed to become egg-heads.

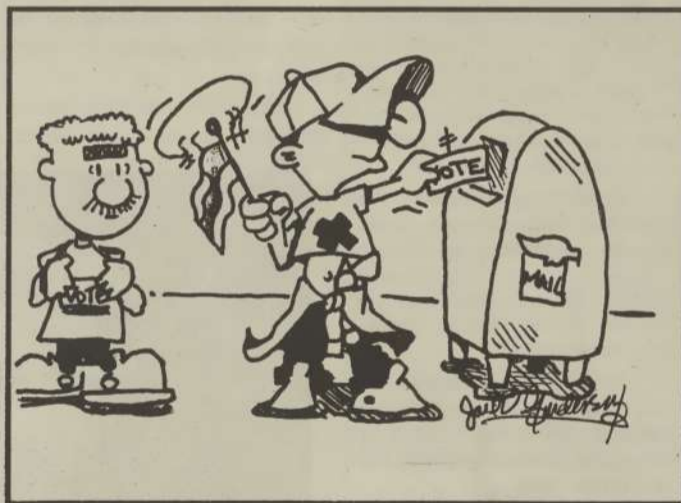
Clinton should realize that Dole and Gingrich are not making any tremendous effort to conform to his wishes; the same goes for Dole and Gingrich when it comes to Clinton. Clinton basically has his head so full of bureaucratic bullsh\*\* that it has clouded his judgment.

In our last senate election, Clinton lost his backing in Congress to a majority of freshman Republicans. Knowing this, Clinton needs to make the decision to agree to disagree.

If our people voted in more Republicans than Democrats, then this must mean they would rather have the Republicans' way of thinking representing us in decisions concerning our country.

The thought of having right-wing conservatives running our country makes me sick. How can so many people be so anal-retentive as to think that our country doesn't need any help?

I see plenty of people walking the streets, kids dropping out



of school, and have experienced enough drive-by shootings to realize that we need to help ourselves before we can help others.

The President sending our troops to Bosnia may have been a good idea to some; but in my opinion, for us to honestly think hate that began hundreds of years ago can be stopped in just under a year is ludicrous. Instead of using money to deploy our troops in Bosnia, we should use it to educate our citizens.

If Clinton and Congress would like to make our country better, then they should start by taking care of us.

Granted, everything usually does get blown out of proportion through media and "he-said, she-said" information. But, come on, this is our country we are talking about here. You know, the one our forefathers gave their lives to

create. I honestly do not think this is what they had in mind when writing our Declaration of Independence.

As students of CCC, and the next generation to run our country, we need to take it upon ourselves to rekindle the drive that once made our country great. Get involved in what is going on in our Oval Office and Senate steam rooms. Don't let our country go to waste.

Vote in our Senate election by Jan. 30 and also let your voices be heard in the presidential campaign.

Do not just vote for who your parents or friends tell you to vote for.

At least give each candidate a second glance; find out what they are really about before you decide.

### The Clackamas Print Staff

**Editor-in-Chief:** Chad Patteson (Ext. 2576)  
**Managing Editor:** Amy K. Hanson (Ext. 2576)  
**Feature Editor:** Jon Roberts (Ext. 2578)  
**Sports Editor:** Jesse Sowa (Ext. 2578)  
**Photography Editor:** Josh Kehler (Ext. 2578)  
**Copy Editor:** Vicki Welch (Ext. 2578)  
**Opinion Editor:** Brendon Neal (Ext. 2576)  
**Business Manager:** Cori Kargel (Ext. 2578)  
**Assistant Opinion Editor:** Ryan Humphris (Ext. 2309)  
**Assistant Feature Editor:** Brad Zimmerman (Ext. 2309)  
**Assistant Photo Editor:** Lora Wahrgren (Ext. 2578)  
**News Editor:** Pamela Sirianni (Ext. 2309)

♦♦♦♦  
**Staff Writers/Photographers:**  
Eric Eatherton, Megan Friedow,  
Andrew Beck, Laney Fouse, Damon Fouts,  
Tarah Nimz, Karin Redston, Joel Shempert  
**Cartoonist:** Joel Gunderson

**Secretary:** Joanne Gale (Ext. 2309)  
**Advisor:** Linda Vogt (Ext. 2310)

The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas Print do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty or The Clackamas Print's advertisers. Products and services advertised in The Clackamas Print are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas Print. The Clackamas Print is a weekly publication distributed every Wednesday except for finals week. The advertising rate is \$4.50 per column inch.

Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon, 97045; Barlow 104; (503) 657-6958, ext. 2309.  
E-mail: cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us