

The Lesser of Two Evils:

'Little' known third candidate offers better selection

Frank Jordan
of the Clackamas Print



2004 presidential election season is well underway, with the stretch coming at us in full. As the television ads get fiercer and each candidate strays further and further away from the issues that matter to us, let me take a look at which candidate you shouldn't vote for and give you an idea as to who you should.

President George W. Bush (not confused with his daddy, George H. W. Bush, the president before him), lost the popular vote four years ago but was handed the keys to the Oval Office by the Supreme Court. What has the prez done for the last four years? He took a billion surplus and turned it into a \$450 billion deficit, got us involved in a war that we probably shouldn't be in, wants to declare homosexuals non-citizens (constitutional amendment???) and can't keep a record straight on his military service. I won't even go into his pronunciation skills (all right, yes, we can all say "nuke-uh").

His main opposition this season is Democratic senator from Massachusetts, John Kerry. Kerry happens to be married to a yuppie heiress, has had a vast empire and somewhat distinguished

career in the United States Senate. Now, he wishes to throw it all away to be "the most powerful man in the free world."

But Mr. Kerry has waffled so much during this campaign, someone needs to serve him up with a little butter and syrup (can anyone say Eggo?). He voted for the war in Iraq, but wouldn't vote to fund

it. He says he initially did vote to fund it, but in a later and more decisive vote, he chose to vote no.



may become the money pit that we might never get out of. Especially if re-elected by the Supreme Court—er, I mean the voters. This, my friends, is a case of choosing between the lesser of two evils. You know one of these guys is going to win. Someone out there will cast at least one vote for one of these two men, so one of them

will take up residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in January. But I have an alternative.

This being is a very cute, very loyal, very trustworthy entity, who always does what she is told and never complains. This being never waffles and has an exemplary service record. She knows the value of money and watches every dime.

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I hereby submit for your written approval: Mattie, The Print's mascot. She is five years old (in dog years; 35 to you and me, which is the minimum age required to be president of the U.S.) and has served this staff faithfully and lovingly for the last couple of years. I know, I know, I am possibly being selfish and probably being inane, but you know, it may be the only choice. Mattie represents all that is good in the world, in contrast to our two other candidates for president, who shall be forever cast as the two evils.

But remember, I really don't care who you vote for (Mattie), but just remember to vote on November 2 (Mattie). As the old saying goes, if you don't vote, you have no right to complain. Please get out and cast a ballot (Mattie). It could make all of the difference in the world. (Subliminal advertising brought to you by Mattie for President 2004.)



And now a word from our sponsors

Welcome back apes! The new school year has started and it's your chance to turn over a new leaf. I'm sure that we all have room for personal growth during this upcoming school year. It is up to each of us individually to facilitate that growth. I would now like to take this opportunity to shed some light on my role as newly appointed editor-in-chief.

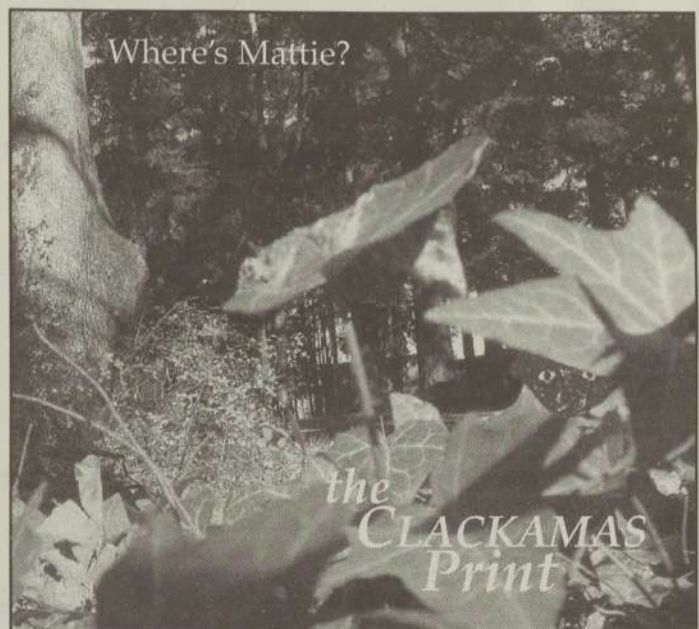
As you may be aware, the Clackamas Newspaper Publisher's Association (ONPA) holds an annual collegiate day. This is an event for newspapers from colleges throughout the state to come in contact with one another in order to network, share resources and generally mooze over free lunch.

ONPA's collegiate day is not to be eaten; there is a darker side to this bacchanal. In addition to the food, the officiators dole out awards to the various schools for their effort (or lack thereof) in a variety of categories from best photo to general excellence.

It is this award that has haunted my dreams of late. It is my belief that the current staff is capable of winning this prestigious award.

More important than the writers and photographers that make up the Print staff, however, is your feedback that tells us where we are going horribly wrong or how awesome we truly are.

Thanks for your readership and continued support and I look forward to your visits in the future.



Don't be bashful-tell it like it is

Hilliary Ferguson
Commentary Editor



Hooray for another year at your local Harvard on the Hill. I'm Hilliary (some of you may remember me from the rolling backpack fiasco of spring term) and I'll be your opinion editor for the coming year.

As opinion editor, it's my job to give the students a voice in matters concerning the state of our community. Now, some of you may have noticed that the general populous of the school tends to lean toward the left. From time to time, our paper more heavily reflects that side of things, yet I know that there are two sides to every argument.

This is why I'm extending an invitation to the student body: if

you feel strongly on a certain issue, voice your opinion! I yearn for your letters... let me know that we've pissed you off or made you cry tears of joy. It's just not healthy to bottle up those feelings. Besides, the writers and I surely don't have the only ideas worth printing. So, if you have a different take on an issue, use your words (and your word processor) and give us the old "one-two."

Letters (of the kind or not-so-kind variety) can be brought to Roger Rook 135 on a floppy disk, or e-mailed to oped@clackamas.edu. I look forward to a more well-rounded commentary section in the coming year, so we need all the ideas you can give us. May the force be with you. (P.S. These aren't the droids you're looking for.)

Politics aren't meant to be entertaining

One of the greatest social delusions of Americans is the idea that such issues as Bush's record with the National Guard and the flip-flop charge against Kerry are viable topics for what we might call our national political discourse. There is a growing sense that character holds as much priority as do their ideologies - not that they do much to counter this idea.

This is rhetorical error. It's called ad hominem, Latin for "against the man." This is when argumentation moves from the debate to the debaters, or when appeal is directed towards emotions. This is a devious way to divert attention from the errors in one's own argumentation. Ad hominem arguments unfairly appeal to emotions rather than reason, and because of this are first rate enemies of democracy, a rational institution. The fixation on such frivolous topics is only goaded by a news-media bent on getting a story in. Strangely, we only see this, politics as entertainment and, indeed, entertainers as politicians, in this Age of Television.

On a concluding thought, we should remind ourselves that some of our greatest leaders were drunks (FDR and Churchill), or were depressed to the point of considering suicide (Lincoln), in office no less. Certainly not great character traits.

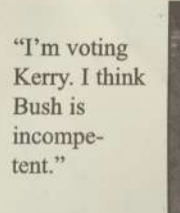
Joe Clement
CCC Student

STUDENT POLL: Who are you voting for in 2004?



Johnny Jangles

"John Kerry, because he sucks less than Bush."



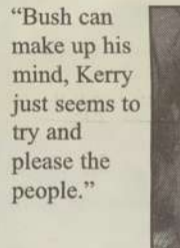
Jayde Cook

"I'm voting Kerry. I think Bush is incompetent."



Brandon Zornado

"No one has had to go through what [Bush] went through. He went through 9/11."



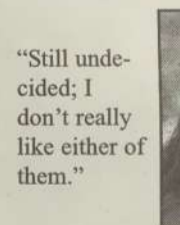
Alex Blackmon

"Bush can make up his mind, Kerry just seems to try and please the people."



Dominique Savy

"I'm undecided, but leaning towards Kerry. He seems to know what he is doing more, Bush seems like an idiot."



Andrea Wilson

"Still undecided; I don't really like either of them."



Krieg Holland

"Most likely Bush. He actually has a standpoint, and Kerry seems wavery in what he wants to do."

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