

# opinion

## Democratic lip service about a woman V.P.

The Democrats have come within a well-coiffed hair of promising to choose a woman as the running mate on their party ticket.

Are women supposed to be excited with this non-committal commitment, or is it just so much more election year rhetoric? We're inclined to think it's just rhetoric.

Women, say the Democrats, are ready to take their turn in the front office. But, as with every other advance in equality, it has taken a white male to tell a non-white male "You are ready" to give the change validity.

It is about time women took their place in the front office. It's been about time for as long as anyone cares to remember. The same can be said of the Democrats' patronly offer. That's what it is. The Democrats have placed a male arm around the collective group known as women, and in a syrupy-sweet voice that has conned many, recited their lines.

Spare us the manure.

The Democrats *want* a woman as a running mate as badly as the Republicans *wanted* James Watt to resign. The Democrats *need* a woman running mate as badly as the Republicans *needed* Watt to resign. It's image. It's politics.

The Democrats, trying to capitalize on Pres. Ronald Reagan's even more patronizing attitude, have opted to give women an inch. We hope women will take a mile.

The Democrats' sincerity is questionable. As with any politician, the candidates will tell Americans they really want a woman. The only proof is in the process, and if the Democrats are not sincere, it will be another four years before anything can be changed.

The powers that be in the national organization are counting on the women of this country to believe them. Maybe they actually believe themselves. But if there is sincerity in what the Democrats say, they should probably do some homework before their debates and forums and political recitations.

Sometimes the results are amusing when the boys gather to tell the women what the women will get; such as the Democrats courting of the National Organization for Women.

George McGovern thinks it's the National Organization of Women. John Glenn thinks "we didn't work hard enough" to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. And Ruebin Askew didn't even get an invitation because of his stand against abortion.

Take your choice. Send your most qualified, your most likable, your best representative to join a man who really doesn't understand why you've made all this fuss.

The only candidate who actually sounded like he understood how much of a carrot the Democrats have held on a stick was Walter Mondale. In an effort to show some solidarity, Mondale told NOW; "It's a long march and I'm going to march it with you." Put your four-inch pumps where your mouth is Fritz.

## Act of conscience opposes amendment

University student Melissa Barker's act of conscience lost her \$3,200 in financial aid, but her act may just win a substantial ruling against the Solomon Amendment. And that benefits all students.

Because Barker didn't sign the Selective Service compliance form she was denied \$2,400 in work study funds and \$800 in a guaranteed student loan. Barker, if we judge by her act, doesn't put a price on her conscience.

The loss of financial aid — and the requirements of the Solomon Amendment — have prompted Barker to seek legal counsel.

Barker, with the help of the local chapter of the ACLU, is intent on putting the matter before the courts. She is basing a case around her refusal to sign because of conscience and the denial of federal financial aid that resulted.

Dave Fidanque, head of Eugene's ACLU chapter said they would question whether after her denial of federal financial aid, it would become an obligation on the part of the University to pick up Barker's financial aid.

Fidanque said the obligation might be covered by Article One, Section Three of the Oregon Constitution, which states: "No law shall in any case whatever... interfere with the rights of conscience."

Barker's act of conscience looks to be within the strictures of the Oregon Constitution. But the case will have far-reaching implications on the Solomon Amendment. There's already a case against the amendment pending before the U.S. Supreme Court — Barker's act grants the opportunity to attack the amendment, and possibly void it, in state courts.

The Emerald's opposition to the Solomon Amendment is longstanding. However, it takes an individual's act of conscience like Barker's to put the matter before the courts. We applaud her courage.

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## Dominos or empire-building, an old theory

Many people who would like to see the United States not get involved in Central America are fond of reminding us of parallels between Central America and Vietnam. And there are parallels.

For example, let's talk about Dominoes. Those people who scoff at the "domino theory" have not learned their history. (Students study history at this University, but do they really learn from it?) The "domino theory," you see, is nothing more than a modern version of the age-old, time-tested principle of Messianic empire-building, from the Babylonians and the Pax Romana, to the Third Reich and the one-world communist utopia.

### comments tom visoky

The Vietnam War supposedly de-bunked the "domino theory." But look again. In case you don't remember, or don't want to remember, the Southeast Asian version of Dominoes went something like this: "If North Vietnam conquers South Vietnam, then Laos, Cambodia and Thailand will fall soon after. Well, the "soon" was debatable; empire-building takes time.

"Treaties are only pieces of paper." Adolf Hitler  
In 1973 Henry Kissinger negotiated a "peace" treaty with the North Vietnamese (remember "Peace with Honor"? Echoes of Neville Chamberlain's "peace in our time."), in which the North agreed to cease hostilities against the South. They lied,

however, and in 1975 communist forces rolled into Saigon, while, almost simultaneously, their comrades the Pathet Lao subdued Laos.

But that's not all folks.

In 1979 Vietnamese forces "liberated" Cambodia. Of course, Cambodia under Pol Pot (who was supported by those friendly folks in Red China) was a veritable hell-hole, with the slaughter of almost one-third of the country's eight million people. Life under the new taskmasters is hardly much better, though, and reports of continuing barbarity occasionally filter out of the country.

You would think that after a quarter century of war the "peace-loving people of North Vietnam" (remember that one?) deserve a break. But, alas, empire-building demands sacrifice.

In an extremely revealing article entitled "Why Viet Cong Fleed" (Parade, July 11, 1982) former members of the Viet Cong confessed that they had defected because, among other things, they had become disenchanted by the ongoing fighting in Laos and Cambodia. One Viet Cong officer complained that "We were betrayed by the Hanoi Regime." (Poor idealists. Were you not also betrayed by the real power brokers after the Russian Revolution?)

Another former Vietnamese government official recalls that he was told by the assistant secretary to the communist party that "The liberation of Thailand will be next. It is a historical necessity and a responsibility of the Vietnamese Communist Party."

Terrorist incursions into Thailand have increased dramatically since the communist subjugation of Laos and Cambodia.

Dominoes anybody?

## letters

### Shrooming?

Frank Shaw, I was really impressed with your article on the Greek guard at Oregon's football game with Cal. I enjoy writing that is concise, objective, and supported by facts and details. Unfortunately, your article lacked all of these qualities.

To begin with, you imply that being drunk at duck games is typical of all Greeks and only of Greeks. Come on, Frank, open your eyes. Every other student in the stadium is either drunk, high, or a combination of the two. Tell us the truth, how many lines did you do before the game? Or were you just shrooming when you wrote the article?

I'm not trying to defend every fraternity member on campus, but I think it's incredibly naive and slanderous to discredit the entire

Greek system because of the behavior of a few individuals. Life is rough, Frank. Especially with such trials as sitting in the student section at Autzen Stadium. If you ever start growing up would you please try to do so without unjustly denouncing others along the way.

John Dreeszen

### Misinformed

In regard to the article on SEARCH written by Melissa Martin and printed in the Emerald Oct. 6, if the trend in Search classes appears to be religion, Martin, I would suggest it is because your misinformed article was designed to make it appear that way.

Martin spent an exhausting 20 paragraphs discussing the SEARCH class which does deal with religion. Martin spent no time at all discussing the other

fine classes SEARCH sponsors. That was poor and biased reporting.

I have taken SEARCH classes on greenhouse construction, South African race and class problems, world hunger and black choral arts. I could not have studied these subjects if it were not for SEARCH, let alone earned University credit for my work.

If Martin's article had been fair, the majority of its text would have concerned itself with the accomplishments SEARCH has to be proud of, rather than digging for (and not finding) negative claims with which to slander the hard-working service to student and the University that SEARCH is.

Take a SEARCH class, Martin, and you, too, Paul Holbo — you might learn something.

Molly Widmer  
anthropology

## oregon daily emerald

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