

Jackson will bring issues to campaign

The announcement by Rev. Jesse Jackson that he will be seeking the Democratic nomination for president is, like South Dakota Sen. George McGovern says, "all to the good."

Finally, an aspirant for the nomination who isn't bland and born with oatmeal for brains has come forward, an aspirant who isn't lost among the usual throng. Jackson is intelligent, articulate and charismatic.

Jackson ended speculation he would seek the nomination by formally announcing Thursday. He vowed to "give a voice to the voiceless, representation to the unrepresented and hope to the downtrodden."

Jackson doesn't mumble or give lip service to his advocacy of the poor, women and minorities. That's really refreshing.

"My candidacy will be a quest for a just society and a peaceful world," Jackson was quoted as saying. "My candidacy will help to change the present course of our nation and to rekindle the dormant flames of idealism for all Americans."

Jackson plans to spearhead his campaign with a "rainbow coalition" consisting of blacks, Hispanics, women and the poor. In this instance Jackson will be truly voicing the concerns of the voiceless. The difference between Jackson and the other Democratic contenders is that he's not a politician first, and hasn't become just another servant to the federal bureaucracy. As a Baptist minister and civil rights activist (a protegee of the late Martin Luther King) Jackson is from the streets and knows whereof he speaks.

Jackson will be the impetus to blacks and other minorities to register to vote. This will enfranchise groups that previously had little reason to participate in the democratic process.

If nothing comes of Jackson's run for the nomination still he will have put the issues important to blacks and other minorities at the fore of the campaign. All the Democratic hopefuls will have to address the issues Jackson raises. Perhaps the honorable among them will follow through if he becomes president.

A shame ACLU refuses Barker case

It's unfortunate the American Civil Liberties Union has declined to act as legal counsel for Melissa Barker. But, it's almost understandable.

Barker is the 26-year-old University student who refused to sign the Selective Service draft registration compliance form and was subsequently denied \$3,200 in federal financial aid. She then vowed to fight the Solomon Amendment.

For Barker, her refusal to sign the compliance form was an act of conscience. Although, for the ACLU their refusal to take on the case was less conscience and more practicality.

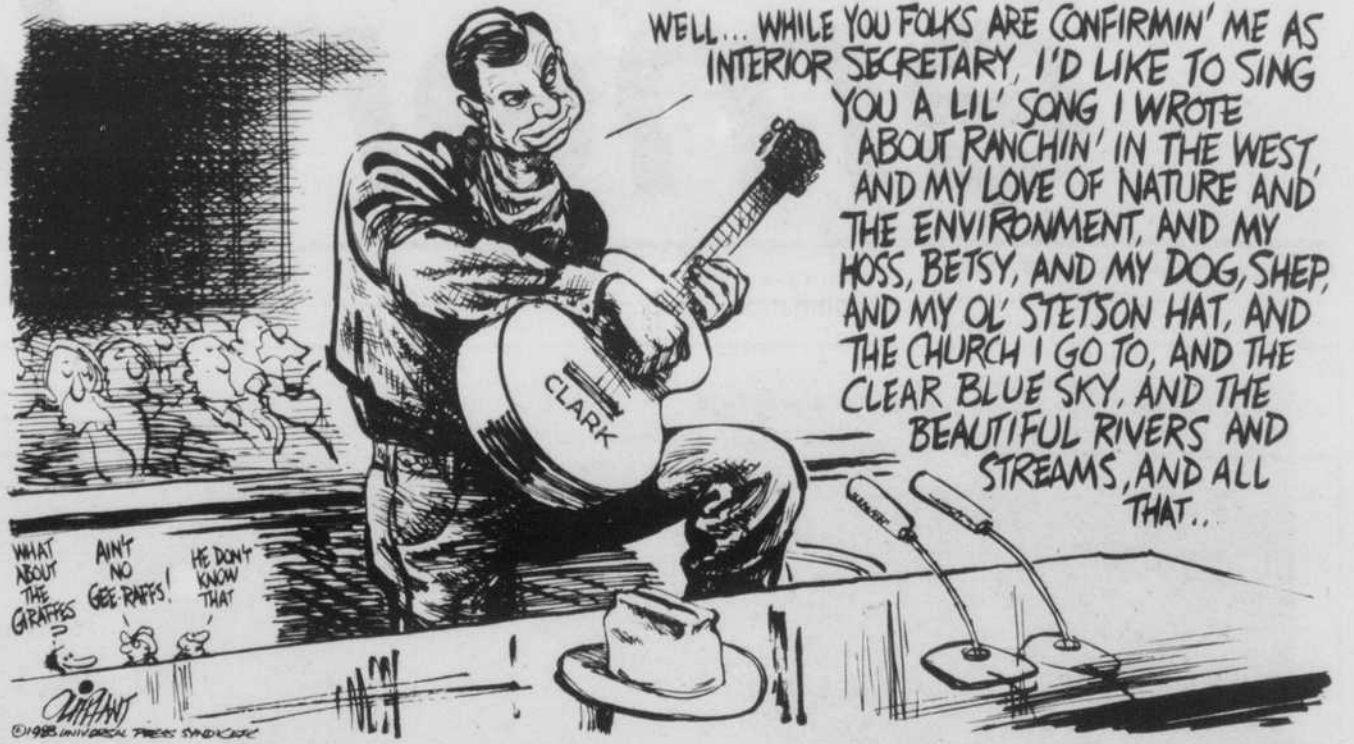
According to Dave Fidanque, director of the Eugene chapter of the ACLU, the decision, reached Friday by the lawyers' committee of the local ACLU, was for "practical reasons rather than theoretical arguments."

It all boils down to the ACLU's resources, which probably would be stretched to the limit in a case the magnitude of Barker's. The ACLU also considered the likelihood of winning the case — not that they considered it unwinnable.

The ACLU could have pursued the Barker case in state courts, using Article One, Section Three of the Oregon Constitution, which states: "No law shall in any case whatever... interfere with the rights of conscience," as the main argument.

It's almost understandable for the ACLU to pull out of the case. The ACLU is particularly busy these days and their resources are limited. Although, if the Barker case is winnable and of such magnitude it's to the shame of the Eugene ACLU they don't pursue it.

As for Barker, she intends to pursue her case. Perhaps a politically or socially active individual or group, with reservations about mandatory draft registration for financial aid and more ready resources, might consider engaging legal services to participate in Barker's act of conscience?



letters

The false, devoid

Having read Brad Simpson's letter on Oct. 28 concerning the Grenadian invasion, I am compelled to reply to his assertions which, in effect, were completely false and devoid of factual bases.

First of all, his statements that the American citizens on Grenada were not in danger and were allowed to leave freely is ridiculous. If Simpson had bothered to pay attention to any newspaper, radio, or television report, he would have discovered that following the execution of Maurice Bishop and subsequent coup, a "shoot on sight" curfew was instituted. In addition, the water supply to the St. George's Medical School which housed the Americans was cut off. Cuban and Grenadian troops stationed themselves in and around the campus. All flights to and from Point Salines Airport were suspended. Furthermore, accounts given by the evacuated American students proved unanimously and conclusively that they felt they were in danger. They also wholeheartedly praised the U.S. military for its quick and decisive action. As one student put it, "It wasn't an invasion, it was a rescue."

Secondly, Simpson's assertion that Pres. Ronald Reagan's justification for the invasion was "based on 'what if' presumptions rather than fact" demonstrates Simpson's complete lack of understanding of the situation. In reality, the administration's reasons for its actions and its predictions of the resistance that might be encountered on Grenada showed to be drastically less than what was actually encountered. Instead of 600 Cuban "construction workers," over 1000 heavily armed Cuban "soldiers" engaged American troops at Point Salines. In addition, six large warehouses were found, each packed with every hand weapon

imaginable. A complex radio and intelligence network was discovered to be in place, a network designed and intended for military purposes. All of this clearly proves that Reagan did not initiate the invasion based on presumptions other than facts. On the contrary, it was the other way around.

Finally, a piece of advice for Simpson. Before you eagerly leap upon your soapbox again and preach your unfactual, unfounded, and untrue drivel, I suggest that you first find out what the hell you are talking about.

Brian Anderson
junior, finance

Hostages

In the grim atmosphere that surrounds the sight of American servicemen returning home in caskets... I grimace and wonder how long it will be before some cause-blinded zealot drives an explosive-laden truck through the fence of an American nuclear facility.

I guess the post-war generations on both sides of the Iron Curtain have grown up as hostages to nuclear technologies, first in weapons systems, and now the nuclear industry. I've never been comfortable with a gun pointed at me... is there an H-bomb with your name on it?

If the Soviets were to launch a successful first strike would there be any honor in frying 180 million Russian women and children in revenge? Would it raise the dead?

Maybe I should take Dr. Sagan's advice to write Ol' Ronnie Reagan and Yuri Andropov and tell them I think they are both out of their (fucking) minds.

Embrace the earth and reach for the stars.

"Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter, or to abolish it, and to institute a new government... as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Thomas Granander
international studies

Bad, bad news

Okay, I know we're all getting a bit sick of bad news: Lebanon, Grenada, the breakdown in nuclear arms reduction talks, the impending deployment of nuclear missiles in Western Europe... The future does not appear very promising from the current perspective.

Want to know how to make all the current bad news seem not so bad? A recent Parade magazine featured an article by scientist Carl Sagan detailing the latest find-

ings about what a nuclear war would do to the earth and the atmosphere. It's not exactly fun reading, but as Sagan points out, we must fight the tendency to deny what such an event could happen by confronting the facts.

Sagan and his associates studied several different nuclear war scenarios. In the average "baseline" case, the earth's temperature would drop to -13 degrees Fahrenheit and stay freezing for months, due to the vast amounts of dust and smoke thrown into the air by bomb blasts. Virtually all crops and farm animals would be destroyed. About one billion people would be killed outright, another billion would die from injuries and radiation sickness, and of the remaining two billion, most would starve to death.

Do you feel the denial tendency coming on? You want to forget all of this? I haven't told you half of it. Get the article and read it. It only takes 15 minutes and it may change the way you think about our country's policy of building more and more nuclear weapons as a "deterrent" to catastrophe.

Brian Trostler
senior, finance

Throw out lifeline

"Neither have blinked."

There you have a three-word paragraph that appeared in a recent Emerald editorial discussing the Grenada invasion. The three words, unfortunately, don't belong together. "Neither" always takes a singular verb, as in "Neither one has blinked." In the next paragraph you tell us that "the number of 'buffer' third world countries appear to be diminishing..." The countries aren't diminishing. It is the number that is diminishing. Later, you list three occurrences and tell us there "is an inkling..."

May I suggest the next time you publish an editorial on such a serious subject you make sure the author and copy editor have both taken (and passed) J-250 (Journalistic Writing)? If they cannot grasp the basics of grammar, how can we trust them to possess any valuable insights into world politics?

University journalism professors Lauren Kessler and Duncan McDonald have written that language is our lifeline. As journalists, you are the keeper of this lifeline and you have the ability to instill in it all the power and nobility of the pen. You also have the ability to ridicule it — and your own credibility as well. To misquote Thomas Paine, "These is the times that try men's souls."

Wesley Uno
GTF, J-250

oregon daily
emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Photo Editor
Sports Editor
Sidelines Editor
Entertainment Editor
Assistant Entertainment Editor
Night Editor
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