

# opinion

## Finding right ticket is Democrats' chore

As the multitude of Democratic party delegates prepare to blow into the City by the Bay to officially nominate Walter Mondale for the presidency, it appears that the multi-faceted and multi-factioned party may be like an heir who inherited, then gave away, the family fortune; it can't stand prosperity.

A short while ago the Democrats appeared to be a shredded party, too split and unorganized to challenge the incumbency of Pres. Ronald Reagan. Then, it took much-needed action to paste itself back together.

After months of alternating between resembling either a name-calling contest or a three-ring circus, the bickering trio of Mondale, Sen. Gary Hart and the Rev. Jesse Jackson publicly made amends. At least enough to tie together some loose ends and present a united front before the November election.

For the sake of everyone who would enjoy seeing Reagan ousted from the White House, such pulling together couldn't have come at a better time. No Democratic candidate approaches Reagan in the latest polls and it's evident that the aforementioned trio's fight for the nomination has benefited Reagan more than any of them.

But it seems the Democrats have more loose ends than they know how to handle. Just before Mondale and Jackson met and reached some accord, the National Organization for Women announced it might turn the Democratic National Convention into a "floor fight" if Mondale did not choose a woman running mate.

Such a threat should not be taken lightly. Whether or not, as NOW Pres. Judy Goldsmith says, the organization has enough delegate support to force Mondale's hand, another fight within the Democratic party will surely force up Reagan's standing in the polls.

There is no doubt that women have too long been excluded from most high positions in government, not just the vice-presidency or presidency. But to force a fight for the sake of a nomination is a poor approach. It could hurt NOW in the public's eyes and it could hurt the Democrats in November.

Mondale says he will choose the running mate who will best help him defeat Reagan. There are strong indications that that might be Rep. Geraldine Ferraro of New York who carries with her not only the obvious support of NOW but also that of House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

Ferraro, a 48-year-old, three-term representative from Queens, N.Y., holds more than a passing interest in becoming the first woman vice president, or the first woman to have a legitimate shot at the job.

Fortunately, for the Democrats, Ferraro emerged from a meeting with Mondale and stated she would not accept a draft if feminists do challenge Mondale's choice. That closed a door she had earlier left open when she said she might participate in just such a move. At the same time, she also said her greatest concern was seeing that the Democrats won in November, regardless of the ticket. Perhaps that will temper NOW's eagerness to put a woman on the ticket, a move that might resemble the classic effort of cutting off one's nose to spite the face.

Mondale has been busy interviewing possible ticket-sharers all around the country, no doubt to tie up more loose ends, and Ferraro apparently heads the list. But Hart's popularity is hard to overlook and Jackson says he would accept the vice presidency.

If surveys and the pendulum of support point to anyone other than a woman as being the best bet on the ticket to unseat Reagan, then O'Neill, NOW and any other factions of the Democratic party would best serve their cause, and the cause of most Americans, by uniting and supporting that ticket.

Whatever combination it takes for the Democrats to win in November is the right ticket.

## Reagan / Bush '84



## letters

### No parking lot

Dear Mr. Bell, in your July 2 tirade against the "sniveling," "disgustingly greedy" businesses of the Courtyard (in favor of the poor, helpless hospital) you snicker about the "whinos and transients (you) see there often." Mr. Bell, why do you go there often? Could it be that, like me, you go to Lenny's for a cold beer, to sit under the trees, to listen to birds and soft guitar music and talk to your friends? If you worry about the transient problem in the Courtyard, much less Eugene, then you know little about the makeup of cities and have a distorted view of this one.

Or perhaps, Mr. Bell, you are referring to the artists, musicians, writers and other creative people, as well as hospital employees, who seem to relish the ambience of the Courtyard and especially Lenny's Nosh Bar. (Oh yes, Mr. Bell, Lenny is obviously rolling in dough; that's why he works 16 hours a day when he should be relaxing in the sun somewhere enjoying his riches in retirement.)

My own enjoyment of the Courtyard aside, Mr. Bell (since I must therefore be a sniveling whiner, if not wino, who is as disgustingly greedy as the rest of them), the prospect of another parking lot — and perhaps later, another ugly parking structure — is not pleasing, probably not even to you. The use of such a prime location in this way distresses me, especially considering that the poor hospital already has

two huge parking structures within two blocks of the Courtyard. I feel chagrined when I consider the vast empty spaces at Autzen Stadium just across the river. The hospital's decision, Mr. Bell, is based on convenience. Why can't they use a shuttle system (most likely cheaper than a new parking structure but not as convenient) to bring in their employees, and turn over part of their existing structures to patients if they care so much about their parking problems? Convenience is obviously more important than atmosphere or the standard of living in this neighborhood.

Oh well. None of this matters. Next year the Courtyard garden will be gone and we can enjoy the asphalt and exhaust fumes of another square block of wasteland in our paradise city. Then you can stand where the trees used to be and snicker about winos, Mr. Bell. It will be such an improvement.

Molly Moore  
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### Orwellian logic

Thursday, with typical Orwellian logic, the Supreme Court ruled that only the most disadvantaged of the society, those who need federal assistance in order to get an education or job training, are required to show proof of registration for the draft. Throughout the nation, newspapers will write editorials supporting the ruling, with the argument that those wishing to accept the benefits of a society should be willing to defend that society.

On the surface, it appears to be a sound argument. And what perfect timing for releasing the decision; the pompous patriotic speeches about freedom and democracy still ringing in our ears; our nation's flag and colorful parades gracing the front pages of our newspapers; the rockets red glare and fireworks. Some (fireworks) popping like an M-16, others cracking like an AK-47 on automatic.

But forgive me, I forgot, Vietnam is over. But it's just that, there too, we forced our youth, minorities and the disadvantaged to carry the heaviest burden. And then, unable to admit we had sent them to spill blood in an undeclared, immoral and illegal war, we shunned them when they returned.

The Veteran's Administration refused to even acknowledge post-Vietnam stress until 1980, and even now rejects a large majority of the claims. The government and the chemical companies attempt to deny responsibility for the cancer and deformities caused by the poison dioxin, so as not to cut into their profit margin.

But we do have homecoming parades in hopes that the veterans will encourage another generation of youth to go to slaughter. Just because they are too young to drink a beer does not mean they are too young to have an M-16 put into their hands and be given life and death decisions in a bloodbath.

James R. Phillips  
Coordinator

Alliance to Counter Militarism

## oregon daily emerald

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

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