

## opinion

# Democrats deliver expected package

Surprises often are nice to receive, but sometimes the expected makes the best gift. Such is the case with the package delivered from San Francisco Wednesday — the awaited announcement of the Walter Mondale-Geraldine Ferraro ticket.

We applaud the Democrats' choice because it's high time a woman was part of a major ticket. More importantly to the nation, however, it appears this combination might well be the Democrats' best shot at unseating Pres. Ronald Reagan.

It's almost unfortunate that Ferraro is a woman, for that undoubtedly will become her most notable characteristic. She is, regardless of gender, a quality, viable candidate. Mondale said he would select the most qualified running mate and he did.

The presence of Ferraro adds an air of mystery to November's election. Political prognosticators rely heavily on past trends to make predictions and Ferraro removes that luxury. While no one can say for sure what affect she will have, some of the possibilities she brings with her bode well for the Democrats.

Ferraro may tap the huge resource of women voters. If all eligible women registered and voted in a block they could elect the candidate of their choice.

Certainly, that will not happen but, according to statistics, there are millions of women who ignore the voting process. Those women that are drawn to the November polls won't be drawing the curtain to punch Reagan's name on their ticket.

Add that influx of voters to an expected increase in the turnout of blacks and other minorities, courtesy of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the gap between Reagan and Mondale narrows even before Mondale and Ferraro begin campaigning. Further, Hart's call for a unanimous nomination on Wednesday, Jackson's stirring, tear-provoking unity speech on Tuesday and New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's rousing keynote speech Monday appear to have pulled together the factions of the Democratic party.

The Republicans have long profited from the very fact that the Democrats represent so many views. The Republicans have profited by accusing the Democrats of being so broad-based that they wind up representing no one. Yet, it has become increasingly clear that it is the Republicans who represent much too small a portion of this country's population. It is the Republicans who have shut out too many voices from their party.

With the apparent uniting of the Democratic party, the anticipated increase in voter turnout and the viability of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, it just may be that Reagan will find himself unemployed. For America's sake, we hope so.

## Learning to delegate will lead to success

Delegation is one of the more important words in an elected official's vocabulary, and it pertains to more than a group of semi-crazed, placard-waving delegates. It also means one person assigning another person the authority to act on their behalf — to trust someone with responsibility.

An elected official who cannot delegate usually fails because the job, whatever it is, usually requires more decision-making, more paper-shuffling and more red tape than one person can handle.

There are quiet rumblings emanating from Suite 4 that ASUO Pres. Julie Davis is doing little delegating, that she's personally involved in virtually all executive decisions. Since many of those decisions are made informally and not in public meetings, we can't be sure those claims are correct.

But that there are rumblings at all is enough to create concern.

Davis is not only the ASUO president, she also is a third-term law student and recently became the chair of the Oregon Student Lobby. Each of these tasks is a full-time job in itself. Unless she delegates, Davis probably will flounder.

It might be argued that because of the mellow tempo on campus in the summer Davis can afford all-out involvement, that she can wait for the crush of fall to begin delegating. However, delegating and carrying out delegation are not like some dice game that can be mastered in a flash; they are more like an art form that must be repeated and practiced.

We are confident that Davis has the ability to excel in her job. We're confident that she has surrounded herself with a capable staff and we are confident that she could delegate and succeed. But the Suite 4 rumblings make us wonder if all that will come to pass.

We hope Davis succeeds; if she delegates she will.



## letters

### Opposes plan

I am a member of the design committee for the proposed Sixth and Seventh avenue widening project between Washington and High streets in Eugene.

After six months of meetings focusing on finding ways to mitigate potential negative impacts to the pedestrian character of the street, community valued trees and adjacent businesses, I stand opposed to the project.

We have been working under the assumption that the proposed widening will improve traffic flow. Last January, in its editorial, the Register-Guard supported the proposed widening, claiming that failure to proceed would be selling Eugene's future short. I strongly disagree.

As a professional planner and educator whose work has been strongly oriented to progressive development, I believe this proposed widening proposal is the wrong solution to the traffic situation. The traffic planning models used by state and city engineering staff give us the impression that traffic flow through the corridor will be vastly improved by an additional lane of traffic. Their analyses, in my view, fail to consider the weakest link in the transportation chain — that is the approaches and exits to the Ferry and Washington street bridges. Congestion at these points caused by accidents and

vehicular break-downs stymies traffic flow, reducing Sixth and Seventh to being akin to an automotive reservoir.

After making several on site analyses under various weather and time conditions and reviewing materials given by the state and city, I am convinced now, more than ever, that the proposal to widen Sixth and Seventh avenues would be a terribly expensive and wasteful mistake at this time.

Several colleagues on the design review committee have, at various times, asked that other less costly alternatives to massive widening be considered (these are part of official record). But our suggestions, based upon our professional expertise, have not been seriously considered by the staff and the city council.

The proposed widening study should include a thorough analysis of conditions at the two bridges and explore and test reasonably low cost implementable traffic management alternatives that prove or disprove the viability of the proposal.

While our committee has been reviewing ideas for lighting, cross walk paving patterns and new tree planting, we have been directed to stay away from examining the larger problem. I fear that we may be contributing to an even larger problem than a reasonable solution.

I sincerely hope my fellow citizens will renew their efforts

to urge the city and state to reconsider this project.

Gene Bressler  
Sixth and Seventh avenue  
Design Review Committee

### Full-time fees

The other day I was stopped cold at the entrance to Esslinger. It seemed that I did not have an extra \$10 fee sticker stamped on my summer I.D. card. I was shocked to find out that I either had to pay the \$10 fee to use the facility or pay \$1 each time.

I think it is appalling to require a full-time student who supports (the University) and pays tuition in excess of \$1,400 yearly for more money. I think that a full-time student during the year should have the use of all the University facilities during the summer without having to pay an additional fee.

Should we also have to pay an extra fee to use the library or the EMU? Let us not be so hardened to the financial reality our state is in. We who have been and continue to be students at this university have shared the financial burden. Let's be understanding enough not to squeeze more from students who get financially squeezed in so many other ways.

Remove the Esslinger fee for full-time students who pay to use that facility during the academic year.

Jeff Willensky  
Senior, P.E.

## oregon daily emerald

The summer edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald is published Tuesdays and Thursdays, except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 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.

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Circulation

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686-4343  
686-4381  
686-5511

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