

Editorial

Margie Hendriksen or Peter DeFazio

Democrats in Oregon's 4th Congressional District face a difficult but pleasant choice in Tuesday's primary election.

All three candidates — Lane County Commissioner Peter DeFazio, State Sen. Margie Hendriksen and State Sen. Bill Bradbury — are superb.

We recommend a vote for either DeFazio or Hendriksen.

The Oregon Daily Emerald's editorial board attempted for two and a half hours to select one of the three who is clearly the best choice, but we could not do so.

DeFazio and Hendriksen are somewhat stronger candidates than Bradbury. This does not speak ill of Bradbury, who is clearly a rising star in Oregon politics.

Our choice speaks instead to the remarkable strengths and experience of DeFazio and Hendriksen.

Our perceptions of their strengths and weaknesses are as follows.

✓ Peter DeFazio

DeFazio has served for four years as Lane County commissioner. He also has served as a legislative aide and constituent services director for Jim Weaver, who is leaving the 4th District seat to challenge Republican Sen. Bob Packwood.

DeFazio's knowledge of the inner workings of Congress is excellent. He has been there working with the bureaucrats, and knows how to get things done. His willingness to raise a ruckus for things he believes in is well-known.

He was a leading plaintiff in the citizen suit against using ratepayer money to bail out the WPPSS nuclear plant construction fiasco. He also went head to head with Eugene Mayor Brian Obie over the issue of a proposed citywide income tax, which DeFazio opposed. DeFazio debated a reluctant Obie, and the tax was resoundingly defeated.

DeFazio is at his best when working with people on well-defined issues, and has been an effective consensus-builder for Lane County. He is a bit of a grandstander, getting political mileage whenever he can.

✓ Margie Hendriksen

Hendriksen's political career and personal style are characterized by great vigor and extraordinary variety. She has been involved in many issues in the Legislature, and is best known for her advocacy of pay equity for women, her strong pro-labor voting record and her interest in worker safety.

She advocated workers' right to know of toxic substances in the workplace, sponsored the state resolution against military aid to the contras and assisted GTFs in their attempt to obtain state loan funds.

She is one of the most energetic legislators, and would bring boundless enthusiasm to the task of representing the district. She has experience with and ability to advocate effectively on an astounding variety of topics.

This broad interest and commitment has occasionally caused her to overcommit. She also tends to be unwilling to compromise or listen to dissenting voices.

There are no important differences between these candidates on issues of public concern. There are differences of style and emphasis.

DeFazio is the better consensus builder and knows the intricacies of the federal system better.

Hendriksen has more experience actually legislating on a broader variety of topics, and is a more hard-line advocate for the causes she believes in.

Whoever wins, the Democrats will be well-represented in the November election. Remember to vote Tuesday.



Letters

Start your own

Mr. Duffy, I do not think you realize what being the University of Oregon really means. The Eugene-Springfield community is a relatively small population that relies heavily on the University for its economic, intellectual and cultural well-being.

The University, therefore, has a responsibility not only to its students but to the people of the community of which it is an integral part.

The radio station in question, KWAX, is a prime example of this interrelationship between community and school. KWAX is the only classical station available to listeners in the Southern Willamette Valley. It is listener supported, Mr. Duffy. Do you know what that means?

It means that student fees provide only a negligible portion of KWAX's budget, the great majority of which comes from private listeners and underwriters.

Obviously, if KWAX is still in operation, it must mean there are more than enough people in the local community who enjoy and support a classical radio station.

Mr. Duffy, if you want a diverse radio station controlled by students, get the funds and start one! But leave KWAX alone. You have no right to change it.

Mari Kramer
Student

Still confused

Dear James Young:

I'm just wondering, how stupid is the left? And how do the shanties remind people of the left's stupidity? I'm a bit confused, though by no means stupid. Maybe you'd better explain. I can't see the stupidity in erecting shanties to remind us of the suffering and oppression in South Africa.

The only stupidity I see here is in those who feel the need to tear the shanties down, and these stupidly obviously aren't left. The greatest stupidity thus far is demonstrated on your part with your faulty and illogical reasoning. If conservative rule 1 is "never do what the left expects you to do," how do you continue to have a conservative group?

You are expected to think and act in a conservative manner, but if rule 1 is not to act that way because the left expects you to, then you must act opposite how you really believe just to be spiteful; therefore, acting in a liberal manner (thereby inadvertently lending support to the left).

If all conservatives are as logical as you, we will soon see an end to the conservatives. Gee, you're really intelligent. But somehow the liberal's "stupidity" is much more appealing than the conservative spiteful, self-defeating, yet somehow "intelligent" practice.

Wow. Gee. I guess I'm still confused. I'm not as "stupid" as the left, but am, I guess, by no means as intelligent as you.

Debbie Michels
Moderate

about one in 25 people is homosexual — with women opting for such lifestyles much less frequently than men (August 1985).

Second, people who support acceptance of homosexuality should educate themselves about what it's all about. Consider, for a moment, what homosexual actions really involve. If that doesn't turn your stomach, then it should at least make it clear that it's anything but natural or desirable.

In conclusion, I wonder if events such as "gay pride week" are really a way for people caught up in such lifestyles to find justification for something they instinctively know is wrong.

Michael Cross
Graduate
Political Science, History

For Saferide

It is crazy that these men who write the Emerald attacking Saferide say the riders are lesbians.

I am heterosexual and I do not like to be trapped in my apartment at night, nor do I like to walk at night fearing I might be attacked.

Many men think it is unfair they can't use it, which I can understand. The reasoning behind this rule is not that Saferide is run by a bunch of castrating lesbians, but that it wants to protect the drivers and passengers from possible harm.

The program coordinators realize most men are sane and don't want to physically harm women. Unfortunately there are a few jerks (I'd like to use a stronger word but...) out there, like the eight boys who tried to attack the van in front of University Inn. It is a good thing the driver didn't let them in, or at least I think it is.

I agree it would be nice if women didn't need Saferide, if there were no dangerous people roaming the earth.

Being raped is not trivial and I'm glad this University is doing something to help prevent it.

Karen Stuntz
Marketing

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