

Editorial

DeFazio's the choice for the 4th district

Of the two candidates running for Oregon's 4th Congressional District, Peter DeFazio is the best choice. His strong points are his commitment to his constituents and his good sense of priorities.

DeFazio owns a home in Springfield, received a Master's degree from the University and worked for five years as a congressional aide and as director for 4th District Constituent Services.

DeFazio's contacts extend to members of the small-business community, business leaders and other members of government. He draws support from a wide range of constituents, which is perhaps his greatest political asset because he can represent a broad spectrum of society. This diverse mixture of supporters keeps DeFazio from being labled a product of special interest and a tool for political action committees.

He actively campaigns in the field, making contacts with the "common folk."

Peter DeFazio opposes large military spending and supports converting resources currently going into production of weapons and putting them into social programs, especially education, which he deems "the cornerstone of our economy." DeFazio demonstrates a knowledge of today's issues while keeping an eye on the future.

He also supports a nuclear test ban and an arms freeze, correctly asserting that the number of nuclear weapons cannot be reduced while they are still being produced. Similarly, he opposed the U.S. Air Force GWEN tower in Eugene as being a "redundant communications system designed to be used only after a nuclear war has begun."

It is also refreshing that he opposes aid to the Contras, unlike his opponent, and seeks to improve relations with Nicaragua, not wage a protracted war.

Closer to home, DeFazio seeks to protect the Oregon timber industry by placing restrictions on the exportation of raw lumber and instead establishing regional processing mills. Moreover, he wants to place tariffs on Canadian subsidized lumber imports, which compete with Oregon's lumber industry.

DeFazio has also done well to attack Long's proposed Individual Retirement Account plan. The proposal would grant tax exemptions on IRA's for funding a college education, but it would only benefit the wealthy; middle- and low-income families do not have the expendable capital for such an investment.

DeFazio has received financial and political endorsements from the National Education Association, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and various labor unions; these supporters attest to his commitment to education, global peace and the "common folk."

Long has received endorsements from the owners of timber companies, Washington D.C.-based political action committees and the Coors beer company.

DeFazio promises not to abandon Oregonians if elected, declaring that he will try to make it back to Oregon each week. Although he is prone to grandstanding — he once refused a raise in pay while on the Lane County Board of Commissioners — he is a sincere activist who will work to help Oregonians.

Because of Peter DeFazio's commitment to Oregon and his constituents, his emphasis on peace and nuclear disarmament and his pledge to increase funding for social programs and higher education, the Emerald soundly endorses Peter DeFazio for the 4th Congressional District seat.



Commentary

Students resolve harassment with assistance from office

The recent ODE articles on sexual harassment underscored two important points:

1. Some people in power do behave in inappropriate, illegal, offensive and/or scary ways.
2. You may feel confused, embarrassed, powerless and/or isolated if this happens to you.

However, if this happens to you at the University, there are some other important points you need to keep in mind.

By Bean Comrada

1. You don't have to put up with it.
2. It's safe to object.
3. You can be — and will be — protected from retaliation.

Please call the Office of Affirmative Action at 686-3123. Call anonymously if you wish. You will get information on your rights and options, both on and off campus.

These will range from how to handle the situation yourself (if

"All involved in mentoring relationships need ways to make their own professional needs clear," says the flyer "Defusing the Issue of Sexuality in Mentoring." Some suggestions from the flyer are:

- Meet with your mentor in places that discourage sexual intimacy, such as departmental offices, laboratories and other work-related settings.
- Avoid sexual joking or innuendo, inappropriate comments about personal appearance and intimate confidences. Focus compliments on accomplishments rather than on appearance.
- If you are unable to discuss harassment problems directly, a carefully written letter to your mentor may help. The Office of Affirmative Action can assist with letter samples, drafting the letter or other techniques of handling the problem.

that's what you want to do) to ways of resolving the problem informally with OAA assistance, to information on filing a formal grievance with either the University or an off-campus civil rights agency.

There are numerous ways of dealing with an unpleasant (or scary) situation on one's own, and the OAA can assist with a variety of techniques for doing this. But remember that while you can take action on your own, you don't have to.

Nor do you need to be concerned about retaliation.

What you decide to do is up to you. Unless your complaint is on the level of physical assault, the OAA will not take action without your knowledge and consent.

You may also withdraw a formal complaint if you wish.

And if you choose to file a formal complaint but disagree with the University's final decision, you can (if you are a student) receive assistance from the ASUO's Office of Student Advocacy in appealing that decision. If you are an employee, there are off-campus agencies that will assist you.

But it's important to know that most harassment grievances can be — and are —

resolved informally, and to the satisfaction of the grievant without the identity of the grievant being known.

Last year's 10,000-copy printing of the University/ASUO brochure "You Can Stop Sexual Harassment" is depleted. It is now being reprinted and will soon be available again for students, faculty and staff.

Another useful publication scheduled for this year concerns racial and ethnic discrimination and harassment, so look for this brochure as well.

In the meantime, two new flyers should prove equally useful: "Defusing the Issue of Sexuality in Mentoring," and "What about Dating your Professor?" Both contain good information on personal concerns in unequal power relationships, whether in education or employment.

Copies are available at any time from the OAA.

Cut out this article and keep it handy. Chances are that you won't need it — but it may be important some day for someone you care about.

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