

Editorial

Call to dump DeFazio petty and ridiculous

It looks as if Jim Howard, Republican congressional candidate for Oregon's 4th District, won't be getting much help from the Students for Jesse Jackson campaign organization after all.

In a Tuesday press conference, members of the group rejected the ridiculous notion of "loose cannon" Ken Sprague to support Howard over Democratic incumbent Peter DeFazio. Good for them.

Sprague is playing petty, infantile political games with the members of his group. He is asking Jackson supporters to reject DeFazio because he reneged on a promise to stay neutral until after the Oregon primary. DeFazio came out in support of candidate Michael Dukakis shortly before the primary.

It was wrong for DeFazio to do what he did, and he should be called on it. Politicians do make mistakes. Sprague is currently making a similar mistake by letting his personal decision pose as that of his Students for Jackson, when most of that group's members find that position ludicrous.

And it would be a bigger mistake to reject DeFazio and his voting record — a voting record that is extremely close to the platforms Jackson has endorsed throughout his campaign.

Jackson was recently asked if he would have black voters stay home in November because Dukakis named Sen. Lloyd Bentsen as his running mate. Jackson's response: "This is no time for us to proceed based upon threats. It is a time to proceed based upon a shared commitment to expand participation in the process."

Jackson is trying to be above political back-biting. Sprague would do well to emulate a little more closely the man he follows.

Kaplan a great example of what advocate must be

We would like to take the opportunity to join the many others wishing a hearty farewell and good luck to a wonderful person, Lucy Kaplan. After two years of excellent service to the students as director of the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy, Kaplan is leaving to pursue outside interests.

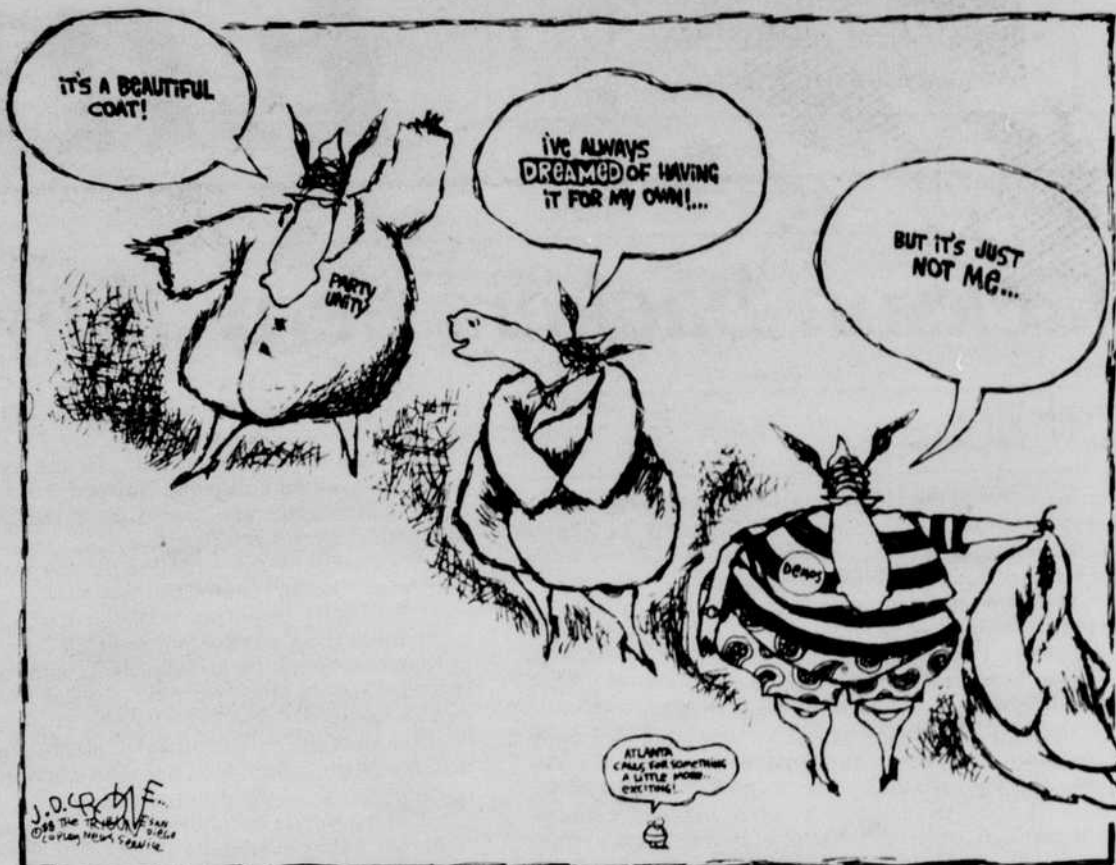
Her leaving is a great loss to the University. Kaplan has been a tireless and courageous crusader for the concerns and rights of students. Not all her efforts have been successful — such is the nature of an office that has little authority and exists on the good will of the administration.

But through the example of her efforts, students have come to realize that sometimes it is the fight and not the results that are important.

It has been a tough year for students and the larger issue of student empowerment. The Oregon State System of Higher Education has been antagonistic on issues such as semester conversion and President Paul Olum's forced early retirement. The University administration has refused to deliver action wanted by students on the issue of faculty hiring.

Similar battles are ahead. The next student advocate would do well to be the kind of champion Kaplan has been.

While on the subject of Kaplan, it has come to our attention that an item in Tuesday's Emerald article on her leaving might be wrongly interpreted. The article stated that Kaplan's successor will inherit a large number of *personal* cases. By this, it was meant personal in the sense of individual cases and grievance by students — not personal in the sense of matters of concern only to Kaplan.



Letters

Cowardly

Cheyney Ryan's cowardly, bullying, intellectually dishonest attack on Steven Mandelker (ODE, June 6) has easily outdistanced the diatribes of Wollander, English, et al., as the most contemptible thing published in this column in the last three years.

Ryan implicitly admits his inability to answer Mandelker's arguments by ignoring them entirely. Evidently he hopes his hysterical name-calling and his attacks on Mandelker's character and intelligence will obscure the lack of content in his letter.

Mandelker's arguments are for the most part unanswerable anyway. Just because there is an entrenched liberal academic street gang at this university does not mean that their bullying chants of "discrimination isn't discrimination if it's discrimination in favor of someone we approve of" will paralyze everyone's capacity for rational thought.

The most execrable aspect of Ryan's letter, however, is its abject cowardice. Afraid to meet Mandelker on a level playing field of intellectual discourse, Ryan used his title as head of the very department Mandelker was connected to in a clear attempt to intimidate. Published on the last day of the school year, the letter gave Mandelker no opportunity to respond.

Ryan undoubtedly expected (and perhaps received) the unanimous applause of the non-thinking liberal-intellectual establishment. But there are some people at this university who can still think. Ryan's letter should earn the personal and

professional contempt of all real thinkers.

Stan VerNooy
Mathematics

of a politician who broke a commitment to his constituents.

Ken Sprague
Eugene

Commitment

Students To Elect Jesse Jackson formed to "advance the candidacy of Jesse Jackson" in pursuit of his presidential aspirations. Jackson's campaign captured the hearts of University voters, but pragmatic politics have produced a Dukakis-Bentsen ticket.

An example of pragmatic politics is Peter DeFazio's conduct during the final days of the Oregon primary campaign. In a letter dated March 31 read to 200 volunteers of Students to Elect Jesse Jackson, DeFazio stated: "Months ago, when the presidential campaign began, I made a commitment not to endorse a candidate before the primary." Did DeFazio keep that commitment?

As the week before the Oregon primary found Jackson drawing the largest crowds of his presidential campaign while the Dukakis camp worried over a potentially devastating upset, DeFazio made a last-minute somersault and endorsed Dukakis. Without so much as an advance word to Jackson campaign workers and University voters, DeFazio abandoned his commitment of neutrality.

DeFazio's conduct is a mockery of Jackson's political persona. What to do? Seriously consider the other candidates in the race for 4th District representative — Independent Randy Prince and Republican Jim Howard.

There is no time better than the present to remove the DeFazio roadblock to Jackson's candidacy during future elections. Jackson will be back. Through DeFazio's conduct, we've learned that many Jackson votes have been taken for granted by a local politician.

The issue is simple: Each vote for DeFazio is an endorsement

Appreciate help

I understand Republican congressional candidate Jim Howard accepted the endorsement of Students for Jesse Jackson. The 4th Congressional District shouldn't wonder as much about University students as the political beliefs of Jim Howard.

As a veteran supporter of Jackson, I welcome Howard's acceptance of this endorsement and his apparent conviction that Jackson is correct about domestic and foreign affairs. Howard seems now to agree with Jackson's supporters that we need progressive taxation and the reversal of Reaganomics.

I anticipate Howard's reciprocal endorsement for the re-establishment of 1980s tax rates on the very rich to provide much needed social programs. I'm wanting to hear Howard's support, along with Jackson campaigners, for a significant reduction of our military budget. Our country must make the commitment to a strong domestic economy neglected by the Reagan administration.

Howard will push Jackson's agenda further. However, as a participant in Jackson's campaign in Lane County since 1984, I have never seen Howard publicly support any of Jackson's efforts or positions. Be that as it may, and despite Howard's new interest and commitment to Jackson's cause, I support Congressman Peter DeFazio for reelection.

For a long time, Jackson, DeFazio and I have worked for the defeat of George Bush. We support a strong domestic economy and a Democratic President. To this end, I appreciate Howard's help.

Steve Andresen
Eugene

Letters Policy

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