



Tom Patterson Emerald

Sophomore Quyona Anderson and junior Raschree Parsad are among the rapt audience members listening to Reverend Jesse Jackson's speech in the EMU Ballroom Monday.

Jackson

continued from page 1

represents corporate powers that only support a selective population.

"They threaten everything we've gained in half a century," he said. "We must maintain the American dream."

Jim Edmunson, chair of Forward Oregon, said Jackson is a successful speaker because he reaches out to everyone and doesn't focus on special-interest groups.

"Rev. Jackson speaks to every person," he said. "He speaks to people's souls."

Jackson, who is also the president of the social justice organization National Rainbow Coalition, especially commended Gore for having the first Jewish Orthodox running mate.

Despite a few critical comments from Nader supporters, Jackson said that Gore was not the lesser of two evils, but a candidate whose team supports a women's right to choose, affirmative action, Medicare, a clean environment and education opportunities for everyone.

Following the trend of many Democrats, Jackson intimated that Nader's campaign is misguided.

"You can use a vote to make a point, or to make a president," he said. "We can turn to each other or turn against each other."

Jed McGuire, co-chair for College Democrats, added that Jackson's extensive background in human rights and passion in bringing unity among different races and classes makes him one of the most influential speakers in America today.

"He's very accomplished in what he's done," he said. "He carries a very strong and positive message."

Kawezya Hutchinson, a freshman biology major who was undecided on who to vote for before hearing Jackson's speech, said that although his main points convinced her to vote for Gore, some of his ideas were exaggerated.

"When he talked about who was on Bush's team, he named all the bad guys," she said. "And he left out some of the reasons Bush and Cheney voted on some of the issues Jackson was against."

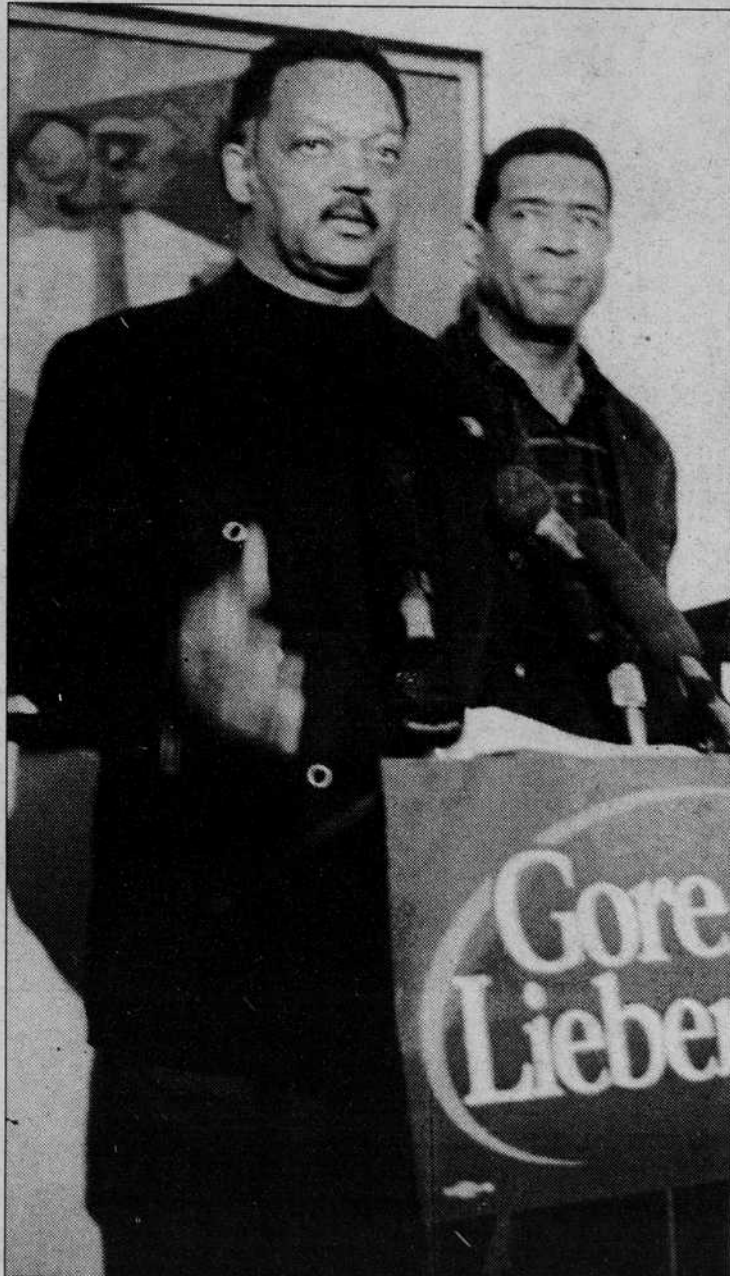
Jackson also planned to speak in

Corvallis and Portland after his visit to Eugene. Edmunson said Jackson chose to speak to college campuses in Oregon because of students' vital role in this year's election.

"The attention the nation has turned to Oregon in this election is nothing short of phenomenal," he said.

At a press conference before his speech, Jackson emphasized the hardships many people had to go through before they could legally vote. He said that on Nov. 7, everyone who is 18 years old should honor that struggle.

"Take your souls to the polls and use the power that you have," he said.



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Reverend Jesse Jackson supports Vice President Al Gore for president in part because he believes Governor George W. Bush threatens the American dream.

advertisement correction

The coupon for Gerlach's Campus Camera Center, (Oregon Daily Emerald 10/27, page 3B) should have also read, "coupon must accompany order". The Emerald regrets the error.

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