

Sissy Farenthold — A Texan 'Woman in Politics'



Sissy Farenthold

Photo by Gloria Wroten

When Sissy Farenthold stepped off the Hughes Air West plane, she brought with her to Eugene a few statistics: she is one of the few female lawyers in this country and she was the first woman to come close to winning the Democratic party vice-presidential nomination, in which she placed second.

As a candidate for governor of Texas, she placed second in a field of seven and she is the national chair of the Woman's Political Caucus.

She was in Eugene Thursday night to speak at the EMU on the topic of "Women in Politics."

Sissy, a name acquired from an older brother who could not say sister, stated that the time is long past for women to become an integral part of the decision making political processes of this country.

Farenthold stated that women presently compose only one percent of the political clout in this country. She went on to explain that she felt that there was a great deal of political

discrimination against women today.

"There are no women in the Supreme Court, no women in the cabinet, and not one woman in the United States Senate."

Farenthold said that there are only three women governors in America today "all of whom stepped in the footsteps of their husbands."

"All the areas where power is," she said, "have been in the field of men...white men."

Farenthold doesn't like the label "feminist", saying "I don't think being a woman should be a qualification, and certainly not a handicap." She went on to say that "I can't be isolated to women's issues" and "sisterhood shouldn't exclude brotherhood."

Farenthold called for a movement of political power "to bring more women into policy-making positions in the hopes of having a balance of male and female leadership." She urged that women be placed in every level of political power to create equal representation between the sexes. "Changes aren't going to come until you have a reservoir of skills," she said.

Farenthold cited three levels of consciousness that female politicians must deal with: awareness, assertiveness, and audacity. She said that females in politics "only can succeed by challenging myths so they can be punctured."

The Women's Political Caucus leader went on to say, "When I started out, I was so concerned

with being qualified and being certain that I was more qualified than my male adversary."

She went on to say "I'm looking for the day that unqualified Blacks, unqualified Browns, and unqualified women will join unqualified White men in the pursuit of holding public office."

Farenthold said her dream was to "see women run and win at every level because it is only by running and winning and serving that we can draw from the reservoir of skill and experience that women have."

Farenthold went on to say that these victories for women are more important than thinking in the broader terms of the "national ticket."

Farenthold stated that the country is in need of new blood in the political process, hopefully with a different and more enlightened orientation. "I don't put halos around women seeking political office, but I do not think it should be a hindrance." She said that women could bring a different viewpoint to politics — one that is desperately needed.

Farenthold ended her address by saying that there are three political areas that women should aid their sisters in:

- running and holding a political office.
- supporting women in party politics.
- making financial contributions "on all levels, from those with modest means to those that have substantial means."

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Photo by Peter Grant

Library to be first priority — Parrish and Vernon

A former ASUO Senator and a newcomer to student government politics are making a bid for the two top ASUO executive positions.

Keith Parrish, a junior in broadcast communications is seeking the ASUO presidency and Jim Vernon, a junior in architecture, is his running mate. The ASUO race will be Vernon's first bid for elective office.

Parrish said that they would center their upcoming campaign around three main issues: co-governance, the implementation of an incidental program

similar to the "Winkelman" amendment, and a push to make the library the number one funding priority on campus.

"We will never support President Robert Clark's plan for 10 percent" student members in a co-governance Senate, Parrish said. He labeled Clark's plan as "mere tokenism" and called for the formation of a Senate where the students have 50 percent of the representation and the faculty has 50 percent. "We feel this is the only fair way," Parrish concluded.

Parrish said the library should become the number one funding priority at the University, not number three on the priority list of the State Board of Higher Education as it is presently. The former Senator said the library trails on the list behind capital construction projects.

Parrish suggested, as a start, the following improvements:

- Extending the library hours past 10 p.m.
- Hiring more help for the reserve book room.

(Continued on Page 14)



Photo by Phil Waldstein

"Credibility" theme of Travis-Kirkpatrick

"Credibility" is the theme of their "outlaw" campaign which is designed to bring "student government back to the students." And "honesty" in government is the basis of the ticket of ASUO president-elect candidates Tim Travis and William J. Kirkpatrick.

Travis is the former ASUO chief administrative officer and Kirkpatrick is a senior in political science and has been active in the Political Science Student Union.

"We aren't total advocates," said Kirkpatrick, "but a focal point of student needs and desires — we are organizers more than bureaucrats and politicians." Kirkpatrick said he and Travis will provide "aggressive leadership with an activist bent that stresses participatory democracy."

"Democracy is caring about a problem and doing something about it," said Travis. Travis said that he would keep his office open five days a week to hear grievances.

Travis sees the issue of co-governance as vital and necessary for student power and student understanding of the workings of the University, student government and hence, corporate America. "The only acceptable ratio in student-faculty co-governance is 50-50," said Travis. "Clark wants a 10-90 ratio. His rationale for this is that students are transients. But we think that education is not transient. His contention is irrelevant," Travis said.

Travis said he would limit salaries to \$50 a month. "I will veto any proposals for more money than that," he said. "Anyone

(Continued on Page 14)