

Ma Bell bill stokes debate

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

Is it more beneficial to the average consumer for a large government-regulated monopoly to control the American communications network than to allow free-enterprise competition?

This is the question Lloyd Hammel of Pacific Northwest Bell and Ben Sawyer of Sawyer Communications Consultants Inc., both of Portland, discussed in a debate at the University law school Wednesday.

The debate centered around the Consumer Communications Reform Act of 1976, a bill pending in the U.S. Senate which would amend the Communications Act of 1934. The amended act would allow competition from private companies if, in the words of the bill, it "will not result in increased charges for telephone exchange service or in wasteful or unnecessary duplication

of communication facilities."

Hammel said he feels the benefactors of the bill will be mostly big business customers. He believes manufacturers like ITT, IBM, and RCA will benefit, and also that businesses will be able to pay lower rates for service.

The bill also stipulates that the "technical integrity and capacity for unified and coordinated planning, management, design and operation of the nationwide telephone network," should not be impaired.

However, he said the "residential consumer will have to pick up the slack." He explained that the Federal Communications Commission regulates the rates for the Bell system, and that business pays a higher rate than individuals in order to keep rates low for residential customers.

"The consumer is adversely affected by a change in the regulation policies," he said.

"The Bell system has given our country the best communication system in the world," said Hammel. "Why should we risk tampering with it?" He added that competition doesn't necessarily mean "excellence" and may lead to obsolescence.

Sawyer, on the other hand, believes the "bill is a threat to the American consumers." He feels the bill protects monopoly, and the wording of the bill allows the company to operate without fear of anti-trust action.

Sawyer cited AT&T profits—which passed \$1 billion this year making it the first company in America ever to pass that mark—as an indication of the magnitude of AT&T's power.

"All we ask is to compete in our own small market," said Sawyer, adding that interconnection with other telephone systems "has been technically possible for 10 years."

Local leaders endorse plan for election funding

By BILL LUTZ
Of the Emerald

Support for Ballot Measure No. 7 continued to snowball this week as the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL), the Portland chapter of the Women's Political Caucus and the Lane County Labor Council announced endorsements of the measure.

They join a broad spectrum of organizations and politicians including Gov. Bob Straub, State Reps. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, and Dave Frohnmayer, R-Eugene, The Oregon AFL-CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union and Oregon Common Cause, who publicly favor the measure.

Ballot Measure No. 7 calls for public funding on a voluntary basis of general elections in Oregon. Citizens could, if the measure passes, voluntarily check \$1.50 off their Oregon State tax for use in a public fund to be handled by the Oregon State Ethics Commission.

Candidates would also voluntarily take part in the program which equalizes campaign spending used for communicating with

voters.

At a press conference Thursday morning, Chuck Hale, chair of Lane County Common Cause, stated his opinion of the measure, saying, "It would keep politics in Oregon clean, healthy and free from the corruptive influence of wealthy special interest groups."

"We support the spirit of the measure. It is an issue for every citizen, and students are citizens," says Jan Oliver, ASUO president and vice-chair of the OSL.

Mary Burrows, speaking at the Thursday press conference, expressed agreement with the Women's Political Caucus which stated, "BM-7 will help alleviate the problems which women candidates have in raising money in order to successfully communicate with the voters."

Frank Jackson, president of the Lane County Labor Council, added that the measure BM-7 would give working men and women more opportunity and accessibility in general elections.

Mono

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tially dormant for the rest of the person's life. However, in so doing, it confers the property of immortality on those cells, for once infected, those cells can live forever in test tube culture, happily growing and dividing while uninfected cells will die after a certain amount of growth and division.

It has recently been discovered that the virus is excreted from the back of the throat for at least two months after being infected, often for as long as five months; and rarely for over a year. Does this mean you should abstain from "intimate salivary exchange" for a year? Not necessarily. Over fifty per cent of all people get exposed to the virus as children and are already immune before they reach college age. In children the disease is much milder, and under the age of five, no heterophile antibodies are formed, so it is infrequently diagnosed in pediatric practice. It is probably wise to abstain from serious kissing for somewhere between two and five months unless your partner has been previously exposed. If you should become overwhelmed by the passion of the moment though, do not despair. Chances are that he is already immune.

Terry Copperman, M.D.

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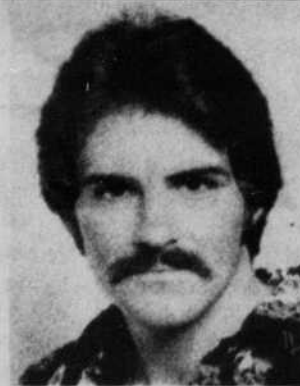
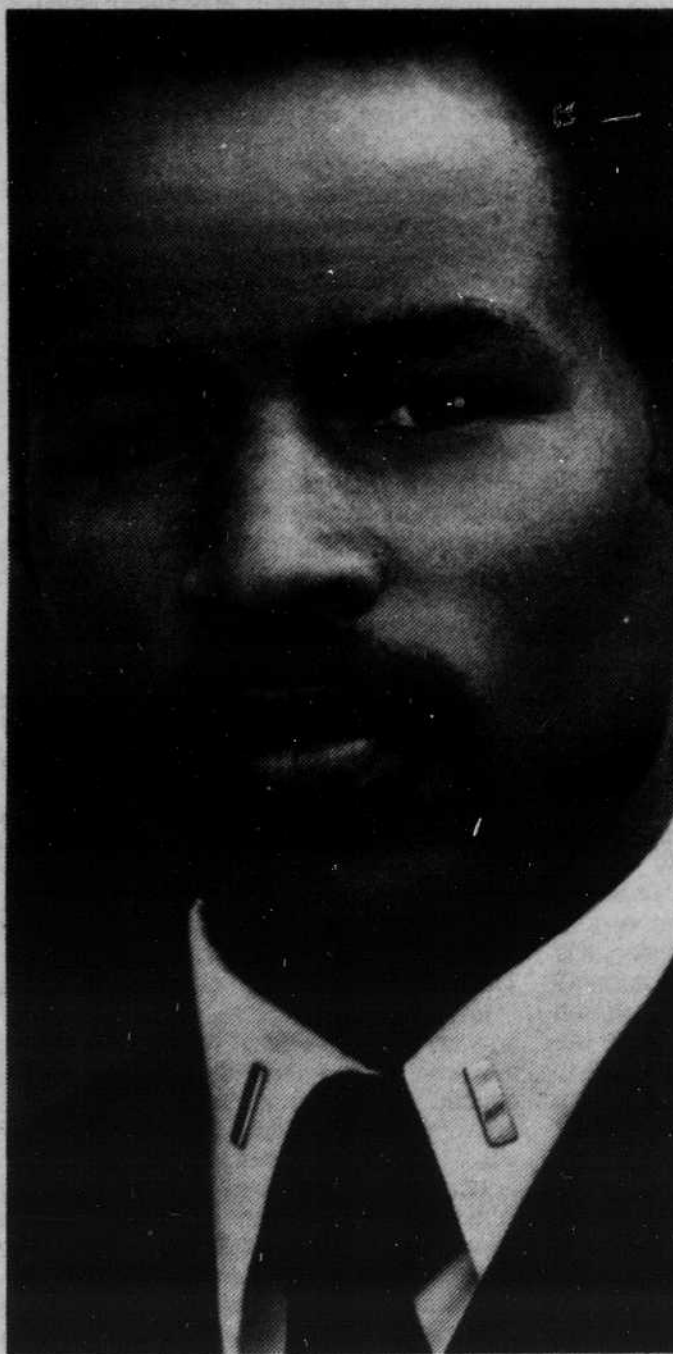
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