



State Rep. Roger Martin

Photo by Adrienne Selinger

Martin ready to fight for job of Oregon governor

By JANE LEHMAN
Of the Emerald

Taking swipes at many of his opponents, State Rep. Roger Martin stressed his strengths in his bid for governor.

The Republican spoke for an hour and a half before a political science class here Thursday. A University graduate, Martin is now House Minority Leader and has served for 12 years in the state Legislature.

"It's difficult to find any enthusiasm for our incumbent governor (Democrat Bob Straub)," observed Martin on the basis of his campaign travels across the state.

As for Democratic contender Bob Wood, a Lane County commissioner, Martin said he is not well-known outside of this county.

Turning to the Republican slate of aspirants, which Martin terms "an exciting political horse race," he recounted how former Gov. Tom McCall came to enter the gubernatorial race.

A week before McCall announced his candidacy, the former governor confided to friends and a reporter that he was not going to run. But the 65-year-old changed his mind

after watching an aging marathon runner win the race in a television program, according to Martin.

Attacking the "McCall myth," Martin accused McCall of stealing ideas for his own benefit. Referring to the bottle bill and closure of Oregon's beaches to cars, Martin said his opponent "takes someone else's idea, embraces it and suddenly it's his."

McCall is a good administrator, according to Martin, but only when he can rely on "quality people" working for him.

State Sen. Victor Atiyeh is also in competition for the Republican nomination.

"Atiyeh is universally recognized as one of the nicest guys you've ever met, not too interesting and not a fighter," Martin said.

The 42-year-old Martin said he believes he has the advantage of age over 55-year-old Atiyeh and 65-year-old McCall. He is also counting on his "aggressiveness as a fighter" to win the primary campaign.

In terms of name familiarity,

Martin admitted he is waging an uphill battle. Surveys indicate McCall is recognized by 98 percent of Oregon voters and Atiyeh is familiar to 78 percent. But as of this fall, Martin could only claim an 8 percent name familiarity.

Because of this weakness, Martin has been feeling pressure from the National Republican Committee to drop out of the race.

"They really don't care who the governor is," he said, "just as long as there's an R after his name instead of a D."

Oregon's business community has also been exerting pressure to limit the race to either Martin or Atiyeh against McCall. Businesspeople would prefer a more conservative governor than McCall and fear the other two Republicans would split the vote, handing McCall an easy victory, said Martin.

But Martin said he can put together a winning coalition based on his "appeal to younger Republicans and people willing to experiment."

Bathtub squeezers get Guinness fame

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

It's official. Twenty-six local persons will share the glory of world fame when the Guinness Book of World Records prints its next edition.

The 26 participated last month in a bathtub "squeeze" sponsored by the YWCA.

"It had to have not been done before," says Frank Giannino, YWCA squeeze-in organizer. "Squeezing this many people into a bathtub was a first as far as Guinness is concerned. The success for an event like this comes when you have good people representing the competing groups as spokespeople."

The event raised \$115 for the YWCA.

"The money will be going to a number of different programs, including the Exceptional Friendship program, swim instruction for the handicapped and the Big Brother/Big Sister program," says YWCA Director Kathy Smith.

Smith says the University YWCA is presently working on spring programs. The Women/Speak series will continue, and several skill develop-

ment workshops including assertiveness training and support groups for women are being planned.

The YWCA is also working with the Women's Symposium in preparation for International Women's Day, which is Wednesday.

"The YWCA is the oldest and largest women's movement in the world," Smith asserts. "The image many people have of it is rather screwed up; we're not all little old ladies in tennis shoes."

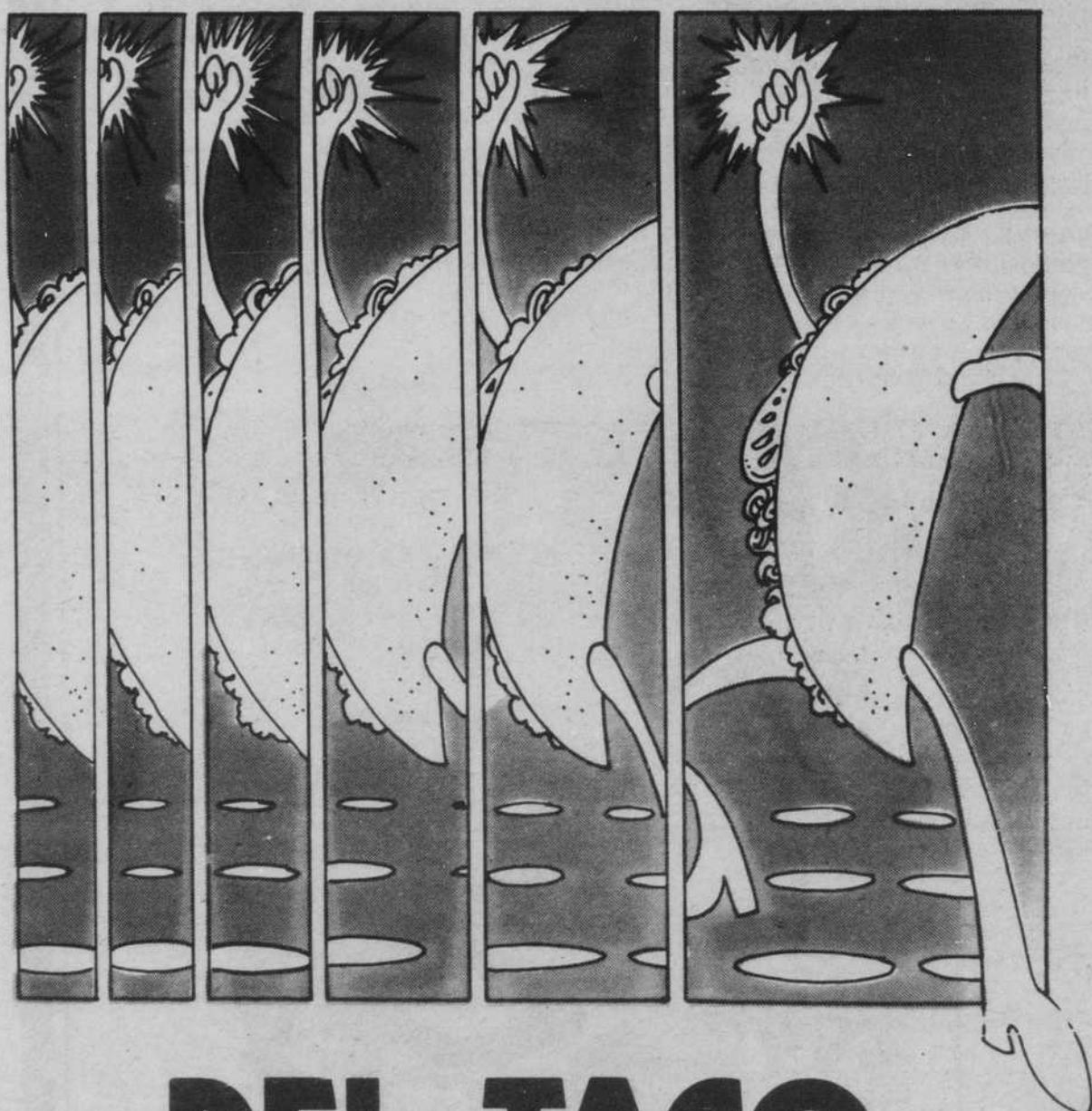
Smith adds that the organization's principle goal is the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women, youth and the third world peoples.

Another fund-raising arm of the YWCA is the Dove's Eye, a card and poster shop located just behind PLC in the Koinonia Center.

The tiny shop features non-sexist children's books, a wide variety of feminist, political and "all occasion" cards and posters, plus several other handmade items by local artists. Prices are low; most cards are 25 cents.

The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

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