

Atiyeh upsets McCall in Guv race

Soft-spoken Victor Atiyeh surged to an early lead and upset former Gov. Tom McCall's comeback bid Tuesday night in the Oregon primary.

With about 80 percent of the vote counted, the state senator from Beaverton led with 46 percent over McCall's 37 percent. State Rep. Roger Martin had 09 percent.

On the Democratic side, Gov. Bob Straub, seeking a second term, was re-nominated over challenges by environmentalists-school teacher Emily Ashworth of North Bend and Portland lawyer Marvin Hollingsworth. Ashworth, however, finished a strong second to Straub with 28 percent of the vote, while Straub had 44 percent.

Although McCall hadn't conceded de-

feat, he wasn't talking optimistically at his Portland Benson Hotel campaign headquarters.

When a well-wisher came up to him, McCall said, "It's a great night for Bob Straub," referring to the fact that Straub defeated Atiyeh four years ago, while McCall has defeated Straub twice.

Atiyeh, in an obvious reference to the outspoken McCall, campaigned on the theme that he has accomplished much by quiet, hard work in the Legislature, while others grabbed headlines.

McCall, known nationally as an environmentalist and a political maverick, was seeking a comeback after being forced to sit out four years by the state constitution. The votes however, did not include the Portland metropolitan area — because of a computer breakdown — where McCall is

thought to appeal to liberal Republicans.

Bob Zagorin, Ashworth's press aide, said Straub will have to make some policy changes to account for Ashworth's surprisingly strong second-place finish.

"It shows that she was a symbol for the future," he said. "The state just can't ignore her constituency."

McCall, the consistent front-runner in the opinion polls, began to lose a few percentage points of his lead as the race drew to a close. But he said that was expected in any race, which public opinion experts confirmed. Atiyeh had been second, followed by Martin.

Many of the Republican regulars disliked McCall, partly because of a liberal philosophy and largely because he refused to support Atiyeh, the party's choice for

governor in 1974.

McCall made national headlines in 1971 when he told a Jaycees convention to "Come again and again. But for heaven's sake, don't move here to live."

With a \$200,000 campaign budget, Martin outspent McCall and Atiyeh. He also was the most combative and made numerous personality attacks on McCall, who, he said, wanted to be king.

In the face of the election results, McCall's wife, Audrey, said, "Now I get him all to myself. You've got to remember that this campaign was a sacrifice for me."

McCall said people have to remember the Republican party is a "closed corporation."

"The winner has only seven or eight percent of the total vote in Oregon," McCall said.

oregon daily emerald

An Independent Newspaper

Vol. 79, No. 161

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Wednesday, May 24, 1978

Measure 51 okayed, battle 'not finished'

By BECKY YOUNG
Of the Emerald

Voters repealed the gay rights amendment to Eugene's human rights ordinance by a two to one margin Tuesday, but supporters of the amendment say Eugene homosexuals are not ready "to get on the back of the bus."

Ballot Measure 51 was passed 63.82 percent to 34.69 percent or 18,406 votes to 10,004 votes.

After hearing the 9:15 p.m. vote count Eugene Citizens for Human Rights (ECHR), the primary organization opposing the measure, conceded defeat and four spokespersons for the organization called a press conference at the Eugene Hotel.

Harriet Merrick, of the Metropolitan Community Church, said "We're not finished. We're not going to lay down. We're tired and thankful to those who worked for us, but we're also angry."

Dominick Vetri, said gay rights supporters have been victorious in "spirit, right and justice." He said homosexuals have gained a sense of respect and solidarity, "a new sense of worth and dignity."

The campaign brought together gay men and women, clergy and laity, and old and young, Douglas Huneke, campus Presbyterian minister said.

He said ECHR made some mistakes in the campaign. "We tried to be polite, gentle and moderate. It obviously didn't

work."

But the fight will continue Bevington said. "We're not going away. We live here. The people who couldn't deal with us this time will have to deal with us in the future."

After the press conference nearly 300 gay rights supporters marched from the hotel to Harris Hall. They were quiet and carried candles. Toward the end of the last block they began singing... "Old and strong, it goes on and on. You can't kill spirit. It goes on and on."

Outside Harris Hall they formed a large circle and began singing louder — old civil rights songs like "We shall overcome," and "this little light of mine."

Rev. Huneke stepped to the center of the circle and the singing quieted. "We must pass our light and victory on to the people in Seattle and California," he shouted, "Don't let them snuff out our light."

The circle closed in on him, people raised candles, clasped hands and sang "This Little Light of Mine." Some cried. Some laughed. Some danced.

After a while the march began back to the hotel to celebrate the "victory." It began drizzling, as men and women linked arms and chanted louder and louder, "The people united will never be defeated."

The candlelight procession crossed Pearl Street, disregarding signal lights, causing a small traffic jam. The drivers in the backed-up cars honked their horns.



Photo by Adrienne Sallinger

People against Ballot Measure #51 held a candlelight march outside the Eugene Hotel and continued to Harris Hall as the measure was passed by a two-to-one margin. Passage of #51 repeals the gay rights amendment to Eugene's human rights ordinance.

VOICE campaigners not 'gloating over' win

North's Chuckwagon at 29th Avenue and Willamette Street was the victory corner for VOICE Tuesday night as persons with yellow "Yes on 51" buttons cheered and clapped as the final results were announced on television.

"We expected the vote to be much closer," Lynn Greene, a VOICE organizer said. "Eugene was pinpointed as the city most likely to win on this."

Greene said she thinks the 2-1 repeal of Ballot Measure 51 will bolster other cities which have been living with similar

gay rights ordinances to take repeal action.

"Eugene has shown they don't want to be another San Francisco," she added.

Greene said she feels the ordinance's repeal was "the best thing for everybody including gay people." She said gays can now continue to live side by side with the rest of the community and not polarize themselves.

Larry Dean, VOICE campaign manager, said he was not "gloating over the victory."

"They're sincere," he said of the gays. "Actually I have a lot of concern for them."

Dean added that "legislation is not the answer to their (gays) problems. The laws are not going to change their problems with guilt and negative feedback."

VOICE lawyer, Brent Rich, said VOICE will be challenging 1,000 ballots cast Tuesday.

"We're pretty worried. We saw a lot of California license plates. It just didn't appear to be proper."

Rich said there was no key campaign strategy that convinced people to vote "yes" Tuesday.

"It was the broad base support from the community that won it," he said.

He added that he felt the Wichita, Kan., election which repealed its human rights ordinance earlier this month, had no effect on the Eugene campaign results.

When asked what cause VOICE would take on next, Greene answered, "Everybody's tired. I'm going to attack a mattress."