

Race not a close choice

Return Weaver for third term in Congress

Sizeable, out-of-state political aid and a misleading often erroneous media campaign by the opponent of Rep. Jim Weaver have made the Fourth Congressional District race too close to call in the eyes of some observers.

But not for us.

Weaver, a two-term incumbent, remains far the better candidate, despite his opponent's efforts to portray him as a free-spending extremist out of touch with his constituents' needs.

During his four years in Congress, Weaver has established a record of limiting federal expenditures and balancing

the often conflicting viewpoints that exist in his district.

His effective support for rational timber-management policies that ensure rather than threaten the long-term prosperity of an industry vital to Oregon's economy has not meant a decreased concern for environmental needs. The inclusion of such gems as French Pete Creek in expanded wilderness areas has come largely through Weaver's efforts.

Weaver also has indicated a belief in the need for diversity in energy sources and argued on behalf of consumer interests in the future of the Northwest's electrical

power system.

His opponent Jerry Lausmann, on the other hand, has adopted a narrow, conservative position on most issues, including support of the death penalty and opposition to governmental aid to low-income women for abortions. But perhaps his most glaring failure on current issues is an ill-advised support for Ballot Measure 6, a heavy-handed effort at preferential tax relief.

The race may be close but the differences are large. We urge your vote for Jim Weaver.



greg wasson

tabled indefinitely

America has a competitive society. That competitiveness reflects itself in the election process, battle analogies abound in stories about campaigns. It's an image that fits well with most people's impression of politics and an image that becomes negative when the conflicts get dirty.

Consider House District 39 where Republican Gary Wright is challenging Democratic incumbent Grattan Kerans.

The race is a repeat of two years ago, but this time Wright is better financed. Unfortunately, he hasn't always used that money fairly. Wright's latest campaign flyer is, to quote Kerans, "innuendo, distortion and outright smears."

Charges like Wright's have no place in a fair election and tactics like his prompt dismissal of politics as a game played only by dishonest, unscrupulous people.

His list of complaints takes Kerans' statements out of context, recalls quotes more than 10 years old and creates impressions that are simply untrue.

Wright should apologize to voters in District 39, Kerans and all Oregonians. The flyer was bush league and the punch it threw, aimed real low.

In District 43, the race hasn't been dirty, just surpris-

ing. The Republican candidate, Larry Campbell, has raised almost 30,000 bucks by Oct. 8.

Why anyone would spend that much seeking a job where a two-year term pays less than half that isn't clear, but that price tag puts service in the Legislature beyond my means.

As the cost of elections goes up, rich folks get more control over who represents us. One effort to reduce that advantage is the dollar check-off.

Approved by the 1977 Legislature (even though voters rejected public financing in 1976), the plan allows taxpayers to earmark one dollar of their taxes for either the Republican or Democratic party. As of late September, the check-off had generated about \$80,000 for the Republicans and a little over twice that for the Democrats.

But legislation creating the plan expires in 1981 unless the Legislature renews it. There will be attempts to do that during the next session, however, the plan is opposed by Portland Democrat Blaine Whipple, chairer of a Senate committee that will deal with such efforts.

The Democratic party tried to assure Whipple's support of the plan by tying a \$221 contribution from check-off funds to Whipple's support of the extension. A dumb move to try and blackmail someone with \$221.

Hatfield remains senatorial choice

As the last payment of our political debt for his opposition to the Vietnam War, we suggest voters return Mark Hatfield to the U.S. Senate.

While the Republican Senator is more conservative than desirable, especially in the area of social services, he has progressive attitudes about developing alternative energy resources such as solar power.

As the ranking minority member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we believe Hatfield can help move the nation toward developing domestic, renewable energy resources.

Hatfield raises few other issues in his candidacy for re-election. In fact, voters may be surprised to see Hatfield's name popping up on the ballot next week.

After 30 years of holding Oregon elective offices as U.S. Senator, governor and in various state legislative positions, Hatfield can rely on his 95-percent name recognition among voters to carry him through an election.

His opponent relies on noise-making.

In a recent editorial interview with the Emerald, State Sen. Vern Cook, D-Portland, let loose with a flamboyant, insensitive style he hopes will break a "conspiracy of silence" that is disrupting his campaigning.

Among his less astute comments:

"...Predictions that our petroleum reserves are running low are a mammoth hoax. We have enough gas and oil to last a thousand and one years.

"...We should eliminate all special fishing and hunting rights for Indians."

Considering the tenor and content of Sen. Cook's responses we don't find silence or Mark Hatfield that poor an alternative.

yours

Fadeley discusses efforts

Nonchalant about re-election I am not, despite a recent report here.

But trying to buy votes with media is not my choice of how to proceed. Instead I am spending my energies trying to do the job well. Some examples of that may be in order.

On October 12 a subcommittee of the Emergency Board voted to dump a project to improve the facilities of the School of Education on this campus.

By working all afternoon and past 10 p.m. that night I was able, with valuable help from others concerned, to turn that around. On October 3 the full membership of the Emergency board overruled the subcommittee by a vote of 9 to 3.

On October 19 Eugene and Springfield taxpayers heard the good news that their real property tax rates are going down by more than three dollars and seventeen cents. Both rates are decreasing more than 10 percent compared with last year and despite inflation.

A major reason for the decrease is a substantial increase in state appropriations for basic school support to public schools, which I handled directly.

During my tenure on the Ways and Means Committee we have increased renter and homeowner tax relief to low income persons sevenfold. In fact, renters were not included in this program until after I joined this committee.

My opponent criticizes me as a spender. I think these things should have been done. How about you?

Edward Fadeley
260 Sunset Drive

Keep Bylund in office

I am writing to urge all who care about keeping Oregon and Lane County liveable to vote for Ken Bylund for tax assessor. One of the things that makes this area attractive and unique is its tradition of electing outspoken, honest, independent men and women to political office.

Let's keep that tradition alive and retain Ken Bylund, who will represent everyone in Lane County and not just real estate interests and land speculators.

By doing away with tax loopholes and favors for corporations and wealthy individuals Ken Bylund has made our tax system fairer. He wants to do even more. But his opponent would replace our elected servant of the people with an appointed tool of special interests. An appointed tax assessor would not have to answer to the public, but only to those who appointed him or her.

Keep Lane County liveable. Keep special interests out of the tax assessor's office. RE-ELECT KEN BYLUND.

David Lerman
graduate, sociology

Election apathy decried

Another ASUO elections campaign has begun and who knows about it?

There should be no surprise that five SUAB positions remain open — the surprise is that 23 people knew about the elections and filed. Of these, 21 remain unknown as no candidates list has been published or posted.

For the five school days that filing was open, only two ads were placed in the Emerald. One was a classified ad; the other ad ran the last day of filing. Two short articles were printed concerning the election. There were no posters posted on campus that I know of.

Dubar's comment, "People don't know about it" (referring to SUAB, Oct. 17) brings up some questions:

If people don't know about SUAB or the ASUO elections, why not and whose fault is it?

Barbara Selby
senior, general science

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.