

# Anthony goes after Weaver

By Mike Riplinger  
Of the Emerald

The Underdog. America loves him. Someone who seemingly has no chance, coming out of nowhere to beat the favorite, gaining the respect and admiration of all. That little guy competing with — and even beating — the big guy has always been a favorite success story.

In sports it happens frequently. Fernando Valenzuela came out of a little Mexican village and set the baseball world on its ear. Alberto Salazar won the only two marathons he ran in, just as he said he would.

In politics it is more rare. Jimmy Carter came out of relative obscurity to put peanuts in the same league as apple pie. Vic Atiyeh gave up running a carpet store and began running the state. While the merits of these last two can be debated, the fact that they rose out of comparative anonymity to fulfill their dreams can't be.

Well, politics will see another unknown challenger try to beat the favorite when Ross Anthony runs against Jim Weaver for the 4th District Congressional seat.

**ROSS WHO?** One may be justified in asking. University students know him as an assistant professor of economics. He hopes to catch the Republicans' attention as the Republican candidate who upends the incumbent Weaver.

Defeating Weaver, who is in his fourth term, may be a difficult assignment for Anthony. But running in only his first political race, Anthony doesn't

seem to be as troubled about tackling the popular Weaver as one might expect.

Possibly this is because taking on difficult or even impossible tasks seems to be a way of life for the easygoing Anthony. He founded the Dhorpatan Health Project, a community health project located six days walk from the nearest road in the mountains of western Nepal. In one of the poorest areas in the world, the project offered people the opportunity to improve their lives in spite of extremely limited resources.

Anthony is also the founder and president of the International Health and Development Trust, a private, non-profit foundation offering financial assistance for self-improvement projects in the developing world.

After fulfilling plans as he has in the past, taking on someone like Weaver should be right up Anthony's alley. The challenge is made all the greater by the reapportionment of the 4th District, which has made it more of a Democratic stronghold than ever before.

"The redistricting would make it more difficult for a more conservative Republican like Mike Fitzgerald to run in this area. As a matter of fact, he has since moved to the 5th Congressional District to run," says Anthony, whose campaign headquarters in Eugene will open this week.

"But for a Republican like myself, whom I would call a moderate, I think it will make it easier for me to run because I feel my beliefs are consistent with a vast majority of the voters in the 4th District.

**WITH A PH.D. IN ECONOMICS,** Anthony feels he is equipped to deal with what he thinks is the number one issue of the campaign — the state's economy. Pointing out that the state of Oregon has the third highest unemployment rate in the nation, and that Eugene ranks sixth for cities, Anthony says, "A change is vital for the economic survival of the area.

"It is absolutely crucial that we move ahead and do something about the problems of economic diversification in this region. We have a timber industry which will probably not be able to furnish the amount of employment and growth that it has in the past. The University as a community will probably become a smaller proportion in the areas of employment in the future," says Anthony.

Concerned also with the quality of life in this area, Anthony doesn't feel diversification has to destroy "what many people have come to expect in Eugene. It is possible to have growth and diversification, and at the same time to protect the overall environment," he says.

**ANTHONY FAVORS EQUAL CUTS** in programs. He opposes packaging the budget into one bill and passing it as one entity. Instead, he believes that "if you are going to cut programs, you ought to subject the entire budget to the rigid analysis that it needs (in order) to decide what should and what should not be cut."

As an educator, Anthony is predictably distraught over the situation of



Photo by Bob Baker

Ross Anthony

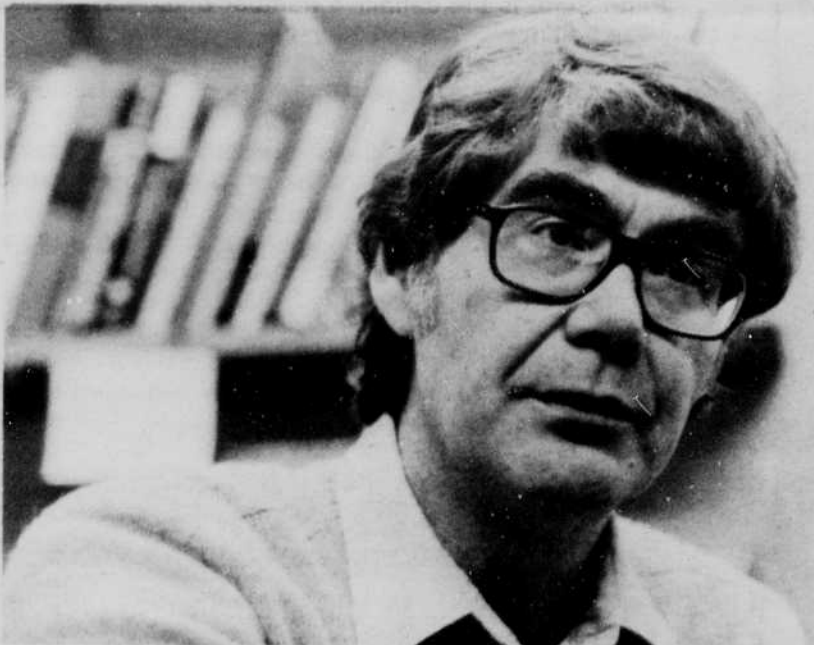
higher education in the state. He says the State Board of Higher Education will either have to close one of the state colleges or cut some of the schools and departments at the universities.

"The government should work to provide equal opportunities to all Americans, and should provide a certain level of benefits to all. A key to this is offering qualitative educational opportunities to all students. I favor quite strongly, increases in funding for education," says Anthony.

If elected, Anthony may find accomplishing that more difficult than building his clinic in Nepal.

Anthony will take a leave of absence from the University to campaign against Weaver. Trying to beat the Democratic incumbent should prove to be very difficult. But for Anthony, it appears he wouldn't have it any other way.

## Economics professor runs for house seat



Mike Grove

Photo by Bob Baker

"It's survival time in Oregon" says Myron 'Mike' Grove, a University economics professor seeking the Democratic nomination for the Oregon House in District 41.

Grove — in his first try for elective office — says economists should be involved in government, especially in a time of "survival budgets." He announced his candidacy Dec. 18 for the legislative seat held by Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, who has served five terms in the House.

Grove says he is interested in issues affecting lower and middle income people and small businesses. "Reagan and his people make the world safe for Exxon: what about the middle class?"

Concern for the future of the University is also a major reason for his campaign, he says. An alumnus, Grove sees a "threshold effect" at work: if the state continues to dissect the University, at some point students will leave "in droves." The situation is close to that, says Grove, and the University would "die with a bang not with a whimper."

Grove has several comments about Oregon

and the District 41 race:

- Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposal to speed up collections of income withholding taxes from employers would probably not have a major impact, although some businesses — due to varying accounting systems — could have problems.

- Legislators at the special session beginning Jan. 18 should come up with a mixture of proposals such as a corporation surcharge and a cutback on property tax relief at the "top end."

- "It's a mixed bag" when it comes to the state investing in large corporations such as Fred Meyer, Inc. and each case should be analyzed separately.

- Proposals for an Oregon sales tax should continue to be opposed because a sales tax would hurt the poor more than others.

Grove was head of the economics department from 1968 to 1971. He holds bachelors and masters degrees from the University and a doctorate in economics from Northwestern University. He has worked for the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago.

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