



A change of course?

By Harry Esteve
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Tuesday night belonged to the Democrats, and nowhere was it more evident than in Eugene.

Celebrating victories in nearly every race, local Democrats partied noisily in front of TV screens and hors d'oeuvres at their temporary headquarters, the swank bottom floor of the Hilton Hotel.

Across the hall, Republican supporters of congressional contender Ross Anthony somberly acknowledged the defeat of their candidate and the unseating of several Republican representatives nationwide.

GOP party members drank stiff cocktails, listened to University job counselor Emmett Williams play soft blues and jazz on a piano, and watched election results from one of three TV monitors.

"What about this feeling that it's liberal against liberal?" one reporter asked an ebullient Margie Hendriksen following incumbent George Wingard's concession speech.

"It's Democrat versus Republican," Hendriksen returned, followed by a loud chorus of cheers from Democrats at the Hilton.

It was a night of revelry for Democrats, muted only by Gov. Vic Atiyeh's weighty victory over challenger Ted Kulongoski. Local Kulongoski

supporters sat quietly in a room adjoining the Democrats' party, their mood enhanced by low candlelight and murmured conversation.

It was a night for political junkies, who glued themselves to one of a dozen wide-screened color televisions provided by the Hilton to watch the action, yelling encouragement as the returns rolled in.

Some worried as much about bets they had made as they did about candidates they were supporting. "I'm up about 40 bucks," said one ardent member of the Democratic camp. He held up a sheet of paper resembling a horse-racing form. "If all goes well in California, I may win a hundred bucks tonight."

It was also a night of contrast.

By 8:30 p.m., 4th District Congressional incumbent Jim Weaver had made his victory speech. Anthony had already answered questions on whether he would run again.

Wingard appeared shaken when the first results came off the computer. Dressed in a subdued suit and speaking softly, Wingard said he had "no idea it was going to be so close."

Hendriksen was dressed in a brilliant turquoise cocktail dress and gold metallic belt. "This is only the beginning," she told cheering supporters. "People are on the march."

Meanwhile, supporters of the nuclear freeze ballot measure enjoyed their victory over pitchers of beer at the Brass Rail Restaurant. Beards, bicycle pumps and Bell bicycling helmets were common attire.

At the New Asia Gardens Restaurant, local Atiyeh supporters watched with satisfaction as the governor widened his lead over the challenger. But some of their enjoyment waned as reports of Republican losses filled the TV screens.



Photos, counterclockwise from top: An upbeat Margie Hendriksen talks to reporters about her upset victory. Supporters envelop Congressman Jim Weaver at the Democratic celebration at the Eugene Hilton Hotel. University job counselor Emmett Williams soothes GOP supporters with a touch of the blues as Congressional challenger Ross Anthony chats with reporters after losing to incumbent Weaver. ASUO Pres. C.J. Balfe joins the Democrats' local victory celebration at the Hilton by congratulating Weaver.

Photos by Mark Pynes