

# Hart gains strange allies in strange places

Late Saturday morning my roommate drove me downtown, where he works everyday. Gary Hart was on his way there too, to speak for about half an hour — if you count the press conference he held afterwards.

"My brother likes Hart," said Royce, who, God bless him, had left the house early just so I could hang around the mall for over an hour and drink four cups of coffee.

## reporter's notebook brooks dareff

I'd never met Royce's brother, but I did know that he was older than Hart. I knew too that he's always been the surrogate father of the McClain clan.

"And he's a Republican, always has been," my roommate said. "He voted for Nixon, for Goldwater, for Reagan."

Gee, I thought, as we approached 18th Avenue, that's strange. I thought Yuppies were the only Republicans who liked Hart.

Being a somewhat groggy but always probing reporter, I propped up in my seat, straightened my tie, and took note.

"Why?" I asked.

Royce gave me that sly, sardonic smile of his. In this case it told me something vague but sublime was coming.

"He says he's 'his kind of guy,'" he said.

"He's disenchanted with Reagan," my roommate added, "over Lebanon and Central America."



Photo by Michael Clapp

Sen. Gary Hart addressed 3,000 people in the Eugene mall Saturday, urging them to look ahead to "politics of a new generation."

Left with this I walked to the mall, where I saw Brian, who was dressed in a nice brown suit, but was unhappy. On Friday the Hart people had asked him to be one of the chauffeurs in Hart's motorcade, and that morning, at 8 a.m., he was told they already had three chauffeurs too many. While we had coffee I chatted about Hal McClain's disenchantment with Ronald Reagan.

"My father is too," Brian said. "He thinks Reagan is getting a little out of hand. I don't know what he'll do. Maybe he'll just sit this one out."

I began to get an eerie feeling.

Ghosts of old Republicans were haunting what was supposed to be a Democratic function.

After the speech — most of which I'd read in *The Oregonian* that morning — I mingled with the crowd, and heard wind of another Hart Republican, a local candidate who I'll call X, from X's campaign manager.

"I almost got X up there introducing Hart," the campaign manager said, beaming proudly. I never did nail those ghosts down, but at the Hart press conference, KEZI's Bob Zagorin tried to get Hart too.

"Senator, in Oregon we have a senator, Mark Hatfield, who

some people feel might do well in a national election but can't get a Republican nomination because of the structure of his party. Some people feel the same way about you, that your appeal is broader than the Democratic party, that you may not be able to achieve the nomination. Do you feel that way at all, do you think the Democratic Party is too narrow based?"

"No, not at all," said Hart, who as a candidate, is not supposed to be pessimistic.

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