

Democrats hold debate parties

By Julie Shippen
Of the Emerald

More than 50 people made their way up the streamer-lined path of a private, off-campus residence Sunday night to share in the viewing of a debate between Pres. Ronald Reagan and his challenger Walter Mondale.

The majority of the gathering was made up of student members from such campus groups as Students for Progressive Agenda, ASUO, Student Campaign for Disarmament, the Survival Center, the Incidental Fee Committee and a host of other local organizations.

But as the nationally televised debate began, campus politics and committee activities were completely forgotten, and the party-goers moved little from their seats for the next hour and a half.

The party was organized by IFC member Mary Kay Menard and her housemates through the Democratic National Committee, for which 20,000 similar "America for Mondale-Ferraro" parties were being held nationwide, Menard said.

Each of the Sunday night "celebrations" was

"I think he (Reagan), true to form stood up to his image of being the 'Teflon president.' He was very evasive...he was on the defensive for the first time in his four years in office."

—Susan Sowards

given the goal of collecting \$500, which would go to the individual state's "get out the vote" campaign, Menard added. According to Sherri Schultz, current director of SCD, the event raised several hundred dollars for the Democratic party.

Most of the time the crowd was quiet, although there were numerous occasions when the clearly pro-Mondale attendants burst into laughter, cheers or unanimous moans of disapproval. A question from Baltimore Sun reporter Fred Barnes regarding each of the candidate's religious beliefs and practices was one such instance, while another inquiry from CBS's Diane Sawyer on their views on abortion laws also drew a room full of chatter.

Immediately following the show people broke off into groups to discuss the debate, which they generally believed was a success for Mondale and a setback for Pres. Reagan.

"Everybody seemed to be really pleased with Mondale's performance. I thought his sense of humor prevailed," Menard said. She was less complimentary of Reagan's half of the presentation, however.

"I think he (Reagan), true to form stood up to his image of being the 'Teflon president,'" she added. "He was very evasive...he was on the defensive for the first time in his four years in office."

"I thought Mondale came off well," said Betsy Boyd, former state affairs assistant for the ASUO. "He was right there saying the things that needed to be said. I was surprised that he looked so good," she admitted.

Boyd also revealed that she was less enthusiastic about Mondale before the debate took place.

"Before the debate, I would've voted for him (Mondale) and that would have been that...he didn't inspire me," she said. "After today's debate, I'd actually be willing to do a little work for him. Now I'm not just voting against Reagan, I'm voting for Mondale."

Boyd was one of many who agreed that the debate improved upon Mondale's past image of being "wishy-washy" in the eyes of the voters.

"I think they'll see Mondale as having a little more substance, a more 'thinking' candidate," she said. "I don't think they'll see Reagan any differently."

Others believed that Reagan's delivery helped Mondale while hurting his own image at the same time.

"I think he (Reagan) seemed not as assured," said Susan Sowards, ASUO executive coordinator. "Mondale came across more clearly and forcefully. It's clear Reagan didn't have his notes."

And as many people at the party agreed they thought Reagan was uncomfortable with the spontaneous questioning of the debate.

"In answering questions spontaneously, I found him tremendously lacking," Schultz said. "He's a very good actor and it shows."

"Reagan would like a debate where he could stand up and deliver his lines and Mondale took that away from him," Hallmark said. "Mondale showed he could think on his feet."

Both McCarthy and Hallmark disagreed with recent statements by the Students for Reagan-Bush campaign that Pres. Reagan is the more popular candidate among college-age students.

"If you look at what his policies have done to higher education, students certainly haven't benefitted," Hallmark said. "I think if you looked where students stood on certain issues, it would be more consistent with where Mondale stands. Hopefully through these debates people will see which candidate represents their views."

"I don't think students are going to vote for Reagan over Mondale," Menard said. "The choice is so clear. It's obvious Mondale's going to stand up for the issues of students."

Doug Marker, campaign chair of the Lane County Democratic party, said he was especially surprised by one of Pres. Reagan's replies.

"Reagan asserted there's no difference between the deficits and the interest rates," Marker said. "He clearly said there's no connection. He's going to have to pay for that one."

"Reagan gets a '0' for his interest rates having nothing to do with the deficits," agreed Doug Pyle, who filled out one of the "rate-the-debate" evaluation forms after the showing. "This issue killed him. He may have lost all the banker vote there."

the BRASS RAIL
FOOD • WINE • BEER

Every **MON. & TUES.**
Enjoy an evening with **CHRIS COLTRANE**
9:00pm • No Cover

EVERY **THURSDAY**
9:00 P.M.
Listen to a blast from the past with
"Jivin' Johnny"
Etheredge

453 Willamette • 342-2298

T.V. Rentals Student Special!

Color... **\$30.00**
(\$50.00 deposit)
Big Selection of
Used T.V. Sets for Sale

Deka Electronics
390 W. 12th • 342-2488

UO Bookstore

ART & ARCHITECTURAL
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

presents...
**STAEDTLER
DAYS**
October 10 & 11

**40% OFF THE RETAIL PRICE
OF ALL STAEDTLER PRODUCTS
IN STOCK!!**

Serving our members since 1920

UO BOOKSTORE
13th & Kincaid
M-F 7:30-5:30
SAT 10:00-3:00
Supplies 686-4331

UO Bookstore

Architecture Book SALE

20% OFF ALL ARCHITECTURE BOOKS
OCT. 8-13

UO BOOKSTORE
13th & Kincaid
M-F 7:30-5:30
SAT 10:00-3:00
Supplies 686-4331

- No other discounts apply
- Limited to stock on hand
- Cash Register sales only

Career Opportunities with

Kmart

Contact the Career Planning and Placement Center

Evening Meeting October 15
7:00 p.m., EMU Room 101
All Business and Liberal Arts students invited

Interviews will be held October 16 & 17
for their Management trainee Program.
Business and Liberal Arts Majors may sign up.

Sign-ups begin now.

Equal Opportunity Employer.