

Debate features initiatives

By Thomas Henderson
Of the Emerald

Ballot measures took center stage Wednesday night when Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer and his Democratic challenger Vern Cook debated in the EMU Dad's Room.

Cook attacked Frohnmayer's handling of ballot measure titles, charging that the attorney general's mishandling of his official responsibilities has resulted in unclear wording of the ballot measures.

"In one case, the sales tax ballot title, if you voted 'yes' you thought you were voting 'no,'" Cook said.



Dave Frohnmayer

Adding that reviewing ballot titles should be a primary duty of the attorney general's office, Cook charged that "23 out of 28 challenges to Mr. Frohnmayer's ballot titles have been found to be unfair, misleading and insufficient" by the Oregon Supreme Court.

"Challenging ballot titles is the oldest political game in the book," Frohnmayer said. Additionally, he said, anyone who thinks reviewing ballot titles should be a primary duty of the attorney general should introduce legislation to abolish the office.

According to Frohnmayer, most people decide how they will vote on ballot measures before they go to the polls. "I trust the voters more than my opponent," he said.

The candidates also collided on their views regarding Ballot Measure 8, the "victims' rights" initiative, which revises numerous criminal laws concerning police powers, trials, evidence and sentencing.

Frohnmayer said he supports the measure as a means of balancing the inequities of the judicial system. "Virtually everything in that measure has been before the Legislature before in one form or another" but has been defeated by "strategically placed" legislators, he said.

"I'm not really suprised Dave Frohnmayer supports the



Vern Cook

measure," Cook said, "because he has such little regard for the Oregon Constitution."

Cook said he opposes the measure since several of its provisions would likely be judged unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court, particularly a provision allowing victims to participate in criminal sentencing.

Such a provision, he said, would promote vindictiveness instead of rehabilitation.

Both candidates oppose Measure 2, the property tax limitation. Although Frohnmayer said he understands concerns over property taxes, he said "it makes no sense to shoot at the Legislature through our heads."

Cook said he opposes the measure, but he charged that Frohnmayer's office did a "miserably poor" job in preparing the ballot title.

Both candidates also expressed opposition to Measures 6 and 7, which would reinstate the death penalty.

Cook said he objects to capital punishment not on moral grounds but because it is not an effective deterrent to crime. However, he added, "I'd rather have nine guilty men on life sentences than execute one innocent one."

Frohnmayer voiced similar objections to the measures, saying "if mistakes are made in the adjudication of capital punishment, it is irrevocable."

Nonetheless, both said they would enforce capital punishment as attorney general if the measure passes.

Caldicott speaking tonight

Nuclear activist Dr. Helen Caldicott will discuss the nuclear arms race and her recommendations for stopping it in the EMU Ballroom tonight at 8.

Caldicott, a native of Melbourne, Australia, was influenced as a teenager by Nevil Shute's "On the Beach," a novel about the effects of nuclear war. But it wasn't until after the birth of her first child that Caldicott's concern became her cause.

"At that moment I accepted personal responsibility for stopping the nuclear arms race," she says.

In 1971, Caldicott began protesting French atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific Ocean. Later, the movement spread throughout

Australia and New Zealand, and the French halted the tests in 1972.

In 1978, Caldicott published her first book "Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do!" She is a past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility and founder of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

"The 1984 elections are a political crossroads that may determine our survival as a planet," Caldicott says. "We have to use this opportunity to elect a president and a congress who are committed to multilateral nuclear disarmament as their top priority."

Caldicott's discussion, which is part of the ASUO-sponsored political symposium, is free and open to the public.

Political symposium schedule

The 1984 ASUO political symposium concludes today with a discussion on nuclear arms by Dr. Helen Caldicott at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

Today's schedule also includes a discussion on peace negotiations in Central America by Felix Kury, who directs the San Francisco office of the coalition currently engaged in discussions with El Salvadoran Pres. Napoleon Duarte.

Today's symposium schedule is:

•12:30 p.m. — Congressman Jim Weaver, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress, 4th District.

•2:30 p.m. — Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America presentation; Felix Kury, U.S. representative for El Salvador's Democratic Revolutionary Front.

•7 p.m. — Margie Hendriksen, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate.

•8 p.m. — Dr. Helen Caldicott, Physicians for Social Responsibility.

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