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Melee welcomes president to Portland

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

Exploding red, white and blue balloons nearly drowned out calls for "four more years" and made the finale of President Ronald Reagan's Portland rally sound like a battlefield.

And it was. Several times during his Tuesday morning speech at the Earle Childs Center of the University of Portland, Reagan was upstaged by hostile exchanges between hecklers and supporters.

But the president seemed undaunted by the verbal jabs.

"I may just let Mondale raise his taxes," Reagan joked, pointing to one of the hecklers. Approximately 5,000 people attended the rally.

Reiterating his theme of "America is back," Reagan said Walter Mondale would lead America into economic, social and international chaos if elected.

Under the Democrats, "our leadership was adrift and rudderless without a compass," he said. He accused the Democrats of weakening national defense but said that since he took office four years ago, his administration has begun to make the country "strong again."

"It was the second American Revolution, and it has only just begun," he said. But his opponents are "small voices in the night sounding the call to go back."

Reagan took credit for lowering inflation from 12 percent annually to 4 percent and creating 6 million new jobs. Taxes were cut by 25 percent during his administration, but Mondale would raise taxes if elected, he said.

"My opponent's economic policy has two parts — first raise your taxes and then raise them again," he said. "America



President Ronald Reagan addresses a hall of students and party faithful, including (from left to right) Gov. Vic Atiyeh, Sen. Bob

Packwood and Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., at the University of Portland campus Tuesday.

Photos by Michael Clapp

doesn't want his taxes and they're not going to get them."

At that point Reagan paused while a shouting match ensued between his supporters and the hecklers. But the entire speech was punctuated with taunts ranging from obscenities to accusations that he is a liar and a murderer.

One group chanted "We don't want your war in Central America" while others countered the supporters chant of "Four more years" with "Two more weeks."

"This is a perfect example of where we solid citizens are," the president said after the uproar subsided. "Caught between the right and the left."

Reagan continued his attack on Mondale and his plan to raise taxes to reduce the federal deficit. But Reagan predicted that Mondale would double the current deficit.

"He sees an America where every day is tax day — April 15," he said. "We see an America where every day is Independence Day — the Fourth of July."

Reagan also attacked the foreign policy of the Carter administration and Mondale's role as President Jimmy Carter's vice president. That administration made no strong response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, Reagan said, but no country has fallen to communism since he (Reagan) has taken office.

"One year ago we liberated Grenada from communist thugs," he said.

Reagan made no mention of another anniversary. It was one year ago Tuesday that 241 Marines were killed when a

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Anderson attacks Reagan's policies

By Stasia Scarborough
Of the Emerald

John Anderson, former Independent candidate for president, stumped Tuesday for Walter Mondale's presidential campaign, putting the weight of the national Independent Party behind the Democrats.

In a speech before approximately 250 students and Eugene residents, Anderson criticized President Reagan, calling his campaign and presidency one of "cotton candy."

"It's pink and pretty and full of air, but no nutritional value," he said.

Anderson has been campaigning for the Democratic candidate for two months at the request of Mondale.

Chair of the national Independent Party, Anderson has put his party's support behind the Democrats, but the focus of his campaign is to ensure that President Reagan is not re-elected.

In his attack against the incumbent president, Anderson selected issues he said are of interest to Oregonians in particular, including the environment and interest rates.

Citing Oregon's interest in environmental issues, Anderson told the audience about Republican mismanagement of the Environmental Protection Agency. He said "the environment has suffered and suffered grievously" as a result.

The Reagan administration has tried to "drag their feet on the issue" of toxic waste clean-up, he said, illustrating his point by calling Anne Burford and Rita Lavelle — former Reagan appointees to the EPA — "characters out of a Fellini movie."

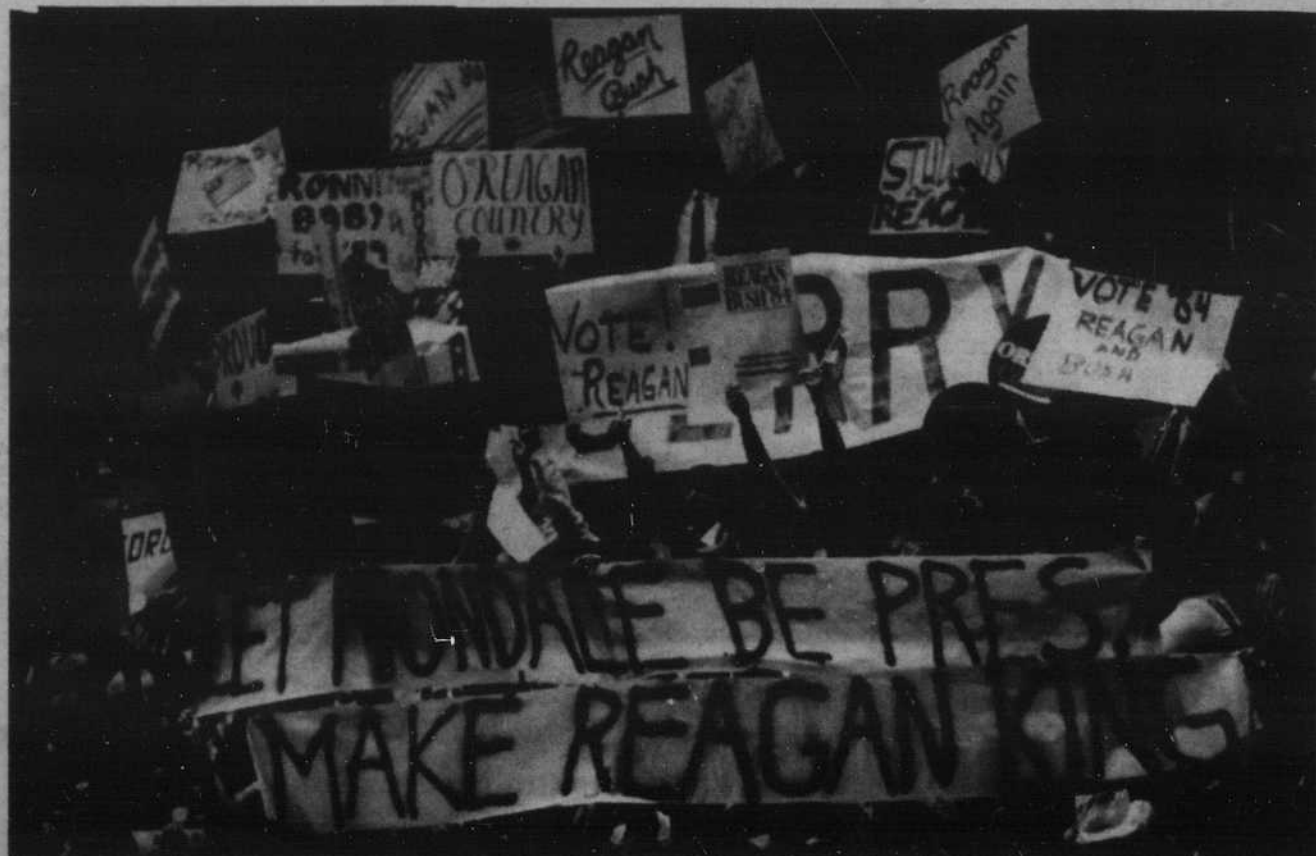
Oregon, he said, is an "interest-rate-sensitive state" and has suffered more than many parts of the country in the recent economic recession. Reagan's failure to suggest a means of lowering the federal deficit, he said, is inhibiting Oregon's economic recovery.

In one of his few references to Walter Mondale, he said that Mondale "has had the courage" to suggest means of lowering the deficit, including lowering spending and increasing government revenues.

In national issues, Anderson claimed Reagan's policies for nuclear arms control are long on talk but short on action.

Saying Reagan looks back to the time when the SALT I treaty was negotiated as a "bad time" in history, Anderson accused Reagan of saying he longed for the day of nuclear arms control, while purchasing every item on the Pentagon's wish list.

"It's not a question of good intentions," he said. "It's going to take more than glib, glittering generalities."



A variety of political signs adorned the Earle Childs Center in anticipation of Reagan's speech.