

Editorial

Election outcomes raise big questions

The 1986 elections are over; as the smoke clears the question remains, what happens next?

At the state level, Oregonians can expect fireworks. Governor-elect Neil Goldschmidt has already urged the state Senate to postpone confirmation of outgoing Gov. Vic Atiyeh's appointments to various state positions so that Goldschmidt can have some say in the appointments as he begins his agenda.

This announcement caused sparks to fly from Atiyeh — get used to sparks flying.

Though the state Senate is firmly under Democratic control, control of the House will not be determined until absentee ballots decide several very close races.

Whoever controls the Legislature, however, will face a very busy term as Goldschmidt pushes his plans for the state through the Legislature. Goldschmidt was elected for his dynamism, and he will not take a passive role in leading the state to better times. He will challenge the Legislature, and the question is, will the Legislature be up to it?

At the national level, the question of national direction is brewing.

President Reagan warned that the country would return to the tax excesses and military weakness of pre-Reagan America if the Democrats took control of the Senate, which they have, but the more likely effect will be a political movement toward the center.

The Democrats now have the power to challenge the Strategic Defense Initiative, Reagan's space-based missile defense plan, and his support of military aid to Nicaraguan Contras.

However, Senate Democrats are in a very tricky position; if they exercise their power to suppress legislation that turns out to be popular with the public, Republicans will gain political mileage.

At this point it seems the tone of the next two years in the Senate will be of compromise rather than opposition. However, both the Democratic Senate and Reagan will be trying to gain political capital by attributing the nation's woes to the other's leadership.

The biggest effect will be that Democrats will have the power to begin to define their national agenda for the 1988 presidential elections. Republicans will try to patch up their agenda, which was badly shaken this election, as the Reagan era draws to a close.

The striking aspect of the national congressional races is not the issues that were resolved but the issues that were not resolved. Republicans tried to campaign on the Reagan-era agenda, but the Democrats either ignored or embraced these issues and focused instead on local issues.

For the next two years, both Democrats and Republicans will be struggling to develop a national focus that will appeal to Americans in the 1988 presidential race.

The Democratic control of the Senate is bad news for Oregon, because senators Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield will be replaced by Democrats as chairmen of their committees. However, Packwood and Hatfield will remain high-ranked, influential senators.

The Democrats' victory in the Senate is offset by the Republicans' gain of governorships across the nation and a minimal loss of House seats. Thus, with both parties scrambling for a new direction and mixed signals from the election results, the nation can expect a very lively presidential election in 1988.



Letters

Authority

There he goes again. Yes, Steve Nelson, ASUO president, has once again shot himself in the foot.

At the request of James Randall, past chair and current member of the Incidental Fee Committee, the ASUO Constitution Court has issued an injunction against OSPIRG. There is little reason to go into detail about why the injunction was issued.

The main concern is how ASUO President Steve Nelson then reacted. Steve did nothing, and he even stated that the ASUO Constitution Court had no authority to issue such an injunction.

Steve has now taken it on himself to interpret the ASUO Constitution. There is one small problem: The ASUO Constitution states, "The Constitution Court shall have supreme and final authority on all questions of interpretation of the Constitution...."

The question now is: How can Steve arbitrarily decide what is or is not constitutional when, in fact, that very authority lies only with the ASUO Constitution Court?

As a concerned student and elected member of the IFC, I'm

worried that the ASUO Executive seems to be interfering with the legitimate functions of the Constitution Court.

I therefore urge the Constitution Court to rule whether the ASUO Executive has such authority over the ASUO Constitution Court.

Then, if the court rules that the ASUO Executive has no such authority, has Steve Nelson then violated Section 5.15 of the ASUO Constitution? If so, is this action of non-fulfillment of duties grounds for impeachment of Steve Nelson?

Ron E. Munion
IFC member

Bad shortcut

Not too long ago I was crossing campus and took a shortcut through the cemetery. Anyone who's been around the campus for any length of time would probably warn others that the cemetery has not been considered safe for anyone to walk through, especially alone. But since it was still light out, and there were a lot of people around, I went ahead. That's how I found out that there is a reason to avoid the cemetery even during the day.

In the middle of the road through the cemetery is a toolshed, and as I approached it I could see a man standing in the doorway and heard music coming from inside. He watched me walk by and said nothing, but his intense stare made me uneasy.

Since there is a sign at the entrance to the cemetery that clearly states that loitering is not allowed, I decided to report to security about him. I was informed that the cemetery is not on University property, but that I could make a complaint, which I did.

I also found out that this man is living in the toolshed with permission from the Pioneer Cemetery, and that he has had numerous charges made against him before. It appears that this man is unstable, and is potentially dangerous.

I urge all students and visitors to campus to avoid the

cemetery, especially this man. I also challenge the city, the University and the ASUO to do something about it.

Leisha L. Sanders
Eugene

Use of fees

We are writing in regard to the complications over OSPIRG's use or non-use of student fees in our current ballot measure campaign (ODE, Oct. 30). We would like to state unequivocally, for the record, that no student fees (as in not a penny) have been used for any campaign expenses, past or present, and will not be used for any future expenses.

The attorney general stated in a June 10, 1985 opinion that while student groups are allowed to participate in ballot measure campaigns, no student fees can be spent for those campaigns. As leaders on the campaign, we know that OSPIRG has strictly adhered to the attorney general's opinion. All activities conducted for the past year in connection with the campaign have been coordinated from private homes, meetings have been held off campus, and all expenses paid with private contributions. To say that OSPIRG has been careful in running its campaign is an understatement.

We understand concern has been raised over the fact that OSPIRG's student phone number appeared on a flyer promoting a campaign event. This number was printed on the flyer by mistake by another organization, and the flyer was distributed before the mistake was identified.

To our knowledge, this is the only impropriety noted in relation to OSPIRG's campaign. All other campaign literature has the correct address and phone number. Anyone with further questions may call 343-2674 or 343-9861.

Jeffery Bissonnette
Kevin Masterson
Coordinators,
4 and 8 campaign

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