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Democratic racing in Eugene; Simon's wife speaks

By Angela Muniz
Emerald Editorial Editor

Campaigning for her husband, democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon, Jeanne Simon spoke on several topics, including the role of the media in a campaign and the growing influence of women in politics, while in Eugene Thursday. The luncheon was sponsored by The Center of Study for Women in Society.

Simon circulated throughout the crowd amid murmurs about her husband's background and ideologies. "He's a native Oregonian," some commented as she shook hands with the small group of people who came to hear her speak. But in response to this, one man exclaimed "Hey, this is her day. Not Paul's."

"This is like a reunion of old friends," she began. "Thank you for reminding me that Paul's roots are here."

Several members of the audience were old friends of the Simon family when they resided in Eugene in the 1940's. Paul

Simon attended the University and worked for the Oregon Daily Emerald and the Eugene Register-Guard when he lived in Oregon.

Simon said her husband's campaign is trying to return to the roots of the democratic party and "old-fashioned" democratic beliefs. "We're afraid we're going to lose our sense of democratic 'soul' in the democratic party," she explained.

"Let the Miami Herald, or the Eugene Register-Guard or any other newspaper come into our backyard. They can sit in the bushes — or walk in our front door — they're not going to find out anything about Paul Simon," she said, spoofing Sen. Gary Hart's dare to the press.

Nonetheless, Simon does not blame the media for harsh coverage. This year the people are curious about the candidate's background and character as well as the candidate's wife and children, she said.

She agrees that the scrutiny of the media has been intense this

year but, while it has gone too far at times, it is generally alright.

"We gave up our right to privacy on May 19 (when Simon announced his candidacy)," she said. "I think the press has the right to know everything possible about a candidate."

Simon is no stranger to campaigning. She has been involved in politics since 1957, when she became a representative in the Illinois legislature. Since then, however, campaigning has become a "family affair," she said. Both her daughter, Sheila, and her son, Martin, are active in the Simon campaign for the presidency.

The wife's role in campaigning, as well as the children's, has become very active, she said. "I don't intend to pour tea. I don't intend to wear white orchid. I don't intend to give out Paul's favorite recipe to anyone. I intend to be a working wife of the president," she explained.

Simon has two role models:

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Photo by Phil Thorne

Jeanne Simon, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon spoke in Eugene Thursday. The former Illinois legislator discussed women in politics and the presidential campaign.

Evictions stir up controversy

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

Oregon law says it's legal, but Meri Sue Neel believes it still smacks of discrimination.

On Oct. 2, Neel found an eviction notice on the door of her apartment. The notice informed Neel and her three daughters they would have 30 days to vacate the Sequoia Apartments in Springfield and find another place to live.

Neel believes she is being evicted for one reason only: she has children.

Other families in the complex also are being evicted, Neel said, and have received similar notices over the last two-and-a-half months.

"Right now I pretty much have no options, because I don't have a car and I work right down the road, and the girls go to school right over at Guy Lee (Elementary)," Neel said.

"I've called all the apartment buildings that are around here. There are no openings except the Chalet (apartments), but I can't afford the rent," she added.

David Wardell, who manages the Sequoia Apartments along with his wife Sherrie, said the evictions at the complex also have involved single people. "There were about five families evicted and 18 singles evicted," Wardell said.

He noted, however, that the owners of the apartments have decided not to rent to families because of physical damage done to the complex.

"It's my job to make the place livable," Wardell added.

However, Neel said she has yet to receive a reason as to why she has to move.

"When I first received my eviction notice, I went to the manager's office and asked, 'Why am I getting this?' And she (Sherrie Wardell) said, 'I don't know. The owners just had me write it out,'" Neel said.

"She said she could guarantee it wasn't because I had kids. And I said how come all the people moving out have kids and all the

people moving in don't have kids, and she said that was just the way things were working out," Neel added.

"The way I see it is that people who had children started getting notices that their tenancy was expired. And they seemed to do it one or two at a time, so it wouldn't appear what they were doing," said another woman, who with her husband and children, also have been evicted. The woman, a University student, asked to remain anonymous.

"The rumor was they were trying to sell the building, and they were going to make it all-adult," the University student said.

The eviction notices received by the tenants list four Oregon Revised Statutes. The statutes deal with definitions, and the formalities an eviction must follow. One of them, ORS 91.070, states that a "... tenancy may only be terminated by either the landlord or tenant giving the other, at any time during the tenancy, not less than 30 days' notice in writing prior to the date designated in the notice for the termination of the tenancy."

According to Maureen Kirk, state board chairwoman of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, Neel and the other tenants being evicted at the Sequoia Apartments have virtually no legal basis to challenge the eviction.

"You can be evicted for any reason, and the reason doesn't even have to be stated on the notification," Kirk said.

Neel said she personally knows other families that have received the notices. One family left at the end of September and another has until Oct. 18 to depart.

Another family that lives near Neel has not received a notice yet but expects to receive one soon, Neel said.

"I assume that next month she'll be getting a notice," she added.

But during a phone interview on Thursday, Assistant Manager Wayne Moss repeated the

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Fires addressed at hearing

By Bryan Houston
Emerald Contributor

Federal efforts to combat the forest fires that have recently ravaged parts of the western United States were the subject of a congressional oversight hearing in Washington, D.C. on Thursday.

The hearing was conducted by the public lands subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The chairman of the subcommittee agreed to hold the hearings after Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., a member of the subcommittee, made a request that Congress review federal efforts to control the fires.

The goal of the hearings was to discern the answers to topics including the extent of fire damage inflicted on federal forests, its impact on forest plans being prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, its impact on the amount of timber that will be available for harvest, the level of environmental mitigation accomplished to date, and plans federal agencies have for timber salvage operations.

Other topics addressed were the budgetary impact of the fires, the cost of reforestation and salvage operations, a critique of federal firefighting efforts, how federal resources were allocated between urban areas and wild areas threatened by the fires, and the impact of the fires in fisheries and non-timber values.

DeFazio, in his opening statement at the hearing, said that as many of the fires are being con-

trolled now, the focus must begin to shift to the recovery and rehabilitation of the scorched land. He also stressed that the subcommittee must understand what funding the Bureau of Land Management and the Forestry Service will need for recovery projects. He also said answers must be found for dealing with the shrinking timber supply for state timber mills and the impact on the economic future of those mills.

Citing that in the past month, Oregon has suffered the greatest combination of fire losses since 1929, DeFazio said he saw the hearings as very important in beginning recovery efforts.

The Northwest Congressional Delegation honored the more than 21,000 men and women who fought the fires this summer by introducing a resolution Tuesday that pays special tribute to the families and friends of nine firefighters who died combating the fires or in accidents related to the fires. DeFazio was the coordinator of the effort.

According to recent articles in the Eugene Register-Guard, this year's fires have blackened about 500,000 board feet of timber, valued at about \$300 million. The Kalniopsis Wilderness and the Syskiyou National Forest, in southwest Oregon, have received the brunt of the damage. Currently, the Silver Complex fire, which has destroyed over 85,000 acres in Kalniopsis Wilderness, is still raging. Cooler weather has helped the firefighters, but it is estimated that 130,000 acres of

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