

Smith vows to spend more time campaigning

SALEM (AP) — U.S. Rep. Denny Smith announced Tuesday he will seek a sixth term in Congress.

The 52-year-old Republican said he will spend more time campaigning in the 5th Congressional District this time after Democratic challenger Mike Kopetski came within 707 votes

of unseating him in 1988.

Kopetski, a former state legislator from Keizer, announced last month he will challenge Smith again this year.

Smith said he will try to match or exceed the campaign money Kopetski is raising, which he predicted could be more than a \$1 million.

Smith said the main issues in his campaign this year will be lower taxes, better schools and a clean environment.

The congressman said he does not believe abortion is a major issue this year.

"Special interest politics works in strange ways," Smith said. "But Oregonians have al-

ways kind of looked at the man, seen what he's done, seen how forthright he is and decided on what he says and does."

Smith has been targeted by the National Abortions Rights League for his anti-abortion stance.

The top issue is a balanced federal budget, Smith said. "I

think people just don't want more taxes," he said.

Although Smith advocates a strong defense, he said he can better deliver a peace dividend as the Soviet threat subsides because he closely monitors Pentagon waste.

"I could find more cuts than all the liberals in Congress," he said.

In addition to Kopetski, Smith may also have to fight public perception about his role in lobbying for protection of directors of troubled savings and loan institutions. At the time, he sat on the board of the American Federal Savings & Loan Association.

He has said that his efforts were on behalf of his constituents, and not for personal gain.

Smith said he was confident of a victory in November.

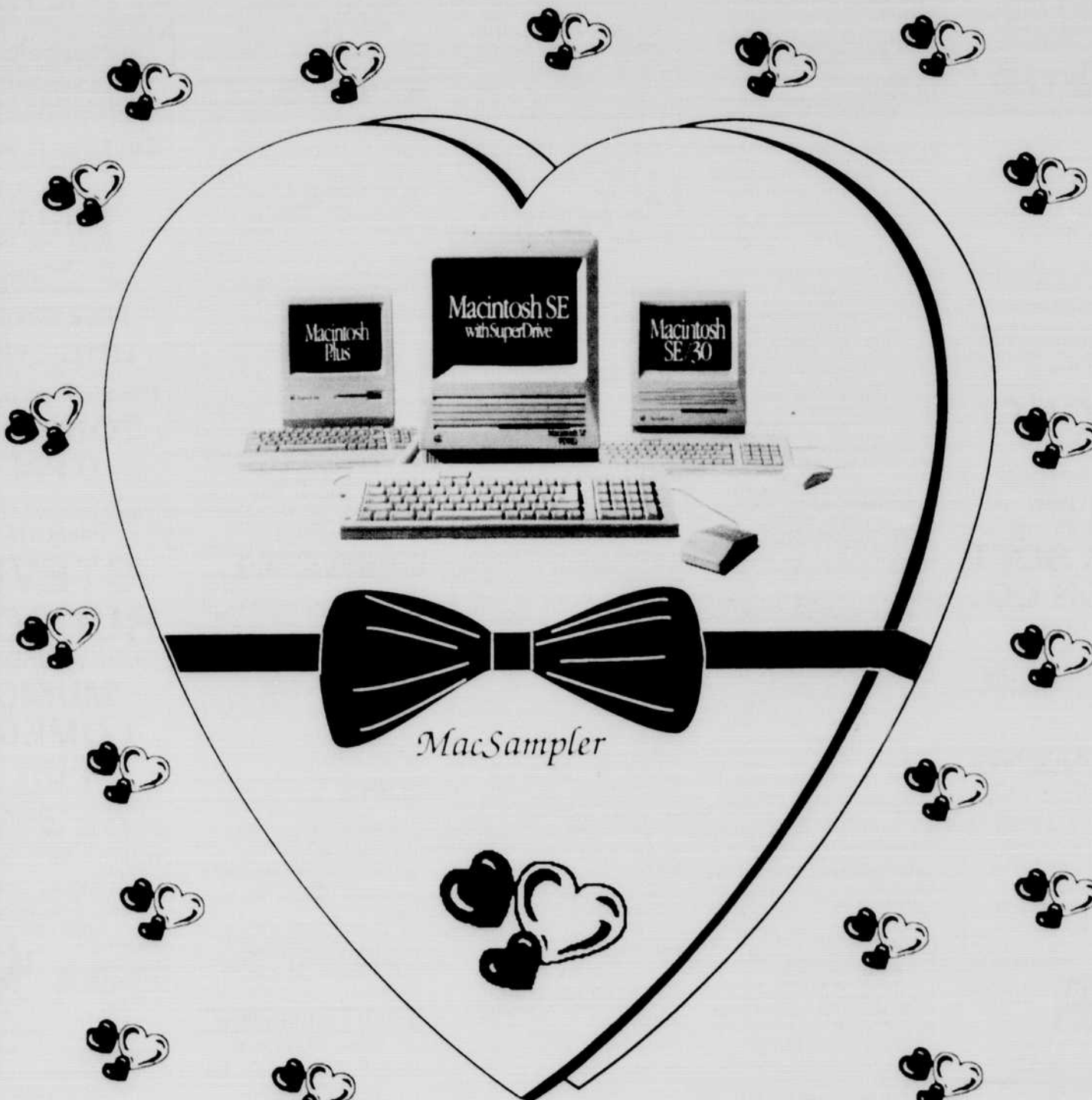
"The election results were closer than I would have liked last time," he said. "I think it shows that even with a tremendous turnout, with a tremendous advantage in registration, with a presidential candidate that won this state 54-46, we still won, we still won honestly in a recount, and we will win honestly again in 1990."

Smith is a member of the Budget Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in Congress.

Smith was elected to the U.S. House in 1980 when he upset longtime Democratic incumbent Al Ullman.

He is a decorated fighter pilot and chairman of the board of Eagle Newspapers, Inc., which publishes 17 newspapers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. He recently married wife Deanna Koenig, his second, and is the son of former governor Elmo Smith.

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