

POLITICS

Swan, Kerans separated by experience

By Stan McKenzie
Emerald Contributor

Peter Swan, a University law professor, admits he's fighting an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Grattan Kerans in the District 20 Senate race.

Kerans, 49, has been a state representative five times in addition to being a senator; Swan, 54, has never run for or held a political office.

In the last general election, Kerans, a Democrat, captured all 57 precincts in District 20, which encompasses parts of south and most of northwest Eugene. It's a district where voters registered as Democrats outnumber Republicans 25,500 to 14,725.

And with an easily recognizable name like Grattan, both candidates say Kerans has familiarity with the voters.

But, Swan said, "I don't think he's had a good challenge for a long time, and I think he's got to deal with his record and his effectiveness. I think he's vulnerable."

Kerans and Swan share similar views on some issues — each supports abortion rights for women, the ban on log exports, reforestation and reducing automobile emissions — but they are divided on as many others.

They disagree about how to lower property taxes, even though the two are mutually

opposed to state Ballot Measure 5, which would limit such taxation.

Kerans said Oregon needs a "progressive tax" that's based on the ability to pay; such as an income tax, a luxury tax, or a tax on businesses' gross receipts.

"Property tax taxes on real estate value, and you may or may not have the income to pay the year that bill comes," Kerans said. "You may be unemployed, underemployed, disabled, a widow, a widower, etcetera."

Kerans said revenues from a new tax, coupled with the \$550 million the state is setting aside to help schools now, would buy out residential property taxes that go toward funding schools. The state would pay about 70 percent of the school bill, he said.

Swan strictly supports a sales tax to ease property taxes. He suggests a rate that would provide all or most of the revenue needed for school funding. The rate, perhaps 5 or 5.5 percent, would be locked into the state constitution, he said.

"If it's done right, it should virtually take the operating budget of local school districts out of the local property tax base," he said.

Contributors to the campaigns indicate a difference between the candidates. Business and timber interests have con-

tributed large amounts to Swan's campaign; unions, trial lawyers and chiropractors have backed Kerans.

Kerans said he's disliked by business groups, adding that he was rated "the worst" by business lobbyists in a recent issue of *Oregon Business*. But the senator, who describes himself as a "champion of working men and women," is not antibusiness.

Business support to Swan's campaign, including \$5,300 so far from Associated Oregon Industries, indicates that businesses are looking for someone who will listen to them, Swan said.

Swan criticizes Kerans for being "hostile" toward the workers' compensation reform the Legislature easily passed last

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Swan

Candidacy: State Senate, District 20

Party: Republican

Age: 54

Home: Eugene

Occupation: Law professor at the University; legal council to President Myles Brand

Background: Treasurer and steering committee member on Republican legislative campaigns



Grattan Kerans

Candidacy: State Senate, District 20

Party: Democrat

Age: 49

Home: Eugene

Occupation: President of an advertising and public relations firm

Background: State senator, 1986-present; state representative, 1974-1984; House majority leader, 1979-1982; House speaker, 1983



spring. The package had bipartisan, management-labor and the governor's support, while unions opposed it, he said.

Kerans said he opposed the package, because it took money that could be used for workers' benefits and gave it to insurance companies.



School
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
of MUSIC

THIS WEEK
at BEALL HALL:
961 E. 18th Ave.

🎵 HOMECOMING CONCERT

Oregon Jazz Ensemble,
University Singers, Oregon
Wind Ensemble, University
Symphony
Friday, Nov. 2 8 p.m.
FREE Admission

🎵 LOS ANGELES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WINDS with Lincoln

Mayorga, piano
Chamber Music Series
Music by Mozart, Gounod,
and Villa-Lobos.
Thurs, Nov. 8 8 p.m.
Reserved Seats:
\$14.50, \$11.50, \$6.50
(Available at Hult Center)

For more information, call:
346-3761 (Music School)

What
Study-Crazed
Students
Say About
Onsen



ONSEN
HOURLY HOT TUB RENTAL

Call 345-9048 for reservations.

1883 Garden Ave., Eugene



Jake

Arnold

U. of O.
S.A.A.



PRESENT

-Homecoming-
Parent's Weekend
Comedy Night

Starring:

Jake Johannsen
Arnold Mukai

Tickets sold at EMU Main Desk

Fri. Nov. 2nd Students \$4.00
Emu Ballroom Public \$5.00
8:00 PM

DON'T CUT CLASSES.

Keep Your Options Open.

Many U of O students take classes at Lane Community College.

Join your friends at the polls

Vote YES LCC

Authorized and paid for by LCC advocates, 68 Crest Drive Eugene, OR 97405