

# Republicans grilled by audience

By Demian McLean  
Emerald Contributor

Two Republican candidates hoping to unseat Rep. Peter Defazio this November squared off Tuesday in a debate sponsored by the Rubicon Society.

However, neither candidate laid a glove on the other, instead spending their time defending their positions to an aggressively inquisitive audience.

About 15 people showed up at DeFrisco's Cafe to grill Congressional hopefuls Richard Schulz and John Newkirk about their stances on abortion, environmentalism and immigration.

On the issue of abortion, Newkirk side-stepped audience members' questions about women's rights.

"I'm a Catholic; that's my personal religion," he said, but in the same breath voiced support for the "Constitutional right" to choose abortion.

Pressed further on the issue, he answered, "I have to live under a total Republican platform," which includes opposition to abortion. Asked again about his personal views on abortion, Newkirk conceded that "people have a right to choose, to keep the government out of their lives."

Schulz was more direct about his position. "I feel America has created its own Holocaust, and it has to stop," he said of abortion. The only exception to a ban on abortions, he said, should be if a pregnancy endangered a woman's life.

On the subject of immigration, the candidates disagreed. Newkirk proposed a complete end to foreign immigration until the country's unemployment rate reaches 2.5 percent.

"When we take foreign people in, we give them free hospitals, free money, free everything. And we're putting our own people on the streets," he said.

Schulz simply proposed stepping up current efforts on catching illegal immigrants.

The candidates saw eye to eye on the environmentalism issue.

"The Endangered Species Act should be repealed," Schulz said. "We need jobs and timber now. It's obvious that compromise is impossible."

"The Endangered Species Act is one of our biggest problems," Newkirk said. "It robs us of jobs."

Until legislation concerning the Act is enacted, Newkirk suggested the timber industry more carefully clean up after harvest and keep debris out of the rivers.

On the issue of crime, Schulz said "We need tougher sentencing, including the death penalty where warranted."

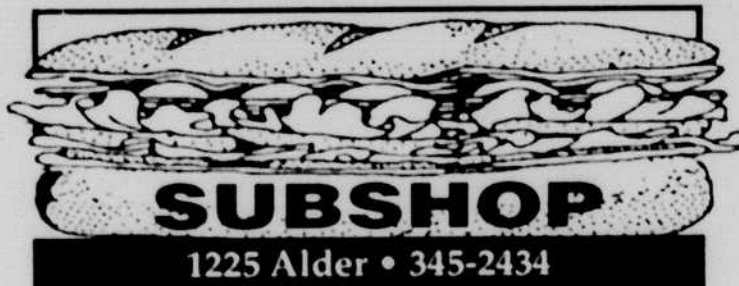
As for measures in crime prevention, Schulz suggested putting religion back in the classroom. When asked by an audience member "Which god do you want to put back in the classroom?" he answered "A Christian god. Absolutely."

But Schulz quickly amended his answer to include a Jewish god, as well.

"We're a Judeo-Christian country; back to our beginnings, that's where it is," he said.

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# Speaker emphasizes plants' healing powers

By Koalani Roberts  
Emerald Contributor

Africa's rain forests and knowledge held by traditional healers must be preserved for their potential to solve many modern medical problems, said Dr. Anthony Andoh in the Earthweek opening address Friday night.

An ethnobotanist, Andoh studies how different cultures use plants for food, medicine, spiritual enhancement and overall well-being.

Andoh began his speech with an African ritual in which he summoned earth spirits and asked the small audience to pray to Africa's god.

"There is a whole lot in the world that we are not aware of," he said. "In the West, especially in the U.S., people have lost the power of living. The spiritual aspect of life is gone."

Africans believe disease emanates from the spirit, which is the mind. We must heal ourselves from within "then we can begin to heal the plants, the animals, the entire ecosystem," Andoh said.

Andoh, 48, was born in the West African rain forests of Ghana. He was 11 years old when his father, one of Ghana's leading botanists, died. Andoh said his father's spirit dwells within him and drives him to protect the jungle, the people and the medicine of Africa.

"Africa is the home of all life forms," he said. "I assure you without Africa, no one would

survive."

Andoh lives in San Francisco and is the U.S. representative to the International Organization of Traditional and Medical Practitioners and Researchers, a group that seeks to combine traditional African herbal cures with modern medical treatment.

In 1988, Ghana's embassy in Washington, D.C., asked Andoh to return to his native country and help develop better systemized medicine.

Andoh said a similar system must be implemented in America because "all people can't access the medical system, so we must combine all available alternatives. The scientist is not the only one with the knowledge."

Ando said Africans want to share what they know with the rest of the world, but the developed countries must help them survive to avoid losing valuable cures.

"There's a lot of wealth in the world ... to go around," Andoh said.

He said Africa's rain forests contain an amazing number of curative plants unknown to western scientists.

Childhood leukemia, drug abuse and perhaps even the viruses associated with AIDS have cures in African plants, Andoh said.

"These are justifications to save the rain forests of Africa," he said.

Andoh is creating a botanical garden in Ghana to protect and preserve the endangered plants.

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