

'Oregonian' snaps streak, endorses first Democrat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Clinton picked up endorsements from 10 newspapers Sunday, including at least three that supported President Bush in 1988 and one that had not backed a Democrat for president in 142 years.

Four papers — the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Daily Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City, *The Florida Times-Union* of Jacksonville and the *New Haven (Conn.) Register* — endorsed President Bush.

The Oregonian of Portland, the oldest daily newspaper west of the Mississippi River, said departing from its almost unbroken tradition of supporting Republicans for the presidency wasn't even a close call.

The newspaper had supported Republicans for president consistently except for 1964, when it did not make a choice between President

Lyndon B. Johnson and Sen. Barry Goldwater.

The Oregonian said Bush has been "a massive disappointment as president," while Clinton had been "pragmatic, tough, focused, controversial — and effective" as governor of Arkansas.

In Florida, the *Tallahassee Democrat* endorsed Clinton, saying six of its eight-member editorial board considered him the best choice with the remainder split between Bush and independent candidate Ross Perot.

In Bush's home state of Texas, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, which supported the president in the past, said he "has had his chance and has been found wanting."

"He has been a disappointment as president."

Both sides predict close election

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sixteen days before the presidential election, Democrats were sniffing victory Sunday, but Bill Clinton's campaign manager sidestepped talk of a landslide.

Republicans said it would be a close race, but they believed or hoped that President Bush would eke out a win over the Democratic challenger, who is leading in the polls.

In Little Rock, Ark., Clinton manager David Wilhelm, interviewed on CNN's *Newsmaker Sunday*, said, "We are not thinking about a landslide. We are thinking about victory. We are thinking about winning."

Republican Gov. John Engler of Michigan, speaking from the hall in East Lansing, Mich., in which the third presidential debate will be Monday, said on CBS-TV's *Face the Nation* that he expects a narrow Bush victory on Nov. 3.

"I think in Michigan we're looking at a very close race," Engler said. "People are shifting, very fluid, and the stage behind me today is going to settle things in Michigan, I think, quite effectively."

"Tough campaign right down to the wire, but I still think George Bush is going to carry Michigan, going to win the presidency," Engler said.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, the keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention, interviewed on NBC-TV's *Meet the Press*, said the

president will carry Texas and, he hopes, will win re-election.

"I think basically that we are behind. I think we've got to close the gap," Gramm said. "The reason that I have hope that we are going to win is that I don't think American families have sat down around the kitchen table, looked at the two economic programs ... and asked themselves, 'What is in our long-term interest?' I think when they do that we are going to benefit."

Gramm, chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, said he does not know at this point whether the GOP will gain or lose Senate seats.

In Cleveland, Ohio, Republican Gov. George Voinovich said Bush "needs to do a better job between now and election day to define who Bill Clinton is."

"I'm not saying that George Bush is going to lose," Voinovich said. But he said the president "has not done a good job of pointing out that the same characteristics that were needed to win the Cold War are needed to win the economic war."

Voinovich was interviewed on ABC-TV's *This Week with David Brinkley*.

On the CNN program, Bush campaign manager Fred Malek said, "We think this election is very, very winnable ... we've seen a tightening in the polls."

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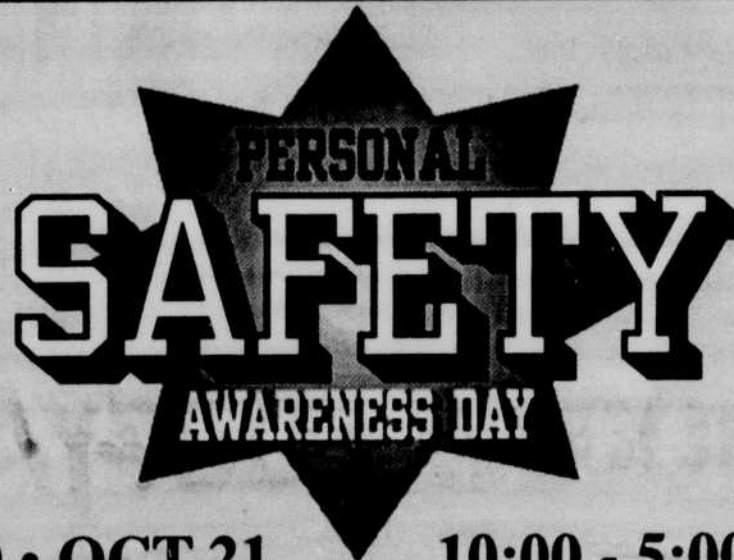
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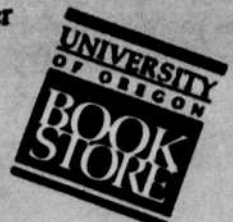
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