

## Record voter turnout will stop OCA agenda

The Oregon Citizens Alliance is an ultra-conservative Christian Right organization implementing a "political-moral" strategy that could change the terms of political debate in Oregon. While the group is best known for its strident opposition to reproductive choice and civil rights protections for lesbians and gays, the OCA agenda extends to most social and political issues.

Although the OCA's current focus of activity is local, its opinions on global issues are equally important to the organization. What many Oregonians do not remember is that in the mid-1980s, when the citizens demanded that Oregon divest from South Africa, the *Oregon Alliance* (the OCA's newspaper) boldly announced that Nelson Mandela "is striking fear in the hearts of whites with his fiery one-man, one-vote, Marxist rhetoric."

Since when has one-person, one-vote become a dangerous demand? Dangerous for whom? The OCA's continued interest in international affairs is among the reasons the OCA has strengthened its ties with Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

In 1989, following Robertson's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Robertson, who was not touched by sex scandals during the 1980s, used his Christian Broadcasting Network to draw Christian Rights activists together under the umbrella organization called The Christian Coalition. This coalition flaunts that it has enrolled more than 175,000 members and organized in 45 states. At the present there are at least 20 states that have chapters in every county.

In Oregon, the OCA has become the Oregon Chapter of the Christian Coalition. The OCA's executive director, Lon Mabon, has been named the Oregon chapter head. The Christian Coalition is able to provide Christian Rights activists and leaders with technical and political advice on how best to push their political ideology into society's mainstream.

One strategy is to encourage only certain segments of potential voters who would back the ideology of the secular and Christian Right to turn out on Election Day. This voting drive operates on the belief that because only small percentages of Americans vote, it only takes a small percentage of voters to determine the outcome of any electoral decision. One Christian Right leader explained it this way at a 1992 Christian Coalition conference: "We don't have to worry about convincing the majority of Americans to agree with us. Most of them are staying home and watching *Falcon Crest*. They're not involved, they're not voting, so who cares?"

Nov. 3 is election day, and as the OCA strives to shore up its support base, Oregonians must turn out in record numbers to state clearly and without doubt their opinion on organized bigotry in Oregon under the guise of Ballot Measure 9. If not, who will be next to take their place alongside gays, lesbians, feminists and welfare-rights advocates in the OCA pantheon of demons?

Eric Ward writes a monthly column for the Emerald.



## Politicians should lead ... or leave

By Peter Schwartz

A national campaign, "Lead ... or Leave," has challenged 1992 Congressional and Presidential candidates to pledge to cut the annual budget deficit in half by 1996, or not seek re-election when their terms expire.

By having Congressional candidates sign the pledge to cut the deficit, "Lead ... or Leave" hopes to form a substantial voting block committed to creating and effectively supporting deficit control legislation.

The deficit, dismissed in the 1980s as a consequence of growth, has become the focus of an effort to reinforce political accountability.

At a time when few in Washington want to accept responsibility for years of unchecked spending, preparation for the problems of tomorrow demands the economic flexibility of a controlled deficit.

So far, about 70 Congressional candidates and Presidential candidate Ross Perot have signed the pledge to cut the deficit. Locally, neither Bob Packwood nor Les AuCoin have signed.

On the KAVE radio show, "Town Meeting," I had an opportunity to ask AuCoin a question about signing pledges to cut the deficit. He had this comment:

"Let me just put it this way. I sign no pledges to any group."

I called Packwood's scheduling director, Elaine Franklin, to set up an interview with the senator. In recent attempts to contact her, she has not returned my calls.

Of the 82 Congressional candidates who have signed the pledge, "Lead ... or Leave" predicts 25 candidates are likely to win seats.

Although a small group, the pledge-signers must produce a deficit reduction plan that is attractive to the rest of Congress. The political careers of the pledge-signers hinge on presenting the uncontrolled deficit

as a significant, solvable problem.

Retiring Senator Warren Rudman, R-N.H., said cutting the deficit "is an eminently doable proposition. The plans exist to do it today. The political will doesn't."

If political will is the main problem, remember that ideally our elected officials are paid to run the national government — not serve their parties. Putting this in perspective, how long would it be before you were fired from a bartending job if you sold beer only to your personal friends?

If Congresspeople are only expected to cater to their constituencies and parties, who is held accountable for the economic well being of the United States?

Maintaining the collective health of the United States is a responsibility of Congress. With a commitment in Congress to cut the deficit, the goal of a 50-percent reduction is realistic.

Both the Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office of the United States said a 50-percent reduction over four years is economically sound.

Cutting the deficit in half is a goal all three presidential candidates have outlined in their platforms.

In his bid for the presidency, Perot's focus is cutting the deficit. He has signed the "Lead ... or Leave" pledge. Neither Bush nor Clinton have signed.

Why has Perot devoted a presidential campaign solely to the deficit-reduction issue? The question of deficit control needs to be addressed today. If this issue is not confronted, it will force itself on millions of young Americans in the next few years.

Today, the annual budget deficit is about \$350 billion a year. In the time it took to read the last sentence, the deficit increased \$55,000.

The accumulated deficit amounts to \$4 trillion, \$3 trillion of which has accumulated

over the last 12 years. (\$4 trillion is enough money to attend the University at Measure 5 tuition rates for 1.3 billion years.)

Every year, American taxpayers make \$200 billion in interest payments on the accumulated deficit. Payments of this magnitude limit the government's ability to turn around a recession and spur the economy to grow.

Interest payments of \$200 billion pay for the investments of banks and bondholders. This money does little for the majority of Americans. As long as interest rates on government bonds are high, they are a more attractive investment than private businesses. For a large number of Americans, a slump in private investment spells financial instability and possibly unemployment.

Growing out of a recession requires investment in the private sector. When the government is offering high returns on investment in bonds, private business suffers. For example, if a shoe store promised you 90 cents for every dollar you invest in their business, and the government promised \$1.10 for your dollar, the shoe store is left in the cold. It comes to the question of whether you would rather have 90 cents or \$1.10. Although this example is simplified, it is easy to see why small businesses have trouble making ends meet.

Young people today are picking up the tab for yesterday's excesses. The 1980s was a period of economic growth. Unfortunately, this growth was not controlled and did not prepare for the future recessions. A recession forces the government to spend.

The future is worth planning. To make sure we have the resources to deal with long-term problems, we need action in Congress. Demand that your Congressman be a national leader in planning your future. Tell him to lead ... or leave.

Peter Schwartz is an undeclared junior at the University.

### GENTLEMAN'S ENCORE

Quality Resale Clothing for Men and Women of Discriminating Taste  
1111 WILLAMETTE • 343-6179

99¢ WAFFLE CONE



Campus SUBSHOP  
1225 Alder  
345-2434

Not valid on delivery or with any other discounts or coupons. One coupon per customer. Expires 12/20/92

### AN EVENING IN SOLIDARITY with CLAUDIA EVELYN GONZALEZ BELTRENENA

a student organizer from our sister university, the National University of El Salvador



Ms. Gonzalez is a 21 year-old medical student who has been involved in the following organizations:

AGEUS: AGEUS is the official student government at the University of El Salvador.

PROMUS: Formed in November 1991, PROMUS confronts issues of sexism, sexual harassment and abuse, and works for women's health and educational needs.

PE: The Student Projection has involved students in the overall political life of the country. PE participates in national marches, organizes volunteer work brigades and health care teams in repopulated communities, and struggles for better education and affordable tuition on campus.

THURSDAY, OCT. 22  
7:00pm  
BEN LINDER ROOM, EMU  
FREE

Sponsored by Univ. of Oregon/Univ. of El Salvador Sister University Project

### THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

