

COMMUNITY

Garrett says accountability crucial

By David Brotherton
For The Oregon Daily Emerald

Republican congressional candidate and former television actor Ernie Garrett believes Oregonians deserve greater accountability from their elected representatives and believes that his own lack of governmental experience qualifies him as the best spokesman to carry their concerns to Washington, D.C.

"Voters deserve a representative who is free of special interest baggage and willing to listen to their problems," Garrett said during a recent interview in his Eugene campaign headquarters.

Garrett, 39, is one of three candidates now vying for the Republican nomination in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. His opponents are Marshall Johnson, 44, a broadcasting consultant from Millersburg and John Newkirk, 67, a mining consultant from North Bend.

(The name of a fourth candidate, Brian Safely, will also appear on the Republican ballot. However, Safely recently announced that he is too busy to run for Congress and offered his endorsement to Johnson.)

The winner of the May 17 contest will face Democrat Peter DeFazio, a four-term incumbent with no primary opponent, in the November general election. The 4th District includes all of Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane and Linn counties as well as parts of Benton and Josephine.

"The reason I decided to (try to) be a U.S. congressman is because our lives are greatly affected by what these federal legislators do and do not do," Garrett said. "The time has come to stop making more laws and to instead begin repealing those which are no longer needed."

Although he considers himself a "true republican," Garrett's political profile reflects an eclectic range of viewpoints.

Garrett supports the decriminalization of marijuana and advocates the legalization of hemp and hemp products for use in the manufacturing of paper, rope, clothing, oil and other commercial products. Revenues gained from these now illegal crops, Garrett said, could greatly ease Oregon's current financial shortfall.

"Hell yes they should legalize marijuana," Garrett said. "I don't care if you smoke it or not, but it's stupid to spend \$40,000 a year to throw somebody

in jail for pot. That money could be much better spent on our schools. Just think how much more \$40,000 would buy you in terms of education."

Garrett also supports abortion rights, another contentious issue among many Republican stalwarts. He opposes gun control. He favors the death penalty for murderers and believes all violent criminals should serve their full sentences with no chance of parole. Yet he opposes the construction of any new federal prisons.

As an outspoken critic of President Clinton's economic package passed by Congress last year, Garrett supports a budget plan more closely resembling the "trickle-down" theory advocated by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. He opposes new taxes in any form, instead advocating a tax cut for the middle-class. This, he said, would free up the resources our economy needs to reinvest in education and infrastructure.

Having never before held a public office, Garrett's entry into the political arena stems from what he describes as a "calling to public service."

"I could do anything I want to do," Garrett said. "But what I really want is to represent the people of the 4th District. I'm somebody who knows this area. I grew up in Eugene, and I now live in the small rural town of Oakland. I understand the diversity of views present in this district. I'm attuned to Oregonians in a way that Peter DeFazio no longer is."

After graduating from South Eugene High School in 1973, Garrett attended the University for several years. While at the University, he spent his summers working in the forests for Weyerhaeuser as a choker setter. Before completing his college degree, however, Garrett moved to Los Angeles and began a career as a professional actor.

In Los Angeles and later in New York, he appeared in more than 150 commercials, films, television series and soap operas. He will also star as former Oregon Corrections Director Michael Francke in an upcoming made-for-television movie about Francke's murder. Garrett returned to Oregon in 1990 and opened a horse and carriage tour business in Oakland, where he now lives with his wife and four children.

"I don't pretend to know everything about every subject, but I strongly doubt that most congressmen do either," Garrett said.

Albrecht wants to solve education, money puzzle

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

The problem with education is a problem with money, said John Albrecht, Democratic candidate for District 40.

"I don't think that higher education should be limited to the few that have the means to afford it," he said. "Our system of public higher education is becoming more and more like the Ivy League schools in terms of price. They're not there yet but they're getting closer."

Like other District 40 candidates, Albrecht supports a new tax to raise money for schools.

"When the people approved Ballot Measure 5 they took to heart the notion that in the thing was a provision that the legislature replace the revenue from lower property taxes. So that's what they have to do. Enhance revenue."

'Better schools are going to make better citizens,' 'Fewer bad citizens come out of good schools.'

— John Albrecht,
Democratic candidate for District 40

He said better schools also would help reduce crime in the state as well.

"Better schools are going to make better citizens," he said. "Fewer bad citizens come out of good schools."

Albrecht proposes a plan which includes adjusting the income tax, and broadening the property tax to include motor vehicles like family cars, as well as pleasure boats and airplanes.

He said the estimated value of these vehicles is about \$12 billion, so he expects a revenue of \$180 million at a taxation rate of 11.5 percent.

"I thought we'd start with the selling price (of the car) and reduce it 10 percent each year till 10 years later it would have no value, so the poor who supposedly use old clunkers would not be impacted," he said.

Albrecht also said he would increase corporate income tax to "try to recover the windfall that they got as a result of Ballot Measure 5. Their property taxes were actually reduced because their assessments were not significantly changed," he said.

He also suggested increasing fees on certain kinds of permits to cover the cost of the permit and the enforcement of the permit.

"The state issues permits to pollute," he said, "and the fee for polluting is not enough for the Department of Environmental Quality to enforce the provisions of the permit. We need to increase those fees."

Lessening pollution and providing a clean environment is something the state needs to keep working on, Albrecht said.

"We need to continue our fight to clean up the air in areas that are not in compliance," he said. "The fact that a couple of them finally maintained or reached compliance in the last few months doesn't mean the air is clean, it just means it isn't as nasty as it was."

He also supports fitting Oregon's gasoline pumps and barges with seals to prevent evaporating gasoline fumes from escaping while the gas is being transported or pumped at gas stations.

Albrecht said the state constitution needs to be changed so state forests are no longer managed for maximum harvest, which makes finding replacement money for schools more important, as the money from state timber sales currently funds education.

"We have extensive state forests and we should do what we can to make it as manageable as possible for the best use all around, products, habitats, conservation, recreation," he said.

Albrecht is a retired teacher and the former regional vice president of the Sierra Club.

KITZHABER

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national health care reform legislation.

As president of the Oregon Senate from 1985-1993, Kitzhaber witnessed a growing sense of partisanship within the state legislature. The divisiveness and gridlock of last year's session drove a wedge through the statehouse, prompting many legislators to opt out of running for re-election this year.

But Kitzhaber places much of the blame for the political hostility on Gov. Roberts, and says that his own experience as a legislator have taught him how it can be avoided in the future.

"The secret to working in Oregon politics is to give everyone some ownership in the process and in the product," Kitzhaber said. "One of the mistakes that Gov. Roberts made was creating an 'us' versus 'them' attitude, which is ultimately self-defeating. When all is said and done, we have to work together to get anywhere."

While Kitzhaber has built a reputation as a moderate and a

consensus-builder, he nonetheless has managed to retain a streak of 1960s liberalism.

"I got my political awareness in 1968 from Bobby Kennedy at a time when my generation felt like we were capable of effecting so much change," Kitzhaber said. "But in the Reagan and Bush years there was an enormous sense of powerlessness and apathy among America's youth."

"Well now this state and the country are at a point where we can no longer afford to be cynical. But I believe that with effort and strong leadership we can show people, especially younger people, that it is still possible to have a positive effect on the world," he said.

In the effort to demonstrate that politics is not always a dirty word, Kitzhaber says he will challenge whomever wins the Republican nomination to run a "clean" campaign, free of personal attacks and political mudslinging.

"Challenging your opponent's public record is entirely valid," Kitzhaber said. "But personalized attacks and impugning another's motives goes way

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— John Kitzhaber,
Gubernatorial Candidate

beyond the pale. All I want to do is assure that we can stick to the issues at hand."

Kitzhaber was born in Eugene and graduated from South Eugene High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and medical degree from the University of Oregon Medical School. He practiced medicine for 13 years in Roseburg as an emergency room physician and served in the state legislature from 1979 to 1993.

MYSTERY DUCK 1994

Clue #4 of 5 Thursday, May 12

"This Duck's got more than a million of em, in six different places. WHO is it???"

If you know who I am then please call the SURC office at 346-2107 with my first and last name as well as my occupation.

Winner receives a \$50 gift certificate from Fred Meyer. Final clue tomorrow! I guess per clue.

Mystery Duck is put on by the Student University Relations Council.

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