

Candidate takes middle ground

Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

The campaign trail can be very lonely, very lonely indeed as Libertarian candidate for governor Dan Vander Ploeg found out Thursday when he made a campaign stop in Eugene.

Vander Ploeg said he was pleased with the medias' reception of his campaign, even though only two members of the media attended his press conference.

Flanked by a placard reading "Enough is Enough" Vander Ploeg, explained that his party "takes the best of the democratic and republican parties and brings them together, giving Libertarians the broad middle ground."

Vander Ploeg's stand on higher education is a good illustration of the "conservative economic and liberal social" policies en spoused by the Libertarian Party.

"I believe that government has no place in higher education. There was a time when people would save up to send their children to college. But now they are so busy paying taxes they don't have the resources to do that. Insurance companies used to sell policies just for that purpose.

"We would have to accommodate this generation and allow time for future generation to accomplish this, but I think it can be done. Private schools do much more with less money, and they still manage to give assistance to the poor. Government schools aren't such a bargain anymore."

Vander Ploeg made the Eugene stop on his way to a debate with other candidates for governor in Medford. Thursday's debate was the first to include all of the candidates for governor, not just Denny Smith and John Kitzhaber. Of the other debates Vander Ploeg said, "As a Libertarian I am happy when we're invited, and I'm happy when we are not invited. I would certainly not want to be where someone didn't want me."

Tonie Nathan, who is the media coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Oregon, disagreed with Vander Ploeg about the exclusion of the Libertarian Party from the other debates.

"I was very disappointed that we were not invited to participate. I think the public has the right to hear all of the candidates speak," Nathan said.

The most important issue according to Vander Ploeg is public safety. He believes that if drugs were decriminalized there would be more room for violent and other offenders.

SMITH

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"(A) public corporation will allow 2,000 more Oregonians to be educated in the Oregon State System of Higher Education," he said. "We would, in essence, be deregulating the system."

But most of the audience came to hear his plans for timber communities. Smith took a strong stand against the Endangered Species Act and said Oregon Sens. Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield are ready to change the act but cannot do so without a governor who will support them at home.

Bonnie Morgan, an employee of Emerald Forest Products and Yellow Ribbon (a grass-roots

organization committed to the "wise use of natural resources"), said that she was very happy that there is a gubernatorial candidate "willing to say that the Endangered Species Act needs to be changed."

Smith sees legislation such as the act and President Clinton's Option 9 as barriers to the economic and social advancement of timber communities.

According to Smith, compromise is not a solution to the Northwest's timber woes.

"Compromise doesn't mean that I give up my position and they win," he said. "We need to change the Endangered Species Act so that it includes all species, because human beings have been left out of the equation."

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

African Students Association's general meeting and elections will take place tonight at 6 in Room 180 Straub.

Student Health Center's advisory committee meeting will take place today at 3 p.m. in the center's library. For more information, call 346-4447.

RELIGION

Dinner and movie night will take place tonight at 6. For more information, call the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at 346-4694.

First United Methodist Church's College Sunday School class starts Sunday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. Class will take place at 1376 Olive Street. For more information, call 345-8764.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department of Dance auditions for a January Hult Center concert will take place Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. and Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Geringer Annex Rooms 353 and 354. Those who are going to audition should plan to attend both days' auditions. For more information, call 346-3386.

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