

# District 20 candidates affirm education, oppose further taxes

Marcelene Edwards  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Using lottery funds for education is one goal the three candidates for State Senate District 20 share.

American Party candidate Jeanne Dellinger, a University of Oregon student, proposes a tuition rollback of at least 20 percent by dedicating all lottery funds to education.

She said this would be achieved by the conversion of state money that goes to "upper echelon" employees, who would have to pay for their own retirement plans. The proposal would not affect low-income government workers, she said.

The state is using money from the lottery for economic development, and she said she is tired of the money being wasted.

"I think there are a lot of feasible solutions, but the only way to get them is to break the two party system," Dellinger said.

She said the fate of the University is very important to her because she is a student.

Republican candidate Jimi Mathers would also like to use lottery money to fund education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. She said she hopes with the economy picking up, the state won't be short money.

"Lottery development is supposed to be used for economic development and there is no better economic development than education," Mathers said.

Education is one of the most important issues in the state and Mathers said it cannot be ignored. She said children deserve to leave school with a solid education and direction.

Democratic candidate Peter Sorenson said the state spent less money on education in 1993 than



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it did in 1992. Each year a smaller and smaller percent of the state budget is spent on higher education.

"We could take some of the lottery dollars out of economic development and put them in higher education," Sorenson said.

He would like to move 50 percent of the lottery dollars to school funding and increase corporate income tax to 10.6 percent. Currently, Oregon has the lowest corporate income tax of the western states. After the raise it would be the second lowest of the Western states and would be back to where it was three years ago, he said.

Sorenson applied for the education committee in the Senate. He is making education one of his major priorities, he said.

In 1973 it was possible for a college student to go to college and leave with a debt that could be easily paid off in five years, he said. Now students are in debt much longer, Sorenson said.

Next year he would like to propose a bill that would allow the state government to sell bonds to fund loans for students. The loans would be on a 30-year basis with an interest rate that would not be favorable because of the time frame, Sorenson said.

One issue the candidates don't agree on is Measure 15.

Dellinger is not in favor of the measure because it doesn't help higher education. If it does pass, she said, she would look toward lottery funds to help fill the gap.

Sorenson is also not in favor of Measure 15. He said that, although it is a well-meaning effort, it hurts higher education, law enforcement and social services.

However, Mathers said Measure 15 is not really taking money out of higher education. Many programs, such as music and art, have been cut out of kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We can't cut anymore from there," she said.

Most students discover they have a desire to pursue art or music when they are in grade school. They cannot wait until college to find out they would like a career in one of those fields, Mathers said.

The candidates also agree that Measure 5, which would require voter approval for any new taxes or fee increases, is not good legislation. Mathers said it's not a reasonable solution to financial problems in education. Sorenson said the measure is a "bureaucratic nightmare."

Dellinger said she doesn't like Measure 5 because she doesn't like to raise taxes.

## Republican Jimi Mathers disputes Measure 13

Marcia Latta  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Heavy rain did not deter Jimi Mathers, Republican candidate for State Senate District 20, from holding a press conference to denounce the policies of the Oregon Citizens Alliance on Friday.

Although the rain may have reduced the attendance of supporters, passing cars honked their approval for signs held by a small cluster of campaign volunteers in front of *The Register-Guard*. "No on 13" signs with rainbow flags were lined up next to signs reading, "No way OCA" and "The OCA shames the name of Christ."

Mathers said that denouncing the OCA was the right thing to do, even if it would cost her some conservative Republican votes. "If I had any OCA votes, I'm losing them today," she said.

Mathers stressed that this was not a single party issue as a moderate Republican, she joins both the Democratic and American Party candidates in the race opposing the views of the OCA.

On Measure 13, she said that she hopes people will vote against it so the issue will die out. And though Mathers disagrees with its issues, she said she feels the OCA could contribute positively to Oregon.

"If the OCA would put their efforts to something good, look what they could do. They are so well-organized," Mathers said.

However, it was the OCA's misguided organization that served as the impetus for the press conference. Mathers said she wanted to publicly refute inaccuracies contained in a propaganda piece circulated by the Yes on 13 Committee.

For fear of increasing support for the anti-gay rights movement, Mathers said she would not display the controversial tabloid which featured an especially contentious headline. She said she fears that a headline with such outrageous distortions of truth would incite the anger and gain the support of voters who are "just good religious people who do not realize that what is taking place is a move to discriminate and take away the civil rights of a

segment of our population — civil rights that our Oregon and United States Constitutions now guarantee to all citizens."

Mathers also expressed concern for the lack of bylines or source references in the tabloid, which, she said, casts doubt on the credibility of information presented in the publication.

The inflammatory article is being distributed to houses throughout Oregon by the OCA, according to Mathers, and is especially controversial because it involves an incident that took place in a school.

On May 10, 1994, the Beaverton School District presented a workshop on human sexuality for eighth-grade boys. According to this article, some boys who attended this workshop allege that they were told to "try homosexuality at least twice."

An official investigation of possible school district policy violations of the incident found this allegation to be unfounded, but has prompted a clarification of the school district guidelines for human sexuality education to prevent any problems in the future.

What was actually said at this workshop, according to the presenter, Larry Smith and several students, was that if a person has two homosexual experiences, it does not mean that he or she is gay.

The workshop in question, called "A New Attitude: Promoting Healthy Behaviors in a High Risk Society," was held off-campus. Parents were invited to attend a screening of the material at the school, but only three parents did so. Of the approximately 130 students who attended the workshop, parents of five students complained.

One of the other subjects of the workshop, also under attack by the OCA, was the treatment of male stereotyping in advertising as it was presented in the video, *Stale Roles and Tight Buns — Men in the Media*. A six-minute segment of the 45-minute film was shown at the workshop, it is currently available for viewing at the No on 13 table in the EMU.

### ■ ET ALS

#### MEETINGS

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group will meet today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, at 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-3360.

Oregon-Israel Action Committee will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Koinonia Center, at 1414 Kincaid St.

For more information, call 346-9687.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will be accepting bid cards and resumes today through Wednesday in Room 244 Hendricks. The interviews will be with the following organizations: BiMart, Nike, Tektronix and Timberline. For more information, call 346-3235.

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