

THIS WEEK
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TUESDAY: Politics
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POLITICS

a voter's guide to the 1996 election and life on the campaign trail

SOUND OFF
 Do you think minor party candidates should be excluded from televised debates?
 Let us know.

ISSUE: WORK INCENTIVE
ON THE ISSUES

Question: Do you favor providing tax incentives for companies to hire and train homeless people who want to work?



"By creating partnerships between the federal government and local communities, small businesses and ordinary citizens, we can renew economic activity in our disadvantaged urban and rural areas."

My empowerment zone initiative offers \$3.5 billion in tax incentives and flexible block grants to encourage new private investment in 104 economically distressed communities across America."

—President Bill Clinton
 Democratic candidate



"The fundamental focus of welfare reform must be the promotion of work and personal responsibility. State governments, local communities, churches and charitable organizations can often be effective in addressing the poverty problem. The federal government must give these institutions the tools they need to get the jobs done."

—Bob Dole
 Republican candidate



"The tax code shouldn't be filled with provisions for every different cause. Businesses should recruit and train the homeless who are capable of work. This should be part of a large movement of businesses moving into the inner cities and offering new opportunities to the urban poor."

—Ross Perot
 Reform Party candidate

SOURCE: Associated Press

History professor runs for U.S. Senate

ELECTION: The Socialist believes in putting dignity and democracy over profit

By Doug Irving
 Politics Reporter

The Socialist Party of Oregon needed an articulate candidate for the U.S. Senate.

So they chose University history Professor Christopher Phelps.

"They wanted somebody who would be able to speak clearly and persuasively in the debates up against the major candidates," he said. "I am pretty established in the progressive activist circles."

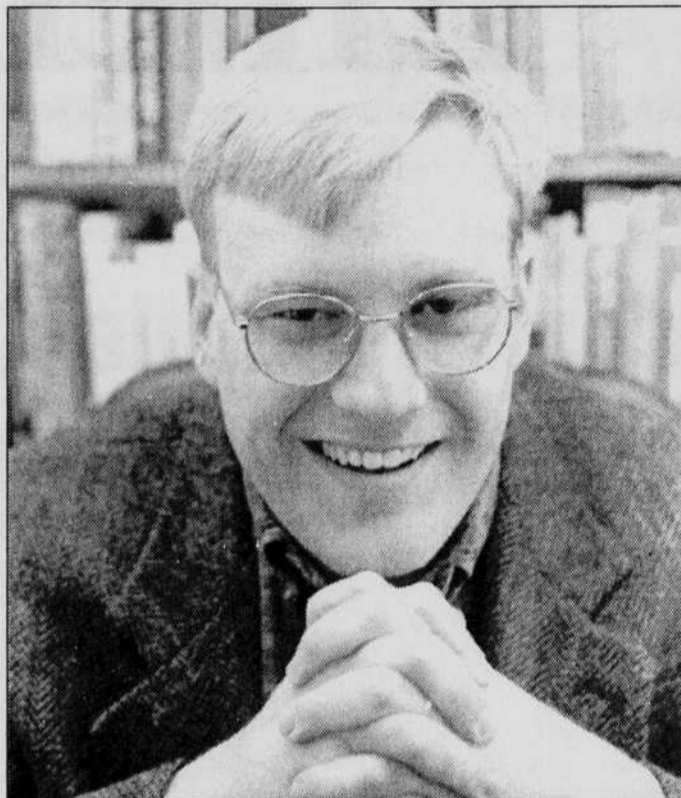
Phelps, 31, has been politically active since his undergraduate days at Reed College in Portland, where he helped organize anti-Apartheid protests. In the course of that work he came to see himself as a Socialist.

"I realized that a social system that puts profit above human dignity, racial equality, democracy and those sorts of things were not attractive to me," he said. "That's what made me a critic of capitalism."

Phelps said a Socialist administration would help students by improving their quality of life outside the University. Students in the job market would find more and better employment under a Socialist system, he said.

The future of students is bound up with the future of the rest of the population, he said.

"We see the problems that the University faces... as connected



NORMAN MESMAN/Emerald

Socialist history Professor Chris Phelps is a critic of capitalism.

to larger social questions," he said. "[We want] a society in which decent employment is guaranteed."

Socialism would also offer Oregonians something more democratic than anything now in place, he said.

"What you have now is government of, by and for the rich, and it's literally run by rich people," he said. "And that has a distorting effect on all sorts of

policy questions."

For example, Phelps said the national deficit is "totally artificial." It could be solved within a year by cutting the military budget, removing corporate tax loopholes and increasing tax rates on the rich to the levels they were at in the 1950s, he explained.

Despite his strong beliefs, Phelps realizes his election chances are slim.

"We don't have much of a chance of winning," he said. "It has nothing to do with the quality of our thoughts or values. It has everything to do with the distribution of power in this society."

Phelps said his campaign has faced opposition because of biases and assumptions about the Socialist Party. He was disappointed to discover he wouldn't be included in the Senatorial debates with Democratic candidate Tom Bruggere and Republican Gordon Smith.

"Unless our campaign to get them to change their disposition succeeds, we'll be out," he said. "We won't be included. Neither myself nor the Libertarians, nor the Reform Party candidate, nor the Pacific Party."

As a University professor, Phelps said he sees himself more as an intellectual than a politician. While at the University, he wrote his master's thesis about Sidney Hook, a New York intellectual and pragmatist philosopher. In the 1930s, Hook was a Marxist philosopher, but became an anti-Communist during the Cold War.

"There have been a lot of Socialist historians," Phelps said. "A lot of those people made the mistake of trying to derive simple examples from history to fit their political needs. I take a lot of the lessons about how to do good history into politics. The world complicates your thoughts frequently and you need to adjust your thinking to meet it."



ON THE BALLOT

A look at some of the 26 ballot measures in this November's election

THE MEASURE

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WHAT IT WOULD DO

Under current law, consumers and dealers pay deposits and receive refunds on all beer and carbonated beverage containers. The measure would broaden the law to include a deposit on any liquid drink intended for humans, with the exception of dairy products or substitutes, distilled spirits or liquor or wine with over 8 percent alcohol.

Measure requires refunds for containers of:

- Beer, malt beverages or carbonated drinks of any size.
- Non-carbonated drinks, other than water, from six ounces to one liter.
- Water, up to two liters.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Sales of new beverages not covered under the current Bottle Bill, such as Snapple and Fruitopia, are growing by 30 percent each year. These containers represent a waste of resources and landfill space. The first Bottle Bill enacted in 1971 reduced roadside litter by over 80 percent. Glass bottles covered under the Bottle Bill are recycled at a rate of 93 percent, while only 28 percent of non-deposit containers are.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

The measure would result in added labeling, handling and regulatory costs and impose millions of dollars in higher costs on manufacturers, retailers and eventually consumers. It would undermine the current deposit-and-return system and Oregon's recycling programs. Other arguments: Wouldn't significantly increase recycling; curbside programs are more convenient for consumers; and could cause legal problems for store owners and restaurants.

THE MEASURE

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WHAT IT WOULD DO

Would prohibit livestock in certain waters in Oregon, and on adjacent land, until the state develops permanent plans to clean up each river. Livestock wouldn't be allowed in waters that don't meet state water quality standards and where they would contribute to poor water quality. Measure applies to state, federal and private waters and land. Would possibly impact 10 to 15 percent of Oregon's 114,000 miles of streams, rivers and lake shoreline. On private lands, the law would be phased in over 10 years depending on land ownership and type of habitat affected.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Livestock grazing is a major source of water pollution and damage to streambanks. Measure would help clean up polluted water and restore streams and salmon habitats. People need clean streams for a safe, healthy water supply and for recreation such as swimming and boating.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

The measure would be costly for ranchers and dairy farmers. Grazing helps stream bank vegetation growth, which in turn reduces soil erosion. Voluntary measures are already effective.

SOURCES: The National Coalition for Public Lands and Natural Resources, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, Americans for the Environment, Cascade Business News

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Newsroom: (541) 346-5511

Display Advertising: (541) 346-3712

Business Office: (541) 346-5512

Classified Advertising: (541) 346-4343