

THIS WEEK
MONDAY: Opinion
TUESDAY: Politics
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POLITICS

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

SOUND OFF
 What issues are most likely to influence the way you vote in the Nov. 5 election? Let us know.

Bruggere voices his opinion on education

The Emerald had an opportunity to interview Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Tom Bruggere when he visited Eugene on Saturday. Gordon Smith, the Republican U.S. Senate candidate, will be featured in the politics page on Thursday.

By Shana Cohn
 Politics Editor

Bruggere was asked his position on several higher education issues and on steps he had previously taken to improve education in Oregon. This is Bruggere's first attempt at seeking public office. He started the high-tech company Mentor Graphics in Wilsonville in 1981 and retired two years ago. Bruggere, 50, was the son of a traveling candy salesman and the first in his family to attend college.

ISSUE: Student Loans

The Federal Student Loan Program has offerings such as flexible repayment options and speeds up the rate in which students receive their loan checks.

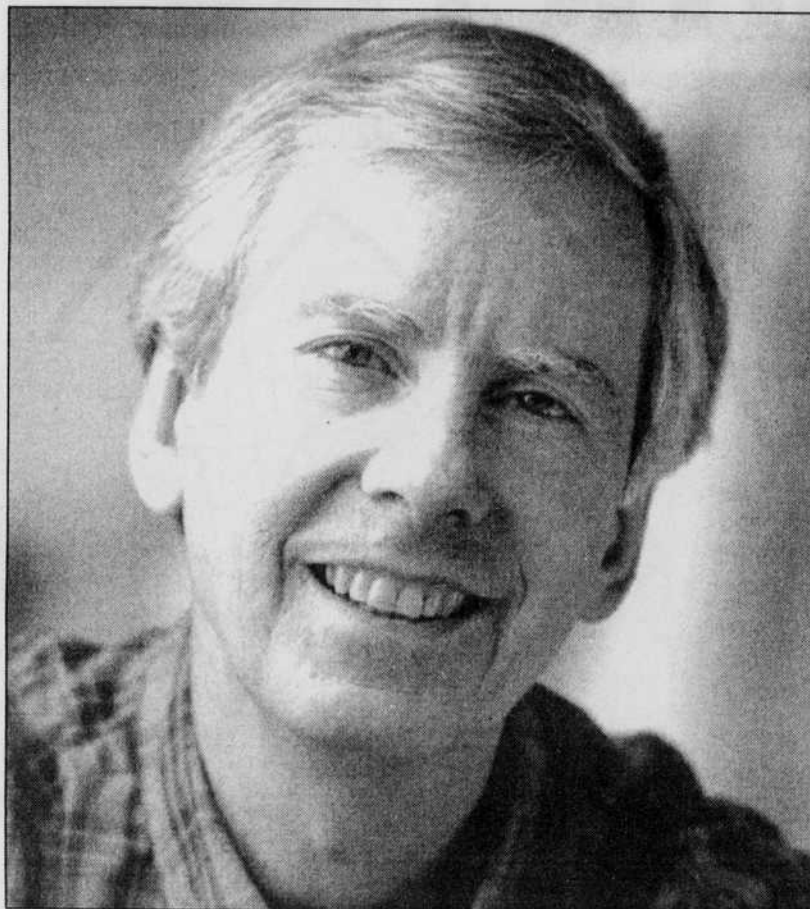
Q. Do you support this program?

A. You bet. When I balanced the budget in the spring primaries, I cut from defense and corporate welfare and invested in higher education. My priorities were to make money available for more loans and grants.

ISSUE: Access to Higher Education

Q. Do you believe equal access to higher education is a right for all people?

A. Yes. Because we are in this movement from an industrial society to an



Courtesy Photo

information society, education is really the bridge across which people are going to need to go as we move into the next century. As a result, making certain that we have access to lifelong education is so important because people will be changing jobs more often, there will be changes in technology and changes in our daily lives.

In the high-tech industry education is so critical. We consider an engineer with a new college degree to be obsolete by the time they are five or six years out of college, unless they can go back and get con-

tinuing education.

That's why we must have quality programs that enhance our educational capabilities and are affordable. And we need to help provide both geographic and financial access. A person's overall quality of life is determined by the amount and quality of education they have.

ISSUE: Tax Deductions

Q. In your five-point education plan you recommended tax deductions

for college tuition and vocational training. Explain.

A. If you or your parents were putting you through school, they would be able to deduct the tuition from their taxes if it were a four-year institution or for vocational training. It's just another thing in addition to grants, loans and work study programs that make going to college more affordable. It's really oriented either toward students working full-time or parents who are sending a child to school.

ISSUE: Financial Aid

In the last 20 years, the government has shifted the balance of federal financial aid from grants to loans. While in 1975, federal aid consisted of 20 percent loans and 76 percent grants, in 1993, it was 80 percent loans and 20 percent grants, according to the Oregon Student Association.

Q. Would you take pro-active measures to reverse this trend?

A. I do believe in providing more money for grants. What's happened is the cost of higher education has risen so much faster than the inflation rate the past 10 years that education has gotten out of reach for a lot of people. Because the cost of college has grown so fast, students need more and more assistance to help all people go to school.

ISSUE: Debt Burden

Students continue to increasingly borrow money to get through college, leaving them thousands of dollars in debt. The average University student graduates with \$17,500 of debt.

Q. Do you have any long-term solutions to the issue of debt burden?

A. I would enhance work study programs, where students are able to

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BIOGRAPHY

BORN: Feb. 18, 1946, in Berkeley, Calif.

RESIDENCE: Wilsonville, Ore.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's in mathematics, University of California at Santa Barbara, 1968; master's in computer science, University of Wisconsin, 1972; master's in business, Pepperdine University, 1975.

CAREER HISTORY: Manager at Tektronix Inc. in Beaverton; helped found Mentor Graphics and was board chairman and CEO until 1994.

MILITARY: U.S. Army, 1968-1970, including service in Vietnam.

PLATFORM: Includes protecting Medicare programs; raising the minimum wage; reducing crime through community policing and juvenile prevention programs; supports regulations that protect clean air and drinking water; and pro-choice.

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ON THE BALLOT

A look at some of the 23 ballot measures in the Nov. 5 election

THE MEASURE

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WHAT IT WOULD DO

Amend the state Constitution to require the legislature to pay local governments for new state-mandated programs or increased levels of service. If the legislature does not provide funds, the local government wouldn't need to comply with a law or rule that requires the program or service. Would require a 3/5 vote in each house of legislature to reduce state revenues that would be distributed to local governments. Would be repealed in 2001 unless re-approved in the 2000 general

ARGUMENTS FOR

Makes implementing state programs easier for local governments. Makes legislature more aware of costs local governments must shoulder. Could allow local governments to keep more of their own funds.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Super majority required to reduce state-shared revenue gives too much power to minority. Would involve the state too heavily in local governments. Could allow legislature to take tax revenue that it currently shares with local governments.

THE MEASURE

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WHAT IT WOULD DO

Repeals the 1994 Bear/Cougar Hunting ban Initiative. Under this initiative, it's illegal to hunt cougars with dogs or to bait bears. Gives exclusive authority for managing wildlife to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who would set hunting and fishing regulations. Repeals all other laws that regulate the taking of wildlife except those established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Since the initiative became law, cougar sightings have increased in population centers. There has also been an increase in damage caused by cougars. Professional wildlife managers should have exclusive authority to set hunting rules. Taxpayers are currently paying because of the sharp decline in the cougar and bear harvest. The 1994 initiative was influenced by out-of-state animal rights interests.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Use of dogs and bait is unfair and cruel. There is no substantiated evidence that the current ban has increased cougar sightings. There hasn't been enough time to determine whether the ban works well or should be changed. Baiting bears could make them used to human food, thereby luring them into population centers. Animal control is still allowed if the animals become dangerous or a problem.

SOURCES: Oregon Secretary of State-Elections Division, The Register-Guard, The Oregonian