

Lonsdale to speak vs. plutocracy

Former Senate candidate Harry Lonsdale leads a public discussion tonight

By Edward Yuen
Oregon Daily Emerald

The presidential election for the United States is approaching again, and along with it comes Texas Gov. George W. Bush's campaign budget of more than \$37 million.

With an eye on such budgets, critics are questioning the role and effects of corporate and personal donations.

Harry Lonsdale is one of those critics. Lonsdale, a former U.S. Senate candidate from Sisters, leads a public discussion tonight that addresses the issue of democracy vs. plutocracy. The

public discussion starts at 7 p.m. at McNail/Riley House on 13th Avenue and Jefferson Street. The discussion is organized by the local chapter of The Alliance for Democracy, a new populist movement formed by Texas journalist Ronnie Dugger.

The Alliance believes democracy is being captured and influenced by big money interests—the mega-corporations or plutocrats.

"We want to alert the participants about plutocracy—the situation that indicates those people with the most money make the political decisions in the country," said George Beres, program coordinator for the Alliance.

At this time, Beres said, the Alliance is pushing a bill that prevents specific candidates from having a fi-

nancial advantage over others.

If passed, the bill would limit the amount of money each candidate can receive from donations and use during an election campaign. Its purpose is to outlaw any corporate and personal donations to candidates, which Beres believes influence political decisions through bribery.

The bill would also prevent candidates from running promotional advertisements in the media. In order to let the candidates present themselves, the bill would require the electronic media to provide equal air time to each candidate during an election.

For more information, interested participants can contact George Beres at 344-0282.

News Briefs

UO sends 13 to national conference

Thirteen representatives from the University are participating through Sunday in the 52nd Annual National Student Congress conducted by the U.S. Student Association at Portland State.

The conference has not been in Oregon since 1985, when it was here at the University.

The USSA plays an important role in student government by being "very invested in helping build and strengthen state student associations," said Joelle Lester, organizing director of the Oregon Student Association.

The meeting includes an international student solidarity panel discussion, which was inspired by the recent tuition struggle in Mexico and Canada.

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