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Cheney naming stuns both sides

■ George W. Bush's choice for running mate has abortion-rights groups on edge, and conservatives in high hopes

By Kristy Hessman
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The recent announcement of Richard Cheney as Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush's running mate has not only surprised members of both parties, but has also begun to create concerns among special interest groups.

"In a sense it was very surprising," Republican Chair of Lane County Jeff Hoyt said. "Not only because he was a pick out of left field, but because he hadn't been mentioned."



BUSH

Members of the Democratic Party also found this to be an unexpected outcome.

"He was rumored, but we were expecting a different nominee, someone more currently involved," Chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon Jim Edmunson said. "Cheney is retired. We knew he was helping, but we didn't think they couldn't find anybody else."

According to many Republicans, Cheney would represent a good, safe and solid choice for Bush.

"From what I have heard he is

good-tempered and unlikely to cause controversy," Hoyt said. "He seems like a pretty solid choice."

While Republicans believe that Bush's choice can only strengthen the Republican ticket, others seem to disagree.

"I don't think it will have any effect," Edmunson said. "Cheney is from the same right-wing party as Bush — he brings nothing new to the ticket."

Other groups are beginning to worry about effects the combination of right-wing power could have on various issues, particularly abortion.

"It is clear where Bush stands on this issue, as well as Cheney," said Mick Weltman, executive director of the Oregon chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights League. "A woman's right to choose would be in jeopardy from a Bush-Cheney administration."

NARAL has also brought up concerns about how a Bush administration would go about supporting its anti-abortion stance.

"Both Bush and Cheney would appoint anti-choice Supreme Court justices and Cabinet officials, as well as sign legislation threatening reproductive rights," said Alice Germond, NARAL's executive vice president.

Members of the Democratic

Party also agree that Bush's choice has made his stance on abortion obviously clear.

"A Bush-Cheney White House would put women in prison for having abortions," Edmunson said.

The Republicans, on the other hand, believe that having two anti-choice representatives will not weaken their ticket.

"Bush will not lose anything from this move," Hoyt said. "It will be helpful and keep the conservatives in the fold."

“He (Cheney) was rumored, but we were expecting a different nominee, someone more currently involved. Cheney is retired. We knew he was helping, but we didn't think they couldn't find anybody else.”

Jim Edmunson
 Chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon

Both sides can see that the abortion issue is a dividing point among the two candidates.

"Overall, this issue is probably the biggest difference between the two candidates," Edmunson said.

Convention

continued from page 1

ing for her trip.

"There is going to be so much going on," she said. "They tell you to bring an empty suitcase because you bring so much back with you."

Along with excitement inside the convention, a different type of excitement is expected to take place outside the convention. Daily protests have been planned to take place July 29 through August 3.

Protesters will address everything from health care to workers rights, the environment to death row issues. According to a recent Washington Post article, protesters are also in the process of building an 80-foot float called Corpizilla, which will make its appearance on the streets of Philadelphia.

"I'm not too worried about the protesters," Reed said. "There are supposed to be shuttle buses that take us everywhere."

While the convention as a

whole is expected to be exciting, the political side may not be as controversial as previous conventions.

"There doesn't seem like there is going to be much controversy regarding the issues," said Lane County's Republican Party Chair Jeff Hoyt.

"Most of the controversial issues the party has dealt with in the past have been dealt with internally. There is more unanimity among the party now."

Some of the issues that will be dealt with surprised some of the representatives.

"I thought some of the main issues would be drugs or crime or prescriptions," Reed said. "Many of the issues are things like salmon, dams and property rights."

Along with the community getting geared up for the election, so are students from the University. Three people — James Eddy, Andy Combs and Dave Roselip — will be attending the convention and staying in campus dorms.

"It is exciting that people are

Republican National Convention

Total Attendees:
45,000 est.
Delegates:
2,066
Alternate delegates:
2,066
Volunteers:
10,000
Media:
15,000
Staff:
150
Reserved hotel rooms
within a 30-minute
drive of the
convention site
20,000
Event venues
150

source: Associated Press

going to be there representing the University," said Jason Gathercole, chairman of the College Republicans.

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