

## Conference

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community, however, and today she travels to Washington, D.C., to meet and share stories with others who have the same genetic, chromosomal disorder. McIntosh, 38, will be one of a handful of North-westerners attending the National Down Syndrome Congress' annual conference.

"I am excited," McIntosh said with enthusiasm. "I am going to talk to people with disabilities, Down syndrome and people who are handicapped."

The conference is held in vari-

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**Carol Smith**  
mother of  
Heather Smith,  
conference attendee

ous places each year; this year's conference begins Friday and runs through Sunday under the theme "Celebrating rights, liberty and justice ... for ALL people."

Seattle resident Carol Smith invited McIntosh to accompany her and Smith's daughter Heather, after Heather and McIntosh met during a vacation sponsored by TRIPS, a local organization that chaperones excursions for developmentally-disabled travelers.

McIntosh and Heather met in Las Vegas and "they became fast friends," Smith said. Smith has attended the conference with Heather for the past several years, and guesses "that less than 20 [people] will attend from the Oregon/Washington area."

Between 2,000 and 3,500 peo-

ple overall are expected to attend this year's event, which is mostly for parents and families with Down syndrome connections, but is open to anyone.

"All kinds of people speak at the convention [and] there are workshops for parents and kids," Carol Smith said. "The conference really gives you a good idea about the lives of people with Down syndrome. Moms even come who know they are carrying a Down syndrome child. It's just a great thing."

Down syndrome is a genetic disorder that includes a combination of birth defects including characteristic facial features, some degree of mental impairment, often heart defects, visual and hearing impairment and other health problems. It is one of the most common genetic birth defects and affects about one in 800 to 1,000 babies. About 350,000 individuals in this country have Down syndrome.

McIntosh has already registered for a variety of workshops that the conference offers, including an art workshop and an advocacy workshop.

"This conference really gives them a sense of worth, and helps their lives," Carol Smith said.

McIntosh isn't the only one who is thrilled about her trip. Her best friend and housemate, Julie Prince, is also happy for her.

"Julie is kind of more like my mom sometimes," McIntosh said.

Prince, 41, who also has Down syndrome, expressed excitement that McIntosh would be representing their shared views on Down syndrome.

"It's great — she is going as a daughter, a friend and a sister," she said, smiling as she held McIntosh's hand.

For more information about The National Down Syndrome Congress or the conference, call 1-800-232-NDSC. You can also look at the Web site at [www.ndsccenter.org/2000conv.htm](http://www.ndsccenter.org/2000conv.htm). For information about the Down Syndrome Society call 1-800-221-4602.

## Oregon delegate's floor speech announcing vote for George W. Bush

Each state at the GOP national convention makes a short speech before announcing the state's votes for George W. Bush. Here's what Oregon delegation chairman and state party chairman Perry Atkinson said:

"The great sovereign state of Oregon, which gave new hope and pioneer spirit to a young America, stands united from the Willowa mountains and the rural farmland in the East to the historic region in the South. From the great Willamette Valley all the way to America's longest and most beautiful public beaches. Mr. Secretary, we stand united to give America a new hope tonight. In Oregon we are working to keep control of the state House and the state Senate, we are working to take back the Secretary of State's office with Lynn Snodgrass, the state Treasurer, and the honorable Kevin Manix to be elected the next state at-

torney general. We are working to elect John Lindsey, Brian Boquist and the honorable Charles Starr to join the honorable Greg Walden in the U.S. Congress. And Oregon is the home of one great Senator, Senator Gordon Smith."

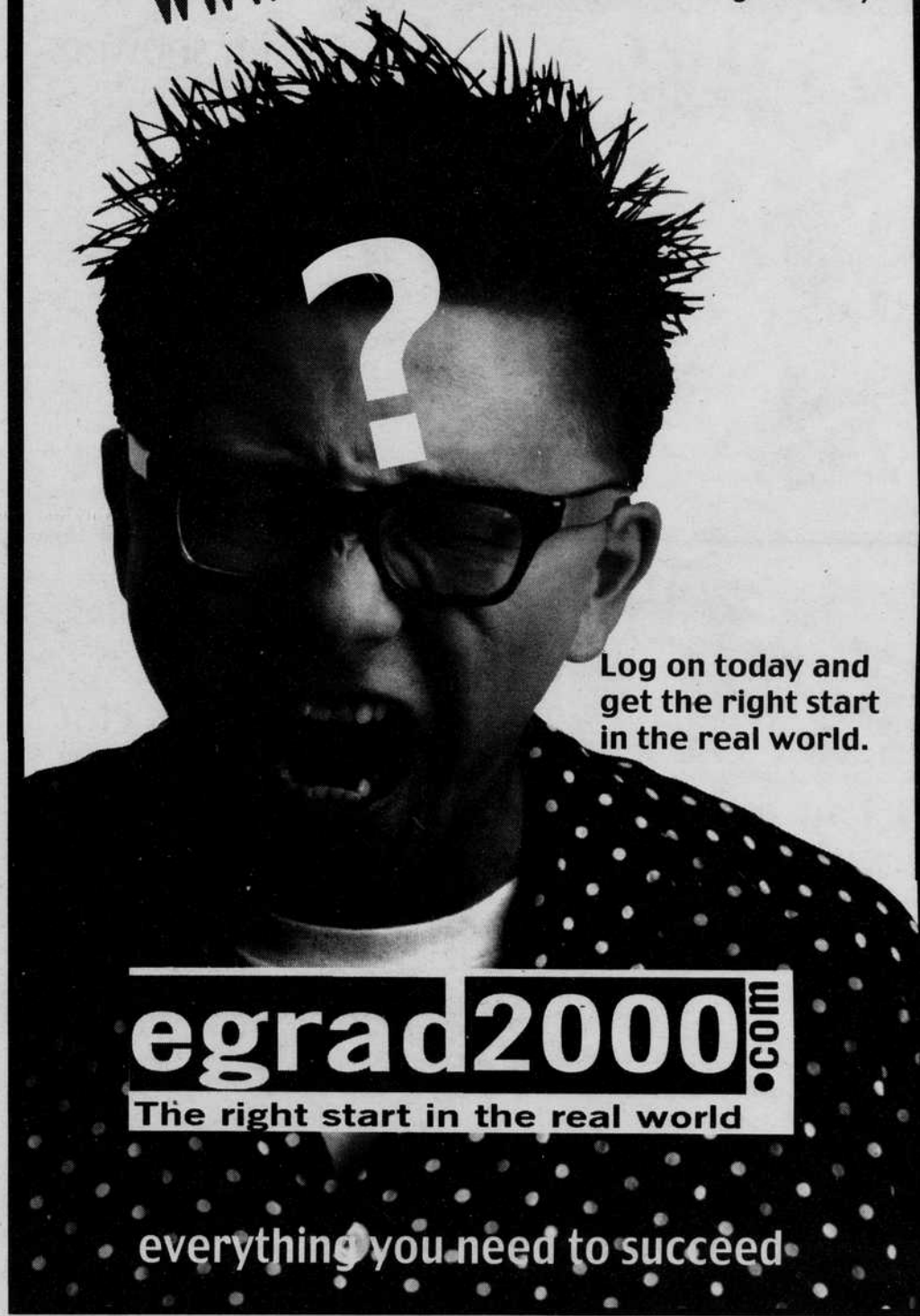
Atkinson passed the microphone to Smith, who concluded: "Mr. Chairman, Oregonians want a president who will not leave behind its farmers and foresters and fishermen. Oregon wants a president who knows how to educate children. Oregonians want a president who will keep their taxes low and foster peace in the world and not war. Oregon wants a president who understands us in the West, and we unanimously cast our proud 24 votes for the next president and vice president of the United States, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney."

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