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# Guns: Campus rules questioned by candidates

Continued from page 1

amendment to bar gun manufacturers from being released from debts brought about by lawsuits charging fraud, negligence or product liability.

He voted "no" in 1999 on a bill allowing for voluntary background checks on all firearm sales at gun shows. He also voted in 1999 to keep a motion that required that all gun sales at gun shows be completed by federally licensed gun dealers.

In 1998, he voted "no" on an amendment that prohibited charging prospective gun owners a fee to cover the cost of a background check and that required the destruction of information used during a background check. He also voted in 1998 in support of an amendment that made it unlawful for gun dealers to sell handguns without providing trigger locks.

Republican candidate Al King said that because he's a gun owner and former law enforcement officer, he understands gun issues.

King said the assault weapons ban is a "myth" because "assault weapons are in the eye of the beholder" and are sometimes less dangerous than smaller, easier to conceal weapons.

"A lot of this is myth and we need to dispel that myth and get down to what we really want to do — we want to make people safe," he said.

He said citizens should have the right to bear arms and form a mili-

tia, which the ban infringed upon.

"That's another case where the government said, 'it's ok for me, but it's not ok for you the citizens,'" he said. "I don't believe that our founding fathers and the Second Amendment intended for the government to be special."

King, who said he worked as a police officer at the University of California, Davis, said schools should be allowed to prohibit concealed weapons on campus.

"I think that the universities and the colleges and schools have a right to set that kind of standard," he said.

King said all firearms are dangerous, but can be regulated with safety training and strict enforcement of existing gun laws.

"I don't have any problem with training, classes, requirements for things like that, but I believe in the right to bear those weapons," he said.

King also said manufacturers of weapons should be protected from lawsuits by gun-crime victims.

"It's not the manufacturers of the weapons that are responsible for the killing, it's the people, and people don't need guns when they want to kill," he said.

### Congressional race

Jim Feldkamp, Republican candidate, said he is a "Second Amendment supporter," but doesn't see gun control as a key issue in this election.

Feldkamp said he probably

wouldn't have voted to extend the assault weapon ban if he had been in Congress when it expired, saying the ban applied to weapons it shouldn't have.

"They're technically not really assault weapons," he said of some semiautomatic firearms covered by the ban.

Feldkamp added that students should be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus.

"If a student has a concealed weapon permit, I don't feel that's an issue," he said. "They're complying with the law."

Democratic candidate Peter DeFazio also voted on several gun-related issues during the last four years.

He voted "yes" in 2003 on a bill that prohibited liability lawsuits from being brought against gun makers and sellers based on the criminal misuse of firearms.

He voted "no" on a passed amendment in 1999 to decrease the time allowed for a background check at a gun show from 72 hours to 24. He also voted yes in 1999 on a passed amendment that would make it illegal for anyone who commits a violent act as a juvenile to own a gun once he or she turns 18.

DeFazio voted "yes" in 1998 on a successful bill imposing mandatory minimum prison terms for crimes committed with a firearm during drug trafficking.

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### STUDENTS SHARE VIEWS ABOUT GUN CONTROL, ASSAULT WEAPONS

Many students interviewed by the Emerald said gun-control issues are important, but have been neglected during the current campaign rhetoric.

Business administration major Lance Lucas said the assault weapons ban was ineffective.

"I'm against a ban that I think is just useless legislation, like this one was," he said. "I don't think that what they did to guns changed anything about their lethality ... rather it just drove up prices for enthusiasts and consumers."

He said the ban didn't affect people who buy guns through illegal channels to commit crimes and other methods are necessary to reduce gun crime.

"I'm (more) in support of prosecuting, punishing criminals for crimes they are already committing as far as buying illegal guns and using illegal weapons, than trying to push new legislation that isn't going to affect those criminals anyways," he said.

He said the Constitution gives

students authority to carry concealed weapons in open areas of the University campus.

"I don't mind when private establishments have billboards or placards stating that there are no handguns allowed, but when you have an area such as a federal campus ... the University should have no jurisdiction over that," he said.

Lucas added that more gun education is needed.

"Criminals would be more careful committing crime if they knew that more people were educated and responsible gun owners instead of sort of preying on a culture of fear," he said.

Senior Brendan Morley said changes should be made to the assault weapons ban to close loopholes that allow gun makers to sell modification kits that turn semiautomatic weapons into fully automatic weapons.

"Basically, there are a lot of loopholes, and a single person can get a lot of killing power," he said.

Morley said the University should

decide whether students can bring legal weapons onto campus.

"The school has its own security forces, so ... it should have the right to basically regulate what kind of devices and implements and contraband people can bring onto the property," he said.

He added that he favors more regulation of gun shows.

"If you can't get a gun from your local sporting goods store, you can go to a gun show and buy basically the same gun," he said.

Graduate student Emilie Cate said the assault weapons ban should be extended.

"As a general rule, I don't feel assault weapons have any business being in anyone's hands," she said.

She also said complete background checks and a lengthy waiting period should be required for people to buy guns, adding that she doesn't see a need for students to carry concealed weapons on campus.

— Parker Howell

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