

# Groener wins commissioners post

State Representative Ralph Groener addressed students last Thursday at Clackamas Community College. Groener was the Democratic candidate for County Commissioner, District 3, in last Tuesday's election.

By Joe McFeron  
For the COUGAR PRINT

His credentials are impressive: Academic Relations Consultant to the Governor; Chairman, Committee on Aging; Educative Director, Oregon Coalition for National Health Security; Assistant Director, Clackamas County Community Action Agency; Bachelor of Science degree, University of Oregon; Graduate work in political science, history and economics, Portland State University; member of the Board of Education, Clackamas Community College.

Groener feels that he is particularly qualified for the position of county commissioner because of his diversified background in government. "My experience at nearly every level of government will provide Clackamas County innovative leadership rather than reactionary followership," he said.

The 35-year old legislator stressed governmental cooperation as the theme of his campaign. "All levels of government must interrelate," he said.

"The next time you drive by a nursing home, consider the fact that you own two-thirds of it. Two out of three dollars for the financing of nursing homes is derived from tax dollars," he explained, "and 35 percent to 40 percent of the residents do not require a nursing home."

"A surtax of 50 cents per year would allow a home health care program for the aged," Groener said. "A small local investment actually lowers the investment (taxes) on the state and federal levels.

"A lack of realization on the local level causes state and federal legislation which cost the taxpayer more in the long run," he said, "and, excluding the defense budget, 90 cents of every tax dollar goes back to state and local government."

Groener went on to make some observations on tax reform. "Though Oregon has one of the more progressive forms of state taxation, it becomes regressive, as does the Social Security System, above a \$15,000 yearly income," he said.

The tax rate scale is graduated until the level of \$15,000 and then a "flat rate" applies. "Under this system," Groener said, "a man paying taxes on an income of \$15,000 pays a larger percentage of his income than a man who earns \$20,000. A man who makes \$15,000 pays a much greater percentage of his income than a man who makes \$120,000."

When you put this together with the fact that, in 1973, 35% of America's employed population earned over \$15,000, and the fact that in that year 41.1% of all income went to Americans earning in excess of \$19,000, there seems to be some foundation for concern.

Groener supported the McCall Plan for tax reform. When it was defeated by the voters, Governor Straub and House Speaker Lang withdrew their support. A believer in fighting for a cause regardless of its popularity, Groener was distressed that support for tax reform was withdrawn by men who were personally in favor of it.

"There is a tendency in politics today to take a stand on sexy issues," he explained, "and sweep under the rug such things as the widening of the gap in this country between the very rich and the very poor. Poli-

ticians who do this are leading America down a path of indifference," he said.

Groener feels that both state and federal officials today demonstrate a "lack of courage" in defending unpopular issues.

Ralph Groener is a very personable and

impassioned man. If his politics are as dynamic as his personality, it will be in our government.

Groener succeeded in his bid for Commissioner, District 3, in last Tuesday's election.

## Focus offers opportunities

Women now have an opportunity to explore their lives, expand their horizons and establish new career goals. This concept is what's being offered by a new program on campus called Focus on Women.

"This program didn't come down from Mahogany Row," said Bernice Evans, counselor at Clackamas Community College and chairperson of the steering committee for Focus on Women. "It was organized by faculty members from various departments."

A series of seminars have been prepared especially for the program. Most of them are being presented by members of the CCC staff. They are directed toward "Women and Feminist Perspective" and "Women and Her Concerns," said Evans. Cost of the seminars is \$1 each.

"Many women have a fear of success," said Bernie Nolan, instructor at CCC and member of the steering committee. The seminars and classes are designed to help women come to grips with their place in modern day society.

"Men spend a great part of their lives with women so naturally they're concerned," Evans said. Men are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the series.

Evans said that most of their ideas come from the "outside" and that anybody is welcome to make suggestions for the program.

Aside from the seminars there are several credit classes and three special events (one each term) scheduled for this year.

The special event this term will be held Dec. 6 through 10 in the Community Cen-

ter. It features exhibits and workshops presented by five local women artists.

The next Focus on Women seminar will be held Nov. 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Community Center. The focus will be on relationships and current problems facing parents and children.

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