

Hooley is proud husband of Commissioner

by Jeff Kemp
Staff Writer

John Hooley, Assistant Dean of Humanities, which includes Arts, Public Service and Social Science, is the proud husband of re-elected Clackamas County Commissioner Darlene Hooley.

Perhaps it's true what they say: behind every powerful woman there is a loyal hard-working man.

Hooley called this year's election time a "unique one" because "... in the past we always figured to win, but this year it was a close race." Darlene, who entered the political arena 16 years ago when she was on the West Linn City Council, won her second four-year term in last month's election against Alan James.

Hooley said that this election year was especially strenuous because of the fact that his mother-in-law became very ill. He said it was hard on his wife because along with visiting Salem often, she took a lot of time out to care for her mother. Hooley said that another difficult part of being in politics is that his wife lost track of a lot of her friends, but added that she is working hard to re-establish some of those broken connections.

Often times in politics it is difficult to raise the kind of

money needed for campaigning. Hooley said he was especially grateful that his wife was able to raise the money needed through an auction attended by traditionally 'tight' lobbyists who he said, "just liked her (Darlene)."

"It really meant a lot to me, and I'm sure it did for her too," he said.

The Hooleys have two children in college and both are English majors. When asked if he thought that his children would follow in either his wife's or his own footsteps, Hooley grinned and said that he thought their children were pretty tired of politics.

He related a story about his daughter who is going to school in Minnesota. He said that she had brought a friend home for a visit, and that his wife in hopes of making one day a little more exciting, told her daughter that she could set up a lunch with Governor Barbara Roberts. Their daughter then laughed turned her mother

down so she could go downtown to shop.

"You get some very interesting associations being in the County Commissioner's family," Hooley said. "It makes for some interesting opportunities."

Because of the time and effort Darlene Hooley has put in to become a good politician, John has become closer to their

kids. "I'm very close to my kids because of spending so much time with them throughout the years," Hooley said.

Hooley began to spend a lot of time with his children when his wife first began to campaign for public office.

"We used to go to the library every Wednesday night," he recalled of his experiences with his children. "It was our time."

Hooley epitomizes family values. He prides himself on his strong relationship with not only his kids, but his wife as well. With such a busy schedule it's hard to believe that the Hooleys have any time for one another. John works about 40 hours a week at the office or out in the field, and Darlene works about 60.

"She keeps the weekends free," Hooley laughed. "But seriously, I think we're doing very well."

Hooley claims that most of the troubles come from trying to find enough time for what he calls "just er-

rands."

"I think I have a lot more freedom than some people," Hooley said of his free time because of his wife's busy schedule. He takes advantage of that freedom too, like a trip he took last week to San Diego for a conference, and a little sail boat ride.

When Hooley was asked to give me three words that best describe his wife, he said "dedicated, forceful and competent."

After he gave the three words on behalf of his better half, Hooley offered the following three words that best described himself: "Efficient, inquisitive (about finding the easy way to do things) and lazy," he added a little reluctantly.

Hooley has worked for Clackamas for 25 years, and is planning to have this be his last one with his pending retirement following Spring Term. "It's time to retire, time to tend the garden," he said.

Hooley said he has really enjoyed the last 25 years, especially being able to observe the classes and watching the teachers do their jobs. He really misses teaching, which he hasn't done for 18 years.

"I don't think I would retire if I could still teach some classes," Hooley admitted.



photo by Robert A. Hibberd
John Hooley's wife, Darlene, was re-elected as Clackamas County Commissioner.

Signs of commercialized Christmas evident everywhere

by Hafidha Acuay
Staff Writer

I am wary with the knowledge that Christmas is upon us. Oddly enough, when I think of Christmas, Christ does not come to mind. Instead, I think of the trees, the lights, the sales at my favorite department stores, Santa Claus, and most of all, gifts. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking this way.

Though I am not Christian, I have grown up with Christmas. In grade school, I was usually the only child in my class who didn't celebrate it. It seemed to me that teachers had a nasty habit of asking the entire class what we had planned for our Christmas vacation. What

do you do when your teacher hands out sheets of colored construction paper, with the instructions to make a Christmas card for someone in your class? Then, of course, there were parties in the gymnasium, and once Santa Claus even honored us with his presence by showing up at the school with a mouthful of "ho, ho, ho's" and a red bag of toys. The absolute worst was listening to my classmates brag and boast about what they were getting for Christmas, then having them turn to me, and having to say that I didn't celebrate Christmas. They would give me these horrid looks that were a combination of pity, suspicion, and scorn. It was their pity that

irritated me the most. I didn't want them to feel sorry for me because I didn't celebrate their holiday.

But there are things I like about Christmastime. Generally, people are friendlier, more cheerful, and smile all the time. In New York this is a big thing, but here in Oregon, people are like that anyway. I have always liked the lights people put up on their windows, doors, and porches; I wish they'd keep them up all year round. Without the pressure of having to buy gifts for my friends and family, I appreciate the sales at the store. I even enjoy some of the Christmas carols; there was one in "Home Alone" that I really liked.

Can you imagine life without Christmas? I don't even entertain the thought. Christmas is part of the American culture. It's like trying to imagine life without jeans or fast-food. Christmas is all knotted up in commercial interests. If there was no Christmas, how much money would manufacturers and store owners lose? It makes me mad that the media portrays Christmas as something that everybody is involved in. Advertisements show Christmas trees and wrapped presents, and families sitting around huge dining tables laughing and eating turkey, and little blonde babies in red and green nightshirts trying to catch Santa Claus when he comes down the chimney.

Television sitcoms usually

have a special holiday episode, often ending with the entire cast gathered around a Christmas tree smiling at the camera shouting, "The cast of ---- wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah." I find these very offensive. No one on TV ever wishes me a Happy Eid-al-Fitr or Eid-al-Adha, the two Islamic holidays. I don't think anybody on TV even cares.

The malls invite Santa Claus to listen to children's Christmas wishes, and radio shows have special Christmas contests. There are Christmas charities and fund-raisers, which I don't mind, but I do think people should be as generous all year-round. What really interests me is the fact that so many non-Christians celebrate Christmas. People who haven't been to church in years, or have never been at all, or are atheists even, celebrate Christmas with all the energy and enthusiasm of Orthodox Christians.

Christmas is similar to Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Easter in that Americans take part in the traditions and customs of these holidays, though they don't really know anything about them. For years I have wondered what the Easter Bunny and colored eggs have to do with the resurrection of Christ? What do bunnies have to do with eggs, for that matter? It was only last year that I found out where the custom of the decorated Christmas tree and the placing of gifts beneath it

came from. How many people who actually celebrate it know?

I have no problems with people celebrating Christmas; I do not desire to be a spoiler of everybody's fun. I only wish that other holidays were treated with the same reverence.

I don't expect, nor do I want the holidays of my religion to become as commercialized as Christmas, but shouldn't they at least receive some recognition? If the schools can celebrate Christmas, they can teach a little something about other customs. It is a crime that generations of Americans are living in total ignorance of other cultures, and there are victims. The public is a victim because it has little knowledge of the way many people live their lives. I, too, am a part of this. The only reason I know anything about Hindu holidays is because I have a Hindu pen pal living in India, which is really sad because there are lots of Hindus here in America. Non-celebrators of Christmas are victims as well. We are either treated like poor little babies who can't join in the fun, or cold-hearted ogres who don't want to.

It angers me when the majority treat the minority as if they don't count. I am in the minority several times over, so I know what it's like to be ignored. People have to understand that everyone doesn't celebrate Christmas, and it's not because we're mean, or we're Scrooges. We just happen to be different.

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