

Citizens need voice

Bob Denton, a Democrat, bases his campaign for County Commission, Position #3, on community involvement. "I have had experience putting community involvement into practice in programs I have dealt with and I think I have good ideas that could be effected by the county."

Denton describes "community involvement" as a method of allowing people to use their own talents and interests to become a part of the planning process. As county commissioner, he would be available, would reach out to inform and involve the public, and would use the natural channels of communication and organization that already exists in the community. He believes people can and will become involved in their local government if they are allowed to participate in a legitimate and realistic way.

To this end, Denton proposes the development of community goals, both short range and long range. This development of goals would give citizens the opportunity to study the problems of all the neighborhoods and find goals that would include all. These long range goals would provide a method of measuring the effects of programs now in operation and designing more effective programs. One shortcoming with many of the social programs, Denton explained, is that each is funded to meet a particular need, with no thought to fitting into an over-all design. The result is fragmented services, few of which are very effective.

Denton sees planning as one of the critical issues of the next few years, but most planning is done for small areas and many plans conflict with others so are never implemented. An over-all county-wide plan would reveal how neighborhoods effect each other and would find workable solutions.

Denton also proposes a county outreach program which would establish offices in the communities where residents could go for information or to register complaints. As it now operates, county government does not hear citizens until the problems are so great that there is a public outcry. Outreach offices would learn what the people want and need and would bring government to the people.

Denton currently works for the county, training employees in the health department. He formerly spent over a year doing social work and community organization with the county's children's programs, 4 1/2 years with the State counseling drug-dependent persons, and 1 1/2 years as a Welfare caseworker. He initiated the first Division of Vocational Rehabilitation program in the Model Cities area, assisted the development of the Corbett-Terwilliger Council, and is active in many community affairs.

Denton was the Chairman of the Task Force that wrote a Community Involvement program for Multnomah County which was never implemented. As a County Commissioner, he would work to implement that program.

Cook pushes youth affirmative action

Speaking to high school students at Reynolds High School, Senator Vern Cook, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Third District, said "We need affirmative action to guarantee to the young that they will have a fair opportunity to rise to their greatest potential, irrespective of the race, color or creed and without regard to the fact that they may have been born as the children of parents who did not have the benefits of the prosperity of this country even though Americans or the advantage of being children of well-educated and prosperous parents.

"We should question the present practice of relying so heavily upon test scores and high school and college grades in determining which young people are permitted to learn how to become lawyers, doctors and other advanced types of professionals. Perhaps we should consider the Douglas proposal that say 40 percent of the admittees to professional schools be chosen by lot from

qualified applicants rather than by grade alone.

"We should take affirmative action towards giving the children of the poor, the discriminated against and the otherwise disadvantaged an equal chance to achieve their life's ambitions. Race or color might be considered as one factor but it should not be the basis for either admission or rejection by any professional or higher education school in America."

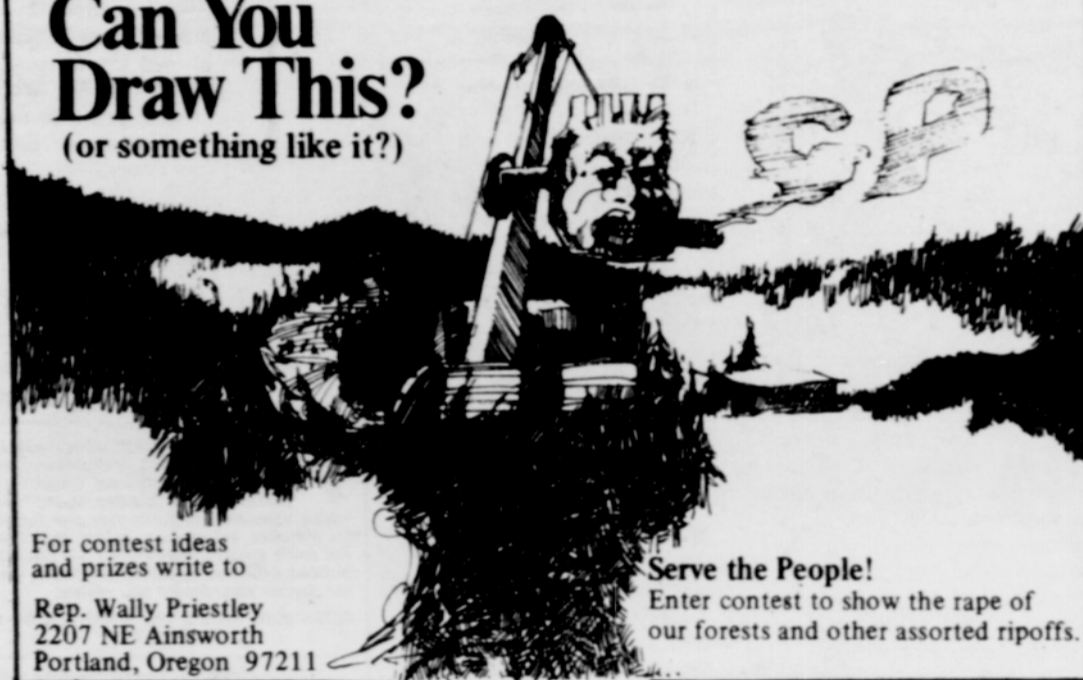
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