

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## **Governor: Don Clark**

Candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination are running exciting, aggressive and entertaining campaigns. Ted Kulongoski, state senator from Junction City; Jerry Rust, Lane Co. commissioner from Eugene, and Don Clark, Multnomah County Executive, have without exception given voters an electoral treat these past few weeks—ideas, bombast and theatrics. After a careful reading of their respective programs for the state, we don't hesitate to recommend Don Clark as the Democratic nominee for governor.

Clark has been criticized for lack of charisma, bull-headedness and for being unexciting. But Clark has come out punching recently, with creative plans for a state-wide health care program, a housing corporation to reduce home loan rates and encourage housing starts; affirmative action guidelines for the state, and an Employment Corps to produce 15,000 needed jobs, among others.

Kulongoski is long on charm and short on concrete ideas; he is more form than substance. Although a strong state senator and friend of labor, he has waffled on issues he previously found non-negotiable: log exports, nuclear power, and plant closure legislation, which he now says would be a federal issue.

Rust is focusing on energy, timber, a state bank and reforming the tax structure. He has good ideas but is lacking the experience and depth of knowledge needed to make an effective administrator of state government. He is also not well-known outside his home area, although this campaign should help give him statewide recognition.

Clark, too, is not as well-known throughout the state as is Kulongoski. But we believe his solid experience as a Multnomah County commissioner, county sheriff and county executive and his track record in producing and implementing innovative programs, such as Project Health in Multnomah County, point up his potential to lead Oregon out of its economic doldrums.

We prefer substance, not form. We recommend a vote for Don Clark.

## **Governor: Victor Atiyeh**

We support Governor Victor Atiyeh on the Republican primary for he is running practically unopposed. Atiyeh is in office at a time when new directions and thrust must be initiated to overcome deficits from the federal government and state resources. Many of the programs he has tried to carry out in Salem have not been accepted by the Legislature so he must keep trying to provide leadership and new directions with people who do not always keep abreast of the changes in government.

## **U.S. Representative, 1st District: Les AuCoin**

Les Aucoin is the best choice for U.S. Representative in Oregon's 1st District. During his three terms, he has tried to protect the state's resources and jobs and can be relied upon to do his best in a fourth term.

## **U.S. Rep., 3rd District: Ron Wyden**

Ron Wyden has shown what a first term congressman can do and should be returned to the House of Representatives. He has kept his promise of maintaining close contact with constituents and has fought for the rights of seniors, poor and ignored. We believe he should be re-elected.

## **Superintendent of public Instruction: Rod Monroe**

This position is of extreme importance to the future of Oregon and its citizens. Funding of public schools, the educational level, the rate of dropouts—one of the highest in the nation—the near absence of vocational training are all serious problems that need strong leadership. Only a well educated and highly motivated population can raise the standard of living and face the challenges of the future.

Incumbent superintendent Vern Duncan has not demonstrated strong leadership. Although a man with strong academic credentials, he has not provided forceful leadership with the legislature or with the local school districts. The State Superintendent has much power in enforcing regulations, eliminating discrimination, protecting minority communities, ensuring the proper use of funds, but Duncan has not exercised this power.

Bill Kendrick, superintendent of the Salem Public Schools, is an effective school administration. He has raised the academic level in the Salem schools and gives attention to basics.

Rod Monroe, a Portland legislator, is also a former teacher and college instructor. He has served two terms in the House and currently is a member of the Senate. He has served on the education and revenue committees, where he has researched and voted on school funding issues.

Monroe has pledged to supplement and enhance the minority presence in the state system of education, to strengthen programs for non-English speaking students, to use the powers of the office to eliminate discrimination—including withholding of funds if necessary. He also would support innovative educational programs, including vocational education that would motivate students to complete their high school educations.

We believe the educational system in Oregon needs a strong hand and a strong voice if it is to survive. We therefore recommend a vote for Rod Monroe.

## **U.S. Rep, 5th District: Dave McTeague**

As the state's newest congressional district, the 5th takes in parts of Clackamas, Marion, Yamhill, Polk and Benton counties, among others. For such a diverse area, we think Dave McTeague would be the voters' best choice for U.S. Representative.

Although he faces stiff opposition from State Senator Ruth McFarland, in addition to four other candidates, we think his lifelong residency in, and dedication to, the district and his progressive and innovative ideas make him a good choice for the 5th District.

## **MSD Executive Officer: Gretchen Benett**

Gretchen Benett seeks to replace Rick Gustafson as officer of the troubled Metropolitan Service District and deserves the chance. During her campaign has stressed public involvement in MSD decision making—a point upon which Gustafson can only be termed weak.

The accounting problems MSD has suffered, as well as questions about the feasibility and desirability of the huge \$262 million garbage burning plant proposed for Oregon City, call Gustafson's leadership of the tri-county planning agency into question.

Benett has put forth good ideas for opening up MSD to participation from the citizens who are its rightful boss. She should be given an opportunity to implement them.

## **House District 18: Bob Boyer**

House District 18 was created by the Oregon Legislature, during the redistricting process, to maximize the possibility of electing a black representative. Although the district is not majority black it provides the only possibility for a minority community to elect a minority representative.

Choosing a candidate from among those running is extremely difficult—some are well qualified, some are long-time activists, some are friends.

We firmly believe that this position should be held by a black person. The additional criteria we have set is that this person should have been active in the community for some time; should have the interest in and concern for the people of the district as evidenced by past service; should have the stamina to work nearly 24 hours a day for six months in service to the district; should adhere to progressive ideals and should have played an active role in the struggle to create this district.

We are very impressed with the dedication and devotion that Vesia Loving has given the people, and especially the children, of the area. We also appreciate Harold Williams' knowledge of state government.

Our choice is Bob Boyer. Boyer has spent many, many hours of voluntary service in a wide variety of areas—child care and education, union activities, voter registration and education, etc. He is not afraid to take a stand and speak out and he has supported community organizations such as the BUF and NAACP. He actively participated in forums and hearings and lobbied to insure the formation of the district.

Boyer was interested enough in the legislative process to take time off work and attend the special session. He has worked hard and long to gain public confidence.

We also wish to commend Charles Stoudamire, a young man new to politics but one we believe has a bright future. He is intelligent, concerned and involved. Although his community activities have not been as visible as some others, he has been busy. We encourage Stoudamire to become more involved in the political and social life of the community and to prepare himself now to become a leader in the future.

Again, we urge your vote for Bob Boyer for the Democratic Party nomination for House District 18.

## **House District 19: Gretchen Kafoury**

House District 19 may well be one of the closest races in this year's election. Redistricting to provide a "minority" district placed two incumbents in District 19. Although these two legislators have some surface similarities—both are women, both are liberal democrats, both are wives and mothers—there are significant differences.

Gretchen Kafoury has a long record of accomplishment in the Oregon legislature where she is respected for her dedication to principle—her ability to take a firm stand. Although her interests and experiences are broad her primary concerns are with civil and human rights, laws protecting women and children, child care, human services and urban problems.

Jane Cease's major legislative interests have been transportation, agriculture, and land use—important issues but not as vital to the constituents in these difficult times. Ms. Cease has earned the reputation of a smooth legislator, willing to compromise and trade votes as the situation requires.

Another issue—close to home—seals our preference for Kafoury. During the long struggle over redistricting, when the people of Albina fought for a district to include their "community of interest" that could potentially elect a black legislator, Gretchen Kafoury was one of the early supporters. While others were fighting to save their own positions she supported a minority district and pledged that if a district were created and her residence ended up within that district she would not seek reelection. She was willing to sacrifice her own career in the interest of the black community.

Jane Cease, along with Tom Mason, led the fight to keep the community divided. Her opposition was said to be based in the effort to retain a sizeable segment of democratic voters in her own district to ensure her reelection. The fight was bitter but Ms. Cease's efforts were unsuccessful.

We urge your vote for Gretchen Kafoury.

## **House District 31: Jim Hill**

Jim Hill of Salem is seeking election to the House of Representatives. Hill, a black man, is making his mark in Salem.

A lawyer, Hill served as a Hearings Officer in the State Department of Revenue for three years, hearing citizen appeals of property and income tax assessments. As an Oregon Assistant Attorney General he specialized in public utility regulations, criminal law, anti-trust enforcement and workman's compensation.

Aside from his law degree he has an M.A. in business administration and a B.A. in economics.

Hill would add intelligence, credibility and responsibility to the State Legislature.

## **City Commissioner, Position No. 2: Joe Uris**

Joe Uris is the clear choice for city commissioner in the position two race. A former PSU student body president and anti-war activist, he has since focused on educational pursuits, earning a Ph.D. in urban studies and teaching classes at Clackamas Community College. Although Uris does not have previous experience as an elected official, we believe he will provide the "breath of fresh air" in City Hall he promises in his campaign slogan. It is badly needed.

Incumbent Mildred Schwab has held the seat for nine years and has enjoyed landslide reelections. There is no question she is popular among some city residents, but we believe her record to be more one of rhetoric than action. She criticizes Mayor Ivancie but ends up voting with him more often than not, and she has a bad habit of speaking in favor of a good idea and then finding something unpalatable about it—enabling her to vote against it in the end. The Police Review Committee is a good example of this. We also believe Schwab's desire to see the Arts Center through to completion is hardly enough reason to reelect her.

Uris' ideas for electing Port commissioners and PDC board members, as well as instituting representative districts for city commissioner members and eliminating the mayor's role of assigning bureaus to them are creative and would help sweep out the old-style political machinery that for too long has stifled city government. We recommend Joe Uris for city commissioner position 2.


## **City Commissioner Position 3: Strachan**

We think Margaret Strachan has done a commendable job on the city commission since her election in 1981 and recommend giving her a second term. Her concern for the disadvantaged and willingness to forge coalitions in order to see projects through make her a valuable member of the commission.

Strachan has said she will work on correcting housing code violations, reform the city's civil service system and cut waste in the city budget if reelected.

Her only opponent, Paul Freeman of the Socialist Workers Party, wants to see the police disbanded and representatives of local communities elected as replacements. He does not favor the existing plan for a Police Review Committee, saying it is powerless as currently set up. Although an articulate and obviously thoughtful candidate, we find Freeman unrealistic and lacking the broader base of support Strachan enjoys.

Let's keep the progressive majority on the city commission and reelect Margaret Strachan.




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