

EDITORIAL/OPINION

'Freedom of the press'

Twenty-five years ago the Soviet Union successfully launched its first space satellite—Sputnik. Sputnik opened the way for instantaneous communications. It also widened the communications gap between the developed nations and the Third World and heightened the controversy over the "New Information Order."

Discussions in the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations and UNESCO use the term "cultural imperialism" to describe the control by multinational news agencies over the news available within the Third World nations and about the Third World nations.

Ninety per cent of the world news disseminated by the press, radio and television in Africa, Latin America and Asia (not including China and Japan) comes from New York, London or Paris.

The people of the Third World receive the major part of their news screened through western sources: "They see their faces reflected from afar in mirrors that deform." (UNESCO Director General A.M. M'Bow.) The people of the U.S. and Western Europe do not receive Third World reality. Although Third World nations make up two-thirds of the world's population they receive little attention from the news services, except for wars and disasters. Only 20 per cent of the correspondents of the four major wire services are in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East combined.

The United States is the strongest opponent of the "New World Information and Communication Order" proposed by UNESCO. UNESCO asks for elimination of inequality, elimination of negative aspects of information monopoly, assistance to underdeveloped nations, respect for

cultural identity. The U.S. interprets these demands as a challenge to the free enterprise system (news services are primarily businesses) and to "freedom of the press." Proponents of the New Order see information as a social function—a fundamental human right—not merchandise.

"Our people live submitted to an uncontrolled invasion of news which inculcates distant values that threaten our national identity. Such a fallacious concept of freedom of information, leaving absolute decision-making power about the information given to people in the hands of transnational news enterprises can only be termed unjust. The international press only collects information that undermines the image of our people. . . ignoring our struggles, our efforts and just claims for a system of international justice," said former Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez.

In the meantime, the monopoly on information goes on. Satellites that circle the earth transmit messages directly into people's homes and their governments are powerless to intercede. Satellites can discover mineral deposits unknown to the nations involved. International bankers can obtain economic information faster than the governments involved. And transmission of information is controlled, in large part, by a handful of transnational corporations—ITT, IBM, RCA, General Electric, CBS and a few Japanese firms.

While the transnationals control the flow of information throughout the world, the U.S. government argues about "freedom of the press."

Kulongoski addresses concerns

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

have taken those positions because I have believed they are quite simply right. Both as a candidate and as Governor I want to hear the concerns of blacks and other minorities. On October 12th I will be meeting with the members of the Portland black community at the King facility and I will continue such gatherings as Governor.

Governor Atiyeh has told the Observer he favors the new federalism once the economy reverses and Oregon can afford it. What does Reagan's new federalism program mean to you? How will it affect the state's services and resources and specifically how would it affect minorities and the disadvantaged in Oregon?

The program that Reagan has proposed as 'new federalism' has been appropriately called a 'new feudalism.' To me it sounds very much like a return to the 'states' rights' arguments of the past that were used as an excuse for any number of types of discrimination, particularly against the poor and minorities. One of the Reagan proposals in the health care area would impose an intolerable \$220 million burden on Oregon. If enacted the new federalism would undoubtedly reduce the level of essential government services because even with the best efforts the state could not make up that deficit in federal funds. Those cuts would have their most adverse impact on Oregon's minorities and disadvantaged. As Governor I will be a strong opponent of the misguided new federalism effort.

Please address the following educational concerns often heard in the Northeast community: low academic achievement, inadequate education of teachers in human rights, basic skills, subject area and content certification standards, lack of vocational career counseling and education and lack of monitoring the use of special funds?

Obviously many of those concerns are matters of local jurisdiction and under the state Department of Education. They are, however, all influenced by the general level of education funding for basic school support provided by the state and as Governor I will work to increase that level of support so that local communities can increase educa-

tional quality. I urge all citizens, and particularly minority citizens, to be active in their local educational systems and work to make those systems reflect their concerns and values.

School financing is a serious problem in Oregon. What changes do you propose?

The most key change that must come about is to reverse the decrease in the level of basic school support that is provided by the state. As Governor I will appoint a special blue ribbon citizen task force to study the entire Oregon tax structure. That task force will be directed to find ways to stabilize the Oregon property tax system, while maintaining its responsiveness to citizens' desires to control the level of local services.

Please state your position on the racial harassment bill passed by the last legislature that is currently under review by the courts.

I support the concept of the racial harassment bill, and strong criminal penalties for racial harassment. As Governor I will work with the legislature for a racial harassment bill that will pass constitutional tests if the current statute is found to be unconstitutional.

Do you favor an income tax? How does the sales tax differ from the income tax in its impact on low and moderate income people?

I do not favor an Oregon sales tax, and I am particularly opposed to the recommendation of the Governor's Economic Development Task Force for the highest sales tax on the west coast. I oppose a sales tax because it is a regressive tax that takes a greater portion of low and middle income citizens' disposable income than it does from the rich. A progressive income tax is preferable because it is taxation based on ability to pay.

What is your position on the 1.5 per cent property tax limitation measure? What is the real effect likely to be on state and local government and on low and moderate income people should Ballot Measure 3 pass on November 2nd?

I am completely opposed to Ballot Measure 3 as an ill-founded property tax relief attempt. I have sponsored and supported the homeowners and renters property tax relief program in the legislature, and I

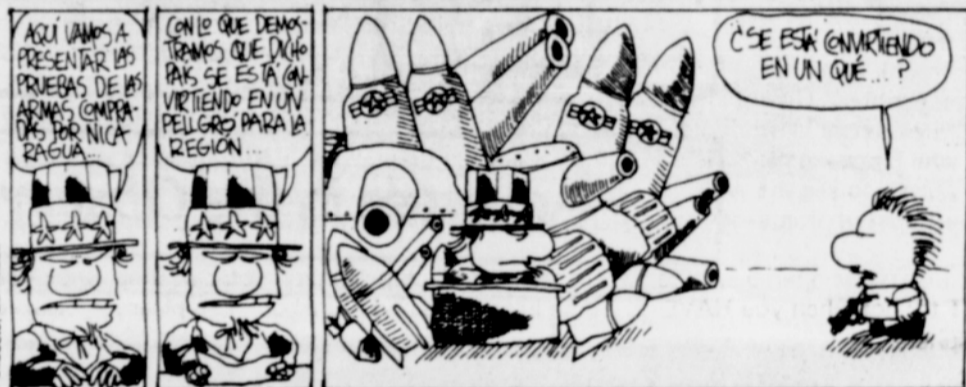
have voted against the cuts in it recommended by the Governor. If passed, Ballot Measure 3 would stop economic development because local communities would not be able to provide the services demanded by business and industries. It would take away local citizens' rights to determine the level of local services. As services would be cut, those cuts would most dramatically impact low and moderate income citizens.

Gov. Atiyeh has proposed reinstatement of the death penalty in Oregon. What is your position on this proposal and why? How can inequities in the criminal justice system be addressed at the state level?

I am opposed to the death penalty. Studies have shown that it is not a deterrent to murder, and that its application has been disproportionate on blacks, the poor and minorities. I have proposed an Oregon economic development program that will help solve the problems of crime in our state by getting the economy moving again. I have also recommended a criminal justice program that focuses on swift and certain justice. I will continue to strongly support the work of public defenders in providing legal services to those without the means for private counsel, and I am open to any recommendations that will make our criminal justice system more equitable.

In conclusion, why do you want to be Governor of Oregon?

Let me first say, that I am running because I am concerned about every citizen of our state. Oregon is not a state of only whites and middle class households. Our state is made up of many citizens from varying racial backgrounds, with various financial and professional situations, and with varying goals and aspirations. I believe it is a Governor's job to recognize that diversity, and to lead Oregon to provide the environment where every citizen is able to develop his or her potential to the most. I believe I have an understanding of that diversity, and I will implement programs to improve our economy, to enhance our educational system, and to better and more fairly manage state government. It is to do those things for all the people of Oregon that I am a candidate for Governor.



Nicaraguan cartoonist's view of US press campaign: Uncle Sam - 'Here we present proof of the arms purchased by Nicaragua, with which we show that the country is turning into a menace to the region. Nicaragua: 'Turning into a what?'

Letters to the Editor

Curious

To the editor:

I am a freshman in college, who voted for the first time in the May primary.

Recently, I have taken a special interest in the Metropolitan Service District. What's strange, though, is that I can't find a single substantial achievement (besides making a lot of people angry) that would justify the money it's been spending. It is probably obvious to most people that Metro is being very poorly managed, but what have we got to show for it? I'm curious.

Thomas G. Karter, Jr.

Opposes aid to El Salvador

To the editor:

I would like to clarify my position on El Salvador.

Lanita Duke's article in your publication of September 14, correctly represented me on all issues except El Salvador. The message which her article gives is inaccurate: It is the process of placing the initiative on the County ballot which seemed inconsistent with both County policy and legal opinion. The Circuit

Court has since placed the initiative on the November 2 ballot.

I want to make clear my position in opposition to U.S. involvement in El Salvador. I have a strong record of support of human rights, and I deeply believe that our money does not belong in El Salvador.

Thank you, otherwise, for a good job of reporting the facts.

Dennis Buchanan
County Commissioner

Advertise in the Observer

Debnam seeks House seat

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would have an adverse effect on economic development.

Observer: How would you keep in touch with your constituents?

Debnam: I would hold a public forum—a Town Hall meeting—twice a month during the legislative session and once a month during the interim to seek public opinion and provide information. As a representative of the district I will value the information, judgements and ideas provided by the voters. I also pledge to keep the voters informed—to let the community know when hearings will be held, when bills will be discussed—to help the public make themselves heard in Salem.

The legislative position should be used to build, not to dismantle; to make positive input, and take positions, not to react. We need to learn to interact and be part of the process of government; this will be one of my major roles.

I will invite the legislature to the Town Hall meetings so they can receive the district's opinions firsthand; I will attempt to build bridges, form working relationships with other legislators of both parties.

My phone number is listed and I will be available.

Observer: You are running as a Republican in a community that is traditionally Democratic. How do you answer those who question your party affiliation?

Debnam: Richard Parker, who wrote, "Myth of the Middle Class," wrote in the Oregonian recently that the House Democratic Caucus' plan for the economy—"balanced budget, tax breaks for business, abandonment of full employment as a party platform"—could just as easily have been issued by the Republican Party.

In many ways the Democrats are

becoming more like Republicans and vice-versa. Neither party has done anything for District 18. District 18 is unique in the state—although it shares many characteristics with other communities it has a character of its own.

Now it is not a question of party affiliation, but of compassion and belief in the human spirit. I have both.

I am my own man. I will listen, will ask questions, will seek advice, will communicate with all segments of the community, will make decisions based on what I believe is community need and my own conscience and integrity.

Observer: How do you differ from Ed Leek, the Democratic nominee?

Debnam: I am sensitive to the citizenry of District 18, the special and unique character of the district. I am a "people person"—I enjoy being with people.

I am willing to spend my time among the people. I am willing to talk with all the people of the district—black, white southeast Asian—all. I will talk with groups that are active in the community. I believe Mr. Leek has a narrow viewpoint—his ideas are his own. I have a broader base and a greater willingness to work with all people. I am not a "loner."

Since race has become an issue—this district is seen throughout the state as a "minority" or "black" district—I will address that issue also. I believe a black person going to Salem from this district will have opportunities that are unique; I think the House and the House leadership are ready for a black person in Salem. I believe the people in District 18 will provide the backing for a legislator they feel is one of them and represents them, whether they are black or white.

I don't believe Mr. Leek can represent the black community—not because he is white—but because he has not built, or has broken off, those channels of communication and respect that are necessary. He has demonstrated that although he lives and works in the black community, and has been active to a great degree, he does not have that understanding of and sensitivity to the black citizen.


Observer: What is your own record of involvement in the community?

Debnam: During the past four years I have spent much time out of town in connection with my business—promotion of music groups including Pleasure, management consulting and public relations. I have kept aware of the issues, have attended occasional meetings, but have not been active.

But, I am not new to political activism. While attending high school in California, I worked in the Rumford Act (fair housing) campaign. While attending Cleveland High School in Portland I was in the NAACP and Urban League youth groups. During the early model cities days I worked at the Neighborhood Service Center and was involved in many of the meetings to draw up Model Cities Programs. I participated in YMCA NE youth leadership programs while Edgar Mitchell was director.

I was active in the BSU at Pacific University and worked to link the black students at the university to the Portland community. I also was active in the Portland Black Caucus, chaired by Lee Brown.

After the Black Caucus disbanded I channeled my energies into business and began doing a lot of traveling. My travel, plus the fact that I lived in North Carolina, Baltimore and California before coming to Portland, broadened my perspectives and understanding.



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