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Election '96 provides no significant change

By CHRIS PETERSEN
Senior Staff Writer

The 1996 elections offered a few surprises but no clear mandates for change in government. President Clinton surprised very few in soundly defeating Republican Bob Dole by a solid margin that fell somewhat short of a landslide. The Republican party maintained control of the Congress, even managing to gain seats in the Senate.

Bill Clinton, en route to four more years as president, has several options from which to choose. No longer forced to move towards the political main stream to garner votes, conventional wisdom would have Clinton shifting further to the left. This approach marshaled a tangible degree of optimism in 1992, which was quickly dashed as the infant president's baby boomer hubris eroded, and he became synonymous with ideologi-

cal waffling. Four difficult years later, the more overtly expedient Clinton has capped his move to the center-right with a breezy victory.

If Clinton's rhetoric is an indicator, the centrist position is firmly ensconced in the White House. Delivering his victory address from his home state of Arkansas, Clinton thanked his personal pastor emphatically -- while referring to biblical scripture twice -- in allowing him to grow "closer to God," along the campaign trail. The president also declared that the U.S. was to become a land of "opportunity for all, [and] responsibility for all," stating that through "faith, family and work, America wins."

This election was certainly not the angry voter's call to action of 1994, but the Republicans did retain control of both houses for the first time this century. In some races, younger and more tenaciously conservative Republicans

replaced retiring GOP moderates, yielding a more conservative majority overall. The Congress will probably continue to set the national agenda, but last year's semi-backlash against the extremity of the "Contract with America," may lead House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott to embrace a more watered down agenda.

Oregon's political scene is even murkier. Democrats have done quite well, retaining their three existing HOR seats, and adding District 5's Darlene Hooley (D) in a victory over incumbent Republican Jim Bunn. Public employees have staved off another attack with the defeat of Measures 41, 43 and 45, which would have crimped their incomes, benefits and retirement respectively. Notables such as the bottle bill expansion (#37) and livestock control (#38) were rejected, while the cigarette tax (#44) and minimum wage hike (#36)

passed. Two important races were decided by absentee voters: Measure #47, which passed by a close margin, and the election of Gordon Smith (R) who defeated Tom Brugerre (D) for Mark Hatfield's vacated Senate seat. Oregon's frustrating regulations on absentee ballot tabulation require that they not be opened until the day after the election. With rural icon Bob Smith back and assured a posh appointment as compensation for saving Republicans from Wes Cooley, the election of G. Smith indicates a coup de grace. Eastern Oregon last produced a national Senator over 70 years ago and has never been represented by a figure with such political promise as Smith, whom many see as a future presidential candidate.

Nobody should really be surprised that the balance of

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Making it in McNary

By KELLY HELMS
Senior Staff Writer

With the lingering scent of brand new carpet, it was obvious that this wasn't any ordinary residence hall on the Oregon State University campus. Missing the turquoise-puke green, plaid curtains that hang in Finley Hall, and the rusted orange carpet of Buxton, McNary Residence Hall resembled a nice hospital. It was definitely sanitary with its waxed linoleum floors and stainless carpets. After being "restored" this past year, McNary is the newest home of some of the University's Honors

College students.

McNary is comprised of 30% UHC students. The sixth floor is the only floor that is co-ed by neighbor while the others are divided by wing. With occupants ranging from sorority sisters to rugby players, the diversity brings well-roundedness to the hall.

Residents mentioned several of McNary's positive qualities. Each room's furniture is very versatile and can be moved easily. They are equipped with two phone jacks, two ethernet jacks and a television plug-in. The most frequently used word to describe McNary was "convenient," with the attached McNary Dining Hall, Cafe Latte,



Jill Heade - The Chronicle

A newly refurbished lounge in McNary Hall awaits a decorative touch. Plans to add televisions and furniture have yet to be realized.

larger-than-average parking lot, and near-campus location. There are plans in the future to host lectures, seminars and classes for hon-

ors students in the two conference rooms located in McNary.

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Not Just

Some thoughts about Ralph Nadar and Paul Risser

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A great forum on the Great Flood of 1996

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Any more

Need anymore things to do?
Read the Fall Term calendar

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Nader and the Greens: the only ethical choice



*Fireside
Chat*

Chris
Petersen

George Wallace, former governor of Alabama, once said that "there's not a dime's worth of difference [between Democrats and Republicans]." And while it's difficult to agree with anything that this deserved national pariah has said, one must concede him this point. Rhetoric aside, the actions of both Republicans and Democrats have been eerily similar in the past 15 years, a point hammered home last year when the government shut down, amidst fire and brimstone, over less than 0.1% of the federal budget. Both parties have been inclined to big defense budgets, family values folderol, immigrant scapegoating and election year character attacks. Most alarming though, is the willingness of both parties to allow giant trans-

national corporations take over the business of running the country.

Bob Dole — following the sage advice of former president Harding who claimed that "the business of America is business" — has a long and distinguished history of ponying up to the highest corporate bidder. Whether it be tobacco or oil, Dole's escapades as a corporate shill are well documented and have even infiltrated his oratory on occasion. Such a slip-up occurred when Dole compared the addictive properties of cigarettes to a similar killer: milk (Marlboros do a body good?), much to the wide-eyed astonishment of nervous Republican spin doctors and tobacco magnates alike. Bill Clinton's role has deviated little from Dole's, aside from having fewer years to pedal himself. It is Clinton who pushed, cajoled and begged with since unseen fervor for the passage of NAFTA, a nightmare that has managed to speed up American capital flight and corporate efficiency, while devastating the blue collar work force.



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Large corporations paying an income tax of 9.9%, or 20 cents on each taxpayer dollar, are reporting record profits and are the fountainhead of a Dow Jones average that topped 6,000 for the first time a few weeks ago. At the same time, the fastest growing job sectors are in the service industries, meaning that blue collar laborers are trading in union work at \$15 an hour,

for minimum wage jobs as security guards and burger flippers.

None of this is too surprising. Elections cost big money these days — Senate wins are now going for \$4.6 million on average — and big business is more than willing

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The corporate campus: CEO Risser and OSU Inc.?



*Tangled Up
in Blue*

Meghna
Chakrabarti

After grinding through a particularly heinous problem set, I've often wondered what use such inanity could possibly have beyond the hallowed halls of OSU. There's nothing more effective to stupefy an enthusiastic intellect than an education that seems to have no practical application.

So, I initially considered President Paul Risser as a visionary; a man with a plan of action that would add relevance to our esoteric education.

But after listening to his description of the OSU of the future at the forum, "An Evening

with the President," I'm extremely hesitant to give up the grind. President Risser is good for OSU — he's enthusiastically courting Oregon high tech businesses in an attempt to build a more solid relationship between OSU and corporate interests. With the passage of Measure 47, the university is in dire need of funding. The public has expressed little interest in supporting higher education, so that funding must come from the private sector.

It's not exactly a match made in heaven. President Risser says that he wants OSU to be able to fill the needs of Oregon businesses, and so he's asked corporate CEO's what *they* need from OSU graduates. Strong technical aptitude, honed powers of persuasion, and a solid work ethic are the answers he is receiving state-wide.

These educational goals are

worthy of being embraced by the university. But when we ask Corporate America to set educational targets, we're playing a very dangerous game. Exactly *who* are we learning for?

Striving for fluidity between the university and corporate interests may be beneficial in the short term, but it reeks of a lack of farsightedness. A university's primary mission is to educate and explore. If OSU goes the way of the corporation, the fundamental nature of the university will be changed. A gung-ho focus on serving corporate interests will result in the eventual sacrifice of future exploration at OSU because it may not be of any immediate benefit to Oregon industry. If colleges catered to corporations there would be no such thing as the Nobel Prize. We

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The Chronicle

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The Chronicle is published as often as possible by UHC students. Its staff slaves away to provide fellow students with timely news of community-wide events. Articles may reflect views of The Chronicle staff, but do not necessarily reflect views or policies of the UHC.

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Signed letters can be placed in Winston Cornwall's box at the UHC office, or e-mailed to Meghna Chakrabarti: chakrabm@ucs.orst.edu

Contribute to the diversity of public debate. Write to the Chronicle.

OSU scientists examine the effects of the Flood of 1996

By ELISSA EASLEY
Senior Staff Writer

Ask anyone to name memorable moments of 1996, and they will undoubtedly mention the Great Flood that inundated northwestern Oregon last February, resulting from more than 125% of Oregon's normal precipitation. This heavier-than-normal rainfall, combined with spurts of warm weather that began melting the extra-deep snowpack in the Cascades and Coast Range, sent many Oregonians fleeing for higher ground. Eighteen Oregon counties were declared disaster areas, and many Oregonians were reminded of the December 1964 Flood. "The 1964 flood was the largest that has occurred since flood control reservoirs were constructed in the 1940's and 50's," State Climatologist George Taylor wrote for the Oregon Climate Service Web Page.

The National Weather Service reported that the Willamette River, which reaches flood stage in Corvallis at 20 feet, crested at 23.5 feet on February 9, 1996. In Portland, the crest was calculated at 28.6 feet. Raging at a velocity of 365,000 ft³/second, the Willamette surpassed the 18 foot flood stage and Portland waterfront businesses feared the worst. The Willamette began to recede before spilling over its bank onto the waterfront.

Dairy farms in Tillamook County did not fare as well as the Portland waterfront. Cattle were stranded on islands of pasture as the coastal rivers rushed through homes and barns, sweeping away personal belongings and leaving behind mud and debris.

In Corvallis, the Willamette and Marys Rivers engulfed portions of Second and Third streets, but we were fortunate to escape without extensive damage. Ron Miner, of the OSU Department of Bioresource Engineering, said, "I marvel as I reflect on the Flood of '96 that the major utilities that support our lifestyles were able to maintain safe water in our homes ... and allow most of us to continue life as usual during

what was indeed an extreme event."

Along with city water supply quality, land-use planning becomes a hot topic in city and county governments after a flood. Richard Roesentreter, of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), said that the key to effective land-use planning is the "recognition of natural landscapes" in communities. Damage is reduced when a

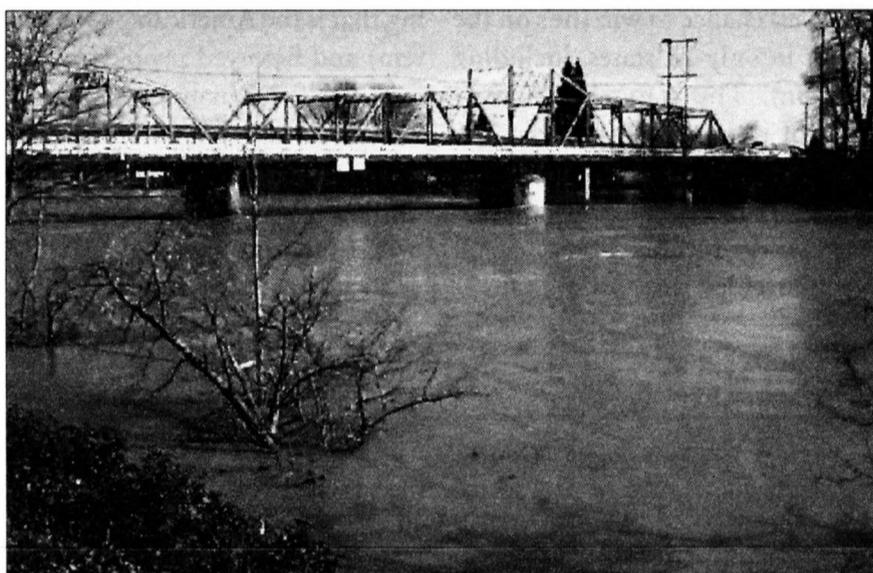


Photo Contributed by: C. Scalley & W. Gibson
The Willamette river, shown here near the Van Buren Street bridge, threatened to flood downtown Corvallis. Floodwaters receded without inflicting any damage.

park is in the flood plain, instead of homes or businesses. Events such as the Flood of '96 remind cities of the "importance of planning with a larger picture of the land in mind." Concerning Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relief, Rosentreter commented that too often "property owners suffer from the Teenager Syndrome. They want to be independent of (the government) as they build in flood plains, then demand money from the government after their homes are ruined by a flood. It's not the government's fault!"

Another issue that focuses on the "larger picture" of a landscape to be successful, is forest management. The BLM along with the U.S. Forest Service has spent the past five months studying the effects of the Great Flood on their forest lands in Oregon and Washington. The winter storms "have presented us with a learning moment: a rare opportunity to learn how management activities—roads and timber harvests—affect, and

are affected by, these natural events," explained Bob Williams, regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service. An article about these studies, published in the October issue of *Western Forester*, reported that 31 percent of landslides are near areas where timber has been harvested, 52 percent are near roads, and 17 percent occurred in natural forests. The article was also

data from flood flows equivalent to a 75+ year event, on rivers including the Tualatin, Sandy, Nehalem and Deschutes. Many ecosystems were drastically altered by these waters.

Along with the devastation, benefits of the flooding were also brought to light. The flood regenerated land along the flood plain by bringing up nutrients from the river bottoms. It also left woody debris in streams, increasing available fish habitat. It is speculated that once the sediment in the streams settles, fish populations may not be drastically reduced, but studies to confirm this are still being conducted.

Once all of the current studies have come to a close, Oregonians will have a much better idea of the flood's effects on various ecosystems. We are constantly learning how to better manage our dynamic natural resources—whether it be in preparation for future flooding, or for general sustainability. And, as we learn more about our environment, we need to consciously put this knowledge to use by taking natural resources into account when planning new subdivisions, parks and highways.

careful to qualify this data by noting that slides near roads and harvest units are easier to see during surveying, than slides in remote, densely-forested areas.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is also busy conducting studies of flood alterations. They began taking photos and documenting flood damage as it occurred at their fish hatcheries scattered along Oregon streams and rivers. George Robison, hydrologist for the Oregon Department of Forestry, recorded gage

Bahai
Hindu

Jewish
Islam

A
Window Into
the Religions
of our Community

Visit with people from various religions about their faith and its role in their lives

MU Lounge
Tuesday, November 17
7:00 pm

Sponsored by the Honors College

Nader

to shell out its tip money for an appropriate puppet. The result is a political system which, in the words of *Harpers* editor Lewis Lapham, "grants parallel sovereignty to both a permanent and provisional government," the permanent basically comprised of the Fortune 500, the provisional led by whichever empty vessel we the people elect.

Enter Ralph Nader, the candidate whose campaign t-shirts actually read "Nader '96: End Corporate Control." Nader — running on the Pacific/Green ticket with Wynona LaDuke, a prominent Native American activist — is the only major candidate to address the issue of corporate hegemony overseeing the erosion of American democracy. Indeed, the centerpiece of Nader's campaign is his "Toolbox for Democracy," which includes:

- A none-of-the-above voting option, which would allow voters to express the intensity of their (dis)preferences.
- Campaign financing through in-

come tax check-offs up to \$100, as compared to the current \$1-3 option, placing all candidates on equal funding ground.

- A national referendum process
- Worker control over corporations
- Restoration of public control over the airwaves.

The last item is of special importance; 24 large corporations control virtually all of the American mainstream media, effectively distorting what we watch and read towards a corporate perspective. Perhaps with the pressure of a truly free press we'll be able to get Ross Perot and beyond, into nationally televised debates.

Some would say that a vote for a third party candidate is a wasted vote as Nader has, admittedly, no chance to win (he's on the ballot in only 24 states, including Oregon). This is to take a narrow view of the political process. By voting for Nader, one aids in the building of a potent alternative party in the future. Under federal election rules, any party that re-

ceives five percent of the popular vote qualifies for federal campaign funding over the next four year cycle. Additionally, sending a loud signal from the progressive left will force the centrist elements in the Democratic party to speak to a number of progressive issues and ideas that are out of the spectrum of today's debate. Finally, by voting for Nader, left-liberals deny their vote to a machiavellian who has extended the Reagan-Bush destruction of economic equity (21.1% of national income now goes to the top 5% of affluents, who also control 40% of the nation's wealth), the environment, militarily supported the genocide in East Timor, ignored people of color (except for the ethnic cleansing that is the American prison system) and betrayed people on welfare. In final analysis, a vote for Nader is the only solution for American progressives. It is ethical, based in fact and expresses a true patriotism.

Elections

Oregon's power may switch to its perennial outcasts, while four-fifths of the state backs the opposite side. In an election that saw California outlaw affirmative action in the public sector while Washington State was concurrently busy with electing its first Asian-American governor, one is left somewhat mystified at the state of things. This is the legacy with which the U.S. will enter the 21st century.

McNary

With many wrinkles yet to be ironed out, there are some downfalls that come along with living in a brand new dorm. Having no key for the mail boxes, students must show their I.D. card to receive mail. The most common reply when asked, "What things could be improved?" was that there needs to be furniture and televisions in the lounges. Second, most people aren't thrilled with the linoleum floors, as scraps of carpet just don't feel like home. There will always be elevator break-downs and plumbings-gone-wrong no matter how old or new the hall.

Kerry Jacques, a sophomore living on the sixth floor, explained that McNary was, "too quiet." Surprisingly, that was the first complaint about silence. She did point out, that the second floor, home to the entire freshman men's basketball team, was a bit rowdier.

Diana Buccafurni, a freshman from West Linn, OR, majoring in Microbiology, had nothing but great things to say about

McNary Residence Hall. She liked the versatility of the furniture and all the friends that she has made. Diana commented, "It is easy to find people to study with because it is guaranteed that others in the hall are in your classes."

Jason Brown, though very satisfied with his new home, described the challenges of being the president of the new hall. He said it is difficult finding money for each of the floors' budget because when McNary was shut down, the money was given to the neighboring Callahan and Wilson Halls. They are considering fund raisers, but a lack of participation and enthusiasm for hall activities remains a significant stumbling point.

Typical student apathy aside, the tradition of assigning the most embarrassing of nicknames to every dorm on campus lives on. According to some residents, this year's name seems especially apt. For those of you whom reside in McNary, don't take it to heart when someone slips, "McNerdy," your way.

There's so much to do
and so little time.
Papers.
Problem sets.
Exams.
But is that what you're
really here for?
Why don't you...
Interview President Risser.
Chat with world famous
scientists.
Photograph crucial
campus events.
Write about what matters.
Make your voice heard.
Engage yourself.
You've got nothing to lose.
And everything
Everything
Everything
to gain.

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The Chronicle

For more information contact the UHC office.

Campus

may as well bill the university as the state's largest technical and vocational school that churns out automatons for industrial consumption.

President Risser should exercise caution in his courting of

corporations. We need money, but is trading the spirit of learning for a few million bucks in the next fiscal year really worth it? I may be earning a decent wage working for an Oregon business once I graduate. But there's little joy in knowing that I'm destined to be a rubber stamp.

Fall Term Events

November

- 11/13
 - *Annual Career Information Days*, MU Ballroom, 10-4
 - *Information Meeting: OSU Study Abroad France*, Snell 448, 4 pm.
 - *Concert: Julianne Baird*, soprano. LaSalles, 8 pm, \$
- 11/14
 - *Annual Career Information Days*, MU Ballroom, 10-4
 - *Concert: Music a la Carte Series*, MU Lounge, Noon.
 - *Philosophy Lecture: "The New World Order & The Erosion Of Democracy"*, Manuel Pacheco, MU 208, 4 pm
- 11/15
 - *Deadline for Winter Term Admission to UHC.*
 - *International Film Series, I Shot Andy Warhol*, Gilfillan Aud., 7 & 9 pm. \$3.
 - *Cynthia Spencer Exhibition*, MU Concourse Gallery
 - *Exploring Netscape Workshop*, Kidder 33, 10 am
- 11/19
 - *Colloquium: Mathematics.* Tevian Dray. Strand 106, 3 pm
- 11/21
 - *Concert Band*, MU Lounge, Noon.
 - *Philosophy Panel Discussion.* Ideas Matter Series. MU 208, 4 pm.
- 11/22
 - *International Film Series, The Monster*, Gilfillan Aud., 7,9pm \$3.
 - *Nutcracker with the Eugene Ballet*, LaSalles, 7:30, \$
- 11/24
 - *OSU & Corvallis Symphony Orchestra: Fall Concert.* LaSalles 3 pm. \$
- 11/28 -Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 12/6 - 7
 - *MU Craft Center Holiday Market*, MU Ballroom
- 12/15 - Last Day Of Term

Calendar Compiled
By Srey Ram Kuy