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 mainstream 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 ideologically 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 cramped 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 Brugger (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-peek 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 neighborhood 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, A newly refurbished lounge in McNary Hall awaits a decorative touch. Plans to add televisions and furniture have yet to be realized.

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The corporate campus: CEO Risser and OSU Inc.

The Chronicle

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The Chronicle is published as often as possible by UHC students. Its staff strives 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: chakrabarti@osu.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 spurs 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 Rosentreter, 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

"Along with the devestation, beneficial of the flooding were also brought to light. The flood regenerates 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 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.

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.

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
to shell out its tip money for an appropriate puppet. The result is a political system which, in the words of Harper's 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 income tax check-offs up to $100, as compared to the current $1-3 option, placing all candidates on equal footing.
- 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 receives 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 affluent, 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.

McNary

With many wrinkles yet to be ironed out, there are some downfallsthat 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 lithium floors. As scraps of carpet just don't feel like home. There will always be elevator break-downs and plumbing-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 Buccafurri, 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 digs, 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.

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 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."

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
to gain.

Join Us.
The Chronicle
For more information contact the UHC office.

Fall Term Events

November

11/13
Annual Career Information Days, MU Ballroom, 10-4
Information Meeting: OSU Study Abroad Program, Snell 448, 4 pm.

Concert: Juliane Baird, soprano. LaSalle, 8 pm, $.

11/14
Annual Career Information Days, MU Ballroom, 10-4
Concert: Music in a Carte Series, MU Lounge, Noon.


11/15
Deadline for Winter Term Admission to UHC.
International Film Series, 1 Shot Andy Warhol, Gilfillan Aud., 7 & 9 pm. $3.
Cynthia Spencer Exhibition, MU Concourse Gallery
Exploring Netcape Workshop, Kiddler 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., 7,9 pm. $3.
Nutcracker with the Eugene Ballet, LaSalle, 7:30, $.

11/24
OSU & Corvallis Symphony Orchestra: Fall Concert. LaSalle 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 Rani Kuy