

STEVE BOYD
Capps for Congress

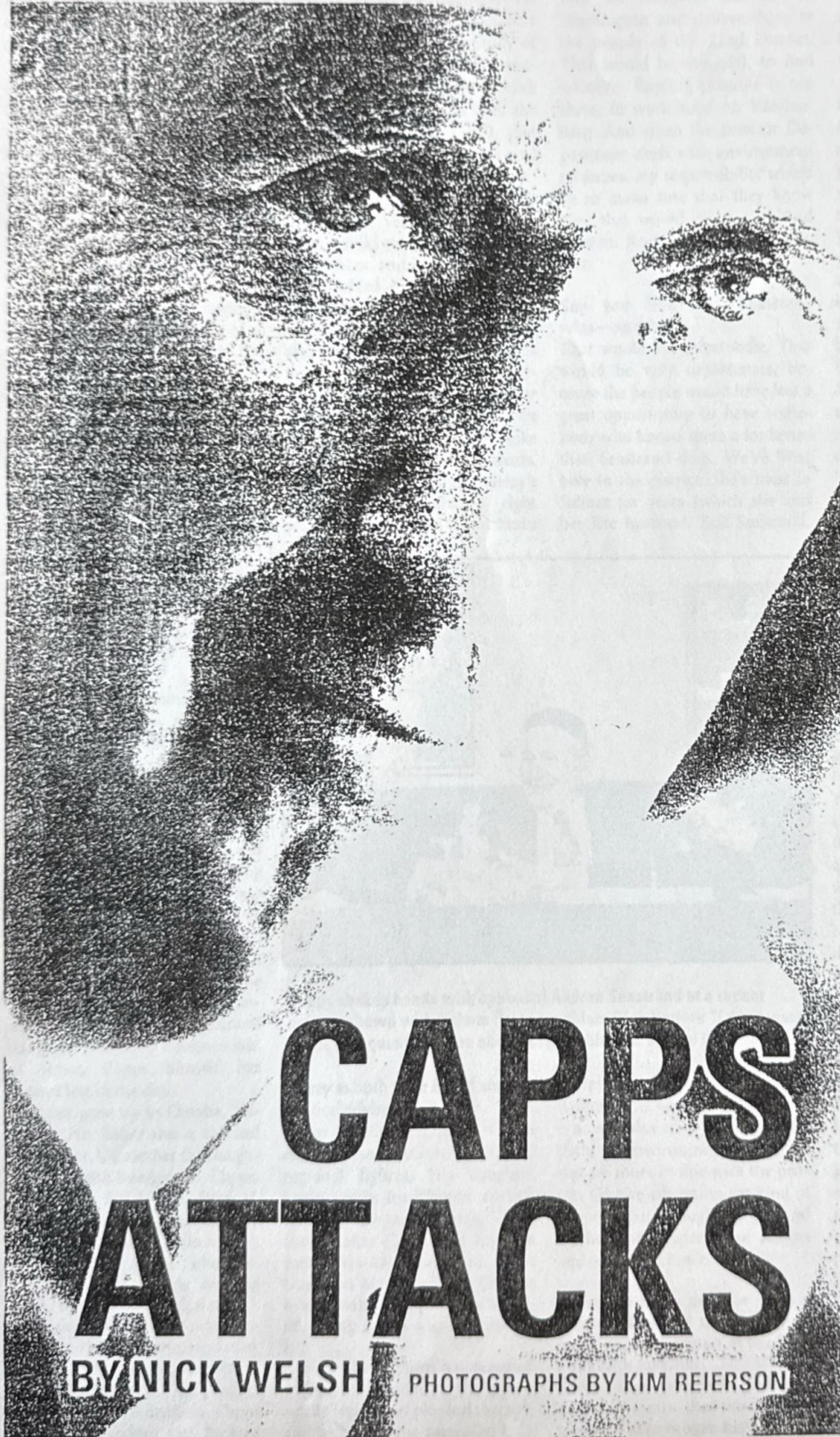
22nd CONGRESSIONAL RACE



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CAPPS ATTACKS

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM REIERSON

Can
Walter
Capps
Save
His Soul,
Serve
the People,
and Beat
Andrea
Seastrand—
Though Not
Necessarily
in That Order?

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alter Holden Capps could never have imagined it would come to this.

Three years ago, Capps, a religious studies professor at UCSB for 32 years, decided to run for Santa Barbara's open congressional seat as a Democrat. Campaigning with a style that blended Mr. Smith Goes to Washington with Mr. Magoo. Trying to Go Anywhere, Capps portrayed himself as the quintessential citizen politician and managed to come within an eyelash width of beating his veteran Republican opponent, Andrea Seastrand. Two years later and Capps is running again. And again his opponent is Seastrand, though this time the contest conjures up images of *High Noon*.

Capps finds himself cast as an unlikely warrior selected to do battle not so much with Seastrand as with the immensely talented and equally unpopular House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich. The Democratic National Party has targeted Seastrand for defeat as part of a nationwide effort to regain the congressional majority it lost just two years ago. The stakes couldn't be higher, and neither side can afford to lose. That's why big money has been pouring into this race from all quarters like it hasn't since Michael Huffington ran for office.

In person, Capps's sweet charm is accented by more than a hint of mischief. On the campaign trail, however, he's very professorial, delivering lectures rather than speeches, riffing at length on "Jeffersonian democracy" and "the life of the spirit." Last time around, Capps found himself fighting almost as much with party hacks from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee as he was with Seastrand. This time around, however, the Democratic Party and its pro-choice, pro-environment, and pro-labor allies have been pouring their money and efforts into a slew of independent expenditure committees rather than the Capps campaign. These committees, in turn, have been bombarding the air waves of the 22nd Congressional District with anti-Seastrand television and radio commercials. At times, Capps himself has seemed lost in the din.

Capps grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. His father was a railroad accountant, his mother the daughter of Swedish immigrants. Capps, too young for World War II, shared a room with his Uncle Carl, who had been badly injured during that war. Capps's father frequently fretted whether his son would ever learn a practical trade.

Capps, however, was drawn irresistibly to matters contemplative, and by 1960, he was enrolled at Yale Divinity School. The product of a Republican household, Capps remembers voting for Richard

Nixon in the 1960 presidential election. John Kennedy won that race, and spoke frequently at the Yale campus. Capps was not immune to Kennedy's youthful charisma. He was positively bowled over, however, by the moral passion of Martin Luther King Jr., and his days as a Republican came to a swift end.

In 1964, Capps and his wife Lois moved to Santa Barbara where he took a position running UCSB's very fledgling Religious Studies Program. He opposed the war in Vietnam, but not actively. He emerged as a player at the Robert Hutchins Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, a nationally respected liberal think tank then on campus. It was with the Hutchins Center in 1979 that Capps got inspired to start his now famous class on the Vietnam War.

Capps's classroom became a place where veterans felt free to speak publicly about their wartime experiences, and in 1987, *60 Minutes* profiled his classroom as a symbolic healing post for the war's untreated psychic wounds. It was also through this class that Capps made connections with such political notables as Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, who was wounded on duty in Vietnam and who spoke frequently to Capps's students. Capps worked briefly on Kerrey's abortive Presidential bid eight years ago, and today Capps ranks

He took a few hours to chat with reporter Nick Welsh. The following is an edited version of what they said.

Say you win this election, what do you hope to accomplish once you get to Washington?

I think the primary job is to maintain the vitality and life of the 22nd District. So I think a lot has to do with what people make you aware of while you're in office, the kinds of requests that we get from constituents. I think I'd be able to find the resources that are in Washington and deliver them to the people of the 22nd District. That would be my goal, to find whatever funding possible is out there, to work hard on Vandenberg. And when the Interior Department deals with environmental issues, my responsibility would be to make sure that they know how that would affect the 22nd District. And I'd be happy doing that.

Say you lose and Seastrand wins—so what?

That would be unfortunate. That would be very unfortunate, because the people would have lost a great opportunity to have somebody who knows them a lot better than Seastrand does. We've lived here in the district. She's lived in Salinas for years [which she and her late husband, Eric Seastrand,

people and their representatives. I thought they were absolutely right. Had the Republicans restored that bond of trust, they would deserve to be reelected. The Republicans had the right to take Congress back because the Democrats had squandered it. But what the Republicans did instead was to get into the whole greed mentality trying to create tax breaks for wealthy people. What they did was to come up with an ideological agenda that gets very, very close to what the Christian Coalition was advocating, which is really not American. It's not democratic; it's too exclusive, and it actually dehumanizes people.

How so?

Because women no longer have choice. Because it does favor one religious viewpoint over others, and it does create a kind of coalition between God and Country. Even to have to quarrel over the separation of church and state is a very telling sign. I mean, separation of church and state has been in the American mentality from the very beginning. The Founders didn't want a state church. It wasn't just Jefferson talking about the wall of separation; it's the First Amendment. The Republicans didn't restore values for us; I think there's less respect for Congress than there was before. They had a great opportunity to do something noble there, and instead they just went partisan on us.

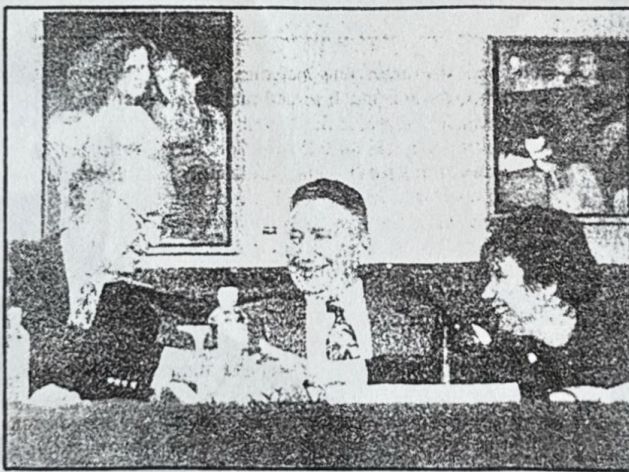
The whole two-party system of politics in this country is intensely partisan. Isn't it naive to expect it to be otherwise?

A better way is to try to rescue democracy from politicization, to try to get as many bipartisan, transpartisan solutions as we can. For example, take Social Security. We know there's a big crisis coming, and the Democrats and the Republicans are going to fight about who's right and who's wrong. The way to handle that, I think, is to create a commission to recommend what ought to be done. And that should not just be politicians but citizens who have the public interest in mind and the common good. That's what Jefferson was all about.

You talk a whole lot about Thomas Jefferson and Jeffersonian democracy. What are you talking about?

Jeffersonian democracy is really representational democracy. My rule would be that I wouldn't make any decision about how to proceed until I'd talked very carefully with all the people involved. Let me give you one example: Willy Del Van runs one of the clinics in Santa Maria for minorities, and he talked to me about how the welfare reform bill is going to adversely affect the peo-

WALTER CAPPS CONTINUED ▶



Capps shakes hands with opponent Andrea Seastrand at a recent debate (shown with Reform Party candidate Dick Porter): "I don't want to live in a country where she's comfortable," he says of her.

Kerrey as both close friend and key political advisor.

For a political outsider, Capps enjoys close relations with many national figures. His daughter Laura works for Clinton advisor George Stephanopoulos, and shortly after Capps and his wife were seriously injured in a car crash this May, President Clinton himself called Capps at the hospital, wishing him a speedy recovery.

Since then, Capps has regained most of his mobility through a steady regimen of physical therapy, and he has hit the campaign trail.

represented for years in the State Assembly]. I would take the government down a more positive path; my environmental sensibilities are more in line with the people. I'd give education the kind of support that it ought to get, and I'd be more respectful of seniors and women's choice.

Seastrand takes pride in the accomplishments of the 104th Congress and her support of the Contract With America...

I could have written the preamble to the Contract, that the bond of trust had been broken between the

Walter Capps

◀ CONTINUED

ple. I promised him I wouldn't make any kind of decision having to do with health care, or welfare, or even immigration without being in close conversation with him. I'd like to bring all these folks together and say, now let's educate each other on this, and let's see if we can't all find some way to move ahead here. We're saying that democracy is born in conversation. When we go to the doors of people living in the district, we don't just tell them what we stand for, we ask them what's on their mind.

So what do they tell you?

The thing they talk most about is Andrea Seastrand and whether she ought to be reelected. And there's a whole thing about the spirit of the country—whether people feel good about what's happening or whether they feel bad. They don't know if we're going through a dark time now or if things are more optimistic. But I go out and say, "You know, we do have major challenges here, but we're doing pretty well as a country. We're doing a lot better. Unemployment is down. We still have some major problems with crime, but crime is not as bad. There are drug problems, but we are making some advances." People say, "Yeah, is that

really true?" I say, "Yeah, I think it is true."

Tell me why we should be optimistic, why we should have hope.

If you're going to talk about the nation, or America, or big concepts, then I think it's hard to make the case for hope. But if you talk about it in specific terms, like what schools are doing or what certain businesses are doing to hire people as an alternative to welfare, then you find signs of hope everywhere in the 22nd District. You have to look for them, but they're there.

Seastrand would credit the Congress; I suspect you'd credit Clinton.

Clinton has changed. He's not talking that big cosmic stuff anymore. He's talking about helping children learn to read by third grade, providing two years of college—making that as universal as four years of high school. He wants to be sure seniors have hope and confidence. And that's matching up with what I'm learning from talking with people. They don't have the big cosmic notion about whether this country is going in the right direction or not, they want to talk about specific things; they want to talk about pollution; they want to talk about dump sites, wastes, nuclear waste. They are concerned about clean air and clean water. That's where Seastrand and I differ.

Seastrand has done just what she said she'd do when she ran for office. That makes her unusual, if not exceptional. If it ain't broke, why fix it?

Seastrand believes the country has moved ahead too far, too fast, with disastrous results. And she's trying to pull it back. She has only one idea—the idea that the government is the enemy and that it would be much better if we kept our money ourselves because we know how to spend it better than the government. I think that's an impossible point of view. There's always too much bureaucracy, I guess, but to target the government as being the enemy, as being evil, is not very sensible. We're going to have government; it's part of the social contract. The only question is how are we going to be effective.

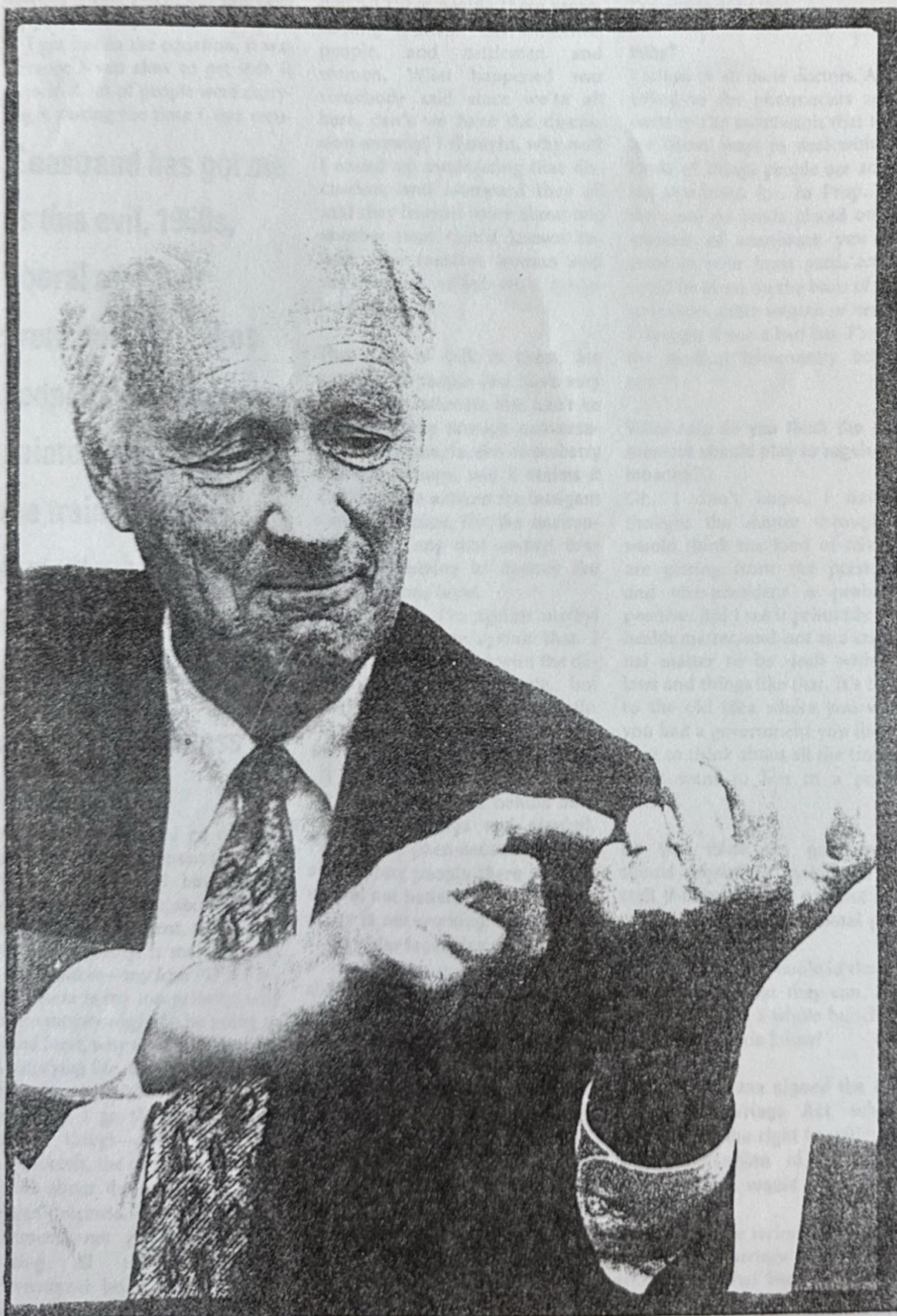
I see Seastrand as somebody who's fearful of diversity, who is untrusting of authority, who sees that we are constantly surrounded by darkness, by evil, by bullies. She sees herself as a lonely crusader on behalf of truth, representing a segment of the population who are generally angry, usually hostile, and almost always suspicious of other people. I don't think that's the kind of spirit in the country that advances democracy.

I don't want to make a campaign speech, but I don't want to live in a country where she's comfortable.

What kind of country do you feel comfortable in?

This country needs to move in the direction where diversity is regarded as a strength, where we have vital relationships with countries around the world, where we lose life if we're not sensitive to environmental relations. Women need to be assured of choice; choice cannot be restricted. Education needs to be supported. The institutions of the land need to be upheld, they need to be strengthened. They're not all functioning, but it's a cheap shot to say because they're not working right we eliminate some. We need to find a way to make the country work.

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When Capps was asked his position on marriage at a recent endorsement interview, he held up his wedding ring. "Thirty-six years I've been wearing it, married to the same woman." That wasn't the point, he was pointedly told; they wanted to know what his position on *homosexual* marriage was.

Seastrand votes you subject to. She's voted with Gingrich 97 percent of the time. She voted to roll back environmental legislation that has been developed over 40 years. She's voted 35 times against reproductive choice. Andrea Seastrand's primary objective is to move toward a constitutional ban on abortion. I think it's pretty hard to stand up and tell the people of this district that is what you've done.

You have the White House, the National Democratic Party, every special interest and lobby associated with the Democratic Party—pouring money into the race to beat Seastrand at all costs. It feels like an Anybody-but-Seastrand campaign, and you've been almost invisible. Your critics complain that you're conspicuous by your absence.

If I got lost in the equation, it was because I was slow to get into it myself. A lot of people were carrying it during the time I was recu-

'Seastrand has got me as this evil, 1960s, liberal anti-war protestor who takes people in psychedelic painted buses down to the train depot to protest whenever Republicans come through. This campaign business is tough.'

perating. But when I go out, the one thing that's different this time from last is that I have a real stump speech. I talk about education, the environment, the economy, and equality. It makes it easy to remember—my four "E"s. I say education is my top priority, why more money ought to be going to Head Start, why education leads to a satisfying life, that it makes people citizens of their global environment. I go through environmental things—global warming, rain forests, the ozone layer. Then I talk about the partnerships between business, education, government—not government providing all the jobs, but government being there and assisting. Then I talk about equality,

about how discrimination and prejudice have ruined the way we relate to one another. Then I say this is a different spirit, a different orientation than the one we're getting out of her.

Okay, I see how you don't think Seastrand is doing a good job in Washington. But why do you want to go there, and why should we think you'll do better? I'll be good at it.

Why?

I'll be great. The hardest thing for me is to get elected, to campaign, but once I get there I'll be really good at bringing people together. For example, last week in San Luis we were supposed to have a press conference with John Garamendi on tourism and the environment. Well, he couldn't show. But we were there, and we had all these people there representing tourism, environmental people, and cattlemen and women. What happened was somebody said since we're all here, can't we have the discussion anyway? I thought, why not? I ended up moderating that discussion, and afterward they all said they learned more about one another than they'd known before. The tourism woman said she'd never talked with cattlemen before.

That kind of talk is great, but sometimes people just have very conflicting interests that can't be cleared away through conversation. For example, the strawberry industry is huge, and it claims it can't survive without the fumigant methyl bromide. But the environmentalists say that methyl bromide is helping to destroy the world's ozone layer.

On that one, I'm against methyl bromide. I'd vote against that. I think you have to live with the decisions that you've made, but that's okay if you've really thought the thing through and you're informed.

So many people are behind bars because of drugs and alcohol. Prisons are phenomenally expensive to run; people there just get worse, not better, and the war on drugs is not working. Isn't it time to consider legalizing drugs?

I don't want politicians talking about this. Let's bring the medical people, the therapists, people who have been drug users, who have experimented, let's bring them all together. Let's talk about it. Let's make this something that becomes a national concern, but not just say, "We've got a war on drugs." The way the 104th Congress does everything is to declare war. They've put people in prison, built bigger walls; everything undesirable gets excluded, but that doesn't solve anything.

You ever smoke pot?

No.

No?

I never have, but I've been accused of it by a paper in Paso Robles. I was described in the paper there: "He is a self-confessed habitual drug user." [The paper later issued a retraction.]

Are you kidding?

No, I'm not kidding. Seastrand has got me as this evil, 1960s, liberal anti-war protestor who takes people in psychedelic painted buses down to the train depot to protest whenever Republicans come through. It's hard. This campaign business is tough.

What's your feeling on the statewide proposition that would allow people to use pot for medicinal purposes?

I'm opposed to that.

Why?

I talked to all these doctors. And I talked to the pharmacists and I came to the conclusion that there are better ways to deal with the kinds of things people are smoking marijuana for. In Prop. 215, there are no limits placed on the amount of marijuana you can grow in your front yard, and it could be given on the basis of prescriptions either written or verbal. I thought it was a bad law. I've got the medical community behind me.

What role do you think the government should play in regulating tobacco?

Oh, I don't know, I haven't thought the matter through. I would think the kind of talk we are getting from the president and vice-president is probably positive. But I see it primarily as a health matter, and not as a criminal matter to be dealt with by laws and things like that. It's back to the old idea where you wish you had a government you didn't have to think about all the time. I don't want to live in a police state.

Do you think the government should require TV makers to install V-chips so that parents can screen for violent or sexual programming?

I would appeal to people in the industry to do what they can. I'm not for creating a whole bunch of laws like that, you know?

President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which gives states the right to withhold legal recognition of gay marriages. How would you have voted?

In terms of the technicality of the Defense of Marriage Act, I would vote against that because the national government should not be

telling states what their rules about marriage should be. On the other hand, you can't just leave marriage in a limbo state.

Gay and lesbian friends of mine are saying, "I'm not putting Capps bumper stickers on my car. He's as wimpy as Jack O'Connell." [State Senator O'Connell voted for a bill that said only a marriage between a man and a woman would be considered legal in California.] At the same time, Seastrand is claiming you want to subsidize gay marriage.

I do think Jack is right. When you bring up gay marriages, there is some ambiguity there about the meaning of the word "marriage" because the churches haven't defined it for sure, and the states are still struggling with it. So I don't have perfect clarity on that one, but I think I can get it.

Isn't this country about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? If two people want to get married, whatever their sexual orientation, where does the state get off having any say at all over this?

Oh, man. Oh, boy. I know how I feel and you know how I feel about this.

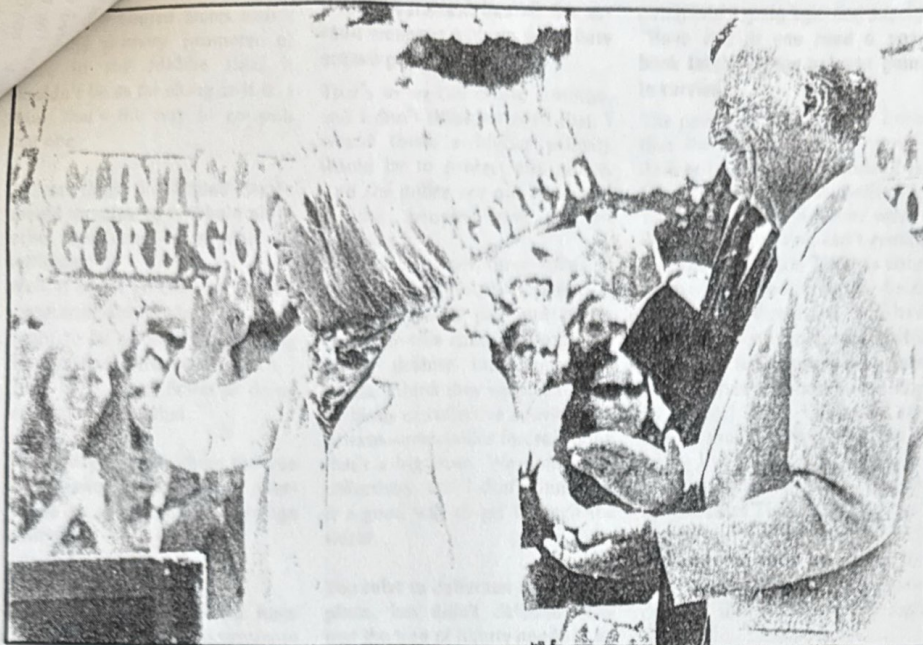
No, I don't. I think I do, but I really don't.

Well, I'll tell you. Recently I went to a meeting of some labor folks, and one woman there asked, "What think ye of Jesus Christ?" I wanted to humor her through it, but then she said, "What are your views on marriage?" I said I came down here to talk about labor and unions, but I showed her my wedding ring—36 years I've been wearing it, married to the same woman. "That's not what I mean," she said. "What do you think about homosexuals getting married?" And I said, "I think you want to make a statement on that." I was waiting for people in the room to help me. But, no. So I told her what I thought.

What did you tell her?

I told her that I believe in civil rights. I believe that when people take vows to one another and keep those vows, that is a good thing for society. I believe in the stability of those kinds of relationships. I knew I had lost her, because she wouldn't let me finish, and she said, "What about abortion?" I said, "I am a believer in choice. I don't want the government interfering in a woman's right to make that choice." I said, "Absolutely." Absolutely, like that. This other guy said, "You're not a Christian." And I said, "We're not contesting my Christianity; we're contesting being a

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For being such a political beginner, Capps has many friends in high places, like Hillary Clinton speaking on Capps's behalf at a recent rally at Santa Barbara City College.

Cont'd from previous page: congressman." In the following week, I got one of the most eloquent letters I've ever received from the guy who had told me I was not a Christian, apologizing. And I got the endorsement. The story in Washington is don't mess around with a theologian. Capps is better on those questions than he is on labor questions.

What do you think about Prop. 209, the initiative that, depending on your position, would outlaw affirmative action or preferences in state institutions?

I am in favor of retaining affirmative action but bringing it up to date.

How so?

Something created in the 1960s can't still be valid in all respects by the '90s. But in the main, affirmative action has been a good thing. I think it has forced the University of California to hire minorities and women, and that probably wouldn't have happened otherwise. I don't think we're done with it. I don't think there's fairness yet.

How far do you think we've got to go?

I think there's more racism in our society today than there was a decade ago. And Prop. 209 is an example of it. It plays on the fears and suspicions of people. I don't think there's any big problem with affirmative action, we just haven't carried out its goals yet.

Okay, going on to another diversity issue, you're all but accused of inviting the immigrants over.

That's scare tactics again.

Seastrand's ads say you would give welfare benefits to illegal immigrants. Not true?

First of all, it's against the law to give welfare money to illegal immigrants. They can't get welfare

money, and they don't get welfare money. All that's based on my opposition to Prop. 187 two years ago. I thought it was a bad initiative, unenforceable, and probably unconstitutional. As an educator, I didn't want principals and teachers having to police the law. When our son was teaching third grade that year, he asked a little girl in his class why she was wearing her backpack in class. She said, "Mr. Capps, are you going to take me to jail today? Are you going to take me to jail?" I don't want to penalize the children of illegal immigrants.

So would you have voted for the immigration bill just passed by Congress?

Yes, I would have voted for it. But I would not have voted for it had the amendment not been defeated that prevented children of illegal

immigrants from going to school. There's no way to support illegal immigration; the cost is getting way beyond our means. I think we ought to have stronger border controls and fraud-resistant identification certificates. But had I been in Congress, I would have said, "Okay, this bill goes the right way, but it has to include penalties against employers, and it can't be discriminatory against legal immigrants."

But the bill does cut off all kinds of welfare benefits to legal immigrants.

I would have worked hard to strike all that kind of language from the bill. I think to bring national policy up to date on immigration is probably the right thing and there had to be a crackdown. I

think it is out of control. But I don't think it is a good bill.

If you get elected, what committees would you like to serve on?

My own personal preferences would be to sit on whatever committees work with education. That goes across the board. I'd also like to be on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Apparently nobody wants that, but I like that stuff because I've been working with veterans. I would also hope to work on the International Relations Committee because I've been thinking more and more about global things, especially the environment—ozone depletion, global warming, and the rain forests. I don't think many people running for Congress think about international affairs very much, but I do.

So what do you think of our recent bombing of Iraq? Had you been there, what would your advice have been?

I don't know. What I did on that was talk to Bob Kerrey about it, and he said he's looking into it. He thought the president was moving in the right direction. That's about as far as I could go, because I don't know.

What about Israel—what role do you think the United States should be playing?

Doing what it's doing. And that is to try to support the peace process that was started way back with Jimmy Carter. Just keep after it.

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When Walter Capps was recuperating in the hospital from the car crash, his wife, Lois, filled in for him, as in this get-out-the-vote rally.

...what Clinton did. I think the United States hadn't the primary promoter of peace in the Middle East, it wouldn't be as far along as it is. I think that's the way to go with that one.

Do you think the United States should threaten to withhold aid if Israel continues to expand its settlements?

Well, it might go that far. I think sometimes the leaders of Israel ought to be scolded for violating the dictates of the peace policy. I think the United States is doing what it should in that.

What do you think about the use of assassination and covert operations as a tool of U.S. foreign policy?

I don't care for that.

You don't think it would have been useful to assassinate Khomeini or Saddam Hussein?

No. No, I wouldn't do that.

What do you think about Bob Dole's proposed 15-percent tax cut?

Oh, I don't know. That's just election-year stuff.

What difference does it make to you if we don't have a balanced budget?

We're spending way too much for interest on the debt. Congress has discretionary ability over less than 30 percent of the budget. Everything else is already gone to pay for increased costs of Medicare, to Social Security, and to service the national debt.

Seastrand and Gingrich have been attacked for cutting Medicare. They say they're just reducing the rate of growth. Clinton also says he wants to reduce the rate of growth, but just not by so much.

Our estimates are that the cost of the program is up about 12 to 14 percent a year, not because of waste and fraud, but because people live longer. There are more people on it.

So how would you fix it?

I'd go with Clinton.

Let's talk guns and gun control for a second.

I want to get assault weapons off the streets. I'm in favor of the Brady Bill. I want to get violence out of the schools. I think this society has become far too violent. So, I'm on the side of pushing the Brady Bill even further. There's not too much more to say about it. I just want to get assault weapons out of here—things that are here to kill people.

The Second Amendment argument is that we need weapons not so people can go duck hunting, but so that we can defend ourselves

against government tyranny. And if the government has all the assault weapons and we don't, how are we going to do that?

That's so we can create a militia, and I don't think we need that. I would think a higher priority would be to protect the police. And the police are not protected if the people have assault weapons.

There are now three times as many private security police as there are police paid out of tax money in this country. People are taking defense into their own hands. I think they want to replace all kinds of collective activity with private—even police forces. I think that's a big issue. We don't have collectivity, and I don't think this is a good way to get through the world.

You refer to Jefferson all over the place, but didn't Jefferson say that the tree of liberty needs to be regularly nourished with the blood of revolution?

I don't believe that one. I think we already had the revolution. I think what's wrong is that government

'Andrea Seastrand's primary objective is to move toward a constitutional ban on abortion. I think it's pretty hard to stand up and tell the people of this district that is what you've done.'

has been so much at odds with the will of the people that we're all nervous about it. Gingrich said let's give government back to the states and get rid of Washington and we'll be better off. But does Sacramento work better than Washington? It doesn't look like it.

I would think you could create a system where government would be so efficient—the word I like to use is smart—that everybody would not be nervous about it all the time because they would trust the people who are doing it. That would be the goal.

This is where I wonder, here's this guy who wants to serve and represent his community—that's very nice—but he's going to Washington, D.C., where everything is intensely political and partisan, and he's going to want

to talk the issues. It's kind of like going into a gang fight and saying, "Have any of you read a good book lately?" How are you going to survive?

The people in this country know that the way Congress operates does not produce the kinds of results that are good politically. There's got to be a better way to do this. I know you can't remain virginal in politics. There is contamination, and you're being pulled in all directions. You have to be sure you're true to what you know to be true. The big test will be when [Democratic minority leader] Dick Gephardt says this is the way we want you to vote. I've asked people—other congressmen—what do you do in that case? They say if you can't do it, you can't do it. I don't think I'm going to agonize about it. I think I'll truly be independent. I think I'll do the right thing.

When Hillary Clinton was in town you introduced her with a speech in which you talked about "the life of the spirit," something you talk a lot about. What does that mean?

I think one of the reasons young people don't get into politics is because in some ways they've seen through it, and they're cynical about it. Maybe not cynical; maybe they just don't think very much is going to come from politics. If you compare listening to music that really moves you to what you get from hanging around politics, music wins out every time. That's what I mean by life of the spirit. You can identify the things that nurture you pretty quickly, and politics is usually not that. Politics is, well, real ramshackle. It's contentious. And you have to fight. Truly, you have to fight for your soul every day in politics, every day you go out there.

Given that, why do you want to be in politics?

I want to change that.

How will you know if you've succeeded or not?

It sounds corny, but I'd like to be able to come back to the students I've taught over the last 32 years and say: "I tried to convince you that you can be idealists, but you can't simply be idealists in a sort of hypothetical way. You have to find the ways to put your ideals into action. I've tested that and found that you can do it. And now that I've found that's the case, I'd like to see you folks go out and do it because I'd like to go back and teach some more." If I can't pull that off, I'll just have to tell people I tried, I did my best, but I couldn't do it. But I'm not going to go and become somebody else.

Seastrand voted for cuts in education program

SEP. 27 1996

To the editor: As our children return to school, we must let Congress know that education is critical to our children's ability to compete in the global economy and that education funding should be the last place we cut, not the first. This Congress threatens our children's education by voting to cut education funds.

This summer, the House of Representatives voted to cut education funding by \$395 million when it passed HR 3755. This cut is in addition to \$1 billion that has been taken out of education funding since January 1995. If monies are not restored to education in the Senate, teacher training programs, the "Safe and Drug-Free Schools" program, and low-interest loans to college students will suffer.

The cuts to education will be felt as public elementary and secondary school enrollment rises. We will need additional teachers, schools, and approximately \$15 billion more just to maintain current K-12 student services by 2006 according to the Department of Education.

Our representative, Andrea Seastrand, voted for HR 3755 and the cuts it would make to education.

Pegi S. Vaudrey
San Luis Obispo

Seastrand trying to take care of Medicare

OCT. - 5 1996

To the editor: In the October 1996 edition of the Readers Digest, there is a good article titled "Big Labor's Big Bucks." I am 85 years old and I would suggest that everyone, especially my fellow seniors, read it.

Democrats piously decry the involvement of "special interest" money in politics, then slyly run "independent" smear campaigns against selected congressmen/women (hypocritically avoiding donation limits).

Labor unions have bragged about how they have spent more than \$40 million to say that congressmen/women like Andrea Seastrand "cut" Medicare, when in fact, she voted to increase Medicare

spending by 7 percent per year through the year 2002.

She is trying to responsibly take care of the Medicare and other problems while there is still time for a reasonable solution. Those union ads are lies.

If we as a country don't become more responsible, my grandchildren and your grandchildren will soon be paying 83 percent of their income in taxes. (This is from Clinton's budget proposal.) Please vote for Seastrand, Dole and your grandchildren.

Wilma C. Gustafson
Morro Bay

Senate Passes Parks Bill Forcing Sale of Key Santa Cruz Island Property

■ **Land:** U.S. has sought Francis Gherini's parcel for years. Seastrand's legislation is aimed at completing Channel Islands National Park.

L.A. Times - V

By SCOTT STEEPLETON
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

OCT. - 4 1996

The U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a sweeping parks bill that forces the last individual property owner on Santa Cruz Island to sell his interest, thus completing the Channel Islands National Park.

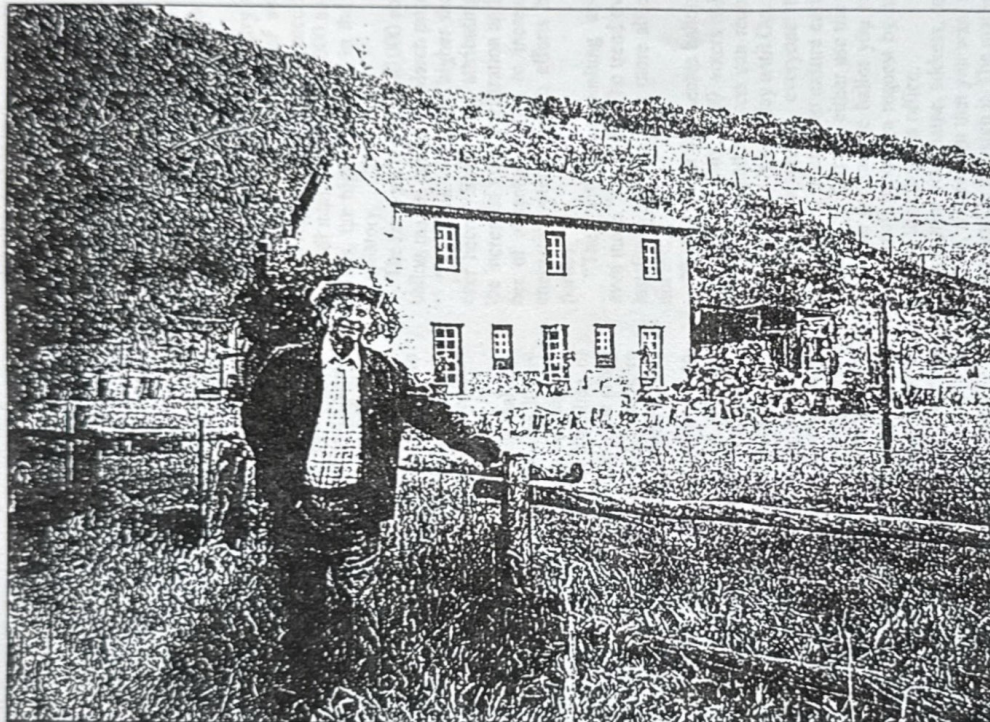
The measure, if approved by leaders of the House of Representatives and President Clinton, could allow the federal government to take control of the 6,200-acre ranch within 90 days and eventually turn the island 20 miles off the Ventura coast into a popular camping and hiking destination.

"I applaud the Senate's actions in passing the parks bill because the last puzzle piece of this national treasure can finally be put into place," said Rep. Andrea Seastrand (R-Shell Beach), who attached the measure to the parks bill. "Santa Cruz Island belongs to all of us and by protecting this amazing resource, the Central Coast will continue to enjoy it for future generations."

As the park grows so too will Santa Cruz Island as a tourist draw, providing an alternative to the smaller Anacapa Island that sees most of the park's traffic.

"Santa Cruz is closer to individuals leaving from Santa Barbara. It will provide easier access to the park than some of the outer islands," said Carol Spears, a Channel Islands park spokeswoman.

The bill also calls for changing the name of the park's visitors center to honor the man who authored the initial legislation des-



Francis Gherini, shown in 1994, owns a property on Santa Cruz Island the government wants to buy.

ignating the five-island park: former U.S. Rep. Robert J. Lagomarsino of Ventura County.

"If somebody had told me 16 years ago that it would take 16 years to complete this park, I would have been disappointed," said Lagomarsino, who now lives at Solimar Beach and enjoys a spectacular view of the islands.

For years, the National Park Service has been negotiating with Francis Gherini to purchase his remaining 25% interest in the 6,200-acre ranch on the east end of the island. Gherini's three siblings already have sold their interests to

the government.

But Gherini has held out, arguing that the government was trying to take his land at less than fair market value. In the meantime, he has allowed sheep to denude the land, to the dismay of park officials

trying to preserve the natural environment.

When Seastrand proposed legislation last month to force a sale, the 82-year-old Gherini balked, saying: "Andrea Seastrand has rocked the boat and I think it's a matter of

politics."

He turned to former U.S. Secretary of the Interior William P. Clark, a Paso Robles resident, for assistance.

What Clark and Seastrand came up with is a compromise that calls for purchase at fair market value while allowing the preservation of the land, Clark said. If a deal is not worked out after a year of negotiations, the matter winds up in court. Gherini's land has been valued at \$2 million to \$3 million.

"Both Francis and I and the parks service are satisfied with the way Congresswoman Seastrand has proceeded in this. She's been most reasonable in taking the lead in this legislation," Clark said.

Due to his attachment to the land, which has been in his family since 1869, Gherini will ask that he and his family be permitted to use

the island property after the transfer, Clark said. That use could last for at least 25 years.

As for the hunting and other concessions operating on the Gherini property, Clark said, "we've been assured of a reasonable transition on the activities there."

Park Supt. Tim Setnicka said the island would include a historic tribute to Gherini's family and other ranchers who have owned land on Santa Cruz.

The parks bill passed the House over the weekend, and environmentalists and friends of the national park were waiting anxiously for the bill to make it through negotiations between the Senate and the White House.

With slight changes, the bill must go back to House leaders and then on to the president's desk for his signature.

Santa Barbara Independent

Environment

OCT. 10 1996

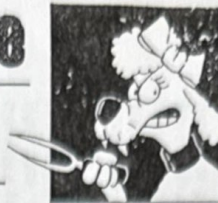
Santa Cruz Island Ranch Becomes National Park: Santa Cruz Island will soon become every inch a national park. President Clinton is expected to sign legislation this week, sponsored by Representative Andrea Seastrand, authorizing the government to take possession of a 6,200-acre ranch on the island's eastern end. The ranch owner, Ventura attorney Francis Gherini, runs sheep on the island, and a business called Island Adventures that offers boating, camping trips, lodging, and hunting. The National Parks Service plan would implement free camping, hiking, and guided nature walks as on the other islands. Four years ago, Gherini's three siblings sold their interest in the land to the federal government for \$12 million, but Gherini has held out for a better price. The federal government is to pay fair market value for the land under condemnation proceedings, though the price has yet to be decided.

A Kennedy, actors appear for Capps
OCT. - 5 1996

SANTA BARBARA — Walter Capps, the Democratic candidate for the 22nd Congressional District, will rub elbows with celebrities as well as congressmen at two fundraisers on Sunday.

Actors Jeff Bridges and Michael Douglas will join musician Kenny Loggins and Santa Barbara-area artists and entertainment executives at a Montecito fundraiser for Capps from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Capps will be at the Hope Ranch near Santa Barbara for a fundraising brunch to be attended by Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, the son of Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.



Dogs in the Manger

Santa Barbara Independent OCT. 10 1996

YOU LOOK SIMPLY MAHVUHLUSS: I am increasingly amazed by the depths to which our ever-perky and always-spunky **Andrea Seastrand** will go just to be reelected to Congress. By now, some of you have probably seen her TV ads equating her chief rival, **Walter Capps**, with **Polly Klaas's** killer, **Richard Allen Davis**. One would like to blame this ad on a batch of especially bad methamphetamine, but the simple truth is that Seastrand is a desperate woman in search of desperate times. Her ad starts off: Only two people were upset when Richard Allen Davis was sentenced to death—Richard Allen Davis and Walter Capps. We see a photo of Davis. He is labeled "killer." Next we see a photo of Capps labeled "liberal." The alleged point here is to say that Capps opposes the death penalty and wants Davis to spend the rest of his life behind bars eating macaroni and watching bad TV at taxpayer expense. Seastrand, on the other hand, believes very much in the death penalty and no doubt would support burning people at the stake. Capps, for the record, has spoken out against the death penalty in the past. In fact, he was quoted in this paper two years ago saying, "I'm on record against it. I say so because it's not a very effective deterrent." He also said he wasn't "an absolutist" about it. The limits of his absolutism were evident Wednesday, when his campaign denounced the Seastrand ad, calling it

"outrageous and totally inaccurate," adding, "Walter Capps supports the death penalty for brutal killers like Richard Allen Davis." Also for the record, the Polly Klaas Foundation has blistered the Seastrand ad for shamelessly pimping the death of an innocent girl for political purposes.

Both Capps and Seastrand happened to be in the same church at the same time this Sunday, the Old Mission. They sat across the aisle from each other, in fact, but when it came time for the Kiss of Peace part of the service, neither one could muster what it took to shake hands. It just so happened that **Father Vince** delivered a sermon on the death penalty and abortion that day. It seemed pointed, given that Seastrand favors the former, Capps favors the latter, and the Catholic Church opposes both. Father Vince said there was no pox-on-both-your-houses at work. He'd written the homily before he knew Capps would be there, and he never knew Seastrand was going to show. This Sunday had been designated by the church as "Respect Life" Sunday, and October "Respect Life" month.

The real action in the congressional candidates' debate at the downtown library this Monday night took place, as always, in the back of the room. **Bob Hamilton** of Santa Barbara's Stonewall Club—the group of gay Democratic activists—is hosting an Andrea Seastrand look-alike contest on October 24 at the Forum. Hamilton approached Seastrand's campaign assistant, **Will Bos**, the no-nonsense kind of guy who gives the impression he might sustain serious bodily harm should he ever smile, and asked him if Seastrand herself would honor the event as the judge. It could have been a facial twitch, a momentary muscle spasm, but it did seem that for just a nanosecond, Will Bos actually smiled. Andrea, Bos assured Hamilton, would be previously engaged that night.

Santa Barbara Independent
OCT. 10 1996

Wheeler Can't Come to Debate: Steve Wheeler, an independent candidate for U.S. Congress in the 22nd District, has something in common with Ross Perot. Both have been not-invited to a televised debate between the Democratic and Republican candidates. Wheeler argued that he is a viable candidate, and accused KEYT of "media prostitution" because the Democratic and Republican party candidates buy a lot of advertising. "The last time I looked up viable in the dictionary," said station manager Byron Elton, "it said capable of succeeding." A KEYT call-in survey in August gave Wheeler 7 percent of the vote. Elton said the fairest thing to do would be to invite all six candidates, but there's "no logistical way we can do that in a one-hour format and expect anything but sound bites." Instead, as a result of the controversy, the station has offered to air two-minute unedited statements from Wheeler, and from the candidates of the Libertarian, Reform, and Natural Law parties, at the end of the debates.

County reports record-high registration

Santa Maria Times
By Times Staff OCT. - 7 1996

Santa Barbara County elections officials reported record high voter registration totals today, the final day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 election.

Furthermore, officials predict they will send out a record number of absentee ballots to the increased voter population.

Elections Division Manager Bob Smith said more than 233,000 county residents registered to vote as of today, significantly higher than the 209,000 registered for the 1992 presidential election.

The previous high was 225,000 in this year's March primary, Smith said.

"The reality is that we've got a higher registration now than we've ever had," Smith said.

That increase will likely carry with it an increase in the amount of absentee ballots requested. Smith estimated his office will mail out at least 50,000 absentee ballots, the highest number in the county's history.

The previous high was 40,000 absentee ballots mailed out for the March primary.

"We think it will go higher than it's ever been," Smith said, attributing both the increased voter registration and number of absentee ballots to increasingly energetic voter outreach efforts by the parties.

"The parties are pushing absentee even more," he said. "The trend over the last four years has been more absentees, not less."

The first batch of absentee ballots were sent out today to 8,000 voters who requested them early. Voters can request an absentee ballot from today until Oct. 29.

Smith encouraged everyone to get their request in early to ensure early ballot delivery. You can either use the application on the sample ballot you receive in the mail or send a request by mail or fax into the elections office.

Just print your name, address, mailing address, a statement that you want an absentee ballot, and sign it. The mailing address for the elections division is P.O. Box 159, Santa Barbara, 93102, and the fax number is 568-2209.

It is still possible to register to vote today. You have until 5 p.m., and can register at Santa Maria's Betteravia Government Center at 511 E. Lakeside Parkway or Lompoc's county offices at 401 E. Cypress Ave. To determine your registration status, call the county's toll-free number at (800) SBC-VOTE.

Cast off failed liberalism

Santa Maria Times OCT. - 7 1996

To the Editor:
Most true conservatives believe we should each row our own boat, while respecting others' right-of-way; liberals think all boats should be chained together by heavy taxes, pulling a sluggish barge called government, with many non-rowing passengers.

Big government's barge has been in the water for at least 50 years. Have we learned anything? First, much of our national treasure has been wasted, both in human lives and in dollars. We now are taxed over 45 percent of income to support governments at all levels. The welfare trap dooms thousands to dependence on bureaucracy. Illegal drugs feast on the despair created by government programs.

Stupid political decisions at the presidential level in liberal administration (Truman and Kennedy/Johnson) cost thousands of lives in two wars micro-managed from Washington, D.C. The Korean and Vietnam Wars are both disgraceful monuments to liberal political thought. And, there is much more.

1996's disciples of liberalism, personified by President Bill Clinton, Walter Capps, Betty Sanders, David Blakely and Peg Pinard, all posture and "re-invent" themselves as independents or progressives. Laughable yet despicable. If they lie to get your vote, they'll lie more when in power.

To cast off the chains of failed liberalism, voters must study history and engage brain before casting ballots.

Art Anthony
Pismo Beach

Capps' 'Little Vacations' Should Not Be On Taxpayers' Tab

Travis Moon

UCSB Nexus OCT. - 3 1996

It simply would not do my feelings justice to say that I wouldn't vote for Andrea Seastrand if my life depended on it. Stating, instead, that I believe that she is the embodiment, the epitome of ignorance and evil is a little closer to how I'm feeling about our representative.

Nevertheless, I do have some concerns about everyone's favorite professor-politician, Walter Capps. I have recently heard his foes describe Capps as one of those dreaded "tax and spend liberals." Unfortunately, I have some firsthand knowledge that there is some truth to this charge.

Two summers ago, while a tenant at Studio Plaza Apartments here in Isla Vista, I had the misfortune of meeting a handful of educators from across America who had arrived in Santa Barbara to attend a six-week course on "Democracy in America," hosted and taught by Walter Capps. The "students," mostly secondary teachers, had come to UCSB to read a little Tocqueville in hopes of sharing with their students, upon returning to their jobs, some of their newly acquired knowledge about democracy and American institutions.

Upon doing a little research, I learned that the course was financed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded to Walter Capps.

So far, so good, right? Well, each apartment (and each participant received his or her own) cost about 500 smacks a month. There were about 20 "students" in the group. Well, to make a long story a little longer, I must say that I witnessed very little studying in those six weeks.

You may probably ask, "How the hell does Travis know what these

people were doing in their apartments?" The only answer is that these people didn't spend time in their apartments — they spent most every spare moment laying out at the apartment pool, taking in the rays, playing billiards, sitting in the sauna, playing tennis and watching television, all of which I witnessed.

I spoke to more than a couple of these students, who readily and candidly admitted that they took advantage of these grant courses to enjoy a little vacation. Did I say "little vacation"? Perish the thought! The six weeks included trips to the Channel Islands, Solvang, Disneyland and Universal Studios, among other places. A few of the students assured me that all entertainment was included in the price of the course, which was paid for by me, Travis Moon, and every other taxpayer. A few of the students had been coming for a few years.

"What happens," I asked a student who was proud to be a Marxist, "if you don't pass the course?"

"Nothing," he replied. "What can they do?"

So there it is. On paper, Walter Capps applied for and was awarded a federal grant for his summer course

to help select applicants learn a little bit about "Democracy in America." The truth, however, is that more than a few of these applicants viewed the course as a free vacation to Santa Barbara with the taxpayer footing the bill. By their own admission, they neither studied hard nor did they have to pay their costs if they did not perform well in the class.

This is completely irresponsible and wrong. This is, to me, precisely what is wrong with government today. With all the fiscal problems in our national, state and local governments, I'm flabbergasted and angry that there should be any money to pay for free vacations for professional freeloaders.

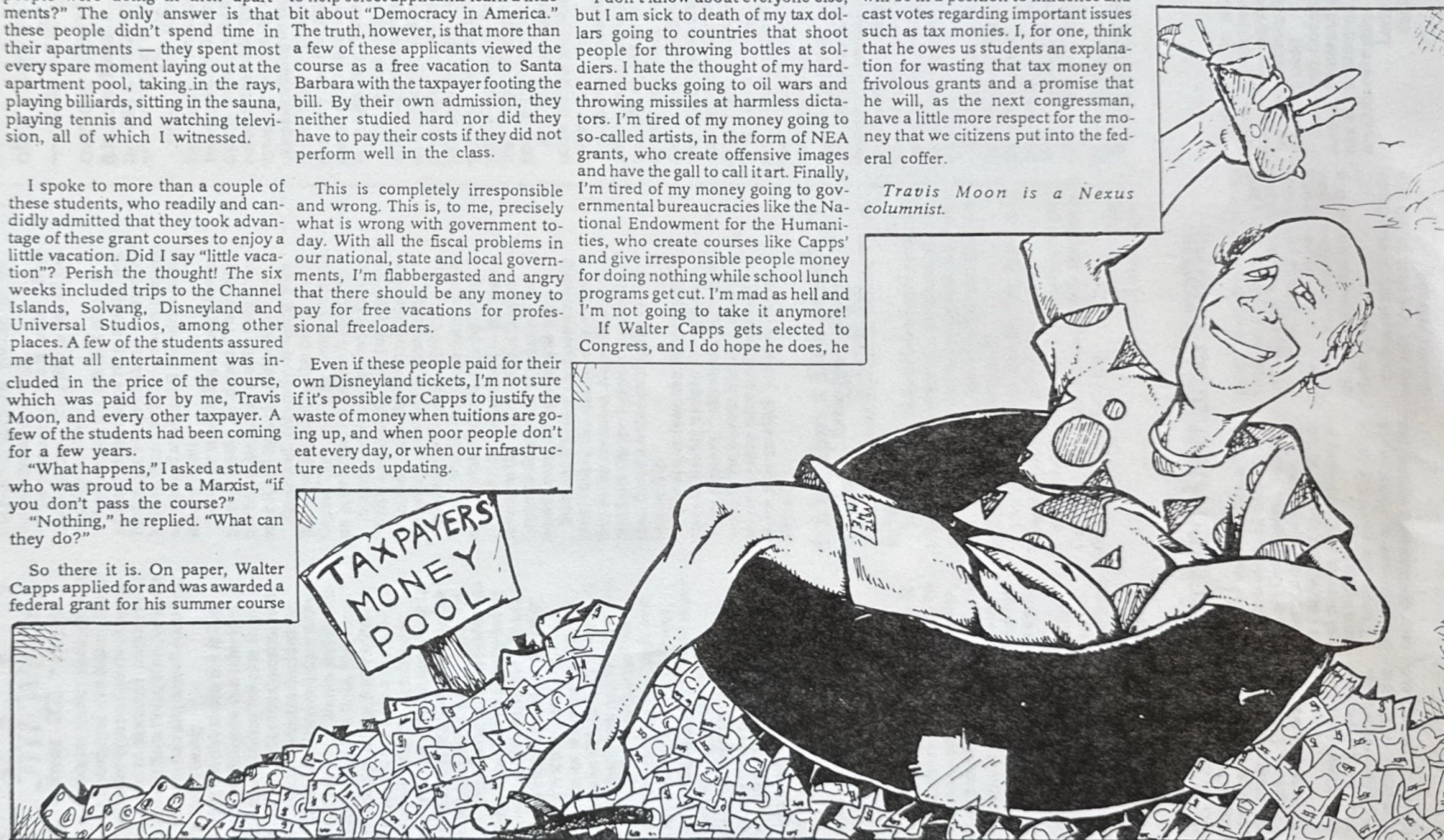
Even if these people paid for their own Disneyland tickets, I'm not sure if it's possible for Capps to justify the waste of money when tuitions are going up, and when poor people don't eat every day, or when our infrastructure needs updating.

I don't know about everyone else, but I am sick to death of my tax dollars going to countries that shoot people for throwing bottles at soldiers. I hate the thought of my hard-earned bucks going to oil wars and throwing missiles at harmless dictators. I'm tired of my money going to so-called artists, in the form of NEA grants, who create offensive images and have the gall to call it art. Finally, I'm tired of my money going to governmental bureaucracies like the National Endowment for the Humanities, who create courses like Capps' and give irresponsible people money for doing nothing while school lunch programs get cut. I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!

If Walter Capps gets elected to Congress, and I do hope he does, he

will be in a position to influence and cast votes regarding important issues such as tax monies. I, for one, think that he owes us students an explanation for wasting that tax money on frivolous grants and a promise that he will, as the next congressman, have a little more respect for the money that we citizens put into the federal coffer.

Travis Moon is a Nexus columnist.



political notebook

NORA K. WALLACE

Candidate left feeling like 3rd wheel

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 8 1996

The Wheeler factor: Independent congressional candidate Steve Wheeler bears no physical resemblance to thwarted presidential debater Ross Perot. Wheeler's a lot taller, has more hair and doesn't quite have Perot's Texas twang.

But what the duo share is a failed attempt to participate in a televised debate. Perot's taking his case to the federal courts, after the Commission on Presidential Debates decided he would not be admitted to either debate between President Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole. The commission concluded the Reform Party candidate does not have a realistic chance of winning the presidency.

Wheeler, a Santa Barbaran trying to unseat Rep. Andrea Seastrand for the 22nd Congressional District seat, says he knows how Perot feels. Wheeler has repeatedly complained about what he perceives is exclusion in his role as an alternative candidate to Democratic challenger Walter Capps.

Now Wheeler is incensed at being barred from an Oct. 21 KEYT televised debate, and he's accusing the television station of "media prostitution" for its decision. He also says the Capps campaign is pulling the station's strings, alleging the Democrat is worried about Wheeler's impact on the race.

"This could be a breakthrough for me," Wheeler says of the televised debate. "With all the negative campaign ads, people are fed up with both parties. They'll be looking for options."

"If I do well in that, and I know I will, that could swing the whole thing around. I don't think I'm unrealistic about that. I really believe this is wrong."

Byron Elton, the general manager of KEYT, said the decision was purely an internal one — mainly dictated by the hour-long debate format. With six legally qualified candidates, he said, there was no way the station could conduct a "meaningful" debate with everyone.

"We opted to invite the two leading candidates; in reality the only two who have a chance," Elton said. "It has little to do with Steve Wheeler and everything to do with our ability to put on a meaningful debate."

Also in the race are Dick Porter, Reform Party; David Bersohn, Libertarian and Dawn Tomastik, Natural Law Party.

Those candidates, as well as Wheeler, have been offered an opportunity for free air time, however. These four candidates, Elton said, can each tape a two-minute, unedited spot that will air immediately following the debate.

Despite Wheeler's allegations, Capps had nothing to do with the station's decision, insists Steve Boyd, the campaign's press director. In fact, he thinks the hubbub has been "cooked up" by the Seastrand campaign.

"We're ready to face Wheeler," Boyd said Monday. "We'd like to see all the candidates there."

Boyd denies the talk that Wheeler is a threat to the Capps race, saying Dick Porter has a huge bankroll — reportedly more than \$100,000 — and represents as much of a potential vote draw as the independent.

"Neither is breaking through the 2 percent level," Boyd said. "They will not be major players in the race. I'm sure it will be a close election."

Seastrand, naturally, is siding with Wheeler, and putting the blame on Capps. They say Capps refuses to show up at debates if Wheeler is included.

In a press release last week labeled "Who's afraid of the big, bad wolf?" Seastrand, who has been targeted for defeat by numerous organizations, denounced what she called Capps' "strong arm tactics, especially in light of his pious claims to be a Jefferson Democrat and interested in an open forum on the issues. Who is Walter Capps to determine who should be heard from and who should not?"

Some of Wheeler's supporters have been calling the station, demanding that he be included. Nancy Soelberg, a San Luis Obispo human resource assistant, faxed a letter calling the action censorship.

"The voters have the right to see all sides of the big picture, not just the 'front runners,'" she wrote. "It is time to get to the bottom line and allow the voters to make educated decisions about who we elect to support us in office."

Isn't Capps a Democrat?

To the Editor: Santa Maria Times OCT. - 6 1996

I have been watching with interest the TV ads for Walter Capps.

He professes to be an independent in these ads. Is he afraid to list himself as a Democrat, or is he ashamed of the way the Democrats have been acting via their buddies, the AFL-CIO and their ads against Rep. Andrea Seastrand?

Last election, he ran with the "big dogs" and showed himself to be with the tax-and-spend liberals all the way. Is he a turncoat to the Democratic Party and disavowing their liberalism the way Bill Clinton is doing?

Fred Irvine
Santa Maria

Seastrand, Capps cry foul over vicious ads

Both fume over the other's commercials — while insisting their own are accurate.

S.B. News-Press
By NORA K. WALLACE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER
OCT. 10 1996

Although both Republican Rep. Andrea Seastrand and Democratic challenger Walter Capps have spoken about restoring the public trust in government — and of running campaigns based on issues, not sound bites — advertising in the race for the 22nd Congressional District seat seems to be defeating that intent.

The recent ads, on both sides, are being scripted with an increasingly strident, poke-in-the-nose approach. With little more than three weeks to go before the Nov. 5 election, voters' emotions, far more than their intellects, have become the target of choice.

And each side blames the other for the way things are going.

Within this increasingly hostile environment, the latest ad to elicit a cry of foul is paid for by the Seastrand campaign and is now airing on local television stations. Capps and condemned killer Richard Allen Davis are portrayed as being equally upset by the recent death sentence against Davis for the murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas.

Although the ad has elicited condemnation from some viewers, it is another in a line of particularly pointed advertisements from both sides in the campaign that provides voters with half-truths rather than full accounts.

The current ad intones: "When Richard Allen Davis got the death penalty he rightly deserved for murdering Polly Klaas, two people were disappointed: Richard Allen

SEE CAMPAIGN
Cont'd to next page

Capps wants to restrict 2nd Amendment rights

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 9 1996

During the Los Angeles riots, gangs broke into gun stores and armed themselves. Law-abiding residents had to wait 15 days.

Judges have invalidated California's three-strikes law, claiming sole discretion to release violent offenders like the killer of Polly Klaas and the

killer of the Stockton school children over and over again.

Hand Gun Control, Inc. and congressional candidate Walter Capps want to severely tax and restrict your 2nd Amendment rights.

These are not "Saturday Night Special" laws that would only discriminate against the

poor. These are 1,000 percent taxes and regulations which are intended to evolve into total prohibition of gun ownership — brought to you by people who used to call themselves the National Coalition to Ban Handguns.

Call candidate Walter Capps and tell him that 20,000 gun laws are enough!

And ask him, How can we win the war on crime and drugs by disarming only the law abiding? Then ask him, Walter, who threw the rock?

Then call Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand and thank her for protecting your 2nd Amendment rights.

Larry R. Rankin
Santa Barbara

CAMPAIGN

Cont'd from previous page

Davis and Walter Capps. Walter Capps is against the death penalty... Walter Capps cares about criminals. Andrea Seastrand cares about victims."

The use of biting ads is nothing new in the world of politics, of course, particularly in a spotlighted election such as this. Nor is it uncommon for aggrieved candidates to air new ads in response, or to fax news releases to the media decrying "attacks." On Wednesday, Capps held a news conference to express his displeasure.

"It is a total misrepresentation of the way I feel about these things," Capps said. "Andrea Seastrand

knows this. She knows it's not the truth about what we stand for or why we're running."

The Seastrand campaign defends the ads, saying Capps used to oppose the death penalty, but has since changed his stance merely to please voters.

The ad, Capps counters, "is low, base, mean, mean-spirited, outrageous... It is without foundation. It does not represent my position on the issue."

The death penalty, he said, should be used in "intense" cases, such as first-degree murder, when someone shoots a police officer or in the instance of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Will Bos, campaign manager for the Seastrand campaign, says the ads are valid, because Capps previous-

ly spoke out against the death penalty. He cited several interviews Capps gave during the 1994 race against Seastrand, in which Capps is quoted as saying he opposed the death penalty as a deterrent to crime.

"We stand by the ads," Bos said. "It has our disclaimer on it. It's a truthful ad regarding his past comments on the death penalty. When I look at his latest ad, calling Andrea Seastrand a liar, it has his imprimatur. He can't have it both ways."

Seastrand's campaign officials called Capps hypocritical for complaining about campaign ads, particularly since several special interest groups are running advertisements against Seastrand, which by association are designed to help Capps.

For months, Seastrand has lobbied for local television stations to pull advertisements paid for by the AFL-CIO. The ads speak of her voting record on minimum wage and

Medicare. One of the ads says Seastrand voted to slash Medicare, while she says her vote was one to slow the rate of spending growth.

One ad campaign, sponsored by the Sierra Club, speaks of Seastrand's environmental record, and advises voters to "dump Andrea Seastrand, before she dumps anything else on us." It superimposes her face over a picture of a drainage pipe funneling pollutants into the ocean.

But Capps says his outrage, and the news conference, were not about political issues such as the death penalty, but about "the use of a tragic situation for political gain."

Hannah-Beth Jackson, president of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee — which has endorsed Capps — appeared with Capps and also condemned the ad as reprehensible.

The ad, she said, debases politics, and she called for a restoration of "integrity and dignity to the politi-

cal process."

The Richard Allen Davis ad follows an immigration ad and mailer paid for by the National Republican Congressional Committee, and authorized by the Seastrand campaign. The mailer, which characterizes Capps' ideas as "dangerous," shows a picture of people running across the Mexico-U.S. border with the wording, "Liberal Professor Walter Capps' policy on illegal immigration is simple: Open the door, Let 'em in, Put them on welfare."

Capps, however, has said at forums and in his campaign literature that illegal immigration must be stopped, but not at the expense of legal immigration.

"If Walter Capps wants to complain against negative ads, he's misplaced his ire," Bos said. "He should place a phone call to the AFL-CIO, who have been running negative and false ads for eight months. He's not said word one about their ads."

Seastrand tries to follow in Lagomarsino's footsteps

By Ken Miller
Times Staff Writer
Santa Maria Times
OCT - 7 1996

Once the incessant television advertising and campaign rhetoric stops and the celebrities who trade their names and talents for fund-raising dollars go back to Hollywood, Rep. Andrea Seastrand must stand on her own merits.

Direct service to constituents is one of the truest measures of an elected official's chances of returning to office, and will undoubtedly be one of Seastrand's biggest strengths — or weaknesses — at the polls Nov. 5.

In one way, Seastrand, R-Pismo Beach, is at a disadvantage, since one of her predecessors, Bob Lagomarsino, set the bar high on constituent service during his 14 years in office (presidential hopeful Bob Dole, on a recent visit to Santa Barbara, called Lagomarsino "one of the country's best congressmen").

But Seastrand is no novice when it comes to interacting with her voters. Her political experience goes back to 1990 when she ran for and won the 33rd



A Microcosm of American Politics

District Assembly seat after her husband, former Assemblyman Eric, died of cancer.

Seastrand has had six years to prove she cares about the needs of her constituents, and many feel she has succeeded, sometimes beyond the call of duty.

Arturo Zamora, 25, a Mexican immigrant, had been trying to get his green card for more than a year, but was continually given the run-around by the U.S. Immigration Office in Los Angeles.

"Immigration doesn't listen to you, they ignore you, and they're pretty rude," Zamora said. "I wrote to them a lot, every month a letter to them, and they

Seastrand, Capps to meet in head-to-head debates. See schedule page A-5.

never answered them back."

Zamora finally decided to try giving Seastrand's office a call.

"I filled out some forms, and as soon as I talked to her, she sent a letter to Immigration," Zamora said. "After 30 days, I got my green card."

Zamora said he was especially impressed by Seastrand's assistance because he cannot legally vote until he becomes an American citizen.

"If I could vote for her, I would," he said. "I put her in high standards, because I think she really cares."

Others feel strongly in the opposite regard.

Santa Barbara resident David Diaz said he has clashed with Seastrand's office on many issues, most of them centering on Los Padres National Forest and the Forest Service's conduct.

Diaz claims certain roads which get closed due to flooding remain closed much longer than they have to, and that Lagomarsino got the roads open immediately when called by his constituents.

■ See SEASTRAND. Cont'd to next page



"I can't find enough to say about her. They don't have to do those kinds of things for individuals. They can put you on the back burner"

Alberta Drake
on Rep. Andrea
Seastrand,
above

Jesse Jackson makes appearance at UCSB

Goleta Valley Voice OCT. - 9 1996



Jesse Jackson was on the UCSB campus last week and spoke in favor of the Affirmative Action Proposition on the November California ballot. He also took the opportunity to endorse Walter Capps and Gail Marshall.

Raitt, Henley, Brown rock on the platform

SLO Telegram Tribune
SEP. 27 1996

AVILA BEACH — While some politicians would probably welcome the sound of silence right about now, Walter Capps will be basking in laid-back California rock music.

A fund-raising concert for Oct. 13 featuring Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt has already been announced. As of Thursday, add former Eagles drummer Don Henley to the bill.

The afternoon concert of acoustic performances at Avila Beach Resort in Avila Beach also includes John Trudell and Bad Dog.

Tickets cost \$30 and are considered a campaign donation. By law, all ticket buyers must fill out election information at the time of ticket purchase. Tickets are on sale now at Boo Boo Records in San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach and the Avila Beach Resort. A \$1 charge will be added.

San Barbara Independent
OCT. 10 1996
A thousand thank-yous for printing Diana Wilson's letter [Oct. 3] regarding the pathetic campaign ethics of Andrea Seastrand. Her radio ad concerning Proposition 187 attacks Walter Capps with the lies and conniving misuse of recordings that we have come to expect from the terrified ignorance of people of her ilk. I am grateful to Ms. Wilson for taking the trouble to provide us all with a correct copy of Capps's platform position regarding this issue, which incidentally makes a lot of sense.

Time is running out. Open your ears, open your eyes. Andrea Seastrand is not going to help anyone. Check out her whole campaign approach.

M. Jane Thareu

Positively STATE STREET

B. Y. M. A. R. K. F. A. H. E. Y

San Barbara Independent
OCT. 10 1996

(THE APPROPRIATE SOUND-TRACK for this week's column will be "Teenage Riot" by Sonic Youth.)

Vote wisely. And vote with this knowledge: Bob Dole wants to give you a tax break. He wants to give you a tax break just like Ronald Reagan gave you one. Know where Ronald Reagan found the money to do it? Well, he artificially inflated the economy by spending more on defense. That's jobs, right? Well, it is until you've got a surplus of weapons and then you have to lay everyone off. That happened here in California. It became a serious problem after Reagan left office. Reagan also deregulated the banking system, which, that's right, caused the savings and loan scandal, which is something we are still

dealing with. You and me. He sunk billions into bringing the Soviet Union down, when their own weak infrastructure was already making it difficult for them to stand. He closed the mental institutions, to save money, to give you a tax break. The result is evident. Bob Dole wants to give you a tax break. Colin Powell said we must stop corporate welfare. Bob Dole hasn't said that. The reason small businesses are paying more than their share is that we are paying off old bills and others are not helping out. Every vote Andrea Seastrand has cast she has been told to cast. Repeal the assault weapons ban. She voted for that to be a part of her party; that's their form of solidarity. Bob Dole wants to give you a tax break. He wants to cut out midnight basketball games in the inner city. For the people who enjoy it, it's the only country club they have. Anyway, rock the vote, y'all. Make this a country where productivity is tempered by humanity. In Mexico, four families control all of the nation's wealth. In the United States, it's moving toward a few companies. Look to our town for a hint. You ain't free unless you got a voice.

It was a tight spot that chose to rock in spite of its size. A place where bands expressed magnitude.

Listen to what Wheeler has to say

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 8 1996

I've known Steve Wheeler for 12 years now. Steve was my accountant and helped me with a variety of issues concerning my business. When Steve told me that he was running for Congress, I thought he was crazy, but I went along with it, thinking he'd come to his senses sooner or later.

It's 10 months later, and he's still at it. I'm writing to urge your readers to listen to what Steve has to say. He's not your typical politician and it's not often that we get an opportuni-

ty in candidates who not only understand the needs of small business owners like myself, but who are also native Californians, value the community they live in, and seek to give something back, rather than just take.

Steve is a highly idealistic yet pragmatic individual and he brings with him a strong set of ethics, integrity and strength that we don't often see in a political candidate.

Brian Zabelski
Santa Barbara

22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 8 1996

Candidate debate: 7 p.m. Monday; Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library; sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara News-Press and the Santa Barbara Adult Education Program of Santa Barbara City College.

Candidate debate: noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 9; Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo; sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

Candidate forum: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 14; Cabrillo Arts Center; sponsored by the Junior League of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters.

Candidate forum: noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at Congregation B'nai B'rith Social Hall, 900 San Antonio Creek Road; sponsored by the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai B'rith; phone: 964-7869.

Candidate forum: noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 23 at Santa Maria Elks Lodge; sponsored by COLAB and KUHL 1440. Will also include candidates for Santa Maria Mayor.

Insulted by Seastrand commercial's approach

S.B. News-Press

OCT. 10 1996

When I heard Andrea Seastrand's most recent radio commercial, I wasn't sure whether to laugh or scream out loud.

First, it is inferred by the announcer that the moral decay of our society (crime, social ills, schools) is solely attributable to the activities of "liberal politicians." Then the commercial's announcer states that Walter Capps was on a local talk show and stated that he was in favor of Proposition 187, which I would assume to be a true statement. In a fragment of a sound bite, edited mid-sentence, Capps says "I'm opposed to it." So far, so good. Even the state court system agrees that there are major problems with the legislation.

Here's where the fun starts. The commercial's announcer — not the original interviewer from which the tape is taken — pretends to ask Capps questions, such as whether Capps believes that we should deport all 2 million illegal aliens, and if we should give welfare to any illegal alien who asks for it.

These questions are followed by one-word responses edited out of the original interview to transparently suggest that Capps is actually answering these absurd questions. I'm surprised they didn't pretend to ask if he thought the government should take away people's pets and feed them to coyotes, upon which Capps would be made to answer "You bet!" I'm sure that would get some votes.

Any potential voter for Seastrand should be insulted by the approach of this commercial. In fact, they may consider asking for a rebate from their contributions. Do her campaign consultants actually believe that this commercial is believable and that people can be persuaded to vote for their candidate? Could it be that the "Contract" attempts to cut school funding and assumes that the public is already stupid enough to fall for this campaign approach? Is this really the best they can do? In a way, this is a compliment to Capps'

record and philosophies. The best they can do is to fabricate answers to absurd questions and hope that no one is capable of thinking about what is actually being broadcast. So much for honesty in campaigning.

Please think, then vote on election day.

Billy Goodnick
Santa Barbara

Seastrand will do best job for her constituents

S.B. News-Press

SEP. 27 1996

To the editor:

In response to Mr. Veron's Sept. 20 letter, let me first state that having lost two uncles to cancer, I am not unsympathetic.

For one thing, you are wrong about Seastrand's questionnaires. I completed mine and returned it, receiving acknowledgement from Ms. Seastrand's office. Secondly, do you really feel Walter Capps would afford you different treatment once elected?

Let's face it. Whether you grow roses or posies, you still have a garden of flowers. Whether you elect Seastrand or Capps, you still have a politician. The question is, which one will do the best job for our country?

President Clinton recently bragged about the lowest unemployment rate in seven years. Who was the president when that previous low was reached?

President Clinton's stats do not reflect the number of people who have been unemployed for so long that they have given up. They now live with relatives or depend on the single paycheck instead of two because they have lost their house and moved into an apartment to save money.

How about the small business owners who have lost their business and cannot apply for unemployment? How about people who lost a good paying job but started stocking shelves at Wal-Mart at minimum wage? (Did you know Hillary Clinton served on the board of directors for Wal-Mart? How did they expand so fast in four years?) Is this the liberal paradise you want? Everybody is equal because nobody has anything!

I am an entrepreneur who has found it hard to continue. I have had to change my business to adapt to the failed marketplace.

Even with swift recovery, it will take people years to get out of debt. Instead of asking whether you get a letter or questionnaire, ask yourself if your debt ratio has gotten worse under Clinton. Are you buying more on credit than you did four years ago? Can people afford four more years of this failure? I can't.

Any friend of big business is a friend to me. After all, who provides the good-paying jobs? These jobs produce spendable income.

Gerald L. Craig
San Luis Obispo

Seastrand fails

to meet AAUW goals

Santa Maria Times

OCT. 5 1996

Members of the American Association of University Women have a history of lobbying Congress and holding their legislators accountable.

AAUW delegates to their 1993 and 1995 biennial conventions adopted a number of policies to prioritize. These priorities for the 104th Congress include: education, reproductive choice, welfare reform, affirmative action, and health care. Based on recorded voting records, each legislator earns a percentage rating for support of AAUW priorities.

Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand earned a zero percentage in support of these issues as did Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Apart from the goals of the AAUW, consider Congresswoman Seastrand's record against the environment and her vote against raising the minimum wage for working Americans.

Does Congresswoman Seastrand represent your hopes and goals for yourself and the Central Coast?

Barbara Sage
Orcutt

Candidates' forum will be re-televised

S.B. News-Press

OCT. 9 1996

NEWS-PRESS STAFF REPORT

A forum between candidates in the 22nd Congressional District will be re-broadcast several times this month on Cox Cable's Channel 8.

The forum was held Monday night. The tape of the event will run at noon each day until Oct. 18. The forum lasted about two hours.

The forum was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara News-Press and the Santa Barbara Adult Education Program of Santa Barbara City College.



GERRY MELENDEZ PHOTO

The six candidates in the 22nd Congressional District race explained their positions at a Monday forum at the Santa Barbara Public Library. At left are Libertarian David Bersohn and Democrat Walter Capps.

Capps, Seastrand air differences at forum

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 8 1996

By CHUCK SCHULTZ
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Monday's 22nd Congressional District candidates forum gave Rep. Andrea Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, a chance to boast about helping pass a welfare reform bill. Democratic challenger Walter Capps blasted her campaign ads against him.

Capps, a UCSB religious studies professor, provided drama at the close of the two-hour forum when he quoted from a Seastrand television commercial that says: "When Polly Klaas' killer got the death penalty, two people were disappointed: Richard Allen Davis, the murderer, and Walter Capps."

"Now I want Andrea Seastrand to know that I was not disappointed. Andrea Seastrand knows this isn't true. But this is what happens in politics... I am there to offer an alternative," Capps said, drawing loud applause from an overflow audience of about 300 people who listened to all six congressional candidates at the Santa Barbara Public Library.

Capps also vowed, if elected, to rework the recently enacted welfare reform measure, touted by Seastrand, which, among other things, cuts benefits to legal immigrants.

Disputing a Seastrand campaign portraying him as favoring illegal immigration, Capps said: "I'm opposed to illegal immigration... but I don't want

children in the streets and I don't want legal immigration thrashed."

Conversely, Seastrand said she was proud of what the Republican-controlled Congress had accomplished during her first term, noting it approved legislation to balance the budget, reduce the federal deficit and devised a plan to help keep Medicare solvent.



"We applied some good old working sense to the federal government, which was too big and too out-of-touch with American families," Seastrand remarked.

In response to a question from the audience, both said they do not favor legalizing drugs. They differed sharply on how the problem of drug abuse should be addressed, however.

"You need the National Guard and tough penalties" to counteract drug dealers, Seastrand suggested.

"The answer to the drug problem," Capps said, "is create positive motivation and stimulation so young people have a better alternative" than using drugs.

A more radical reply came from Libertarian Party candidate David Bersohn.

"Drugs are a personal medical problem," he said. "They become a social problem when they're outlawed."

Steve Wheeler, the Independent Party candidate, said "putting troops at the border is the best way to get the military involved in the drug trade." He suggested instead that a national commission be formed to study the possibility of legalizing drugs.

Capps and Seastrand also differed sharply on whether she had voted last year to cut funding for Medicare. He said she backed legislation that slashed \$245 million from that medical insurance program for seniors.

"I have voted to increase Medicare, not to decrease it," Seastrand countered.

The forum was co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the News-Press.

This is the second time Capps and Seastrand have battled each other for the congressional seat. When she was elected in 1994, she beat him by only about 1,600 votes.

Seastrand predicted that restructuring federal tax laws will be a high priority of Congress during the next two years.

"We have a chance to change the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) as you know it and possibly even eliminate it," she added.

"We should eliminate Congress before we eliminate the IRS," Wheeler responded. "We need to end corporate welfare."

Capps, referring to Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole's proposal for cutting taxes, said: "When you hear talk about a 15 percent across-the-board tax cut, you know you're in an election year."

Also in the race are Dick Porter of the Reform Party and Dawn Tomastik of the Natural Law Party.

Sierra Club right in Seastrand attack

To the editor: OCT. - 5 1996

There are a lot of important issues in the 1996 campaign. I do not believe, however, that there is one issue more crucial to the 22nd Congressional District than the environment. Our district is perhaps one of the most environmentally sensitive in the country.

We cannot have a healthy economy in San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara without a healthy environment! This is something Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand does not seem to understand.

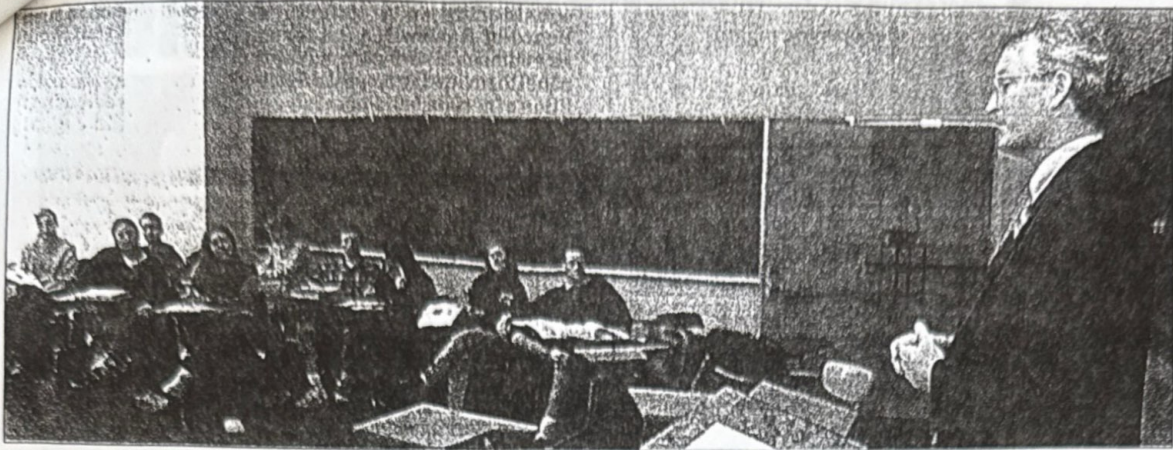
As a member of the Sierra Club, I am so proud to see my organization take a stand and expose Ms. Seastrand's dreadful environmental voting record for what it is — payback to the polluting corporations who fund her campaign effort!

Keep up the good work, Sierra Club! We need Walter Capps to represent us in Washington!

Marilyn Farmer
San Luis Obispo

“I'd never heard of him until this class.”

KARA NICOL, UCSB JUNIOR



STEVE MAHONE/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Students in a UCSB class listen to independent congressional candidate Steve Wheeler.

Wheeler gives class an earful on politics

S.B. News-Press OCT. - 8 1996
By MELISSA GRACE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

When Steve Wheeler talks, the media and most big fund-raisers don't listen. Without them, he says, it's hard to get the ear of the voters.

So Monday for the one hour that the independent candidate for Congress had the undivided attention of 28 UCSB students and their teacher, he was thrilled.

Teacher Rachel Adams invited Wheeler, Andrea Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, and Walter Capps, a UCSB Religious Studies professor who is running as a Democrat, to her class — Writing 50, Rock the Vote Election '96. They were asked to speak about their respective campaigns. Only Wheeler accepted; the other two will send representatives.

That Wheeler showed up got her students' attention.

"I'd never heard of him until this class. He's not given the same chance as Walter Capps and Andrea Seastrand," said Kara Nicol, a junior. "It seems like we aren't given enough information."

Thirsty for knowledge, the students seemed to surprise themselves with their



Steve Wheeler talks to UCSB student Jamie Wooten.

curiosity. Hands shot up right to the end of class.

As Wheeler spoke, the students listened patiently. When it was time for questions, they took him to task. They wanted to know specifically how he would get his ideas through Congress and into law.

"If you win, what would be the first issue you'd take up?" asked Marc Peterson, an art studio and computer science major.

"The war on drugs is not working," stated another student who wanted to know how Wheeler proposes to end the current national policy on drug trafficking and deal with the violence associated with it.

There were questions about Wheeler's position on the country's health system and his position on Proposition 209, a measure on the November ballot that would ban affirmative action in hiring and university admissions.

After class, several students

stopped to speak further with Wheeler.

He had numerous tales for the class — comprised of mostly sophomores and juniors — about the imbalances in a political system that heavily favors the candidacies of America's two leading political parties.

He described the political season of an independent candidate and some of the ironies that come with running against opponents who have the support of the two major parties.

"My Democratic opponent refers to himself as an independent... and to get on the ballot as an independent you need 13,000 signatures," Wheeler said, almost indignantly.

Because Seastrand and Capps were nominated by their respective parties, they had to present only 40 signatures to secure a place on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Without the almost daily coverage by local television stations and newspapers that's bestowed upon the two leading candidates, Wheeler must rely on his ingenuity — and

SEE WHEELER

Cont'd to next page

Bombers or Child Care?



KIM REIERSON

Congressional Candidate Poses a Choice for Voters: Independent candidate Steve Wheeler held up a toy model of a B-2 bomber during a congressional candidates' forum on Friday, October 4, saying the government's cost for purchasing just one of them would probably go a long way toward covering the cost of child care for every mother now on welfare. In a close race between Democrat Walter Capps and Republican incumbent Andrea Seastrand, Wheeler is often seen as a spoiler. But while the Capps supporters—and others—seemed to appreciate Wheeler's boldness and fire, their applause at the end of the forum indicated they were still loyal to their candidate.

WHEELER

Cont'd from previous page

his feet — to get his name to the people.

He walks precincts, attends any special event he can and spends as much time as possible at farmers markets, country fairs and festivals.

Sunday, at the Morro Bay harbor festival, Wheeler swallowed 18 oysters in 17 seconds. That won him a trophy, and, more importantly, it took him to a place where he could talk with local voters.

The prize, he hopes, helped to get not only his name but the political positions he's running on out to the public.

Speaking about campaign financing Wheeler told the UCSB students, "The money that's coming into this race is unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it."

Comparing the money raised by his Democratic and Republican opponents, Wheeler, a certified public accountant, comes in dead last. He has about \$75,000, most of which is his own money, he said.

Wheeler's funds can't compete with the big money campaigns run by Capps and Seastrand. Indeed, Wheeler's campaign is so poor by comparison that he's forced to be stingy with campaign literature — one of the most important means he has to get his message out.

When Adams — the teacher and architect of the UCSB course on research and writing about politics — asked Wheeler to send her pamphlets detailing the issues he was running on, he balked, she said, because he mistakenly thought she needed materials for every student in the class.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR THINKING

by Henry Schulte

Goleta Valley Voice OCT. 9 1996

If you could visualize me spitting blood on this column, it wouldn't be enough to express how livid I am. And if you're a resident of Goleta, Santa Barbara or live in California, you should be pounding your fists against a concrete wall to vent your own anger. The only problem is, the impact you would make pounding that wall with your bare hands is about the same amount of impact we as a community have.

Last week I wrote about the student vote and mentioned some of the ways they're manipulated to vote one way or the other. Again, I first want to reiterate that students have a right to vote. That is not the issue. The issue is — what the hell is Jesse Jackson doing here?

Here is a man who has never held public office, doesn't have any job that I'm aware of, yet flies around the country and shows up in your backyard at a moment's notice to give advice on local politics.

From out of the blue, Jesse Jackson suddenly begins dashing

about the State of California stumping for Prop. 209. And you know what? I don't even care about that. What I do care a whole heck of lot about is how, as did Jane Fonda in the past, he preys upon students' naiveté to not only get his affirmative action message across, but then, get this, endorses Walter Capps and has Gail Marshall join him on the stage during his speech. I'll bet you a dozen red-legged frogs he had never even heard their names before he stepped into town. Yet he had the audacity to manipulate the vote for these candidates without the slightest clue as to what impact their possible victories might have on our community. I think Capps and Marshall should be ashamed of themselves and Jackson should keep his verbal diarrhea confined to wherever it is he calls home.

There is no way anyone can tell me that having Jackson blow into town like a Santa Ana sundowner to dictate what happens with our

local politicians, then vanish like a puff of smoke in search of another cause that will give him air time, is a good idea. He's clueless and doesn't care. On the other hand, we should.

Right now every left wing organization in the state has gone into overdrive. They work captive audiences in relatively confined places. UC campus is perfect. The plan is simple. Get as many students to vote as possible, their way. The rules are they cannot speak for any particular candidate on their get-out-the-vote effort. Yeah, right. We can't stop people from voting twice and we think these good Samaritans are doing just what they're told? Okay, and it's snowing in Old Town right now.

By the way, and someone please correct me if I'm wrong. I don't believe Ken Pettit is planning on putting up the same satellite voting booths he did back in March. Could it have anything to do with the students being in town this time. Gee, do ya think?

SEASTRAND: Service likely to help her re-election bid

Cont'd from previous page

But Diaz said he has received resistance and harsh treatment from Seastrand's staff.

"I asked her office to get those roads open again, but they said they were just following the advice of the department of forestry," Diaz said. "The problem with Seastrand's office is she understands our needs and wants, but is working hand in hand with the department of forestry to undermine what the community wants."

Diaz said he received the same kind of treatment from former Rep. Michael Huffington, who served between Lagomarsino and Seastrand, and said he felt Seastrand was not much of an improvement over Huffington.

"The only reason Lagomarsino got re-elected was because he took care of his constituency," Diaz said. "I'd give Seastrand a D-minus on her constituency service."

Alberta Drake, co-owner of Drake's Royal Farms in San Luis Obispo for the last 39 years, said Seastrand's office made all the difference when one of her employees of 30 years, Jose Hernandez, was diagnosed with cancer in June.

Hernandez required immediate surgery, but his family lived in Mexico and could not immediately be at his side. Drake called Seastrand's office.

"We needed Andrea's help, because there was no way we could get through the red tape," Drake said.

Within 10 days, Hernandez's entire family landed at Los Angeles International Airport, just a few days after his surgery.

In addition, rather than the standard six-week visa, Hernandez's family received a six-month visa. All are back in Mexico now, and Hernandez is expected to come back for tests in February.

Drake said Seastrand and her staff provided an invaluable service which made a painful experience easier to deal with.

"I can't find enough to say about her," she said. "They don't have to do those

Debate schedule

The following is a list of meetings, forums or debates at which Andrea Seastrand and Walter Capps are scheduled to appear together:

■ 7 p.m. tonight at the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Library, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara County.

■ 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Red Lion Inn in Santa Barbara, sponsored by the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging Association.

■ Noon Wednesday at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

■ Following Monday Night Football Oct. 21 on KEYT channel 3.

■ Noon Oct. 23 at the Santa Maria Elks Lodge at 1309 N. Bradley Road, sponsored by the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business.

■ 6 p.m. at Mariann's Italian Villa at 800 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Call 733-4700 for reservations.

■ 11:30 a.m. Oct. 25 at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara.

kinds of things for individuals. They can put you on the back burner. She just cut through the bull basically and it came from the top rather than us trying to do it ourselves."

In addition, Seastrand's office stayed on top of the situation with followup phone calls, which Drake said turned out to be a good idea when the Oxnard Immigration office wanted Hernandez to come down and sign papers.

"He was having tests at the hospital and couldn't come," she said. "Seastrand's office said, 'It won't be a problem.'"

She likened the service from Seastrand's office to Lagomarsino's, adding situations like Hernandez's and the way it was handled "make you believe in the American way again."

San Luis Obispo resident Darrell Johnson had been the long-standing victim of a costly disaster. In 1987, he took out a \$3,000 loan for a Los Angeles trade school, only to find after he paid the money that the school had gone bankrupt.

He received a deferment on immediate payment, but eventually had to begin paying it off. He did so for several years, when one day his pastor recommended calling Seastrand.

"I wrote her a letter and she responded," he said. Seastrand's staff sent him some forms, which he promptly filled out and sent back. Four months later, the U.S. Department of Education notified him and told him he was free of any more payments.

They even sent him a refund for the money he had been paying all those years.

"I really do appreciate that," Johnson said. "That's really what I call a good politician, if they can help a little guy like me. I know she's got my vote this November."

Some feel constituent service means limiting the role of government instead of increasing it, and that Seastrand should defer on many issues.

Atascadero resident Lee Guelf knows first-hand the deadly effects of assault weapons, and has been fighting to keep them illegal ever since his brother, James, was killed in 1994.

James, a San Francisco policeman, responded to a report of shots fired in November 1994. When he arrived, he was ambushed by a man clad in body and head armor and equipped with several assault weapons and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. His legs were shot out from under him, and, when he tried to return

fire, was shot in the head with an Uzi.

The assailant continued spraying the neighborhood with gunfire, wounding several other police officers, for more than 30 minutes before being stopped. He had no prior record or convictions.

Lee spent nine hours in a hospital room watching James die, and knew he had to do something to ensure his brother's violent death wasn't in vain.

His efforts resulted in House Resolution 2192, the James Guelf Body Armor Act of 1995, which passed, although in a watered-down version — Guelf's desire to make it illegal to sell body armor through mail-order catalogs wasn't included.

Nevertheless, Guelf felt his campaign was headed in a positive direction.

Earlier this year, Congress voted to repeal President Clinton's 1994 assault weapon ban. When Guelf realized Seastrand voted in favor of the repeal, he attempted to talk to her, face to face, to express his concerns.

He got his chance following a town hall meeting. He spoke with her 20 minutes, explaining why the ban was so important.

It did little good, he said.

"Seastrand said the National Rifle Association was more important than my brother," he said. "She said the right to bear arms took precedence and that we should just lock the bad guys up and put the emphasis on how guns are wrong."

Guelf explained he is in favor of the Second Amendment, but that assault weapons are a different animal.

"The police are getting angrier and angrier, because it's their butts on the line out there, not the politicians," Guelf said, explaining assault weapons account for 17 percent of officers killed in the line of duty. "We have been trying to put Seastrand at the scene of the crime. If she had been there, flat on her face, dodging bullets for 30 minutes, she would be a little more sensitive about the subject."

Democracy
Santa Barbara Independent
Rules OCT. 10 1996

As a 32-year member of an AFL-CIO union I would like to convey something to those of your readers that are not members and yet feel compelled to comment on how we spend our money: butt out. I fully support my union and the AFL-CIO in the use of my dues. In addition, fully 68 percent of my brothers and sisters agree. I do not give a rat's bottom about the remaining 32 percent that either don't wish to have their dues used in this manner or don't care how it is spent. What I do care about is that I have a union that allows me to vote on everything. When I say everything, I mean everything. We even vote on whether or not we should pay our bills. In the American labor movement, democracy reigns supreme, and, with us, majority rules.

Andrea Seastrand has voted with Newt Gingrich and the Republican right to threaten such job protections as the 40-hour week, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and Medicare. The AFL-CIO did not make up these issues. She voted for them and supports them. It is clear to me that Seastrand represents the interests of Big Business. As for me and my union—we'll stand up for America's working families.

Dennis T. Larson

GOP fires barrage at 'Big Labor'

Gingrich tells troops to fend
for themselves before Dole

By David Espo
AP Political Writer

Santa Maria Times
OCT. - 5 1996

WASHINGTON — One month before Election Day, Republicans unleashed a television counter-attack Friday accusing "big labor bosses" of trying to buy control of Congress. Speaker Newt Gingrich advised endangered GOP incumbents to worry about themselves first and Bob Dole later.

"The big labor bosses. Big money. Big Lies. Big Liberals," says the Republican commercial, which features a splotchy, puffy-faced picture of AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and is expected to air in about 25 cities.

The commercial is designed to counter months of attacks by organized labor against freshmen GOP lawmakers like Pismo Beach Republican Andrea Seastrand.

Senior Republicans who previewed the commercial for reporters expressed outrage that the AFL-CIO has been using compulsory union dues for more than a year to pay for their ads — a practice that party chairman Haley Barbour called "reprehensible."

At the AFL-CIO, spokeswoman Deborah Dion said the Republican commercial was an attempt to divert "attention away from the AFL-CIO's efforts to shine a light on these congressmen's voting records. ... It's all to take attention off of their anti-family voting records."

With little more than four weeks remaining to election day, the pace of the campaign was quickening. Congress formally adjourned for the year, leaving all lawmakers free for full-time campaigning. In many districts, incumbents were just beginning to air their

HOUSE: GOP fights back

Continued

own television commercials, critical campaign debates lay ahead and pollsters reported voters were still in the process of making firm decisions about which candidates to vote for.

A swing of four seats would deliver control of the Senate to Democrats this fall, and a switch of 18 seats would do likewise in the House. Gingrich's remarks were reported in the New York Times, which said the speaker had said most Republicans should campaign for Dole exclusively and work to assure a strong voter turnout at home. For lawmakers in marginal re-election races, the speaker said in the interview, "talk to your pollster, do what gets you re-elected and call home afterwards."

The paper said that in the interview with its editorial board, Gingrich acknowledged that the AFL-CIO campaign was taking its toll on Republicans.

As for his tactical advice to Republican lawmakers, Gingrich was quoted as saying Democrats had pursued a similar strategy for years. "I think you've got to say, you do in your district what you need to do to get re-elected."

Democrats seized on Gingrich's remarks as evidence that he was urging Republicans to distance themselves from the party's faltering presidential candidate. "Republicans are now leaving the good ship of Bob Dole's campaign," said Joe Lockhart, spokesman for the president's re-election campaign.

Gingrich was campaigning on behalf of Republican candidates during the day, but an aide, Rich Galen, said his message was clear. "He wasn't suggesting that anybody run away from Dole and that's critical. He was suggesting that everyone's got to get themselves re-elected."

The AFL-CIO has said it will spend \$35 million in its drive to topple the Republican majority. Barbour and New York Rep. Bill Paxon, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign

Committee, released material charting more than \$10 million in television advertising purchased by the AFL-CIO in 30 states since this spring.

Leading the list was Arizona, where Republicans said more than \$1 million had been spent to defeat Rep. J.D. Hayworth and help Democrat Steve Owens.

Republicans have watched with concern in recent months as the cumulative effect of the AFL-CIO advertising has taken hold. "If they're misled ... it makes people who don't know the truth less likely to support out candidates," said Barbour.

In addition to the commercials, Republicans have issued practical advice to lawmakers to counter organized labor's campaign. The "union response action plan" urges lawmakers to avoid coming across to voters as anti-union, but says they must discredit the union leadership.

"Expose the liberal and corrupt union leadership," says the material, given to all Republicans as they departed Washington for a month of campaigning. "A key part of the union effort is to portray themselves as the only legitimate voice for working and middle-class families." Lawmakers were urged to tell their constituents that 40 percent of union members supported Republicans in 1994, and that "union bosses are fighting Republican reform efforts because they are committed to an extreme ultra-liberal agenda."

Republicans said their AFL-CIO counter-attack would likely remain on the air for the duration of the campaign, in an attempt to counter the effects of the ads organized labor has been running accusing Republicans of cutting Medicare, student loans and other programs.

Republicans filed a lawsuit on Thursday accusing the AFL-CIO of breaking the law with its advertising campaign.