

Vegas politicians dissect election

by Donna Bates

Lingering election controversy was a predominant issue Tuesday when a panel of local media professionals and politicians shared their views on the election to a crowd of 100 at a forum in the auditorium of John S. Wright Hall.

The forum, titled, "The 1992 Elections: What Do They Mean for the Nation and Nevada?" included speakers Regent Shelley Berkley, political columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* Jon Ralston, former chair of the Republican state party Marilyn Gubler, and President and Chief Executive Officer of KVBC Channel 3 Jim Rogers.

The lingering controversy pertained to the campaign tactics used by Miriam Shearing and Charles Thompson in the race for Nevada Supreme Court Justice.

In their respective television ads, Shearing was accused of being insensitive to the families of victims of child abuse and Thompson was accused of being a pawn of special interests.

Ralston strongly disagreed with the campaign tactics used in the race for Nevada Supreme Court. "The issues campaigned on were about how he (Thompson) was a crook and how she was a dumbbroad," said Ralston.

During the election, Rogers was a strong critic of Shearing and presented several editorials deriding her and her campaign. However, he recently gave an editorial claiming that dirty campaign tactics were a necessary evil in elections and helped weed out weak candidates.

Despite his campaign work, Rogers blasted the Nevada Supreme Court members for their incompetence and stressed the position of Supreme Court Chief Justice should be appointed instead of elected.

"You can't elect a neurosurgeon or a nuclear scientist because you don't know what they do," Rogers said.



photo by Wray Halterman
Regent Shelley Berkley said women in politics have come a long way

"From my standpoint, that (the position of supreme court chief justice) is just vacant land," Rogers said.

The panel also talked about the general election and some of the issues that gained prominence.

Gubler reflected on the state election and said, "We need to conduct ethics training classes for political candidates and they don't have to be mandatory because the media will get on the candidates who miss their ethics classes."

Berkley said that recent elections have proven to be receptive to women in politics. "We have paid our dues, worked in the trenches and we are ready to assume power positions," Berkley said.

Stare into this Box



photo by Wray Halterman
John Ralston (left) grimaces during political discussion. Also in attendance, Marilyn Gubler and Jim Rogers.

ley said.

She is also a proponent of campaign reform. "It is a terrible expenditure of time raising campaign money. It should be spent on dealing with the issues," Berkley said.

Ralston said the media doesn't have the necessary resources to devote to politics.

Rogers emphasized public negligence in being informed about current events and political issues.

"Only 12 percent of the population reads the newspaper for more than 30 minutes a day. Nobody knows what the hell is going on. If all of the information you get is from TV, you are in bad shape," Rogers said.

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