

Corvallis and state miss Cliff Trow

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The loss of a good friend who believed kindness and fairness were not incompatible in writing Oregon's laws always brings great sadness ("Corvallis Democratic statesman Clifford Trow dies at 94," Nov. 16).

I knew Joanne long before Cliff, as we were new on the Oregon State University Board of the Westminster Foundation, a campus ministry. Any person Joanne married had to be an outstanding human being — and Cliff was that.

We were "The Odd Couple" entering state politics when we showed up at civic forums and dinners: Cliff a progressive Democrat, and I a moderate Republican.

We were not enthusiastically received by OSU's president, "Mac" McVicar, when we asked permission to run for office and the required leave without pay from our teaching responsibilities. Mac's logic was sound in thinking we would be at a disadvantage when dealing with university budgets and affairs.

That proved not a problem, as, in 1977, we were thrust into a recession that lasted almost seven years, and then the disaster of Ballot Measure 5 upon local government, both during our second term. In our long terms on Ways and Means, we were often both on the two largest subcommittees: Human Resources and Education (75% of the budget).

We conferred often on difficult issues. It was here I felt every legislature needed the benefit of historians such as Cliff.

To have our lawn signs together over many Corvallis elections was such an honor: to be with Cliff and for our growing friendship — I will miss him, and so will Corvallis and the state.

Tony Van Vliet,
former state representative
Corvallis