

State representative candidates

Burrows: says 'no' to nuclear power plants

Mary Burrows, the incumbent Republican state representative, for district 41, is still working hard on a recycling task force, drawing up bills and scheduling hearings and work sessions.

The task force has written 10 bills for recycling containers and is investigating the possibilities of standardizing wine bottles for deposit and recycling purposes, Burrows said. "I just learned that 17 trees make a ton of paper," she said.

Burrows hasn't started campaigning yet for the November general election but knows she has come under fire from democratic primary candidate, John Stewart, for supporting a fraternity-sorority-co-op tax exemption bill.

"The bill seemed fair to me," she said. "People in the dorms are taken care of and renters got their tax relief this year."

Burrows favors lowering the drinking age to 19 because a bill, "wouldn't fly" in the Legislature if the age was lowered to 18. "The Legislature also wouldn't buy the decriminalization of marijuana," she said.

Burrows supports complete freedom for a woman to choose having an abortion although it took her a long time to reach that decision. She would back a move to take away tax exemptions if a doctor would not perform an abortion, she said.

Fourteen months ago, Burrows and other legislators had a tour of the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant near Portland.

"I was awed, impressed and concerned. I don't want any nuclear power plants in the valley," Burrows said. "The effect of the radioactive waste on the population and geographical area worries me although the chief engineer, a man from the

Netherlands, was completely confident about the plant's safety."

Burrows is concerned with the "pathetic" rail transportation and general lack of transportation service within the state.

"Transportation in the state is very bad, air service is almost down to nothing and the older residents of Coburg have almost no form of transportation within the area," she said. "There are alternatives, we can develop more air and rail transportation in Oregon."



Mary Burrows

The incumbent representative is also interested in prison revision. Oregon needs to re-evaluate the prisoners' sentences which are not consistent with the more lenient 1971 criminal code, she said.

"I've had total freedom from voting pressures as a representative," Burrows said. "It depends on what kind of price a legislator is willing to pay. No one has tried to influence me. If they did, I would consider the price too high."

Shawn Rossiter

Coons: opposes construction of nuclear plants

Allan Coons, 35, thinks that being a lawyer is an important difference between himself and the other Democratic candidates for



Allan Coons

state representative from district 41.

Coons has had the experience of writing legislative bills, testifying before a legislative session and working on several environmental agencies. A recent member of the Oregon Environmental Council, the Save French Pete Committee and a past chairer of the Sierra Club, Coons opposes the "insane" construction of nuclear power plants.

This opposition comes from the 100,000 year lifespan of nuclear wastes—a problem that isn't solved—and the heat pollution of the plants, Coons said. The heat pollution could be solved only by cooling towers that would affect the area's climate or water cooling that would contribute millions of gallons of hot water back into rivers.

Coons supports the enactment of an Environmental Policy Act to promote governmental action involving a citizen decision-making process.

A partner in the firm of Coons, Malagon & Cole, attorneys, Coons doesn't see any gap between different age groups.

"I don't see any gulf between myself and students," he said. "I can also relate to people in their seventies and eighties. I have clients who are that age."

Coons favors moving away from criminalization of marijuana and perhaps legalizing use of the drug for persons 18 years old or older. He would still consider the sale of marijuana to be a violation and would limit the alcohol consumption of 18 to 21 year olds to beer and wine only.

The problems between landlords and tenants result from the landlord's ignorance of existing laws, Coons says. "Landlords haven't understood the present laws and need to be educated," he explains.

Coons doesn't think women should be given the absolute right for controlling their decision to have an abortion.

"The state should have some business in regulating abortions," he says. "There should be some time limit set for performing abortions. A prospective father should have something to say, even if the child is not in his body. I would vote for a bill requiring the father's signature, but it would depend on the woman's age."

Right now, according to Coons, it is "not politically possible" in this state to pass a bill providing for equal housing and employment opportunities for persons regardless of "sexual orientation." This is a gay rights bill.

Shawn Rossiter

Stewart: backs gay lib

John Stewart, 22, is a political science student at the University and a democratic candidate for the House of Representatives who says an "aggressive push" in the Legislature is necessary for district 41.

"We need a more vigorous person in the legislature," he said, "not just someone who stays in the right voting place."

Stewart, a former Democratic National Convention delegate and chairer of the Human Rights Committee, supports public financing of elections from friends, Stewart wants to keep "private interests" out of elections.

As far as getting things accomplished in the Legislature goes, everybody is aware of the bargaining "games" that occur on the floor according to Stewart. "They're something a legislator has to do to get bills passed."

Stewart backs the "gay rights" bill, HB 2930, which prohibits discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation and the decriminalization of marijuana. The University senior does not know how rational people can oppose these two proposals. "People don't understand...nicotine is as addicting as heroin. The withdrawal is just as hard," Stewart said. "The government is not going to stop the use of marijuana if the society wants it."

For confronting the Willamette Valley land use problem, Stewart has suggested a "brave" solution.

"The valley has some of the richest farmland in the world but it is being covered by cities, freeways and gas stations," he said. "We should follow Vermont's plan and not sell land in pieces smaller than 40 acres each." He believes selling lots this large would discourage anything but farming.

Stewart is completely opposed to nuclear power plants and has endorsed an initiative petition calling for a six-year moratorium on nuclear plant construction in Oregon.

Ralph Nadar has projected solar energy as a possible energy source with in 15 years, Stewart said. "Nuclear wastes are going to be around for 10,000 years and no one knows their outcome and effect on a change of temperature and weather."

Stewart was not in favor of the 90 per cent tax exemption for fraternities, sororities and co-ops that went into effect this year.

He is also dubious about students on the State Board of Higher Education being appointed by the governor. "The choices are up to the governor," Stewart said. "They will be progressive or bad depending on him."

Stewart is supporting the drinking age



John Stewart

being lowered to 19 instead of 18 as a "political consideration" because 19 would be easier to get. However, 18 would be "great" too, he laughed.

"Campaigning isn't fun...it hurts your love life," Stewart said. "But, I think I can win."

Shawn Rossiter

Milhaupt: legalize pot

Mary Milhaupt, 51, doesn't find her age a hindrance. She associates and sympathizes with all age groups including students. "Although students are all different, I understand their problems," she says.

Milhaupt, a democratic candidate for district 41 state representative, is concerned with community problems. A former volunteer speech-reading tutor, sewing instructor at Skipworth detention home and interviewer of nursing-home residents, she considers herself well-known in the district.

Having served on "zillions of com-



Mary Milhaupt

mittees," Milhaupt is optimistic about being able to win a general election over incumbent Mary Burrows.

In district 41, Milhaupt would like to see a low interest loan created for people willing to buy land in the valley for self sufficiency,

not economic use. Persons would be able to buy land if they intended to live off of it but not to exploit it for profit.

Milhaupt also supports tax incentives for recycling materials. "It is now cheaper to use virgin materials," she said. "Sorting and pick-up costs for neighborhood centers are expensive." The establishment of local neighborhood drop-off boxes for cans and other recyclables is a possibility she envisions also.

"Decriminalization of marijuana is the only way to go," she said. "It should be handled the same way as liquor in a liquor store. From what I've read, alcohol is far worse than marijuana."

Should the drinking age be lowered? Milhaupt said, "Sure, my kids have been taking my booze for years." Making alcohol illegal for 18-21 year olds teaches them disrespect of the law, she said.

As far as nuclear energy is concerned, Milhaupt said, there has been some "brainwashing" going on to promote the construction of nuclear power plants. She favors the financing of alternative electricity source research, especially geothermal energy.

Milhaupt called Oregon's school finance system a disgrace. The system, which relies heavily on local property taxes, makes education dependent on each district's relative wealth. Milhaupt supports state control of education.

Milhaupt doesn't have any legal background, but said she doesn't think a candidate needs to have the training of a lawyer in order to do a good job in the Legislature.

"I have friends and know lots of people who would advise me on any legal problems," she said. "I think I have a better chance to beat Mary Burrows (the incumbent representative) than any of the other candidates."

Shawn Rossiter