

Rep sees colleges in 'silent crisis'

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Education losing battle for funds

Once a major state expenditure, state colleges and universities are now suffering a "silent crisis" in the battle for funds, State Rep. Mary Burrows said Thursday.

Burrows, speaking at the weekly Republican Rubicon Society meeting, said because welfare and public education continue to get large pieces of the state pie, it's more difficult for higher education to compete.

One of higher education's biggest problems is the increasing costs to students, Burrows said.

"Clearly, the higher the costs, the greater the potential for freezing persons out of higher education," she said.

Just at a time when new groups, like

minorities and the handicapped, are making strides forward in education, funding is becoming more complicated, Burrows said.

She cited several reasons for the end of higher educational growth.

"Society has ended its love affair with education. The dilemma is that conservatives on the right are against higher ed. because of the trouble it creates. The left sees education as a bastion of capitalistic society."

Still unsubsidized feelings about campus unrest in the '60s, underfunding by the Legislature, under-enrollment, inflation and soaring administrative costs, contribute to the higher educational slow-down, also, Burrows said.

Burrows also discussed the two-party system, whether it is "a myth, is it viable and does it have a future." She mentioned the growing number of public special interest groups and independent voters.

"Gradually the electorate is pulling away from the party system...We work very hard to perpetuate our own party structure without knowing what we want to save or why we want to save it," said Burrows.

The Democratic party "embraces every issue our society has ever considered" while the Republican party too often has "been incredibly silent," Burrows claimed.

She said she's "convinced that neither party deals with issues that really concern

the people," hence, the rise of special interest groups.

Credibility in government should be a high priority, for political parties, Burrows continued. "But because of so much hanky-panky in government, and a distaste on the part of the two political parties, Common Cause (a consumer interest group) has been formed and its impact has been felt."

Burrows said the biggest problem, statewide, is to find a gubernatorial candidate that can bring all factions together in one direction.

When pressed on which candidate she supports, Burrows edged the question in several ways and finally said she "would anticipate my spouse (4J School Board member Charles Burrows) and I will support Tom McCall."



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