

# Miller, McKay seek Ward 4 Council post

## Miller: 'fill in' policy

Gretchen Miller, a Eugene lawyer running for the Eugene Ward 4 City Council seat, says she's more qualified for the position than her opponent and that "Eugene is too nice a place to let the power of the (city) council go to someone with dangerous ideas."

At the top of Miller's list of issues is Eugene's growth. She says the city should fill in before it spreads out. "Downtown, from the University to downtown and stretches near Valley River Center will get more dense in the future," she says. "I want to see some guidance to that 'in-filling' to keep the growth pleasant."

Miller favors the construction of a civic center, although she is "concerned that it will be way too expensive for local groups to play there—the ticket prices will be too high. The civic center will never replace the (EMU) Ballroom or the WOW Hall."

Miller also favors the council's passage of the controversial Gay Rights Amendment, saying "there could be cases where sexual orientation is a criteria for employment, renting practices and the like, 'but I can't think of any. It's not relevant to what you're choosing for. And right now there is no law to protect them (gays).'"

When it comes to field burning, Miller believes Eugene has "done all it can. We just have to keep the pressure on for alternatives. Leaning on people is the only way to get them to do something."



Gretchen Miller

Miller does say, however, that slash burning in the forests has been the cause of the worst pollution days in Eugene the last three years, and that it should be put to good use instead of just burning it. She also acknowledged that much of the pollution comes from cars.

With respect to the Dry Port district, Miller says, "This county is generating jobs as fast as any other area in the country. Economically, we're tooling along as far as creating jobs is concerned. The Port District would create an autonomous layer of government, which we don't need."

"New industry is coming," she continues. "We don't need something as drastic as a port district to invite them in. It will attract very little public interest and have low accountability to the people."

Miller and a partner practice law in Eugene. Miller received a B.A. in history from the University of Kansas, and earned a law degree in 1976 from the University of Oregon.

## McKay: may need to grow

Doug McKay, a Eugene businessman running for the Ward 4 City Council seat, sees growth as the major issue affecting the city in the years to come.

"We will have to accommodate growth with the least disruption to the existing citizens," says McKay. "We may have to expand the 1990 Plans boundary because the cost of property inside is accelerating in price, partly because of the shortage of it."

McKay is supportive of the T-2000 transportation plan, although he says the goal of increasing non-auto use in the Eugene area to 30 percent of total transportation is "unrealistic in this area." The only place the 15 percent transit figure is attained is in the New York City area," he says. McKay also feels some of the goals should be progressing ahead of the year 2000, such as acquiring

land for rights of way before someone else develops it. McKay says he's against the gay rights amendment because "I'd hate to see a special right for any group of people. It's not a major issue any more because it's on the ballot, and I'll uphold the result no matter how it comes out."

Concerning rejuvenating the downtown area, McKay says a big step would be attracting a major hotel here to encourage more activity in the evening hours and to attract conventions. He also says it won't be an easy task because "Eugene has an awkward size problem in attracting a major hotel because we're not a big enough market." McKay favors constructing a civic center downtown, although he's concerned about the price and feels it could be accomplished for much less.

With respect to field burning, McKay would like to see the city prevail in setting the acreage limit at 50,000. "The farmers haven't been entirely fair in trying to curtail their burning to that level," McKay says.

As a city council member, McKay would like to play an active role in attracting industry to the area, as long as it is "clean" industry like an electronics firm and as long as the industry doesn't import workers, but instead employs unemployed Oregonians. McKay favors the dry port district as a means to encourage industries to locate in Eugene, mainly because the port district could hold land until an industry was ready to move here.



Doug McKay

# City Council Ward 5 draws Hamel, Heath

## Hamel cites T-2000 planning needs

A transportation plan to handle short range problems may be more critical to the City of Eugene than the T-2000 plan, says D.W. (Bill) Hamel, the incumbent candidate for the city council's Ward 5 seat.

"The T-2000 plan is one of the

biggest issues," says Hamel. "If we can handle the next five to 10 years, we're going to be better off."

Hamel sees the problem of transportation in Eugene to be more pressing than the turn of the century proposal handles.

"I think it's going to need to be a 1983 plan, more than a 2000 plan," says Hamel, the current president of the council. "We have a problem of traffic now and if we don't take care of it now, we'll be jammed up before 2000."

On specific transportation issues, Hamel says the area's freeway plan may need more study before Hamel could give it

full support. Additionally, says Hamel, he would support keeping the present arterial system.

Hamel says he has backed the plans for a downtown civic center from its beginnings, although Hamel hopes for a large hotel to be built with the civic center.

"We have lost the hotel complex downtown and to bring it back, you'll have to have a 300 to 350 room hotel with the convention center," Hamel says.

The civic center may also help the downtown area gain strength as an even more viable shopping area, says Hamel.

On other issues, Hamel's opinions lie along conservative lines:

On gay rights — "It (homosexuality) is morally wrong as far as I'm concerned and I voted against it last year," Hamel says. "They (gays) are not a minority and they already have the rights I have."



Bill Hamel

On the proposed dry port district: "I'm in favor of it to see if it works," Hamel says of the plan which would try to attract new businesses to the area via tax incentives. "Opponents who are speaking against it are really not informed enough."

## Heath eyes growth

Even though she's never held elected public office, Liz Heath says she won't be lost in city government if she gains the Eugene City Council's Ward 5 seat in the May 23 primary elections.

"I'm not a stranger to the city or what goes on at the council level," says Heath, a co-founder and past president of the Willakenzie Neighborhood group.

"We haven't faced the central, core issue," says the 38-year-old mother of one. "How much do we want to grow? We've got to make some hard decisions on what it will cost in dollars and livability and decide how much we're willing to pay."

"I'm not in favor of closing the door, but we should have a choice."

A seeming part of that non-acceptance of growth is Heath's negative stand on the dry port district plan, which would bring businesses to the area by offering them tax incentives.

"I question the economic background that its proponents use to support it," Heath says.

A growing burden for the city as a whole is its transportation headaches, which Heath says may be eased by the T-2000 transportation plan's mass transit goal.

"We need to develop a responsive and efficient plan of mass transit so that it will be utilized," Heath says.



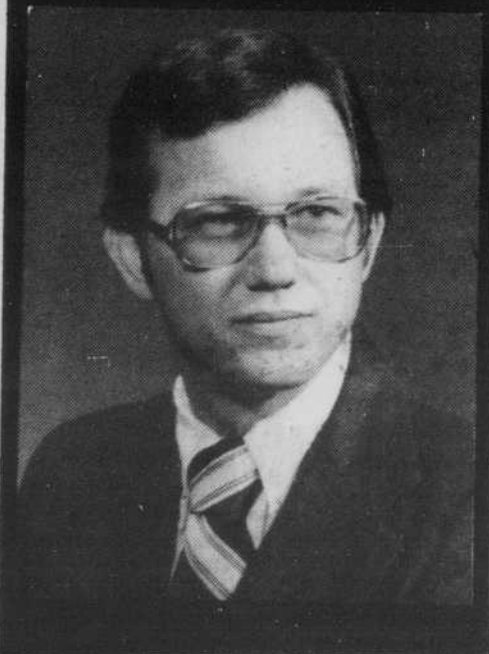
Liz Heath

On other issues facing the council candidates, Heath's views are a mixed bag of agreement with and opposition to Hamel.

On gay rights: "I don't really think it should be an issue in the election. I'm going to vote 'no' on 51 as a human rights issue."

On the downtown area and a civic center there: "On the whole, I'm strongly in favor of the civic center, although I don't think we need to recruit a hotel for it." Heath says.

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