

Burrows asserts too many chiefs already

Challenger commends incumbent 'nice lady' but lacking leadership

By JACK CONDLIFFE
Of the Emerald

"She's a nice lady and has a good voting record," says Democratic challenger Tom Fagan of his opponent, State Representative and homemaker Mary McCauley Burrows, R-Eugene.

Fagan, seeking the House District 41 seat covering the area from the University to North Eugene, says Burrows has failed to provide any leadership or innovation during her six years in office.

Burrows responds that "issues and the legislative system should be the focal point of a legislator. What do we mean by a leader? There are so many prima donnas in the Legislature; everyone wants to be a leader."

She says one aspect of leadership is standing up against your own party. Burrows, one of the most liberal members of the House, has repeatedly taken stands inconsistent with the views of the Republican leadership.

Fagan, an attorney and partner in Fagan, Hoffman and Klarr, P.C., is running his campaign around the issue of leadership and his own ideas for reforming state government. He is not addressing specific issues between himself and Burrows, he says.

Burrows' voting record is a factor in Fagan's decision to run a non-issues campaign, he says. Burrows had a perfect voting record with three liberal groups, the Oregon Student Lobby, the Oregon Environmental Coalition and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus. She also holds endorsements from a score of other liberal groups.

Fagan's decision not to challenge Burrows on issues is already causing him trouble. Both candidates appeared before the Lane County Young Democrats for endorsement interviews. Burrows got the endorsement.

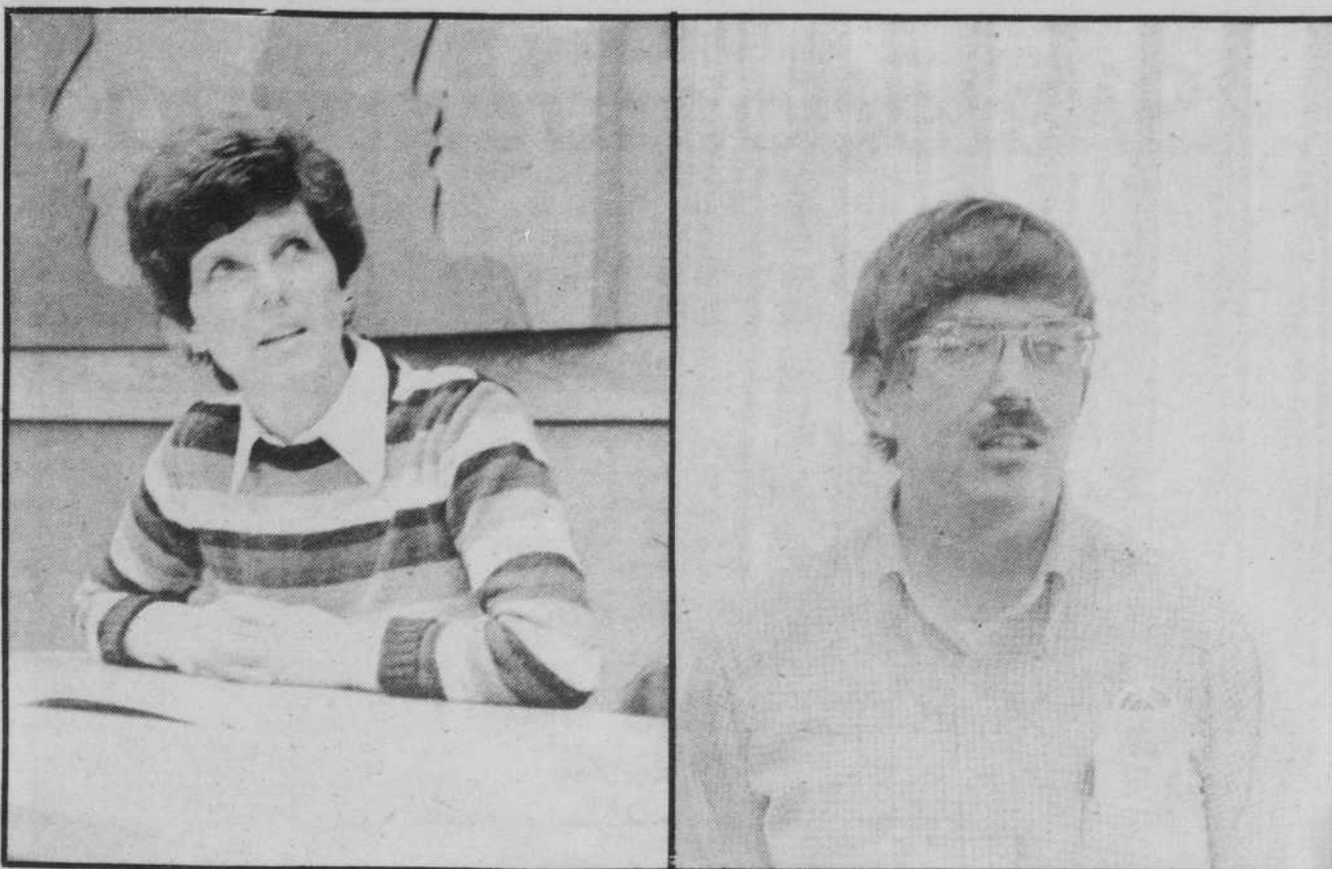
David Jennings, who was present at the Young Democrats meeting, says Fagan criticized Burrows for poor leadership but gave a poor presentation himself. He adds that the key factor was Fagan's own statement that Burrows has an excellent voting record.

Both candidates have the same position on measures appearing on the November ballot, including their support of Ballot Measure 11 over Measure 6. Measures 6 and 11 are the two tax limitation measures voters will choose between.

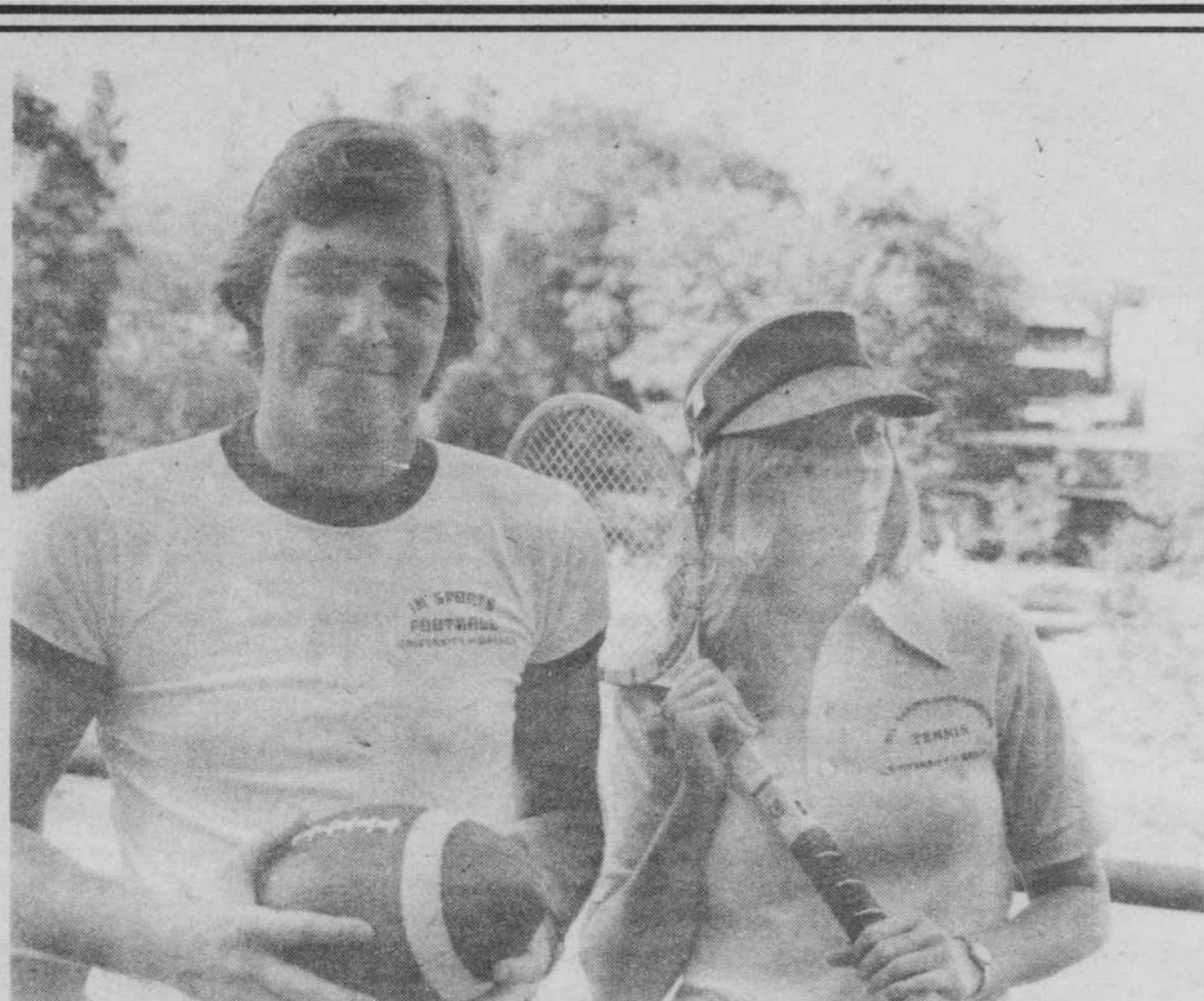
Fagan and Burrows do differ on the extent that higher education should be cut. Fagan has singled out administrative and capital construction costs as excessive. Burrows says she intends to protect higher education from budget cuts where possible. She was not optimistic.

Here is a capsule version of the two candidates' views on a few issues facing the state Legislature next session:

- Nuclear power — Asked whether she supported construction of the two proposed nuclear powerplants at Pebble Springs, Burrows answered flatly, "No." Fagan says that the two plants are not economically justified. Both strongly support alternative energy sources.
- Herbicides — Both candidates favor stringent restrictions on the use of herbicides. Fagan says the new regulations issued by the state Board of Forestry are a "good step and are called for." Burrows says further action may be necessary in the Legislature to tighten up the regulations.
- Ballot Measure 9 — Burrows says she favors passage of this ballot measure which would prohibit utilities from charging customers in advance for construction of large coal and nuclear powerplants. Fagan is concerned that Measure 9 may be a "disincentive" to development of alternative energy sources.



Democrat Tom Fagan will challenge Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, in the upcoming Legislative race. He calls her a "nice lady" who lacks leadership.



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