

Swanson Gribskov better pick — barely

Voters in Eugene's Ward 4, an area encompassing most of the city east of Coburg Road and Agate Street, should be pleased to find two outstanding candidates vying for that ward's position on the City Council.

Both Laurie Swanson Gribskov and Peter Wotton demonstrate the skills and dedication needed to serve the city effectively. Both have a broad range of support, within and out of the city. But of the two candidates, Swanson Gribskov offers the greatest potential for flexibility and consensus-building, and thus should be the choice of voters May 17.

The race between Swanson Gribskov and Wotton has been characterized, often inaccurately, as a competition between a liberal-minded environmentalist (Wotton has been endorsed by the Sierra Club and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters) and a "business-as-usual" moderate. The issues that have caused this characterization — notably, the proposed expansion of the Ferry Street Bridge and the Ozone Protection Initiative — are not sufficient to justify this pigeon-holing.

Swanson Gribskov's public support for an expanded Ferry Street Bridge does not necessarily indicate an attitude of anti-environmentalism. Detailed plans for the proposed expansion have not been finalized; those plans do include a separate pedestrian and bicycle bridge, and could very well include provisions for special auto lanes, restricted to high-density traffic, such as buses or carpools.

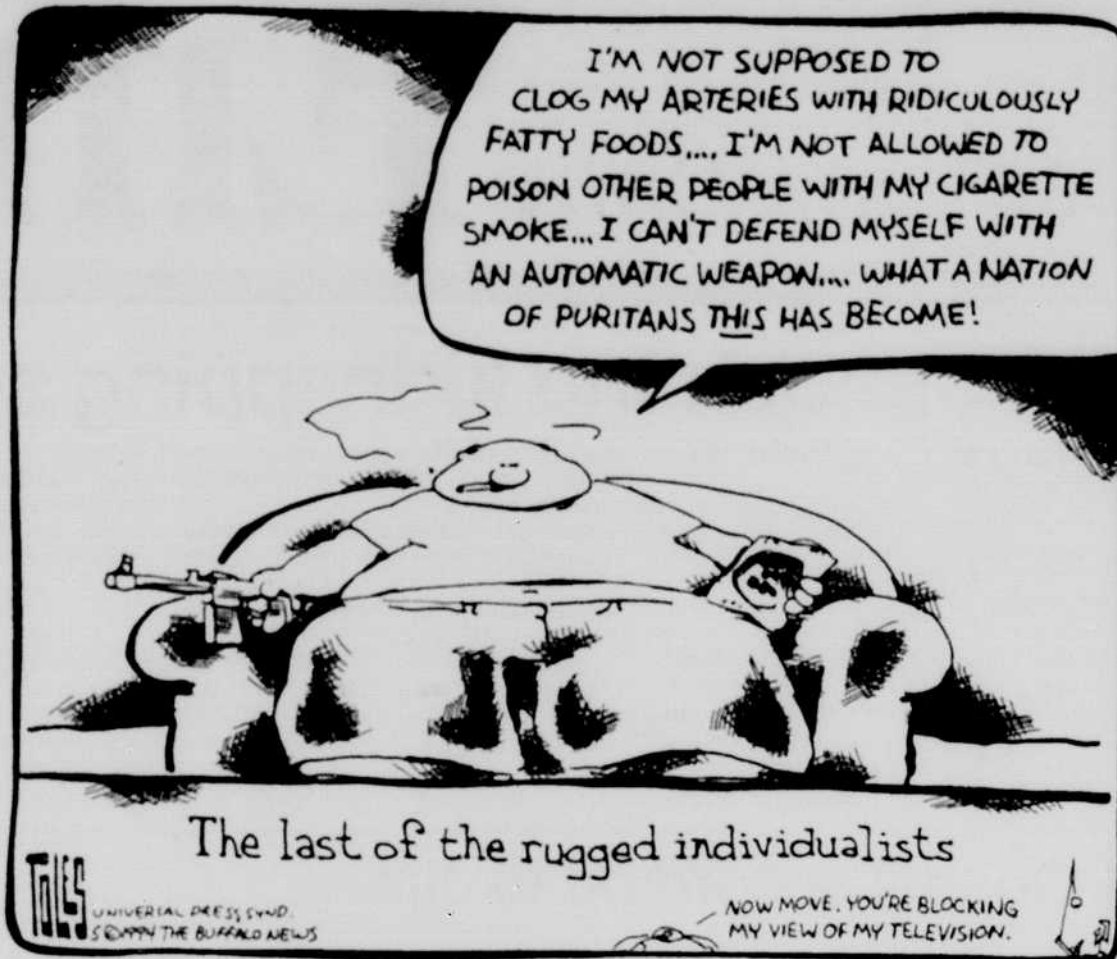
It will be the voters, not the city council, who will decide on the Ferry Street Bridge in November. Whatever the result of that vote, Swanson Gribskov appears well-prepared to accept it.

The same could probably be said for the ozone initiative, which will be decided by voters today. Swanson Gribskov's opposition to this measure is also not necessarily anti-environment. Swanson Gribskov has said that she supports a more flexible ozone ordinance, possibly with more relaxed deadlines, which would carry many of the advantages and far fewer of the risks associated with an amendment to the city charter.

Swanson Gribskov gained valuable experience from 1985 to 1992, as executive director of the Willamette Private Industry Council, an organization that facilitates cooperation between business, local government and social services. In addition, she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the University in interagency problem solving — providing her the student's perspective — and has served in a variety of local public service organizations.

Wotton's support base, including the leaders of every neighborhood association in the ward, is a point in his favor. Surely, he is strongly connected to the part of the city he hopes to represent. But Swanson Gribskov satisfies a greater need on the council — that of conciliation and compromise — which makes her the stronger of two strong candidates.

Swanson Gribskov's experience, combined with her stressed intention to seek "common ground," will be of tremendous use to the city council, which on occasion has been divided into hostile camps. Elect Swanson Gribskov to the Eugene City Council, Ward 4.



COMMENTARY

Initiative needed to save ozone

By Gary Houser

It is unfortunate that the *Emerald* has editorialized against Measure 20-03 without giving proponents a chance to respond. Although this commentary will not appear until election day, we hope some students will hear out our side before voting.

The *Emerald* expresses two concerns. One is the cost of implementation to the city, and the other is concern that a charter amendment is not appropriate. In order to effectively address each concern, we must first address the overall context.

Opponents of Measure 20-03 have outspent proponents 16 to 1.

Eugene is currently witnessing an unprecedented level of spending in an attempt to defeat this citizen initiative.

By May 12, \$50,000 had already been spent and will surely be increased by a continuing and relentless media blitz in the final days before the election. The \$3,000 in spending by the all-volunteer, grass-roots proponents translates to an unbelievable 16-1 disparity. The *Register-Guard* has now documented that a significant portion of the opposition spending is coming from out-of-state corporations with strong vested interests in the continued use of the chemicals in question.

Readers of the *Emerald* need to know where this money is coming from because this knowledge might cause them to question the so-called "objectivity" of the information being presented. DuPont Corporation has become keenly interested in this initiative for one reason only. It has lobbied the federal government hard to obtain a huge loophole that allows it to produce ozone-depleting HCFCs all the way to the year 2030! We say that in light of the extremely serious and growing danger of ozone depletion to all life on earth (the seriousness of which

the *Emerald* is apparently in agreement), it is morally indefensible to continue to produce more! DuPont is not only producing "more," but is eyeing an extremely large and lucrative market for refrigerators in the Third World.

When profits of this scale are at stake, corporations will spare no expense in trying to destroy grass-roots opposition. And often truth is the first casualty. This is why there has been such a ruthless media blitz to confuse voters and distort the meaning and impact of the measure.

Measure 20-03 is not redundant because federal law has not been enforced.

The first line of disinformation has been a claim of redundancy.

We have reported some federal phase-outs only because they have not been enforced. Environmental groups have been forced to sue the Environmental Protection Agency for proper enforcement of existing laws. One lawsuit has been won against the EPA for failure to implement 50 phase-out deadlines! We want the chance to enforce these laws effectively at the local level, and also to close the immense HCFC loophole.

Costs of Measure 20-03 are greatly exaggerated.

The second line of disinformation concerns cost. The opposition has used one blatant scare tactic after another to confuse people. So-called "vigilantes" will not clog the courts with frivolous claims when they find out their liability for court expenses. The real-life track record in other cities with ozone legislation — only one court case — indicates that businesses would rather comply than go to court. The so-called "costly" election to change initiative language that the *Emerald* refers to is not necessary. The city can simply put the question at no cost onto a regularly scheduled spring or fall ballot.

Only a charter amendment

will survive city council politics.

The third line concerns the need for a charter amendment, a primary focus of the *Emerald* editorial. We need to ask you to shine the spotlight of naivete on yourselves for this one. It would in fact be quite naive to place much hope in a law this strong and forthright being able to survive the politics of city council. After the incredible opposition from chemical corporations to a ban on HCFCs in this measure, is it not reasonable to assume they would also put pressure on city council? What assurance do we have that the measure would not be considerably weakened? A mayoral veto could stop the HCFC ban dead in its tracks. We do not want this strong ozone protection to go the route of the Nuclear Free Zone in Eugene, which was watered down by vested interests. It is unfortunate that vested interests have so much power. It is because they do that we must take the legal route that has the greatest chance of succeeding in protecting this precious Earth.

Measure 20-03 is workable and fair to business. Comparably-priced alternative products are immediately available for every category of product restricted (including fiberglass and reflectrix insulation to replace HCFC spray foam). Measure 20-03 is fiscally responsible. The cost estimate to the city, if you take away all the wildly hypothetical scare tactic bluff, is only \$3,000 to \$18,000 per year, translating to a miniscule 5 to 20 cents per resident! Consider the health care cost of just one skin cancer! Or consider that the money spent to oppose the measure could actually have paid for at least four years of its operation! Vote yes for Measure 20-03!

Gary Houser is a member of Save Our Ozone, sponsors of the Eugene Ozone Protection Initiative.

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