

Snodgrass announces secretary of state candidacy

■ The former Miss Oregon wants to improve the state's poor voter turnout and continues to work for school funding

By Brian Goodell
Oregon Daily Emerald

House Speaker Lynn Snodgrass, R-Portland, announced last week she will enter the race for Oregon's next secretary of state. The former teacher and Oregon State University grad launched her campaign with a promise to perform a self-audit within 90 days of taking office.

"Every one of us is interested in knowing how our resources are being used and managed," Snodgrass said. "That is the job of the

secretary of state, and that is where we should begin."

Snodgrass, a former Miss Oregon, said if elected she will work to improve voter turnout.

"We need leaders who can make things work, and I can," Snodgrass said. "The voter participation in Oregon is abysmal, and vote-by-mail is not the only answer. Oregonians want vote-by-mail to work so we must engage and inspire them to participate in the democratic process."

As a state representative, Snod-

grass helped return the largest tax surplus in state history. Snodgrass was elected house majority leader by her fellow representatives in 1997, after three years as a state legislator.

"I am proud to support Lynn Snodgrass for secretary of state," U.S. Representative Bob Smith, R-Oregon, said. "She is honest, hardworking and is truly an outstanding leader. Oregonians will be well served with Snodgrass as their secretary of state."

As a former teacher and school board member, Snodgrass said she has a strong commitment to education. She said she will con-

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SNODGRASS

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"Lynn Snodgrass has been a

great leader for Oregon schools," Shellenberg said. "Under her watch, the education budget was increased over \$450 million. She knows how to tackle the difficult problems and get things done."

Snodgrass helped increase education funding by more than 10 percent. The Legislature, under her guidance, created Project Success, a statewide leadership team to determine roles for school accountability.

She also contributed to a 25-percent increase in higher education funding that was partly responsible for the latest tuition freeze for college students.

21-year-old student joins race for Eugene mayoral position

■ Uriah Murray believes he could be an effective bridge of communication between citizens and the City Council

By Brian Goodell
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If a professional wrestler can become governor of Minnesota, why can't a 21-year-old student be mayor of Eugene? As career politicians learned last election season, never take the underdog for granted.

Uriah Murray, a student at the Cascade Institute of Massage Therapy, is the latest underdog to declare his intention to run for mayor. Murray is a native of Eugene, a graduate of South Eugene High School and most certainly not a career politician.

"I'm not a professional politician, which means I haven't been

taught by anyone else but myself," Murray said. "I grew up here, and I care a lot about the community. I see what's going on, and I want to do something about it."

Murray said communication is the key to improving the quality of life in Eugene. He does not plan to run on a specific platform but would rather act as a bridge of communication between Eugene citizens and city officials.

Murray said his two biggest concerns are education and the environment. If elected, Murray said he will work to place a tax on environmentally-irresponsi-

ble corporations and give that money to local schools.

"Now, it seems that industry makes the mold for us to fit into," Murray said. "I want us to make the mold for industry to fit into. I believe that can be accomplished by taxing those who produce and consume toxins."

Murray was quick to clarify that his intention is not to put people out of work.

"I want to give these companies an incentive to change their ways," Murray said.

Will Boise, owner of the Pizza Research Institute in Eugene and an acquaintance of Murray's, said Murray could bring a fresh perspective to Eugene.

"It's exciting that someone of his youth is willing to be a may-

oral candidate," Boise said. "A lot of youth don't have the wherewithal to go through that process."

Murray said he wants to inspire the young people of Eugene. He wants them to know that if they see something that's wrong with the world, they are well within their means to change it.

"I want to give youth inspiration and hope that they can influence their future," Murray said.

"I want to instill hope in our youth by cleaning up the environment and giving them a say so that they don't run away after they graduate from school."

As for his competition, Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey knows exactly

what it feels like to be the young underdog. Torrey was 21 when he ran for the Waldport City Council. He said he is not taking Murray for granted.

"I have no problem at all with a 21-year-old running for mayor," Torrey said. "I assume he is a very serious candidate."

As for Murray, he knows he is the underdog. But he also knows that he has nothing to lose and that there are a lot of young voters out there looking for a fresh perspective on Eugene politics.

"I have more to lose if I don't run than if I run and lose," Murray said.

"But I don't see Torrey being re-elected. I think people have had enough."

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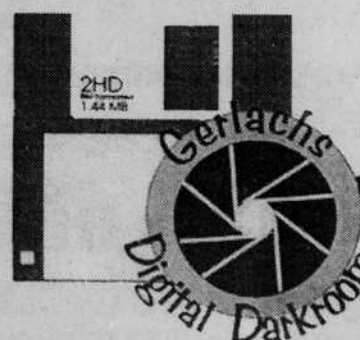
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