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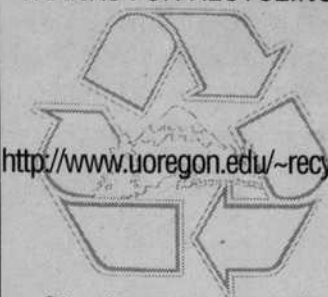
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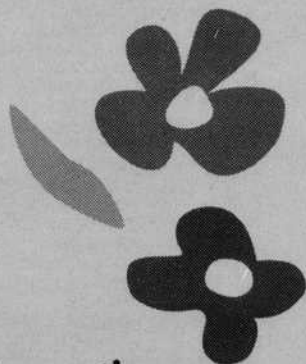
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MAYOR

continued from page 1

a city councilor.

"I want to continue working on public safety and parks and the connection between a healthy environment and a healthy economy," she said.

Prior to serving on the Council, Nathanson sat on the Eugene Planning Commission for six years. She has also served on a number of committees, including the Federal Communications Commission State and Local Government Advisory Committee and the city's Budget Committee.

Nathanson declined to elaborate on what exactly she will focus in the coming months, saying those specifics will come later in the campaign, but she added that she thinks the most important issues for the city are jobs, livability, parks and children.

Kitty Piercy

Former state representative Kitty Piercy said she's been thinking about running for mayor for a long time.

"We've got lots to be very proud of in Eugene, and I think we need to emphasize that," she said.

Piercy said she thinks the city could stimulate the local economy by marketing Eugene as a hotbed for environmentally friendly businesses and products.

Piercy served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1995 to 2000, including a stint as house minority leader in 1999. She is now the public affairs director for Planned Parenthood Health Services of Southwestern Oregon.

She said that while she understands why University students may not care about who is elected mayor, she feels the connection between the University and the city gives students a vested interest in city government.

She said the city and the University should act in partnership to capitalize on University research to create jobs for graduating students.

"The biggest issue in Eugene is jobs," she said.

Willie Nicholas

Blues musician Willie Nicholas also emphasized the importance of the city's role in aiding the local job market.

"I want to create new jobs," he said. "I know somewhere in the city budget is money for a jobs program."

He said his first priority upon taking office would be to hold an audit of city functions to find money to support the local economy.

"I think there's probably a lot of waste going on at this moment," he said.

Nicholas, who works as an insulation installer, ran for mayor of Springfield in 2000 but said he has no other experience in city government. He casts himself as the candidate for the working man.

"I think if the people in this town are

given a fair shake, instead of everything catering to the rich, this town would be a lot better place," he said.

Nicholas said he's committed to the race and plans to campaign until its end, even though Nathanson and Piercy are the current frontrunners. He added that he wants equal emphasis given to all candidates.

"I want to see a debate," he said. "I challenge all of my opponents to a debate."

James "Izzy" Whetstine

Perennial mayoral candidate James "Izzy" Whetstine called his own chances of winning "pretty remote," but he said winning is not the goal of his campaign.

"It gives me a chance to influence the thinking of maybe enough people to make a difference," he said.

The retired railroad yardmaster and former union representative has run for mayor four times prior to this year.

"It's the only time anybody gives a damn what I think," he said.

He said his interests are "very representative" of the concerns of the people of Eugene. Whetstine framed most of his concerns around local business practices.

He said tax breaks for new investment should be given to local businesses instead of large corporations. He cited Wal-Mart as an example of the kind of corporation he wanted to keep out of Eugene, saying Wal-Mart's very presence in Eugene offended him.

Whetstine said that, if elected, he would explore other options for helping local businesses other than tax breaks. He added that he would like to pay all city employees and contractors a union wage.

Eric Gross (Sephiroth) Alphonsus Donnelly

Neither Eric Gross (Sephiroth) nor Alphonsus Donnelly could be reached by the Emerald. Gross's phone has been disconnected and Donnelly has no listed phone number.

In his candidate filing papers, Gross lists his occupation as telephone pollster. He studied physics at the University from 2000 to 2003, though he did not earn a degree.

Gross began campaigning under the pseudonym "Eric Sephiroth," but switched to Eric Gross after learning that a city code requires him to run under his legal name, according to his candidate file with the city recorder.

Donnelly listed no occupation in his candidate filing papers, but wrote that he was previously employed as a laborer, a newspaper journalist, a library supervisor and a soldier.

He studied public policy and management at the University from spring 1992 to spring 1993.

Contact the city/state
politics reporter
at nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com.

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