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★ AMERICA VOTES 2004 ★

Waves of environmental opinion

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

Oregon has provided the battleground for many contentious environmental issues. Tempers have flared on everything from the spotted owl to salmon, whether to release water to farmers or preserve it for fish and how to balance forest conservation with the logging industry's needs. With several cases in courts, the environmental debate weighs heavily on voters' minds and the candidates' platforms.

Forests have been at the forefront of many of the state's environmental disputes. Oregon has 27.5 million acres of forestlands and over the years has been victim to devastating forest fires, such as the 2002 Biscuit Fire in Southern Oregon that razed close to 500,000 acres. Environmental activists have called for the protection of forests, especially old-growth stands.

Many candidates say there is a need to employ "good science" in tackling the forest and other environmental issues.

U.S. Senate Democrat Ron Wyden said in an e-mailed statement that he will continue to fight to end logging on federal old-growth forests and protect areas like Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge with wilderness designations. He added that he will also work with communities to sustainably harvest trees from choked, second-growth plantations that currently "pose real threats to our forests and our communities."

"We need to protect the special areas so important to Oregonians and move forward on restoring sustainable natural resource jobs," he said.

His Republican opponent, Al King, who is also a farmer and a rancher, said through his profession he understands the value of caring for natural resources. He said there is a

connection between people and their resources.

"The human resources only survive when they can use the natural resource," he said.

He added that forests in Oregon have not been properly managed for sustained yields and are full of diseased trees and undergrowth.

"We've locked up the forest and we've let it burn," he said, adding that he is against roadless rules that limit access to certain areas and prevent proper maintenance of the forests. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule generally limits timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction within roadless areas on national forests and grasslands.

When there is no access, it is difficult to fight fires, and closing off the forests also prevents people from using it for recreational purposes and enjoying nature, King said.

"The worst thing is that we can't use it and if we can't use it, it goes to waste," King said.

Republican state Senate candidate Norm Thomas had similar sentiments, saying the logging industry and the state's economy has suffered in recent years.

"We need to start using natural resources," he said, adding that while conservation of endangered species is important, it is vital to consider the impact on the human population.

Thomas suggested that logging of new growth stands of timber be allowed and that human access not be restricted by roadless rules, especially because of the risk of major fires.

"We've lost a lot of forests in the last couple years," he said. Thomas added that he doesn't see why the state should not be able to clean out dry fuel from burned areas and salvage what it can.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE HICKEY

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Duck U begins its season with new programming, high goals

The journalism school's TV program hopes to hit it big with a 'Real World' parody that overemphasizes stereotypes

BY CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTER

With cameras in place, the scene was set Friday in a two-story house on Ferry Street, just outside of campus. University students were put on the spot as they improvised scenes for a "UO Real World" parody. Actors played sorority-girl, party-guy and bookworm stereotypes while they were loosely directed by the production staff, including a camera man, director and sound recorder. The parody is the latest addition to the line up for Duck U, the student-run television program that airs

locally in Eugene and on campus and is sponsored by the School of Journalism and Communication.

Nearly 50 University students are involved in creating the 30-minute show, which includes segments such as News and Sports, Tip of the Week and "Out and About," a segment that features students traveling around campus and Eugene to illustrate what's going on in the community. Along with the addition of the Real World parody, Duck U plans to do a Crips parody as well, although that is still in the works, said Brian Merrell, a fifth-year multimedia major and one of

Duck U's four executive producers.

"We expect this to be the biggest year with the biggest audience ever," Merrell said.

The first episode of Duck U aired last night at 9 p.m. and will be repeated Thursday at 9 p.m. on channel 14 in the residence halls. Duck U will be broadcast tonight at 10 p.m. on Comcast cable channel 23 for those not in the residence halls.

"It's a show for students, by students," said Phyllis Lee, a senior history major and director of the reality-TV segment for Duck U. "The point of [the Real World parody] is to portray student stereotypes to the extreme."

Katie Schroeder, a junior journalism major who plays a

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National options for abortion laws garner discussion

In addition to a woman's right to choose, candidates tackle topics such as sex education

MORIAH BALINGIT
NEWS REPORTER

Roe v. Wade was decided 31 years ago, but the landmark Supreme Court case that affirmed a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy remains a hot topic for candidates locally and nationally. And the debate doesn't stop there — controversy is rife in issues such as sex-education curricula and public funding of contraception, with election candidates taking diverse stances on the issues.

U.S. Senate

Sen. Ron Wyden said he is "committed to fighting attempts to stack the court with anti-choice judges whose aim it is to overturn Roe v. Wade."

He said he wants to make abortion "rare through increased access to contraceptives, sex education and promotion of the adoption option."

He said he does not support partial birth abortion, except when necessary to save a woman's life or health, and he opposed the Bush Administration's decision to ban the procedure because it didn't include provisions for a woman's health.

On the other hand, Republican candidate Al King said he would approve a judicial nominee for the Supreme Court based on his or her ability to uphold the constitution and laws "promulgated by elected officials."

King said abstinence is an important part of sex education.

"We need to also have education regarding the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases for those who are not going to follow an abstinence program," he said.

The federal government should fund contraception for those who can't afford it to prevent the further spread of STDs, he said, adding that he believes abortions should only be performed in the case that three doctors, the biological parents of the unborn child, and any other concerned party agrees that the procedure is necessary because the life of the mother is in danger. He added that he supports the Bush Administration's bill to ban



partial birth abortion, which he called "murder."

Representative in U.S. Congress, 4th District

Democratic Rep. Peter DeFazio said abstinence-only sex education has "limited utility."

"There's a range of other people that need a broader approach about responsible sexual activity," he said, adding that if a parent or student objected to sex education, he or she should be excused.

He said emergency contraception should be made available over the counter but only within the tenets of the Food and Drug Administration sets.

DeFazio said he supports a woman's right to choose so that women won't seek dangerous "backroom abortions" that put them at risk for death or injury, but added that the federal funding to assist women in obtaining abortions should be available only in "limited circumstances."

"The only availability would be through state Medicaid plans, and state Medicaid plans would limit the availability to medical necessity," he said. DeFazio said he disagrees with the Bush Administration's bill to ban partial birth abortion because it doesn't provide exceptions for the life and health of the mother.

Republican Candidate Jim Feldkamp said that "all manners of sex education should be allowed," but that sex education should be limited according to the age level of the student.

He said he does not support federal funding of contraception, even under federal employee health plans because "the federal government shouldn't be funding that stuff."

Feldkamp said he "wants to see the abortion level descend to zero," and that he's opposed to using abortions as a form of birth control.

"For the health of the mother, I'm not going to interfere with the right

PHOTO BY LAUREN WIMER

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