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Charles Bolden accepts "Volunteer of the Year" Award from Fredye Petett, President, Urban League of Portland, at the League's annual dinner last Thursday. See related stories on page 5.

(Photo: P.C. Peri)

## Campaign '84

### State ballot measures challenge voters

by Chuck Goodmacher

Along with all of the candidates for public office, voters will also be asked May 15th to approve or disapprove seven ballot measures advocates hope will provide public financing of projects and programs. Of the seven measures, two will be voted on statewide, three are subject to approval only by Multnomah County voters, and one measure will be decided by voters in each of the Port of Portland special districts and the Metropolitan Service District. The *Observer* presents this information on ballot measures in two parts: first, the two statewide measures.

#### State Measure #1

Passage of this measure would allow the State of Oregon to (1) sell general obligation bonds and loan the proceeds to local cities and counties for public works projects, or (2) buy up bonds already sold by local Oregon jurisdictions. A community development finance corporation, managed by governor appointees, would be created to approve or disapprove projects for funding.

Supporters claim: (1) Building new roads, bridges, etc., will create jobs; (2) new industrial sites can be created; and, (3) borrowing costs for cities and counties will be reduced.

Opponents claim: (1) There is no guarantee new roads, etc., in rural areas will actually create new jobs (like the clearing of land around Emmanuel Hospital); (2) urban

areas will not benefit much because there already exist sufficient public works—what is lacking is job training and capital for small businesses which create most new jobs; and, (3) State of Oregon bonds with their tax exempt feature for state residents will slightly reduce the amount of income available to tax and will thereby affect programs or cause other tax raises.

#### State Measure #2

This measure will simply raise fees for licensing and registration of motor vehicles in Oregon to pay for bridge maintenance and construction by cities, counties, and the state itself through the State Department of Transportation. The minimum fee will be raised by \$10 to \$20 per vehicle for most cars with no increase for motorcycles, mopeds and a few other special categories.

Supporters claim: (1) It would repair bridges and roadways which are a serious threat to human life; (2) the last fee increases were in 1950 and are inadequate for maintaining Oregon's highways and roads; and, (3) the registration fee is a user fee increase, and it is fair that users of the highway system pay for it.

Opponents claim: (1) Vehicle registration fees should be based solely on weight of vehicle and rate of road usage; (2) funds raised through registration fees should also be used for safety programs such as driver improvement and drunk driver programs as well as for mass transit; and, (3) increasing the fee is discriminatory to low-income citizens.



## Campaign '84:

### Four vie for state senate seat



Sen. Bill McCoy

by Lanita Duke

**GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—** State Senator Bill McCoy is the American in the Senate. His two main opponents have charged him with being an ineffective leader.

"Leadership is getting votes from your colleagues. I have experience, chaired committees and when I first went to the legislature, I served on the Ways and Means Committee which is the most powerful," he countered.

During the formation of District 18, McCoy was among the most powerful voices who opposed it.

"I was opposed to the gerrymandering of the district. I had a plan which would have taken in most of the community and left portions of the population in other senate (Please turn to page 4, column 1)



Bill Stevenson

by Lanita Duke

**GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—** Bill Stevenson, a former legislator and state labor commissioner, said the ineffectiveness of the Legislature and the incumbent forced him out of political retirement.

"I was born and raised in North Portland. I have a commitment to use my talents to improve the legislative process."

Not only does Stevenson feel McCoy has been ineffective, but "Priestley has a total incapacity to accept anything business suggests. His stand is not compatible with creating jobs or improving the economic climate of the state. Business is the entity that creates jobs."

He said his presence in the senate (Please turn to page 4, column 2)



Rep. Wally Priestley

by Lanita Duke

**GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—** Wally Priestley has been called the liberal's liberal, who faces the challenge of attracting votes outside his traditional base of support in District 17, among peace activists and nuclear freeze proponents.

Currently, he is a state representative in District 17, a seat he has held from 1964-70 and 1972-82.

Priestley admittedly has overt socialist tendencies. How effective does he expect to be as a state senator in the legislature of a capitalist country?

"You can get things done without compromising. The race riots in the 1960's did more to bring justice in the legislative process more than anything else. It is not appropriate (Please turn to page 6, column 1)



Stephen McElroy

by Lanita Duke

**GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—** Stephen D. McElroy is an active member of the North Portland Citizen's Committee, a precinct committee person and the secretary of the Democratic party in House District 17.

He is running on the platform of tax reform and representing the working class in District 8.

"The combination of taxes that I support include a reduced income tax, property taxes and will make up the revenue lost by supporting a lottery."

Although, McElroy has good intentions, the likelihood of him being elected in a race as crowded as State Senator District 8 is, seems remote. (Please turn to page 6, column 2)

### Senate candidates speak on the issues

Each week between now and the Oregon Primary, May 15th, the *Portland Observer* will explore the candidates and issues of concern to Portland voters.

This week, we interviewed the four candidates for the Oregon State Senate District 8.

Next week: The District 19 State Representative race.

What do you feel are major issues facing residents of District 8?

McCoy: "Unemployment is the number one problem. The solution is to find jobs for the people. This year, the Portland Meadows race track was going to close down. I was instrumental in going to the Racing Commission to get them to operate the race track themselves."

McElroy: "Unemployment is the major problem. I believe 40 percent of our young Black people are unemployed. We could create a better business environment by reducing property taxes, modifying the unitary tax and reducing the corporate income tax."

Priestley: "The major problems are not resolvable at the legislature. They are social and economic as it relates to the distribution of wealth. The legislature can effect the problem by tax policies and I've always supported a progressive tax approach."

Stevenson: "The major issue is the effectiveness of the legislature. We were promised property tax relief and were given none. The other issue is job development and the Oregon Legislature has not even scratched the surface. We need to repeal the unitary tax. Also, HB2930, which prohibits holding juvenile offenders for more than three hours."

What would you do to enhance, create and maintain economic development in District 8?

McCoy: "I will keep working to expand overseas trade, strengthen small business and preserve existing jobs."

McElroy: "My answer to the first question will apply here. I would try and draw business so we could employ people."

Priestley: "I'll tell you what I wouldn't do. I would not give our tax dollars away to private corporations through property tax benefits or repeal the unitary tax. I would have tax money invested in the people such as school, health and child care. Jobs are created by new investments."

Stevenson: "I support an enterprise zone. I would be a strong advocate for WBE's, MBE's and small businesses in our district. We should

provide venture capital for business expansion."

Who are you going to support and vote for President of the United States?

McCoy: "I don't know. I was a supporter of a candidate who is no longer in the race. I got on the bandwagon when the first one or two people announced their candidacy. I'm uncommitted."

McElroy: "The only person that can beat Ronald Reagan is Gary Hart."

Priestley: "I'm a contributor and canvasser for Jesse Jackson."

Stevenson: "It's very likely I would vote for Walter Mondale. He is clearly the best prepared candidate to assume the presidency."

Why should residents in District 8 vote for you?

McCoy: "Because of my experience and continued contact with them. I'm sincere about solving the problems in District 8 and have shown this over the years."

McElroy: "The working class people in our district have not been represented. No one is holding public meetings to find out what is on the minds of our constituency."

Priestley: "I'm something special at the legislature. My colleagues even marvel at my ability

to attack the rich and powerful all the time, on all the issues. Justice for the ordinary citizen will not come unless there is a person who can provide a shield behind which the standard liberal or moderate person can proceed."

Stevenson: "I have skills and experience which are beneficial. I served in the State Legislature as a legislator and state senator. My desire to return to the process coincides with what I see as needs to make changes in Salem."

How would you solicit community input and implement their suggestion?

McCoy: Citizen input comes all the time. People continue to call and write. We answer all letters, postcards and inquiries. There are many bills introduced through my office that come from that type of input."

McElroy: "I would hold meetings with district leaders in both house districts with both parties. I'll find out concerns from a party perspective. I would attend as many public meetings as I could to find out the problems according to our constituency."

Priestley: "It is hard to get community input on things with the budget of a state legislator. It is hard to get people out unless you have a specific issue. I plan to send (Please turn to page 2, column 1)