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The Jackson County DEMOCRAT

Newsletter of the Jackson Co. Democratic Central Committee

40 So. Central, Medford

April 2006



WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE!

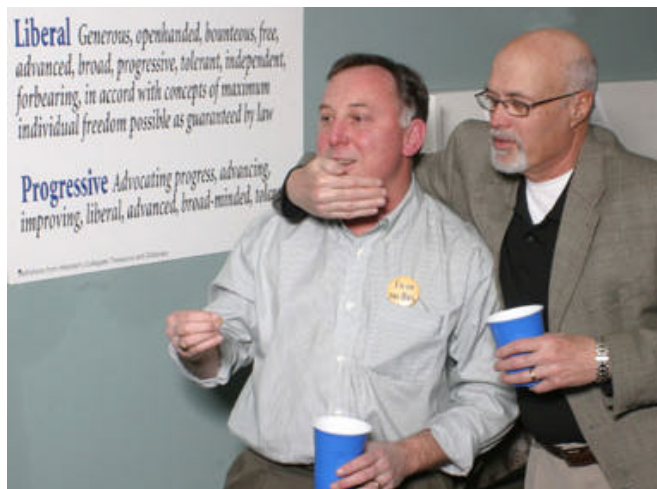
THEY'RE OFF! PRIMARY SEASON IS ON!

As soon as the filing deadline had passed in early March Jackson County Democrats were organizing events at Headquarters to gear up for the election cycle. On March 11th, our committee leaders prioritized our goals and objectives for the next five years. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17th folks joined **Alan Bates** and **Peter Buckley** to welcome **Jefferson Smith** and a contingent from THE BUS PROJECT to a fundraiser at 40 South Central.

The next day, March 18th, as Ashland filled with peace activists to mark the 3rd year of the Iraq War, county Democrats met again at HQ to put the finishing touches on our completely revised 2006 JCDCC Platform before joining in the fun. This document articulates the issues we will focus on over the next two years.

The activities in Ashland drew all four of our Democratic candidates running in the primary to take the 2nd Congressional District seat away from Greg Walden. That evening people gathered at the OEA offices to listen to and talk with **Chuck Butcher**, **Dan Davis**, **Scott Silver** and **Carol Voisin**, who kicked off the coordinated campaign organized by Pat Ackley, 2nd CD Chair for the DPO. They will share the podium in many of the 20 counties in this sprawling district until the May 16th Election Day.

We also welcomed **Autumn Wilburn**, who's headquartered in Eugene, as she made her first foray into southern Oregon. She is our field organizer from the DPO and is charged with helping to strengthen party coordination in quite a number of Oregon's rural counties. In case you haven't noticed, National Party Chair Howard Dean has been busy and effective: Autumn's position is funded by the DNC and her early arrival in the election cycle is an historic first!



Buckley and Bates collaborate to stay on message at the Bates, Buckley, The Bus & Beer Fundraiser. Photo by Helga Motley

The JCDCC wound up the busy month on March 23rd with a Precinct Organizational Kick-off. Our first order of business was to elect delegates to the Oregon State Democratic Platform Convention in Eugene this June. Chair Gail Beason, Frank Heiber, Kurt Staicoff, Myrl Bishop and Nan Trout will make sure our voice is heard and our platform issues supported.

Our most active committee persons from all five regions of Jackson County met all nine of our local candidates: **Mike Moran**, candidate for Oregon House District 2 (running against Sal Esquivel); **Richard Koopmans** (who is taking on Dennis Richardson again); **Tom Winmill**, candidate for Jackson County Commissioner (opposing Jack Walker); **Joe Charter**, candidate for the non-partisan position of Circuit Court Judge; **Carol Voisin** and **Dan Davis**, our area candidates for the 2nd CD, and our incumbents **County Commissioner Dave Gilmour**, **Representative Peter Buckley**, and Cathy Shaw, representing **Senator Alan Bates**.

Peter outlined the work we need to do to capture seats on the County Commission and another House seat. Running unopposed by Republicans, his big job is help Democratic candidates get elected, not only in Jackson County but all over the 2nd CD. The evening ended as committee persons grabbed phone lists to call all Democratic volunteers and gear up for the critical work ahead of us in this election season. ?

INFORMATION CENTRAL www.jcdemocrats.org

Everyone add this link to your 'Favorites' list on your computers! It's where you'll find candidate information [left column], The DEMOCRAT, our new 2006 PLATFORM, and upcoming LOCAL EVENTS - not to mention the place to register, to volunteer and contribute funds to our party activities.

Br...inngg! Don't Hang Up!

Democrats will be calling all our volunteers to help with phone banks at Headquarters, 40 S. Central Avenue, throughout April, May and June.

Yeh yeh...everyone hates phoning, but this is a crucial bedrock feature of any political campaign, so when one of our precinct activists calls you to ask for help, be prepared to **say YES!** Candidates are coordinating with the party and are looking to supporters for help their campaigns. The phone banks will be operating in the early evenings. The parking at that time is ample!

We are the designated worker bees, folks. We win when we get it that GOTV doesn't just happen a month before election day, so give your time and voice early. The more the merrier!

SKILLED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED RIGHT AWAY

We are looking for a few volunteers with personal computer skills and a little spare time to help out with general computer related office tasks. If you're comfortable around a personal computer we need your help.

We're also looking for someone with bookkeeping skills on the QuickBooks program to assist JCDCC Treasurer Lori Larson. She needs help a few hours a month with occasional surges when there are events that involve contributions.



Photo by John Littleton

APRIL JCDCC MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2006

6:30 – 8:30 pm

OEA Offices

2495 S. Pacific Hwy

Election Season Round-up

5 Yr. Plan - Goals & Objectives

The Ballot Measures

Campaign developments

Committee work

Ballots will be arriving in the mail. Our candidates will be gearing up for the general election. Don't pass up this opportunity to jump inside the loop.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2006

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Democratic Headquarters

TIDBITS FROM MARCH 23RD

Around 75 Democratic activists gathered to plan for the upcoming campaign. Nan Trout reminded folks that our 2006 Platform is half as long and twice as focused as our previous platform and pointed out that it is easy to download from our website.

County Chair Gail Beason introduced our complete team of candidates. Each spoke for about 5 minutes about their goals. Commissioner Gilmour alerted us to the emerging air quality crisis (see Action Alert, pg. 4). Judge Charter asked for our support in his non-partisan race against an incumbent who is being backed by Republicans. That is a reality of judicial campaigns these days that Democrats must confront, since this race may be decided in the Primary.

During the Q & A period Bill Mansfield, long time legal counsel to local government bodies, joked that Mike Moran was going to be running an 'unfair race' against Esquivel because of Mike's connections to the community and superior understanding of the issues Medford voters care about. Carol Voisin and Dan Davis were asked about getting out their message to rural eastern Oregonians. They've got the most wide-ranging and hectic campaigning to do in this year's campaign season.

After Peter Buckley outlined the Jackson County *Strategy to Win*, Christine Haynie explained the corner stone of this strategy to an enthusiastic and responsive audience. Everyone went home energized to spread the word that Democrats are ready for the 2006 election.

MIKE MORAN – STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 6



Mike Moran announced his candidacy for the office of State Representative District 6 on the steps of Medford City Hall. He chose the location because he's served the people of Medford for over 28 years as a police officer, and at that very spot in 1968 Senator Robert Kennedy spoke during his campaign for the presidency.

Occupation: Police Lieutenant, Medford Police Department.

Educational Background: Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications Southern Oregon State College.

Graduate of the FBI National Academy.

St. Mary's HS, Medford.

Prior Governmental Experience

Medford Board of Education since 2000;

Three term chairman 2002-2005

Medford School District Budget Committee 1993-1999

Medford Parks and Recreation Commissioner 1998-1999

Rogue Valley Transit District Director: 1977-1978 / 1985-1987

One of the reasons I am a candidate for state representative is my frustration with the overly partisan and hostile atmosphere in the Legislature. Effective state government is based on bipartisan cooperation and compromise. It is greatly enhanced with two-way communication between the voters and their representatives.

Oregon's funding process for necessary government service is dysfunctional. The inability of the Legislature to compromise, to be creative and to communicate the Oregon spirit of working together needs to change. Working with all my fellow representatives in Salem toward a stable, adequate, and fair funding solution will be a major priority.

Why not have great schools? Why not feel secure on all the highways in our state? Why not create an adequate, stable and fair funding system so that we can all enjoy the mutual benefits of good government while all of us, individuals and corporations alike, carry our fair share of the cost?

Answering these questions begins with each of us working together to send a message to Salem that it's time to get to work and save the kind of Oregon we can be proud of. I have served for over 28 years as a Medford police officer. I have worked hard for 6 years as a member of the Medford School Board. I have volunteered in many other capacities in our community.

Governor Tom McCall said: "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. Heroes are people who say this my community and it's my responsibility to make it better."

As your citizen legislator in Salem I promise to continue to always work hard for you.

This information furnished by Mike Moran for State Rep. Committee: P.O. Box 8166, Medford, Oregon 97501. mikemoran1@charter.net

JOE CHARTER – CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Judge Charter is running in the Primary to fill an open seat on the Circuit Court. Joe was a Jackson County Judge Pro Tempore on the Circuit Court between 1996-1997 and again from 1999-2002 and presided over criminal trials in that position. He lost a similar non-partisan contest with Judge William Purdy to occupy a newly created seat on the Circuit Court in 2002.

"Good judges make a difference in the lives of citizens every day," he declares. "I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the community as a Circuit Court Judge." The qualities he admires in judges are humility, patience, hard work, consistency, humor, independence, and open minded inquiry.

The issues he sees as currently critical on the courts are civil liberties and judicial independence on the national level, and drug and family courts and the methamphetamine addiction that afflict Oregon and Jackson County.

An experienced litigator with a diverse practice in family law, employment, business, real estate, construction, personal injury, probate, and mediation, Joe Charter is familiar with most cases that come to court. He established new law in Oregon on damages: (Tadsen, 326 Or 465) in 1996 and (Wooton, 136 Or App 56) in 1995.

Joe Charter has been active in the community since he moved to Jackson County, serving on the Medford Planning Commission from 1994-1995, and as Vice Chair in 1995; the Medford Charter Review Committee, 1998; the Ashland Forest Lands Commission, 2000-2002.

He was a Small Claims Court Volunteer Mediator, Mediation Works, 1997-2000; and served on the Jackson County Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee from 1997-2004. He was also a 'Boys To Men Northwest Rite of Passage' Volunteer and Mentor in 2003, and has been a Board Member of Mediation Works from 2004-2006.

A member of the Jackson County Bar Association, he served on its Executive Committee from 1997-2002 and presided as President, 2001-2002; he also served as a member of the Oregon State Bar House of Delegates from 1999-2002. He is a member of the American Judges Association. Contact: jmcharter@uci.net



TOM WINMILL - COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION #1

Long-time Rogue Valley resident, Tom Winmill, is running as a Democrat for Jackson County Commissioner, position #1. He believes that County government needs to be more accessible and responsive to the people. He will be a strong voice for clean, open government; access to quality health care; prudent land-use planning; and maintaining our unique quality of life.

Occupation:

Sales and Marketing Manager,
COBI Digital HD Studios, Medford

Occupational Background: Business,
sales and distribution management.

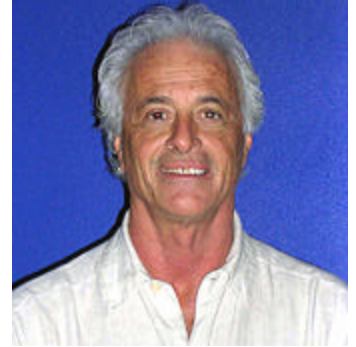
Government Experience: None.

Education:

California State University, Hayward CA
Seattle University, WA

Community Service:

Board of Directors, SOU Raider Club,
the athletic arm of the SOU Foundation



Tom Winmill is the sales and marketing manager at COBI Digital studios in Medford. In 1972, Winmill opened The Vintage Inn in Ashland with partner Mike Mahar. He became a fixture at the restaurant, opening for breakfast in the morning and closing after the last customer left every night. He is 59 years old, has lived in the Rogue Valley for over thirty-three years, and currently resides at 200 Normal Avenue, Ashland, Oregon. He is married to Debbie Winmill, and they have one adult daughter, Jodi.

“Tom has started and run a number of successful businesses in his career,” said Christine Pellett, Medford real estate appraiser and local orchardist. “He has had to make payroll, balance budgets, handle disputes and deal with the public - so he has what it takes to make a good commissioner.”

HONEST LEADERSHIP: “Whether you’ve been in the area for just a few years, or for a lifetime, I want to represent you,” says Winmill, “We’re facing some tough times ahead and I know you want your government representatives to be honest, open and accessible to all. That’s why I’m asking for your support.”

OPEN GOVERNMENT: Tom Winmill is committed to:

- Strengthening our local economy with family wage jobs
- Protecting health care and county law enforcement services
- Supporting programs that maintain water and air quality
- Prudent and inclusive land-use planning

“Tom has the energy and fresh perspective the County needs,” said Medford Architect Doug Snider. “His patience, character and commitment will serve the citizens well.”

For more information, contact: Charlie McHenry, Campaign Manager - 772-2243

ACTION ALERT : CONTACT THE EPA - KEEP OUR AIR QUALITY

Recently the Environmental Protection Agency proposed to enact *improved* air pollution standards for particulate matter [PM], which in itself is commendable. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration elected to delay the enforcement of these new standards until 2013 – and proposed the elimination of all current Rogue Valley ambient air quality standards by December 2006.

For 99.5% of America existing air pollution standards will continue to protect people for the next seven years while they are waiting for full implementation and enforcement of the new PM pollution standards.

However, the Medford-Ashland Air Quality Maintenance Area [AQMA] is among the most vulnerable 0.5% of America that, under the delay, will *not* have *any* particulate matter air pollution standards during the interim period. Our AQMA maintenance plan, which specifically preserves all emission control strategies, is still pending enactment! Without such standards in place during the seven interim years, those air pollution rules for industry that we worked so hard a couple of years ago to get the DEQ to preserve for our region, are threatened by this administration proposal. (*continued next page*)

ACTION ALERT *(continued)*

The Medford Tribune reported that state EPA officials are aware that the rules that are being threatened apply to our airshed, including;

- [1] the rule requiring industrial emission offsets
- [2] the rule requiring new industry to meet the stringent new-technology LAER standards (Lowest Available Emission Rate), and
- [3] the rule setting the threshold for our area for industrial pollution permitting at 5 tons of emission per year (instead of 15 tons).

Federal action under this administration being what it is, The Rogue Valley Citizens for Clean Air is once again taking the lead and alerting valley residents that we want to retain these rules. They are concerned that the Department of Environmental Quality is unwilling to defend the rules they negotiated for our airshed because more of Oregon would qualify as polluted if the strengthened standard emissions agreed to for Ashland/Medford were adopted - contrary to the advice of their own EPA scientific advisory committee!

To make matters even more complicated, the Feds are proposing to reduce the number of monitors in the area that track the degree of fine particulates in our air. We are all aware that the topography of this region lends itself to temperature inversions, lacks the ventilation that would alleviate particulate concentrations and, therefore, should require monitoring at least as closely as in the past.

The deadline for giving the EPA input is April 17, 2006. Your comments can be made at the following email address: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov Please put the following info in the subject line: **Docket ID No. OAR-2001-0017.** If you wish to comment on the use of monitors, put **Docket ID No. OAR-2004-0018** in the subject line.

THE CASE FOR REGISTERING AS A DEMOCRAT

by Carl F. Worden – posted online 1/3/2006

Democrats knew little about Carl Worden of Eagle Point, when he was interviewed on local TV as a Democratic candidate.* We Googled him and found this clear position statement regarding Mr. Worden's campaign strategy on a site run by conservative politician Tim Ferguson of Maryland: www.fergusonreport.myonlinepublication.com/article.asp?pop_id=161&article_id=415 We are sorry that lack of space doesn't allow room for the complete text, so feel free to check it out yourself ... the editor

"You wonderful conservatives out there might be stunned by the title of this article, but hear me out. Those of you who have come to know me and my writing KNOW I am a conservative at heart. You probably know I have been a registered Republican all my life until now, and some of you question how I might have gone somewhat berserk by registering as a Democrat 8/8/2005.

...Trust me: There is method to my madness, as Shakespeare wrote. You should know by now I can see into the future, and that my predictions are almost 100%, and this is one prediction that is going to come to pass.

The elections of 2006 will be a massive bloodbath for Republicans... Bush's excellent adventure in Iraq has been his undoing. Recent revelations that Bush ordered the NSA to spy on Americans without search warrants has both Republicans and Democrats thinking seriously about impeaching Bush and removing him from office. Almost every Republican representative out there violated their sworn oath when they gave their power to declare war over to Bush...

I am a disciple of guerrilla warfare and Vietnam, and I know what I am writing to you about. So why am I telling you to register as a Democrat? Frankly, it is the only hope American conservatives have!

Look, I've gotten a real education of late. After I announced I might run for Congress against Oregon District 2 Republican Representative Greg Walden, I met up with the local Democrat leaders. (Mr. Worden subsequently decided to run for County Commissioner seat #1) Most of them are well-meaning and have good hearts, even if they are liberal in many respects. But there is a contingent of Democrats who have taken leadership roles and con-

trol the Democratic Party, and they are just as extreme in their views as the Neocons who took over the Republican Party and destroyed it...

What did I tell the Democrats I met with? I told them the 2006 elections would be given them in droves, so long as they didn't run raving socialist liberals...

What if a massive number of lifelong Republican voters went down to the county Elections office and registered as Democrats? If they did, they'd be able to vote in the Democratic Party primary and make sure a moderate to conservative Democrat ran against the Nazi Republican incumbent! If they don't, the extreme liberal socialist arm of the Democratic Party will appoint another whack-job socialist liberal in the primary who is certain to lose in a major red area like District 2 of Southern Oregon, but maybe even worse -- the liberal socialist whack-job might even win! Do you know what happens then?... Only if enough conservative voters register Democrat for this 2006 election, will it be possible or even probable that we'll be able to do the kind of damage control that is necessary to keep this nation somewhat sane and normal.

Now do you see where I'm coming from? Only if you register as a Democrat, will you be able to actually make a difference in 2006. The Republicans are dead meat in November 2006, so the smart move is to infiltrate the Democratic Party with conservative voters. Think about it."

*** On March 1, 2006 in an interview on KOB-TV, in answer to a comment by newsmen Chris Corcoran that he was surprised Worden had decided to switch from Republican to Democrat instead of the more conservative Libertarian or Constitution Parties, Worden said that the Conservative Party was the party of his heart, but that he knew he couldn't get on the ballot with it. ?**

NO MORE UNELECTED PRESIDENTS

Wolf Hoppe is a retired trial lawyer, adjunct professor of law and U.S. Foreign Service Officer. He's been teaching SOLIR courses on the US Constitution, the US Supreme Court and related topics since retiring in Ashland in 1999.

A novel proposal put forward by the Campaign for a National Popular Vote* would insure that all future United States presidents are elected by a popular vote majority.

Of the 43 presidents, three assumed office despite the fact that they had lost the popular vote: Hayes, Harrison and George W. Bush. The reason for this anomaly is the fact that under our Constitution presidents are chosen by an Electoral College and not by the voters.

Pursuant to Art. II, Sect.1 of the Constitution, each state is allotted a number of "electors" equal to the number of its congressional delegation (senators and representatives). The manner of choosing its electors is left entirely to each state's legislature. Today, by state law in all the states, the electors are elected by popular vote. When voters cast their votes for a presidential candidate, they actually vote for a slate of electors committed to that candidate – "electors for" may appear in fine print under the name of each presidential candidate on the ballot. The electors of all states then cast their votes and the presidential candidate with an absolute majority of the 538 electoral votes is declared president.

By state law, all but two states follow the "winner-take-all" rule: the winner of the popular vote in each state gets all of the state's electoral votes. This part of the system is responsible for the possible divergence of the electoral votes and national popular votes for president. To illustrate, let us look at a hypothetical presidential race in South and North Carolina. Candidate Smith won the popular vote in South Carolina by a margin of 170,000:150,000 and thus received all of its 8 electoral votes. Smith lost the popular vote in North Carolina 240,000:250,000 to candidate Jones, who, in turn received all of the 14 electoral votes of that state. Combining the results of both states, we see that Jones won the electoral vote 14:8, even though he lost the popular vote by 10,000.

Why are we stuck with the Electoral College system? The answer is that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 rejected the idea of popular election of the president, mainly for the following reasons:

National parties were thought to be mischievous, if not evil. It was felt that gentlemen should not campaign for public office. The saying was "The office should seek the man, the man should not seek the office."

There was, in any event, no way the voters in the 13 states could be informed about candidates, in light of the lack of means for communication and transportation.

The idea was that elite "electors" chosen by the legislatures of the states would know or be informed about outstanding national figures and would be able to choose possible candidates from whom to elect a president. None of these reasons are germane

today, making the Electoral College system unnecessary and inappropriate for our country in the 21st century.

Why do we not amend the Constitution to do away with the Electoral College and provide for the direct election of presidents by popular vote? Reportedly, over 500 unsuccessful attempts to change or eliminate the Electoral College, by amendment, have already been made. The acknowledged reason for their failure is the fact that the smaller states have a disproportionately larger number of electoral votes which they are unwilling to give up. Thus, based on 2000 census figures, each of the 3

Poll after poll has shown that there is an overwhelming national sentiment that presidents should be chosen by popular vote.

Wyoming electors represented only 120,000 citizens 18 years or older, while each of the 54 California electors represented 370,000 potential voters, giving Wyoming electors more than 3 times the voting power, compared to

California electors. (In Oregon, the number of voters per elector is 340,000, so Wyoming trumps us as well).

Poll after poll has shown that there is an overwhelming national sentiment that presidents should be chosen by popular vote. **The Campaign for a National Popular Vote** (www.nationalpopularvote.com) has come up with an elegant proposal to accomplish this objective by a change in the state winner-take-all laws: instead of awarding all the state's electoral votes to the winner of the state's popular vote, they would go to the winner of the national popular vote! The electoral college votes would thus "ratify" the outcome of the national popular vote and we would always have a president elected by the majority vote of the people. Needless to say, not all states need to participate in this proposed program. It is sufficient that states having a total of 270 electoral votes change their winner-take-all laws, as suggested.

There is no apparent partisan issue in the proposal – the winner of the national popular vote, whoever that might be, would always become president.

One of the great incidental advantages of having the national popular vote control the outcome of elections would be that the candidates would have to conduct truly national campaigns and could not rely on the safe electoral votes of established "blue" and "red" states. It likely would invigorate the election process and increase voter participation.

Oregon should be part of this effort to solve the Electoral College problem. We need to let our representatives in the state legislature know that we want to elect our president by popular vote! (Connect to Peter Buckley: info@peterbuckley.com or Alan Bates: senatorbates@mind.net)

**Hendrik Hertzberg's recent Talk of the Town essay in the March 6th New Yorker focused interest on this proposal. Subsequently, the New York Times and Chicago Sun Times both wrote editorials supporting the effort. ?*

CANDIDATE'S CONTACT INFO

2nd CONG. DISTRICT

CHUCK BUTCHER – Baker City
Email: cbutcher@bakervalley.net
Web: www.chuckfor.blogspot.com

DAN DAVIS - Applegate
Email:
dan@dandavisforcongress.org
Web: www.dandavisforcongress.org

SCOTT SILVER – Bend
Email: scott@silverforcongress.org
Web: www.silverforcongress.org

CAROL VOISIN – Ashland
Email: info@voisinforcongress.com
Web: www.voisinforcongress.com

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

PETER BUCKLEY – Incumbent
Email: info@peterbuckley.org
Web: www.peterbuckley.org

MIKE MORAN – Medford (# 6)
Email: mikemoran541@charter.net

RICHARD KOOPMANS –
Gold Hill (# 4)
Email: koopmans53@yahoo.com

IN PERFORMANCE

The 2nd Congressional District Candidates



Scott Silver - Bend
Photo: Helga Motley



Chuck Butcher - Baker City
Photo: Helga Motley



Dan Davis - Applegate
Photo: John Littleton



Carol Voisin - Ashland
Photo: Helga Motley

STATE SENATE

ALAN BATES - Incumbent
Email: senatorbates@mind.net
Web: www.alanbates.net

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DAVE GILMOUR – Incumbent
Email: drgilmour@mac.com

TOM WINMILL – Ashland (#1)
Campaign Mgr: 772-2243

On Wednesday, March 1st, 2006, in Annapolis at a hearing on the proposed Constitutional Amendment to prohibit gay marriage, Jamie Raskin, professor of law at AU, was requested to testify.

At the end of his testimony, Republican Senator Nancy Jacobs said: "Mr. Raskin, my Bible says marriage is only between a man and a woman. What do you have to say about that?"

Raskin replied: "Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You did not place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."

The room erupted into applause.

Thanks to Holly East, Director of Peace House