

District 8 hopefuls face issues

by Caren Benjamin

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The following is the second part of an article in which candidates from Maryland for the U.S. House of Representatives outline



Connie Morella

their positions on issues of interest to the Jewish community.

Connie Morella-R was reelected to a fourth term as Maryland's 8th District representative in 1993. She is a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Compensation, Employment, Benefits, and Science, Space and Technology, and is the first woman chair of the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

Morella supports foreign aid and believes the United States should "encourage negotiations between the Israelis and the Arabs, but not dictate its own solution."

The decision to have an abortion, Morella believes, must be left up to the woman, and the government "should provide alternatives to assist in that choice, such as adoption, counseling, and financial assistance for pregnant women to carry to term."

Morella's suggestions for health care reform, to expand access to all uninsured people, include promotion of preventative medicine, reduction of federally-mandated paperwork, reform of medical liability laws and a chance for states to experiment with their own reform options.

Morella strongly advocates gun control laws such as the Handgun Violence Prevention Act which would ban the acquisition or transfer of cheap handguns.

Morella is a strong supporter of women's issues, including the Violence Against Women Act, added to crime bills, to provide federal

Jonathan Leeds-I is running as a "citizen's candidate, in the spirit of Lincoln's Whig Party." He is affiliated with Lyndon LaRouche. He has never held public office before and is currently working as a manager at an environmental consulting lab.

Leeds strongly opposes the right to choose abortion, believing that "all life is sacred" and that "the situation we live in today is economic coercion to abort life."

He also believes everyone should have access to health care but that any federal plan ought to be tested first on a state level.

Gun control, Leeds believes, is not the primary issue in fighting crime. "To the present date there have been 400 separate gun control laws passed. Our problem," Leeds says, "is much larger than an ability to con-



Jonathan Leeds

rol guns."

Leeds is strongly against privatization in education. He believes "all creativity is inspired by God, working through the individual. Only when the education system will address teaching a child his ability to spark the creativity within himself, will we have a new golden renaissance of intellectuals."

To provide credits for infrastructure mass transit and other local needs, Leeds advocates federalizing the banking system, taking banks out of the hands of the federal reserve and putting the "policies back into the hands of the American people, as it is called for in the Constitution."

Steven Van Grack-D is a former mayor of Rockville and has practiced law for nearly 20 years. During his tenure as mayor, Van Grack introduced the "Rockville Says No to Drugs" campaign, the distribution of the

the improvement of human rights issues.

Van Grack is pro-choice and believes "the government should not interfere with the decision which an individual makes about whether or not to bring a child into the world."



Steven Van Grack

He would support a health care reform plan that creates universal coverage and recommends taxing tobacco and alcohol as preventative measures.

"Our criminal justice system must be dramatically reformed and we must begin with cracking down on gun violence," Van Grack says, advocating laws to tighten gun dealer licensing and an education program on "the dangers of owning a gun."

Van Grack stands for "a strong separation of church and state. This includes no vouchers for private and religious schools and no prayer in public schools. He would also support better enforcement and laws to punish individuals for bias-related crimes.

He is also in favor of continuing foreign aid to Israel.

A member of Congregation Har Shalom, Van Grack has a long history of involvement in the Jewish community including work as a fundraiser for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, membership in the Men's Club of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington and contributions to the United Jewish Appeal.

Unlike Morella, Van Grack would have supported the President's budget and eco-