

Yes on #51, #18

"Not in my backyard" has become the rallying cry for local activists across the nation, whether they're fighting toxic waste dumps, nuclear power plants or military facilities.

Eugene Ballot Measure #51 and Lane county Ballot Measure #18 declare the City and County Nuclear Free Zones. 130 cities nationwide and 13 in Oregon have already declared themselves Nuclear Free Zones. They make a lot of sense.

We choose to live in communities because we perceive them to be healthy environments for ourselves and our children. We need to keep control of those environments for economic, political and mental health. Neither Oregon, nor Eugene nor Lane County has ever been dependent on nuclear power or weapons production and we should keep it that way.

The state is already suffering economically because we don't get a lot of defense dollars from the Federal Government. As Peter DeFazio said recently, the 34 states without large defense contracts are suffering, while the 16 states with defense dollars being pumped into them are booming.

In taking a strong stand against production of nuclear weapons and nuclear power, we may have to sacrifice a little more, a little longer. But in the long run we will be way ahead considering the astronomical costs of nuclear clean-up, nuclear wastes, nuclear accidents and nuclear war!

The measures do not prohibit nuclear medicine or scientific research in other areas. There would be no negative impact on our hospitals and University.

It is unfortunate that our national legislators are able to vote for a national "Nuclear Freeze" one week, and vote an increase in defense spending the next. They are not accountable enough to the voters, and that is why it's a must that we take this kind of action at the local level.

Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, let's catch up with the international movement that is taking a stand by saying, "Here is where I have some control." It's a frustrating, slow process, but it starts with each individual taking a stand at some point in the long road towards change. Here's our chance to speak out against the madness of nuclear technology.

Support Jack Craig

The *What's Happening* Editors agree with the following letter endorsing Jack Craig for another term on the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB).

Dear Editor:

I strongly urge Jack Craig's re-election to a third four-year term as the all-city EWEB commissioner.

Jack Craig deserves another term as EWEB commissioner on the basis of his eight years of service as an EWEB commissioner. He brings to the Board a proven record of honesty and hard work as a long-time community leader, as a former member of the Oregon House of Representatives, and as the person who sparked the Eugene moratorium vote that killed the billion dollar Big Creek nuclear plant 17 years ago.

My admiration for Jack Craig's contributions goes back more than 30 years. His re-election will mean that Eugene ratepayers will have continued benefit of his experience working for low rates and conservation.

—Charles O. Porter
Attorney at Law

Voters, be prepared!

The Ballots which you will read inside the voting booth will have no explanations about the ballot measures on them. They will only be listed briefly. It will therefore be very important for you to be prepared before you enter the voting booth. There will be explanations outside the booth.

You are allowed to take into the booth any information you want. In fact, it is advised that you do take some written material in with you to help you remember how you had planned to vote on each issue and candidate. *What's Happening* will provide recommendations on voting for many candidates and all the Ballot Measures on October 30, so don't forget to pick up that issue and take it into the booth with you.

Yes on #5

The right to cultivate marijuana for personal use is a civil rights issue. In the privacy of one's home, an adult must be afforded the right to act as he or she sees fit, for whatever reason, as long as no harm to others is incurred.

Personal freedom is the basis of democracy. Tolerance for the most possible personal choices brings about the widest, most inclusive democracy. No matter how different certain behavior may appear to be, protecting freedom of choice—as long as it brings no harm to others—is the goal of democracy.

By passing Ballot Measure #5 Oregon would say to the world, "We allow diversity, we believe in democracy."

Prohibition didn't work. The current marijuana laws don't work. They only encourage the black market which in turn overburdens police budgets and the court system. By allowing people to grow marijuana for their own use, millions of dollars would be saved that now go into prosecution for use of a fairly harmless drug.

If people could grow their own, the money now leaving town in the pockets of the pushers would remain in the local economy. "Al Capone did not want to reform drug laws!" Neither should Oregonians wish to allow the black market to flourish at the expense of local economic growth.

Many people ask, "Why is alcohol legal and not marijuana?" It is a very good question. According to Dr. William J. Kinnard Jr., Dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, it is a question of attitude: "The tonnage of chemical compounds that this nation swallows, injects, inserts or inhales into its collective body each year is astronomical. We're so casual about the use of drugs that we don't even consider alcohol, nicotine, aspirin, caffeine and the theobromine in chocolate to be drugs." (*Washington Post Health Section*, Oct. 14).

He goes on to say that alcohol cannot be effectively banned; that

serious consideration should be given to the decriminalization of marijuana; and that over-the-counter and prescription drugs should be looked at very carefully for their side effects and other dangers.

Kinnard asks, "Why are people taking drugs?" Since we can't effectively block the supply, we need to look at the demand for them.

We have heard a lot about the reasons for drug use in our society —poverty, boredom, powerlessness, fear of the future, peer pressure and lack of public education, to name a few. There is another reason seldom discussed or even mentioned because it is so controversial and unacceptable in light of the current war on drugs hysteria. The human race has always sought deep inner vision, religious experience, through intoxicants. The missing spiritual element in current American culture has created a real need for certain drug experiences and may very well be the "reason behind the reasons" for the widespread use of drugs today.

Overdose by marijuana has never been known to cause death, while enough dime-a-dozen aspirin can be fatal. Drunk drivers cause thousands of deaths a year. Caffeine has been proven very dangerous to many types of mental patients. Marijuana users have become the scapegoats for a drug-ridden culture that does not want to admit its addictions or the reasons behind them.

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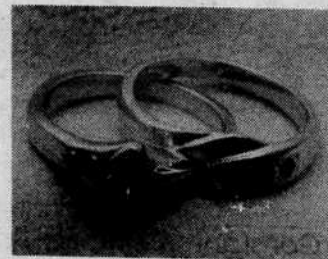
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