

Mixed feelings on the recall

Over the past 22 years, Eugene voters have repeatedly defeated efforts to start a kindergarten program in Eugene's schools. The last time the kindergarten issue was submitted as a separate ballot measure was in 1973.

Earlier this year, acting legally under legislative authority, the Eugene School Board incorporated a kindergarten program in the overall budget without putting it up to a separate vote. The entire budget was defeated twice, but just recently passed by a very narrow margin. The results of that election are now being contested in court.

A recall effort has been mounted against five of the seven members of the board for initiating the program without putting it up for a separate vote.

The *Emerald* supports the kindergarten program and opposes the recall. However, we do feel that opponents of kindergartens are fully within their rights to institute and vote for the recall.

It has been argued by the board's defenders that recall should only be used for malfeasance, wrongdoing or violation of the public trust, and not for a disagreement over policy.

The trouble with this argument is that starting a kindergarten program was more than a simple policy decision.

Because the decision clearly went against the will of the voters in numerous votes on the issue, it was in essence an undemocratic decision. And it was a violation of the public trust in that sense.

This is not to suggest that a school board should never take a progressive position that counters the feelings of a majority of people. Without such leadership change would never occur.

But what it does mean is that kindergarten opponents are justified in attempting to recall the board. Their trust in the board was betrayed.

The board members up for recall are:
— Jonathan West, who works on affirmative action and equal opportunity programs at LCC.

— Sam Frear, public information officer for the Willamette National Forest who is the board's chairman.

— Barbara West, co-owner of KZEL-FM radio in Eugene.

— Larry Hughes, an orthodontist.
— Gail Nicholson, a former teacher and child welfare worker.

The two other members of the board are not subject to the recall because they have served less than six months.

The *Emerald* strongly supports the kindergarten program and hopes that voters will oppose the recall on election day. Board members put in long hard hours and only get aggravation in return. They have exhibited courage in their kindergarten stand.

Letters

For Frohnmayer

Endorsement of Norm Pott over David Frohnmayer represents an unfortunate error in judgement by the *Emerald*. Frohnmayer is not merely a "lawyer"; he is an expert in legislative processes and procedures. He has worked closely with the Oregon Legislature, and has, in fact, been instrumental in the creation of some of the procedures by which it operates. Frohnmayer does not only have creditable intentions, but also the tools with which to transform those intentions into reality. Pott is comparatively lacking in this ability, and his well-meaning but ineffectual representation would be little better than no representation at all.

The *Emerald* displays shortsightedness in its consideration of differences between Frohnmayer and Pott. Too much emphasis is placed upon isolated policy decisions made by the candidates, rather than on the deliberative processes used to reach those decisions. Pott's views are attractive, but I am suspicious of candidates who support popular positions in absolute terms. Dave Frohnmayer, on the other hand, displays a more responsible approach to complex problems by refusing to dogmatically support a position, no matter how popular or attractive, without first thoroughly investigating its potential impact upon the general welfare of Oregonians.

Far more important than a

candidate's stand on isolated issues is his ability to carefully consider a problem and his ability to implement effective change. Frohnmayer, through his thoughtful consideration of a problem, and his expertise in legislative processes, represents the wiser choice in the November elections.

Robert Krambs, law
Aleta Doerr, art history

For Pott

Norm Pott, candidate for state representative in District 40, offers the voters a rare blend of experience and talent. During the past ten years he has been actively engaged with many of the critical problems in the Eugene community. As member, then chairman, of Eugene's Human Rights Commission over a six year period, he helped to make Eugene a leader in the work of removing barriers to equal opportunity for all. Norm has also been involved in the Juvenile Justice Program; he stepped out early and courageously as a leader in the opposition to the Vietnam War. More recently he has worked to mobilize support for the farm workers in their struggle for economic justice.

Norm Pott raises the intellectual and moral level of any group he works with. He has the knack of bringing individuals from very diverse backgrounds together; he finds the ground on which they can work for larger goals. His skill as a mediator is exceptional.

Norm Pott has taken forthright and progressive stands on such issues as land use, pollution, tax reform, transportation, and consumer protection. He understands the needs of the University community; he will be able to express those needs in a disinterested fashion within the Legislature. It is imperative that Democrats control the House of Representatives in the next legislative session; Norm Pott's election will help to insure that control.

Stan Pierson
history

Misstatements

We appreciate the fine coverage of the Lane County Women's Political Caucus forum where candidates had a chance to speak on issues of concern to women.

We do wish, however, to correct two misstatements about Rep. Mary Burrows attributed to John Stewart, both candidates for House District 41.

Mr. Stewart said he had received an "A" from the Women's Political Caucus while Ms. Burrows had gotten a "B". No Women's Political Caucus in Oregon has an alphabetical rating of candidates — nor does national.

It was also reported that Rep. Burrows did not support legislation banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. She did, in fact, support such legislation in two votes on the floor. Rep. Burrows has a 100 per cent rating on feminist legislation in the 1973 session.

The Oregon Women's Political Caucus has compiled the voting record of all legislators on issues of concern to women. A copy of this booklet "Quick Look" may be obtained by contacting any member of the OWPC or the LCWPC. It is also in the Law School library.

Margaret Patoine
Oregon Representative NWPC

Correction

My letter in the Oct. 15, issue of the *Emerald* should correctly have indicated that it was written as a personal opinion of a voter and in no way should reflect or be interpreted as a statement of a University employee. I regret my error and hope that you will include this clarification in the next issue of the *Emerald*.

Bob Bowlin

Boyd was quoted by the *Emerald* in a column entitled "Boyd eyes University problems" as stating: "Never disturb a thing at rest, never raise any issue to the level of principle and never say never!" Those three rules, says William Boyd, are the only things he has learned in his life as an administrator. The only things he has learned in all of his experiences as an administrator are those three things? I'm incredulous! Either we have an incompetent as well as powerful man on our hands (similarly to Clark in my opinion), or the *Emerald* is misquoting again and sounding absurd, as well as making the anti-student Boyd sound ridiculous.

Elaine Johnson
sociology

Editor's note: The quotation was accurate.

Ford lied

It is refreshing to have President Ford appearing before the Judiciary Committee explaining in a great show of candor the events and thinking leading up to his pardon of President Nixon.

Two things however disturbed me. First, almost at the outset President Ford explained how, for three days after learning to his great surprise and shock that Nixon had indeed committed an impeachable offense, he continued to deliberately lie to the public in his speeches and hold to his old position that no such offense had been committed, so as not to appear to be trying to influence Nixon's decision with respect to resignation. No one batted an eye. Thus we see again the nature of executive thinking. Truth and integrity are merely matters of convenience, to be indulged in alternatively with lying according to whichever seems to fit the exigencies of the moment best. This reduces my confidence in the rest of his testimony.

The second matter, when Elizabeth Holtzman of N.Y., the only committee member to try to create a meaningful dialogue, asked her questions, the other members of the committee fell all over themselves to belittle her, and the points she raised were quickly bypassed with no attempt whatsoever to answer them. This was a gross insult both to the only committee member doing a good job, and to the American public.

Bayard H. McConaughy
biology department

Forgot punch line

Professor Holser (Letters, Oct. 17) must have missed the punch line of William Boyd's three "nevers," to wit: "Never say 'never.'" (Pause. Laughter.)

Principle? Every statement attributed to him in Dennis Pfaff's capable reporting of the press conference (ODE, Oct. 14) shows Boyd to be a man whose readiness to stand on principle is a quality about which we can be fully confident. For example: "I would be willing to trade the one (ill manners) for the other (their passion and tremendous sense of social injustice)."

Boyd's ability to get his deft sense of humor across to some members of the public may be something else.

Charles T. Duncan
Professor of Journalism

Incompetent?

Two items caught my attention in the Oct. 14 paper — one concerning a certain Clara, who was unimpressed by VIP Boyd, and the other concerning a certain comment made by the infamous Boyd. When is the *Emerald* going to realize that people in power are just that — people! The coverage of Boyd reeks of heads bowing, and murmurs of "yes sir, yes sirl" I'm just as unimpressed as Clara is — why should she be so awed that the upcoming college president graced her with his presence? After all, the same

