



'No' on Measure 51

The Haight-Ashbury culture of the late '60s spread north to Eugene, developing a partnership with the established order here that helped lead to positive qualities such as bike paths, recycling, herbicide controls... that are now admired everywhere. Yet, there was much fear and opposition along the way. It is hard to believe now, but even the Saturday Market was originally seen as a threat.

Now there are those who believe that approval of Eugene's Human Rights ordinance (a "no" on measure 51) is yet another threat to Eugene. The ordinance would extend some human rights to gays, but the fears go beyond this minimal legal protection. In the May "Oregon Times" VOICE's Maureen Gieber says, "if youths decide homosexuality is a natural way to show love, then... then what?" It is probably the central question of the opposition. I understand her fear of yet more change in a rapidly changing world, but I believe that any changes implied in measure 51 would be as positive as those changes we now support which had roots in Haight-Ashbury a decade ago.

Interestingly, San Francisco is once again the lesson for us, for it is the most gay of cities. I have just returned from nearly two years on leave there immersed in its gay culture. I believe that approval of Eugene's Human Rights ordinance actually does little to promote the more openly-gay Eugene which the opposition fears; but even if this happened, I believe that San Francisco teaches us that the changes would be positive for everyone and can co-exist comfortably with straighter life styles.

San Francisco's gay lawyers, psychiatrists, realtors, police, teachers, carpenters, restaurants, stores, apartments, roller skating, community centers... are not merely tolerated. They are supported for their values to the city. People notice, as I did, that a high percentage of their favorite restaurants are gay-operated. Straights go to gay discos and

many other gay establishments simply because they are the best. Gay incomes and spending are welcomed by the business community. Gays have a reputation as hard workers in community public service. Gay homeowners in San Francisco are credited with being the major force in the restoration of inner-city housing. There has been no citizen's campaign to repeal San Francisco's recent equivalent to Eugene's Human Rights ordinance.

Defeat of measure 51 would not create a gay San Francisco here as some fear, but I believe that San Francisco is a lesson to those who fear a more openly gay Eugene. The lesson is that Eugene would be merely continuing on its present direction of creating a more humane and supportive place for everyone. That direction has made Eugene the way we like it now. Trust this direction for the future. Vote "no" on measure 51.

Michael Shellenbarger Associate Prof., architecture

Listen to Emily

It grieves me that my friend Bob Straub must face the challenge in the Democratic Primary of a gubernatorial candidate so formidable as Emily Ashworth of Coos Bay.

If Emily Ashworth were not so bright, the challenge could be ignored. If she were not so capable, honest, and knowledgeable about the issues of the day, one could brush it over lightly.

Senator Morse recognized these qualities in Emily Ashworth when he called upon her to be his aide in his last successful primary campaign.

Emily Ashworth, businesswoman and teacher, could indeed run the office of governor with efficiency and considerable energy. Already, she has proposed some sound suggestions with regard to energy (alternate sources like solar, thermal, and bio-mass). She has been warning us against the proliferation of nuclear plants, and against the suicidal pattern of storing more spent nuclear fuel in Oregon.

Emily is not a one-issue candidate. She deals with a wide range of other problems on which she feels that Governor Straub has been too indecisive and inactive (field-burning, herbicide spraying, much-needed reform of regulatory commissions, ever-mounting utility rates in the state, etc.).

I hope that Bob Straub will listen to Emily Ashworth.

Dorothy Leeper 2760 Agate Str., Eugene

Food for thought

We must admire the level of political and historical consciousness of our fellow Arab students, and the impact they have made at large, American universities on our awareness of the plight of the homeless Palestinians. However, if one stops to consider the number of visiting Arab students and their means, one cannot help but wonder if some of the money spent by their governments in the last decade to support their North American education and lifestyle could not, after all, have been better spent on food, housing and medical care for the displaced Palestinians, (rather than on propaganda).

Thomas Sorger Doctoral student, Biology

For Bartels

On May 23, your ballots will include two EWEB races: the Wards 4 & 5 seat (John Bartels vs. Thomas Teutsch), and the at-large seat (Jack Craig vs. Cal Schmidt).

I'm writing to urge you to vote for John Bartels. As many of you know, I held the Wards 2 & 3 EWEB seat for four years, advocating energy conservation and solar energy applications, while opposing further development of nuclear power.

Although progress in these directions at EWEB continues, it is due primarily to the efforts of only one of the present board members, Camilla Pratt (Wards 2 & 3). I know how lonely her role is, and how tired one becomes after several years of board meetings where the infrequent support from the other four is, at best, cautious.

John Bartels is an outspoken advocate of ideas I believe in. As a

free-lance writer on energy issues, he brought the public's attention to the role that the Pacific Intertie plays in making our Northwest an "energy farm" for Los Angeles. With the shrinking of our surplus hydropower, we would expect that the Intertie's usefulness would diminish. Yet, John Bartels uncovered plans for a second Intertie, to take our surplus power to Arizona. Is this surplus to be generated by nuclear or coal plants? Why here?

John's election will certainly enliven EWEB meetings; he is both outspoken and articulate. His presence will result in open discussion and resolution of issues; his vote will more nearly balance the board. (Last year, four-fifths of the board opposed nuclear safeguards; three-fifths of Eugene supported it.) With both John Bartels and Camilla Pratt on the board, EWEB will move faster and more positively toward energy conservation and utilization of local, small-scale energy sources such as solar power.

Please consider John Bartels on May 23.

John Reynolds Professor of Architecture University of Oregon

Ken Bylund

Let's not be diverted from the real issues in the Assessor's campaign — who is to pay for the property tax? With millions in tax dollars at stake, unfair assessment formulas can be costly to the average taxpayer. Unless the wealthy property owners pay their full share, the homeowners, renters, and small farmers will bear an unjust burden. As your elected assessor, I have:

- 1. Ended discounts of 40 to 60% for owners of large subdivisions.
2. Collected over 20 million dollars in back taxes. Most delinquent taxes were owed by businesses, and I put each one on a payment schedule.
3. Put commercial and industrial accounts on the same automatic increase program homeowners have faced for years.

I have ended special favors for bankers, speculators, and rich investors — and they don't like it.

My opponents, who are getting campaign contributions from these special interests, are mak-

ing wild charges and personal attacks. News coverage of my conflicts with the Commissioners and their appointed Board of Equalization have made them seem like petty squabbles. But, in fact, I've been defending the interests of the average taxpayer against those of the rich and powerful. And, I have been winning!

You the voters have a clear choice among three candidates, two of whom are tied to special interests and have failed to put forward their plans for fair and uniform taxation, and an advocate assessor who is working for you.

I'd appreciate your support through a vote for me on May 23.

Ken Bylund Lane County Assessor 382 Knoop Lane, Eugene

A matter of rights

I would like to urge all University persons to vote no on ballot measure 51. Many people would have us believe that this is a matter of maintaining some standard of decency and morality when indeed it is a matter of insuring the rights of an oppressed and socially isolated group of people. There is a certain religious bigotry afoot which declares that it has the obligation to promote a certain standard of morality at the expense of the civil rights of other people. This bigotry carefully ignores the biblical mandates for justice, mercy and good faith while rushing off to find rocks for the stoning of homosexual persons. This bigotry selectively reads scripture as a ban on all forms of homosexuality when in reality the scripture decries only a lusty, abusive, use-oriented sexuality. Then sanctimoniously, the bigotry parades around announcing its love for the homosexual while telling us that it hates only the homosexuality.

What homosexual persons are asking for is the guarantee that their rights — rights which are being openly violated — will be protected, that they will be permitted to live in peace. Hopefully the learning community will support the enforcement of the city ordinance protecting the rights of homosexual persons by voting NO on ballot measure 51.

Douglas K. Huneke Campus Minister

