

Vote 'yes' on county marijuana measure

The passage of Ballot Measure 9 will solve more problems than it will create.

If passed, the ballot measure will effectively eliminate the enforcement of laws against the private use of small amounts of marijuana by adults. With private use of pot nearing the status of alcohol during the Prohibition, across-the-board bans on toking at home are ludicrous. And home growing and smoking are the only aspects of marijuana use that Measure 9 will affect.

County funds could not be used to enforce laws or try cases against cultivators of more than five pot plants for private use under the proposal. Funds could be used, however, to enforce dealing laws and laws against selling to minors, in addition to enforce the five-plant limit. In fact, because local enforcement officers would spend no time arresting violators of the smaller offenses and appearing in court, they would be able to crack down harder on dealers and large drug rings.

The savings to taxpayers on court costs alone will be staggering. When the additional savings of officers' time and the freeing up of the courts to try more serious offenses are considered, the practical argument for passing the measure also becomes convincing.

What little opposition to Ballot Measure 9 exists centers on the legal hassles that are sure to develop if the county-wide marijuana measure passes. But none of those arguments warrants voting no on 9.

Some of the savings in court costs are sure to be negated by the legal battles that will ensue, but those legal battles should be viewed as a positive, not negative, aspect of the measure. The case would surely be appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court, which may be forced to rule on the consti-

ours

tutionality of this victimless crime. In court, the state will have the burden of proof in determining if Measure 9 is constitutional, an interesting task that may lead to a new opinion on the validity of private-use laws.

If the courts uphold the legality of the ballot measure, Lane County will have a reasonable and well-thought-out plan already in effect. Other counties and states would watch Lane County's test plan closely as a foundation for other bills, and the local measure would establish the county as a leader in marijuana-law reform.

In the meantime, law-enforcement officials may be torn between obeying the voter-established priorities of Measure 9 and the state law declaring any pot use illegal. Again, the proposal's trail-blazing nature should not count as a vote against it. Local laws don't generally supersede state laws, but Ballot Measure 9 may serve as a prototype for giving local districts more control over the laws that govern it.

Other advantages of the measure are more obvious. It allows adults to cultivate their own recreational pot without buying on the black market. With black-market demand severely reduced, large drug rings will be less likely to get a foothold in Lane County. Dealers who draw teenagers into the abuse of more harmful drugs will be scarce. Persons receiving chemotherapy for cancer or suffering from glaucoma will be able to use marijuana medicinally without fear of prosecution.

Ballot Measure 9 will save county taxpayers money in the courts and on the streets. It will establish Lane County as a leader in the decriminalization of a victimless crime. And it provides a new type of opportunity for local control. Vote yes Nov. 4.

yours

Reggie power

This campus is in a quandary. It is suffering from what the Greek philosopher Pythagoras termed the "seriousness syndrome." This term refers to a community which takes itself too seriously. What happened to the Oregon atmosphere of the mid 1970's? All-campus parties and all-night vigils in front of Mac Court were the dominant theme of student life. Where are the gay kissing booths and subsequent witticisms of hecklers?

Now everybody spends their time running around worrying about where every nickel and dime are going and searching out the athletic department supporters to crucify. If not busy with that they're sitting in class listening to some droll trumpery from an over-zealous professor all the while fretting that the person next to them either takes better notes than them or cheats on the tests.

But all is not hopeless. There are measures to be taken which can alleviate this situation. Where is Mike Lee? Has the Emerald obscured him at some back desk like Curt Gowdy wandering through

Dodger Stadium? The public is clamoring for his amusing columns. The ASUO should sponsor a talent show. My roommate does great imitations and has thrilled audiences on other campuses. Tingle has shown the potential to be a campus leader in hijinks and should continue. Let's subscribe to Reggie Power and have a good time.

Brad DeCamp
Junior, Management

Vote for Rust

The Lane County Democratic Party has endorsed Jerry Rust for County Commissioner. This is especially significant because Rust's opponent in the non-partisan race is a registered Democrat, and the Party has a history of not endorsing in races involving more than one Democratic candidate.

The Democrats endorsed Rust because of his excellent performance in office, his progressive orientation and his personal qualities. Jim Klonoski, former State Chairman noted that Rust was the better Democrat and the better candidate, yet spoke against the endorsement motion on the principle that the

Party should not endorse among Democrats. Despite this authoritative appeal to precedent the Party voted to endorse Rust by a 2 to 1 margin. Most in the minority support Rust personally but felt the Party should not take a position.

Jerry Rust's opponent is now crying sour grapes. But Jackson doesn't mention that at the same meeting his representative moved to effectively expel Rust supporters from the Central Committee! This ridiculous motion fail by a 15 to 1 margin. Jackson blames Rust's Democratic endorsement on sinister plots, but fails to acknowledge that he has twice declined to appear before Party members, once because of a sour stomach, next because of unnamed "other commitments."

Mr. Rust's opponent could do better by spending his time on getting his own endorsements rather than bellyaching about Rust's.

One cannot fail to note that Rust has received nearly every major endorsement. Those who carefully compare the candidates cannot help but to choose Commissioner Jerry Rust.

Timothy Travis
Springfield

For Jerry Rust

This letter is written in the public's interest to those of you who will be voting for the candidates in the South Eugene Commissioner's race. I am in the unique position of having worked directly for both Mel Jackson and Jerry Rust in their public capacities.

I am a recent graduate of the University of Oregon School of Community Service and Public Affairs. One of the degree requirements of that school is to obtain placement in some aspect of public administration as a student intern.

I began my internship with Mr. Jackson. However, I soon discovered a lack of supervision and direction in guiding me as an intern. This and other unprofessional behavior made that assignment untenable. After consultation with the placement officer I was referred to Commissioner Rust's office. He engaged me as an intern. In my six months as an intern in Jerry's office I formulated an econometric model of the public costs of various land use development alternatives. Jerry Rust and his staff gave me the supervision and direction necessary and helpful to a student intern, and my project was such that I provided the Commissioner with assistance useful to him. In addition, I attended numerous commission meetings and saw in Jerry the knowledge and sensitivity to meet people's needs.

Having seen both candidates' actual on-the-job performance, behind the veil of calculated political appearance, I feel it is my responsibility to recommend Commissioner Jerry Rust to the people of South Eugene and Lane County.

Kay Kusy
1210 W. 13th Ave.
Eugene



letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on ideas and topics or interest to the University community. Letters must be typewritten, using 65-character margins and should be triple spaced.

Letters must be signed, the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted and should include address and phone number where possible.