

Measure 1 seeks to thwart Hanford

The easiest vote facing Oregonians on Tuesday's special election will be the one they cast in support of Ballot Measure 1 — the measure opposing the federal government's selection of Hanford as the national high-level radioactive waste dump.

If Measure 1 passes, the state will focus lobby efforts at the federal level against the selection of Hanford as the waste site. This action is needed for two reasons.

First, it will prevent the nation's nuclear waste from being transported across the country and dumped in our backyard. Second it will pursue legal action against the federal government for not complying with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

For reasons of expediency, several important factors were overlooked when the government examined Hanford as a possible site. The Department of Energy, responsible for selecting several safe sites, did not use independent scientists to examine the areas.

According to Oregon Hanford Oversight Committee geologists, Hanford is inadequate. It is too close to the Columbia River, and the land has a fractured basalt base. Both of these qualities present a risk for unsafe disposal of nuclear waste.

Hanford was one of three finalists chosen by the Department of Energy's own research team; however, the Hanford site is regarded widely by independent geologists, environmentalists and scientists as the least suitable of the three.

Aside from the geographical inadequacies, the government also has suspended the search for a second location outside the Northwest. It has focused its attention on the Hanford site even though it knows Hanford is an inadequate dumping ground for high-level waste.

The drive to establish Hanford as the national nuclear dumpsite is politically, not logically, motivated. Environmental concerns should outway greatly the political implications.

Even though the site is in Washington, the state is our neighbor and the same dangers apply. Washington already has passed a similar referendum. We should show our support and vote for Ballot Measure 1.

Measure 2 gives options to school budget problems

The so-called "safety net" proposal for school funding will be on the special election ballot on Tuesday. Although Measure 2 is not a cure-all for our state's school district's financial woes, it will help alleviate some of the pressures.

The measure would guarantee minimum funding to school districts based on a previous year's budget. It would help prevent school closures due to lack of funds.

Currently, schools do not have a bottom-line figure on which to fix their budgets. This proposal would offer them a flat figure accepted previously by voters in prior budget elections, and hopefully would provide enough funding to keep schools open.

Under the current system, school districts place their budget proposals on the primary and general elections every other year. Measure 2 would require schools to hold property tax levies every year.

One problem with school funding now is the districts often run out of money before the next election. They then hold special elections that not only cost the city extra money, but are frequently rejected by voters reluctant to increase property taxes. With elections scheduled every year, the chances for needing special elections will be reduced.

Opponents claim the new funding system would be taxation without representation because the public cannot vote to lower a district's budget below previous levels. The electorate will only have the option of increasing the school budget or keeping it the same. It could not be reduced. But this argument neglects the fact that the voters already had approved the first increase.

Measure 2 is not a full-proof safety net. Problems will still exist in school funding and districts will still have to rely on property taxes. Nonetheless, it is a start to solving problems inherent in the system. Oregon is the only state forced to close schools because of inadequate funding. Supporting Measure 2 will help prevent this trend.



Letters

Preservation

According to Ronnie Dugger's book, "On Reagan: The Man and His Presidency," President Reagan considers homosexuality a "tragic illness" and feels laws against it should be preserved.

Opinion polls show that homosexuality is not something most Americans approve of. So why are some people so committed to shoving it down our throats?

If the people don't want homosexuality presented as just some "alternative lifestyle" to their children, then keep sodomy out of the nation's classrooms!

If they don't want some open homosexual teaching in the schools then so be it.

The Supreme Court of the United States says it is fully constitutional for states to make sodomy illegal. Sounds good to me.

Benjamin Davis
Biology

Coke war

This letter is in response to the anonymous writer [Gerard Barry] of "Cola angst" (ODE, May 12).

Have you ever stopped to think the reason the campus machines all vend Coca-Cola and the University Housing Dept. serves Coke in the cafeteria is that's what

everybody (and by everybody I mean the majority) prefers?

This is NOT the Pepsi Generation

Coca-Cola and Pepsi were taste-tested and most people did prefer Coca-Cola here in the Eugene/Springfield area. That's why we have Coke here on campus.

If you need further convincing, Coca-Cola still owns the largest share of the soft drink pie.

Pepsi majority? Hardly.

As for your petty little comment about a communist plot to take over America with the "Catch the 'red' wave...."

Puh-leeze.

Dan Gruber
Classic Coke fan

High-brows

Please, if the Oregon Daily Emerald wants to convey some sort of high-brow attitude and use a foreign language, at least get it right.

I refer to the article about rowing in the May 11 ODE. The correct French for "Are you ready? Go!" is not "Etes-vu bous-prepez... parpez!"

It is: "Etes-vous pres? Partez!" What the former phrase means is beyond me, as it also was beyond associate professor of French, Elisabeth Marlow when I asked her about it.

Don't butcher foreign

languages. It's hard enough for us low-brows to learn them without the folks at the Emerald bastardizing them.

I guess the moral here is: If you don't know the correct usage for it, don't put it in print.

Craig Loughridge
Journalism

'Manizer'

I wish the media (Emerald included) would use a different word than "womanizer" to describe Gary Hart.

Webster defines "womanizer" as a man who pursues or associates illicitly with women. What can that possibly mean? What's wrong with "pursuing or associating" with women?

I do it all the time. Men do it all the time in professional and social contexts.

Let's be exact: A man can commit adultery, be unfaithful to his spouse, or flirt a lot — all things a woman can do. Yet we have no term "manizer."

The word "womanizer" implies a social context in which frequent interaction with women is necessarily sexual. If that's what you intend to imply, fine. Otherwise pick a different word.

Jina LaMear
English/Linguistics alumna

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