

Yes on forfeitures, timber export ban

Voters in today's special election will get the opportunity to continue the war on drugs here at home, as well as the chance to save jobs at home.

Measure 1 — Yes This measure, if approved, would amend the Oregon Constitution to ensure that property forfeited to the state in drug seizures can be used for drug law enforcement.

Currently, Article VIII, Section 2 of the constitution requires that all property forfeited to the state be placed in the Common School Fund. That's certainly one excellent way for the state to use these windfalls, but by mandating that *all* forfeitures be placed in the fund, Oregon will miss out on a federal sharing program.

In the past, Oregon has participated under the federal "equitable sharing" program, in which the federal government conducts the forfeiture and then shares the proceeds with the state. Such an arrangement worked well in the past for Oregon; the state used the forfeitures for schools and the federal funds for law enforcement. Over the past two years, the state police have received about \$600,000.

Unfortunately, a federal law going on the books Oct. 1, 1989, will make states with laws prohibiting the use of forfeiture proceeds for law enforcement ineligible to share in the federal program.

Dangerous illegal drugs are a considerable menace facing the state, and the state should take advantage of any opportunity to combat their spread; Measure 1 will allow Oregon to keep its thumb in the federal pie. As this measure doesn't affect existing state laws providing forfeitures to the Common School Fund (such as liquor or fish and game cases), we suggest its approval.

Measure 2 — Yes No other issue in recent years has divided our community as much as that of what to do with old growth timber. For that reason alone, we could recommend a yes vote on this measure: banning the export of logs overseas is something that both loggers and environmentalists can agree on.

This is not the only reason to support this measure, depending on who you listen to. Its promoters claim that a "yes" on 2 will save jobs for Oregon mills, that it will lead to better management of forest lands and that it might even just cure the common cold. At the same time, detractors and big business opponents say the protectionist ban will hurt Oregon's economy by sabotaging our relations with Pacific Rim countries, and that the lost revenue taxes paid by the industry will hurt our schools and local governments.

Certainly, this ban is protectionism, at its ugliest, most obvious form. And protectionism by itself may not work. Any jobs saved by processing the logs at home could easily still be lost by the continued mechanization of the industry. The jobs saved for Oregonians in the lumber mills will be lost by the Oregonians at the loading docks. The economic effect of this ban is extremely hard to predict.

At the same time, Measure 2 does offer the promise of slowing down the rape of Oregon's old-growth forests, and that's a much-needed step. A log ban will give environmentalists and industries time to work out a long-range forest plan. It will serve to demonstrate that the two sides can work together. We do hope the economic benefits of this ban match the environmental pluses we see in it.



Letters

Response

I would very much like to respond to Laurel Sharp (ODE, June 2).

Of the phrases you deemed to be based on a lack of knowledge in the politics and real life struggles of oppressed groups, I can only take credit for the letter "Disenfranchised" (ODE, May 30). I made no mention of special rights and their definition, yet you grouped me with those who did — very unfair!

Did you ask yourself why I took the position that I did? I doubt it. It certainly wasn't to dispel or reaffirm homophobic ideologies on this campus as you seem to think. I merely pointed out that, in my opinion, Bryce Ryan's argument (ODE, May 19) was invalid. Graffiti in any case is wrong. But according to him and many others, unfortunately, special rights means special exemptions because of their chosen sexuality. For this reason and this reason only, I feel he is incorrect. I suggest you re-read my letter and apply the principle of charity rule.

Christopher Doughan
Philosophy

Yes on 2

On June 27 we will vote on an issue vital to Oregon's economy, the banning of log exports. Measure 2 asks voters to change Oregon's Constitution to prohibit sale or export of timber from state lands unless the logs are processed in Oregon or unless the timber is declared surplus.

By exporting raw logs, Oregon is losing jobs from the mills that have supported a lot of rural Oregonians over the years. What's more, people working in the mills have supported other jobs in their communities. Although more logging is going on in Oregon, fewer people are working in the mills.

About 40 percent of Oregon's timber from state-owned lands was bought by timber exporters in 1987. That represents a lot of jobs going to other countries like Japan and Korea.

I can really understand how people feel about losing their jobs because of mill closings. My own family depends on my husband's mill job. Because of the current timber shortage, most of us are very concerned about job security. We need to make sure that no more mills close, and that the jobs come back to Oregon.

The time is here to make sure that Oregon's wealth is used for Oregonians. Vote "yes" on Measure 2.

Peg Jolin
State Senator, District 22

Literature

One is appalled at the naivete of William Moore's letter "Lack perspective" (ODE, May 31). Have Moore and his professors ever examined and considered atheist argument? Religious narrow-mindedness and influence is evident among students and liberal arts faculty in Eugene. This religious influence contributes to serious academic failings at those institutions that adversely impact community, county and state.

"Ockham's razor" shows it is more rational to assume the universe always existed that to attribute its presence to a creator for whom there is no empirical proof. Skepticism enjoys a philosophical priority. Otherwise, the billions of private beliefs of humankind could all claim equal validity. That nonsense is now being promoted by theist religious leaders as justification for their encroachment into secular education under the guise of advancing pluralist understanding.

The Bible is a work of literature. It encompasses superstition, myth, history and philosophy. Viewed as literature, we are able to properly recognize the human failing and exploitation which has caused the torture and murder of many millions of human beings. Without that understanding, scriptures are an abomination of human intellect. Theologians often are unfamiliar with atheist argument.

Abraham Lincoln, as a consummate politician, used religious rhetorical fraud to try to

end the terrible Civil War. A close Lincoln law associate and personal friend published a biography of Lincoln in which he described Lincoln's religious skepticism. After publication, the book was bought up by devout Christians in an effort to suppress information regarded as unfavorable to the cause of Christianity.

Bert Tryba
Eugene

Erroneous

I am writing to clarify a few erroneous points printed in the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) ad in June 2's Emerald.

Point 1 states that "the UO spends \$3 million a year to mutilate monkeys, rats and cats." This money comes from grants from the National Institute for Health for the most part and does not come out of Oregon's higher education budget. To my knowledge, no one at this university is presently doing research on monkeys and rats, and the picture shown is not from Barbara Gordon-Lickey's lab.

Point 2 concerning Gordon-Lickey's research may be true at present, but does not mean that we may not benefit from it directly in the future.

Point 3 is as false as they come. No experiments have been done on barn owls at the University to date. The researcher in question is funded by a grant from the Office of Naval Research, which funds many types of basic research that have nothing to do with the military.

And point 4 states "UO labs are off-limits" I am a student, and I am in several University labs daily. And if I asked Gordon-Lickey to show me her lab and explain to me what she's doing, I'm sure she would.

The address at the end of the ad is for Washington, D.C. Don't they have anyone here at the University that people can talk to about what happens here at the University?

Marge Kuehn
Graduate

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