

LTD, radio, OSPIRG top ballot measures

On Thursday and Friday's general election students will be asked to vote on several key issues. With this in mind, here are our thoughts on the nine measures on the general election ballot. Because we have much to say, the endorsements will run over two days.

First up is for Lane Transit District bus service. Students are asked to approve an incidental fee request of \$4.75 a term (\$7.13 for law students) to continue funding of the LTD program, in which students can ride free all over the city by showing their University I.D.

The bus program works. When it was first proposed two years ago, we were against it, as it seemed a large amount of money to be putting into an unproven idea. But since then, given the overwhelming success of the program, we have changed our mind, and unhesitatingly ask students to continue supporting LTD and vote **yes on Measure 1**.

Next is a proposal for a student-funded and student-run radio station. The idea of campus radio has been discussed for years, and it finally looks as if it might actually work out. The total amount requested is \$25,861; \$17,980 of this is for one-time startup costs.

As we were with the LTD program, we're leary of devoting a large amount of student fees to a plan, which, as yet, is still in its formative stages. But the principle of the request cannot be ignored. The more diverse and varied forms of media on campus, the better informed and educated the students will be. Besides being a training ground for broadcast journalists, a campus radio station will also give students a different viewpoint. For this reason, it's **yes on Measure 2**.

Measure 3 is a request by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group for \$112,000 in incidental fees. With this we have no problem.

While OSPIRG is asking for a sizable fee allocation, the group definitely deserves it. OSPIRG, since its inception in 1971, has always been at the forefront of many social issues, such as consumer health, the environment, and other related topics. It is one of the first of its kind at any university, and is looked on by other chapters from around the country as a model.

Don't turn down one of the most valuable student organizations on campus. Vote **yes on Measure 3**.

CIA recruiting at the University has been a hot issue for a number of years. Because of the agency's bigoted recruiting practices, students have tried to prevent the CIA from coming to campus. Measure 4, which would require prospective recruiting groups to sign an equal opportunity statement, is trying to do just that.

Even though the ballot measure is not specifically targeted at the CIA, make no mistake about what Measure 4 is trying to do. At other universities, the CIA has refused to sign such statements and was denied access to the campus. The people responsible for the measure are hoping for the same result.

We approve of forcing recruiting agencies to sign an equal opportunity statement, so it's **yes on Measure 4**. However, from a cynical stance, we wonder how effective it will be. There is nothing preventing a company (or a government agency) from signing the statement and gaining access to campus, even if they don't follow the guidelines. Measure 4, unfortunately, doesn't take that into account.

Measure 5 is similar to Measure 4 in that it's a general statement designed to nail a specific group. In this case, it would prevent any toxic material on University property within 500 feet of the Willamette River. Target: the Riverfront Research Park.

We applaud this noble gesture to help the environment, but wonder what it will actually do to University administration policy. Students are already on record against the research park. The higher-ups, in effect, took the ballot measure and filed it away, never to be seen again.

The University is committed to a research park (even with the recent disclosure of toxic material dumping near the river) to the point of icing students completely out of the decision-making process. Vote **yes on Measure 5**.

The endorsements, yea or nay, for Ballot Measures 6 through 9 will appear tomorrow.

WHAT DISCOVERIES AWAIT THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE?

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Letters

Colors

More often I'm witnessing incidents of reverse discrimination on campus.

A white student in one of my classes confessed a patriotic love for American culture. He immediately became the target of a barrage of accusations, all of which asserted "racism" and "lack of intelligence."

If an African-American offered his cultural appreciations, he wouldn't become the target of classroom ostracism, and rightfully so, as we're all entitled to free expression of feelings.

European-Americans are denied that right on this campus, as centuries of history are seen as destructive and corrupt. A sense of guilt prevails while radicals equate the color white with the plight of white supremacists.

Certainly these aspects of American history were and are common; we can't forget the genocidal murder of countless African-Americans and Native Americans.

But these acts do not constitute all of American history. Further, taking barbaric liberties with human life was and is not confined to Europeans. The Beijing slaughter exemplifies this, but this doesn't give the Chinese a genetic predisposition to fascism.

Africans in the 1400s cruelly held one another as slaves in an effort to dominate tribal religion. I would hope that this pejorative piece of history wouldn't prevent an African-American from having pride in his cultural origin.

European-Americans hold this same right — to evaluate cultural history objectively, acknowledging the evils while giving equal merit to the positive.

The point is not to promote ethnocentric views among races, but rather to suggest that cultural satisfaction and a sense of tradition is salutary for everyone — even white people.

Ryan Blackletter
History/English

Vilches/Hughes

This week in the final ASUO

elections, I hope that students will vote for Tim Hughes and Freddy Vilches for the two available Incidental Fee Committee seats. Vilches and Hughes are the only candidates with a proven record track record of student activism and leadership.

They have both worked hard to fight for student rights, and advocate for student programs like child care and women's and minority programs.

I wonder how many students are aware of the fact their opposition opposes funding for programs like United States Student Association and Oregon Student Lobby? They think students shouldn't have the right to organize and lobby the state Legislature or the U.S. Congress for lowering tuition, preserving Pell Grants or getting federal and state dollars for child care and athletics. But they don't like to talk about that much ...

Both Vilches and Hughes have gone to Congress and the Legislature to fight on behalf of all student to get those things and more. When Congress was debating the bill to allow Chinese students to stay in the U.S., Vilches and Hughes helped organize the national lobbying effort to pass the bill. Their opposition would have opposed that.

If you care about student rights, if you want some accountability in the IFC, and if you want student leadership that cares about students, vote Freddy Vilches and Tim Hughes for IFC. Let's put an end to special interests and work for the good of all University students.

Edward Beanes
Student

Freedom

I am extraordinarily angry at the outrageous burning of the American flag April 16. America and the freedom it represents is the dream of people all across the earth.

I've stood in Soviet grocery store lines for an hour to buy a dry orange. I've spoken with East German border guards,

Scottish, Tunisian and Thai people whose dream it is to come to America. They yearn for a land where they are respected and free.

Yet here in America, the people despise that freedom by burning its symbol. Why didn't they burn an American eagle? Oh, sorry, I forgot. This is Earth Week and we're supposed to love the animals and birds and shout out against waste while, behind closed doors, those very same people kill their unborn babies and pretend that it's OK.

The American dream has been burned at the stake, and the land that I love has been ripped apart in front of my eyes. And across the world, my friends in East Berlin cry out for a freedom like ours.

Gretchen Wendt
Eugene

Have a picnic

I do not feel the proposed interference with a logging operation is an appropriate way to celebrate Earth Day for those concerned with environmental issues.

I do support these protests. They are a continuation of a heritage that began with the Boston Tea Party, unionized coal mines, and gave every person the right to vote.

However, Earth Day should be a celebration of the common ground upon which we all depend for survival. Because the Earth's fate depends in part upon the small daily decisions of every person, an activity that draws lines and divides will only be counterproductive.

I propose that environmental activists and families dependent on the timber industry get together and replant a clear cut. There could be a large picnic with lectures on recycling, environmentally sound shopping and energy saving. There might even be some conversation. After all, we raft the same rivers, fish from the same lakes and walk on the same beaches.

Edward Singer
Eugene

Tuesday, April 24, 1990