

Approve all city ballot measures

Local voters face an interesting choice of city ballot measures in next Tuesday's primary election. The nuclear free zone debate, urban renewal, taxation of downtown businesses; all are scheduled to be resolved May 15.

So without wasting any more time, here are the *Oregon Daily Emerald* endorsements for city ballot measures:

First up is Ballot Measure 20-01, the city charter amendment to create a stronger nuclear free zone. After months of public squabbling, the issue will finally be decided, yea or nay.

Putting the nuclear free zone in the city charter will prevent the city council from tampering with it. In 1986 and 1988, voters approved a similar measure, only to watch local lawmakers water it down to just a symbolic gesture.

Voters don't want the type of industry nuclear weapons bring. Yes, Eugene does need an influx of new businesses, but contributing to the military-industrial complex is not the answer. Eugene residents don't like atomic weapons or nuclear power plants, and they shouldn't be forced to accept them.

It's hard not to endorse a measure that has already passed twice before by landslides. It's even harder to turn down a bill that is trying to preserve Eugene's non-industrial atmosphere. So, it gets our vote and it should get yours too. **Vote yes on Measure 20-01.**

Ballot Measure 20-02 is an amendment to the 1968 Urban Renewal Plan for the downtown area. In effect, it updates the city's plan for redevelopment.

Voting down 20-02 will mean the 1968 plan will remain in effect. Doing this would be a major mistake. The downtown area desperately needs renovation and redevelopment, and it shouldn't be forced to do it on a 22-year-old plan. Times have changed since then, and urban renewal needs to be fixed to reflect this.

While businesses are bolting from the downtown area, this is not the time to send a message that Eugene won't support its merchants. **Vote yes on Measure 20-02.**

A third issue in front of the voters is Ballot Measure 20-03: a property tax for the Downtown Development District in the amount of \$183,450 for 1990-91.

The money would be used to improve parking business recruitment and retention, as well as marketing the importance of the downtown area. This is an annual tax that has been approved every year since 1973, and it is one of three taxes imposed on the DDD. Measure 20-03 does not represent an increase over last year's tax level.

Continue to renovate the downtown area. **Vote yes on Measure 20-03.**



Striking Koreans deserve U.S.'s support

Before student protests in South Korea got headlines in the United States' newspapers, there were other demonstrations. The protests were not about the reunification of North and South Korea, or the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the border. Worker strikes were popping up in the country's industries, calling attention to the appalling treatment of many of Korea's laborers.

Labor conditions in South Korea are widely known to be among the poorest in the world. Many workers are at their posts in Korean factories 12 or more hours a day, seven days a week. All of this is for about \$10 a day. Also documented are the occupational hazards and illnesses plaguing Korean workers.

This is the classic scenario of what happens in a country that is rapidly developing its industrial strength, as Korea has been in recent years. Indeed, similar working conditions could — and many say still can be — found in the United States during the Industrial Revolution.

Labor problems in Korea are particularly interesting because of how they reflect on labor problems all over the world. Multi-na-

tional corporations (many of them American and Japanese) take advantage of poor economic conditions in developing countries such as Korea and use those conditions as an excuse to pay workers next to nothing and work them to death.

The United States should be setting an example of how workers can live and thrive in a democracy. Instead, its multi-national corporations are shipping jobs overseas, attracted by the cheap labor market. This exploitation causes American workers to lose their jobs, and workers in developing countries to lose their health and well-being.

With the economies of different countries becoming more and more interdependent, the interests of the worker should have the attention of world governments, particularly the United States. Although it may be awkward to do so with the anti-U.S. demonstrations taking place there now, our government need to show its support for the interests of Korean laborers by applying political pressure, economic sanctions, or, in the case of American companies abusing their Korean workers, making them get their proverbial acts together.

Letters

Knew the risks

It's time for some people to face the fact that the only person responsible for the death of Benjamin Linder is Benjamin Linder.

He freely went to a war zone to live and work in support of a Communist dictatorship while a rebel group, the FDN, was working to overthrow that dictatorship. It was dangerous and he should have known the risks.

It is time to put the lies of the FSLN behind and help Chamorro build a democracy in Nicaragua.

Eric Eckman
Student

proper care and use, I asked him if it was the University's policy to raise the flag and leave it up until it rots. Merv Whitaker, who is in charge of the EMU's custodial and maintenance tasks, informed me this was not the University's policy and that the matter would be dealt with.

Well, at 11 p.m. on May 5, our flag was still up on the pole.

It is the intention of this letter to embarrass Whitaker into seeing to it that proper care and respect is accorded to our symbol of freedom and our way of life. If this fails, my next stop will be Myles Brand's office.

Richard Diggs
Student

For shame

On several occasions I observed that our country's flag was being left on the flagpole at the EMU all night long.

After locating the man responsible to see to the flag's

Responses

As a lesbian, I am responding, in general, to the letters to the editor which appeared in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* in response to Gay Pride Week.

First, what gives you the

right to deny me the basic human rights to have sex with the person I love, talk about having sex or display my love openly?

Secondly, homophobia is an irrational fear of lesbian and gay sex. It causes prejudice and hatred toward lesbians and gays. Heterosexual sex is unappealing to me; however, I don't find it disgusting or think you don't deserve to express it. Finding lesbian and gay sex personally unappealing is not the same as finding it disgusting and worthy only of hiding. If you feel the latter, then you are homophobic, period.

Thirdly, capitalism and communism are not equivalent. Democracy presumes equality and capitalism is based on inequality. Capitalism grew under patriarchy, where men believe they have the right, based on 2,000 year old religious dogma, to dominate women and the earth for profit. Because lesbians and gays pose a threat to this male domination, patriarchal religions have labeled us "sinners" worthy of persecution. Don't tell me capitalism

has spared my life.

Finally, until we create a world where people are equals, where the hierarchies of men over women and nature do not exist, then lesbians and gays will be persecuted. I am talking about a truly democratic, feminist-socialist world, not male-dominated, hierarchical "socialism" which exists today.

Kirsten Henjum
Ceramics

Bestseller

The world's most popular book refers to homosexual "love" as "vile affections" (Romans 1:26).

Earl Gosnell
Eugene

Vote Nicholson

It is extremely important for University students to get out and vote this time. As a group, we can make a significant dif-

ference in the May 15 election.

We can make a strong statement about democracy and peace. Our current representative in the city council has worked repeatedly to destroy the nuclear free zone that we approved twice in previous landslide ballots. His name is Rob Bennett, and he is a major developer in the area.

I feel his actions have been loosely disguised efforts to undermine representative democracy to attract nuclear weapons industries to Eugene for the sake of industrial development. This should not be allowed.

It is time for a change in the city government, and in the way the nuclear weapons industry overshadows the people of the world.

I strongly urge all students to use this unique opportunity to think globally and act locally, and elect Paul Nicholson to represent the University precinct on the city council.

Chris Thompson
Biology