

## Eugene was fooled by NFZ opponents

Are Eugene's voters fickle and easily manipulated, or are they solid, sensible citizens? That's the question on everybody's mind as the aftermath of the campaign for a stronger nuclear free zone vote is analyzed.

On Tuesday, Eugene's voters rejected Measure 20-01, the proposed nuclear free zone charter amendment. The fact that the measure was defeated is not as surprising — and alarming — as the fact that the measure was shot down overwhelmingly.

After all, 20-01 was basically the same measure that was approved by a similar huge margin in 1986. The original nuclear free zone was pared down to a symbolic gesture by a city council that saw constitutional problems where it looked hard enough.

A minimally revised version, closer in spirit to the original intent of '86 zone supporters than the city's thin gruel NFZ, was on the ballot in 1988, and again was overwhelming approved. But the city council saw fit not to enact this zone either.

The latest round, 20-01, would have placed the NFZ in the city charter, where it couldn't be tampered with at the caprice of city council members. So what happened between 1986 and 1990?

Eugene's voters were told by 20-01 opponents, "this one goes too far." They were told the NFZ was anti-business. As proof of this claim, they were told they could look Rohr Industries' decision not to locate in Eugene. They were told a strong NFZ wouldn't meet a federal challenge because the court had just ruled an NFZ in Oakland, Calif., unconstitutional.

The citizens of Eugene believed what they were told, because that's just about all they heard. NFZ opponents greatly outspent measure supporters in campaign expenditures. Later in the campaign, there were charges that "Yes on 20-01" signs had been rounded up by opponents and trashed.

It's unfortunate that responses to potential problems with the stronger NFZ weren't heard. Then, Eugene's voters might have understood that Rohr never had serious plans to come to the city, and that the NFZ was a negligible factor. They would have heard that the court ruling on Oakland's NFZ was inapplicable to Eugene's matter, because 20-01 specifically exempted federal nuclear activities. Oakland tried to take on a U.S. Navy base; that was Oakland's mistake.

A symbolic NFZ is a nice gesture but an empty one. That's what we're stuck with now; the voters say they're happy with it. That's their prerogative, but you have to be cynical about their decision to stay with a toothless NFZ. It appears the decision was made less out of satisfaction and more from their buying the big lie from people who bought the election.



GOALS OF EDUCATION

### Man's issue

I have watched the anti-choice people burn down Planned Parenthood buildings, burn down clinics, severely endanger the lives of people who work there, physically harass and mentally abuse women who are exercising their rights under the law and then speak out about life being sacred. This is an example of inquisition mentality ... in the name of God?

If they prevail, women will become criminals, abortions will go underground, sex education and planned parenthood will disappear. Is birth control next? A new dark age of sexual ignorance will reduce women to breeding stock.

This is a man's issue of the utmost importance. How many couples have had to decide because their birth control failed? Would you like your life partner to have to go to a "coat hanger" clinic? Or be told what you and your partner can or cannot do by religious fanatics wanting totalitarian control? We already have thousands of unwanted children, do we need more? And if the child/spirit was meant to get to earth, God might be able to find another body for it.

The decision for an abortion isn't made after brushing your teeth. It's not a convenience and not soon forgotten. Let's support the rights of our friends. Pro-choice doesn't force specific beliefs on anyone. Those who believe it's bad can choose according to their belief, but not have the right to choose for others.

Gary Darby  
Eugene

### For Lonsdale

He's the anti-politician politician. And he's running against the ponderous political momentum of Republican incumbent Mark Hatfield. Yet Harry Lonsdale, candidate for U.S. Senate, is confident he can win if he can get his message out.

To begin with, Lonsdale belongs to a rare breed of candidates in that he refuses to take contributions from special interest or big business political action committees. Instead, he is relying solely on individual contributions to finance his campaign.

Lonsdale is pro-choice, unlike Hatfield, who supports a constitutional amendment to ban all abortions, even in cases of rape and incest.

As a businessperson and an environmentalist, Lonsdale is the founder of a research firm that has pioneered environmentally sound technologies. To strengthen the Oregon economy, he favors economic diversification, providing jobs and maintaining Oregon's quality of life. He also proposes a ban on lumber exports, preferring finished goods, which would create jobs.

Lonsdale's views match those of most Oregonians; his challenge is to connect beliefs to ballots. In a contest over issues and integrity, Lonsdale would win. Whether these can negate Hatfield's advantage in campaign spending will be up to the voters to decide.

Don McIntosh  
Political science

### Persecution

I am a heterosexual Christian writing in response to the homophobic letters written by fellow Christians.

I believe in human rights for all people, and am very upset when people who are taught to "love thy neighbor as thyself" persecute gays and lesbians.

As a Christian, I listen to Jesus' words and try to live by them. He is, after all, the word of God made flesh. Jesus never condemned homosexuality when he was upon this earth. The passages usually cited by the homophobic Christians trying to persecute homosexual people are found in Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 1.

Paul once persecuted a group of people whose ideas were different than most of society's; Christians. He persecuted those

whom he did not understand. So, might I add, are you.

Being skeptical with parts of the Bible, as I am, does not mean you are a bad Christian. Martin Luther and other "church fathers" were skeptical with certain passages and books of the Bible. Open your mind and learn to distinguish between the word of God and the bias of human authors. Despite what you might like to believe, not everything in the Bible was written through divine intervention.

Being Christian means learning to love your enemies and your neighbor as yourself. Being homosexual means you love someone of the same sex as yourself. When you think about it, homosexuality and Christianity are both about love — and being Christian, can you find anything wrong with love?

Wil Garber  
Biology

### Not welcome

I would like to express my appreciation to the EMU Board for deciding to discontinue the sales of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines at the EMU Main Desk Store.

These magazines portray sex in an impersonal way that is completely void of intimacy and respect. They also portray women as objects for men's sexual satisfaction. This in turn can lead to women's inability to be taken seriously by men in their careers, classes, relationships and other aspects of life.

On this particular issue, I think women's rights to live discrimination-free lives by far outweighs the pornography industry's right to freedom of speech.

By not supporting the exploitation of women for profit, I feel the EMU Board is sending a message to the University that this kind of attitude is not welcome here.

Valerie Ebner  
Journalism

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## Oregon Daily Emerald

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