

FORUM

Measure 10 dangerous to women

By Molly Eness

"I'm telling your mom on you."

I thought I had heard those words for the last time when I graduated from elementary school, but they continue to haunt me. This November I will be asked to vote on whether the state should "tell on" girls under 18-years-old who

little girls" with the threat — "I am going to tell your parents." This position is contrary to other health care statutes which guarantee minors' privacy. Confidentiality is a vital aspect in treatment of venereal disease, drug and alcohol abuse, and in the delivery of pre-natal care and contraception.

Even in cases where notification causes minimal trauma in itself, the procedure will cause delays. Since young women often have irregular menstrual cycles, it is not uncommon for their pregnancies to go undetected until late in their first trimester. A 10 day delay at that point could be crucial.

Finally, Measure 10 discriminates against women. Only the females will be punished for their sexual activity, while the males are free to do as they please, without fear of repercussion. If we are notifying all concerned parties, why not write to the fetus's paternal

grandparents and tell them their son has been promiscuous and irresponsible? (Of course I am not advocating this).

An unwanted pregnancy will always be of greater consequence to the woman than to the man, but for the state to add to the consequences and increase this disparity is punitive, sexist and detrimental to the status of women.

Measure 10 is not something you vote for because "parents and children should communicate." It is not something you vote for because you would want your daughter to tell you. It is not something you will vote for if you can remember being 15.

And if you can't remember being 15, then do those who are too young to vote a favor, and leave the voting to those of us who can remember and will be voting no on 10.

Molly Eness is a student at the University.

Commentary

are seeking abortions.

Ballot Measure 10 asks, "Shall state law require a doctor to give notice to a parent or custodian at least two days before a minor's abortion?"

In Minnesota, 7,000 minors have had abortions since that state passed parental notification laws. Half of them have gone before a judge rather than allow the doctor to notify their parents. If Measure 10 passes, Oregon teenagers will not be offered the vital option of judicial bypass.

What factors motivate those young women to go to the courts to discuss the most personal decision they will ever make? Of course, many have been abused by one or more parents, some may actually be pregnant by their fathers, and some may be runaway or "throw-away" teenagers with no parents to notify.

Those "pro-choice" parents who are planning to vote for Measure 10 thinking, "I would want to know if my daughter were having an abortion," need to wake up and realize that all daughters do not have loving pro-choice parents. Some daughters, like 13-year-old Spring Adams, have fathers who impregnate them and then kill them rather than allow them to terminate that pregnancy.

If Measure 10 passes, the state will be blackmailing "bad

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