

## EDITORIAL

### Measure 7 unfair to disadvantaged

Oregon voters should respond to Measure 7, the six-county work-in-lieu-of-welfare-benefits pilot program, with a resounding no.

If passed, Measure 7 would begin a three-year pilot program in six Oregon counties. The program would suspend food stamps, unemployment and Aid for Families with Dependent Children. People who wish to obtain public assistance would be placed in jobs by the state employment division at a rate of \$3.87 per hour — 90 percent of the current minimum wage.

People who are, for one reason or another, dependent on public assistance need to be trained for long-term skilled labor positions. They should not be placed in dead-end, make-work jobs. Self-esteem comes from knowing you can take care of your family and yourself. Working at a non-essential job and at subminimum wages would do little to boost anyone's self-esteem. These jobs would also become dead-end avenues to dependence.



Information supplied by the Human Services Coalition of Oregon states the average take-home pay (after state and federal social security taxes are paid by the employee) would be \$741 per month. This is \$139 below the poverty level for a family of three.

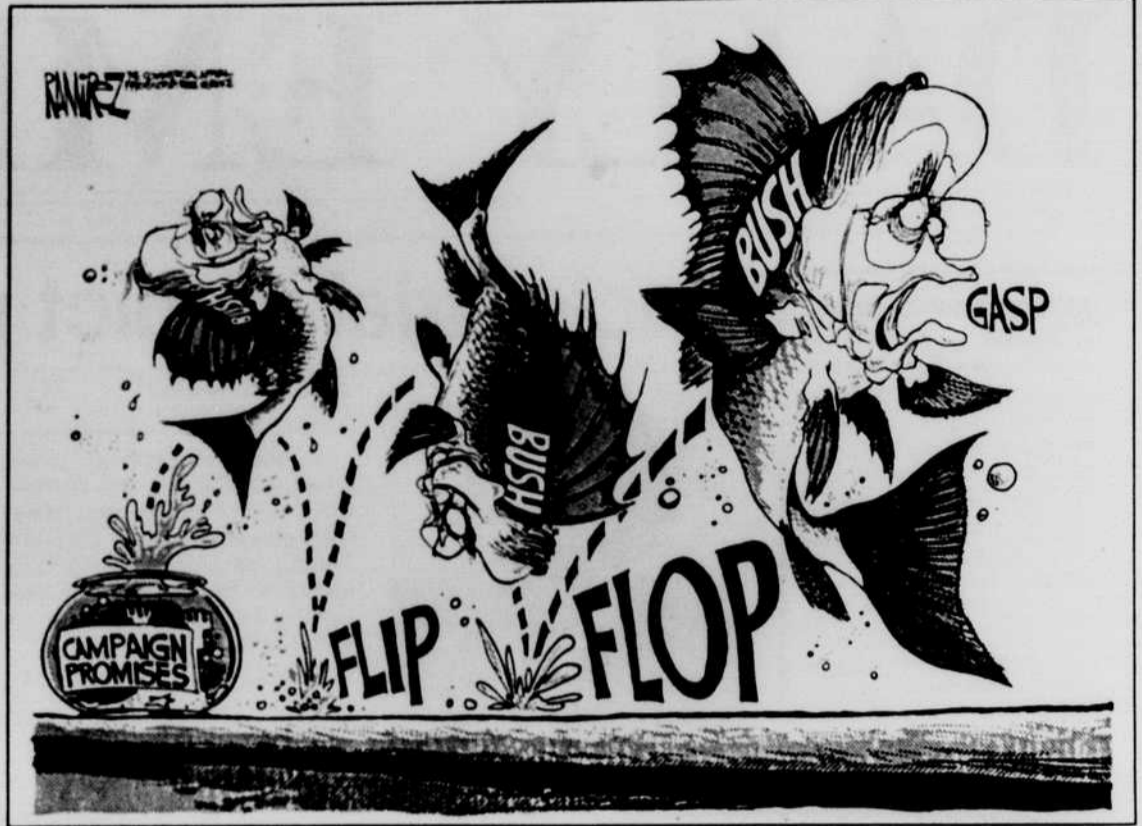
There are also no provisions in the measure for disabled persons or mothers who need day care.

If single mothers are expected to work to make up for the lost ADC payments, who will pay the additional child care costs? This would come out of the mother's already-below-poverty-level income.

Proponents of the measure claim it will reduce and eventually get rid of an unemployable work force. However, the measure will add to a temporary, dependent, low-skilled work force rather than creating a stable, independent, skilled work force.

One group that certainly would benefit from Measure 7 would be those employers who receive the free labor (all labor would be paid by the government). If only six counties are going to take part in the program, employers in those six counties will have an unfair advantage over employers outside the program.

Be fair to dislocated workers and the disadvantaged. Vote no on Measure 7.



### President rebuffs minorities, women

George Bush gave progressiveness another kick in the shorts when he vetoed the Civil Rights Act of 1990 on Monday. He made a grave mistake.

Bush vetoed the bill because he claimed it would have set up a quota system and because of a couple of phrases in one section of the 30-page bill.

Civil rights leaders called it their most important legislative priority. Even Bush's appointee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission said Bush's interpretation was inaccurate.

The president has dealt working people a crushing blow. The bill had repeatedly been weakened over the past months so legislators could pacify Bush. The House and Senate passed the bill with healthy margins, but not enough for a two-thirds majority to override the veto.

The legislation contained anti-discrimination clauses and would have allowed employees to sue an employer regarding any

aspect of employment.

The bill would have given victims of intentional discrimination the right to sue for punitive damages. Bush sent a message to the American public. By vetoing the bill he has insulted minorities and women.

The legislation would have improved workers' rights regarding suits against an employer. Employees would have two years to sue an employer for discriminatory seniority plans, instead of the current six months.

Victims would be authorized to sue for up to \$150,000 in punitive and compensatory damages for intentional discrimination. Only victims of racial discrimination may sue under current law, not victims of sexual or religious discrimination.

It's sad that it has taken so long to garner a good civil rights bill. It's even sadder when the United States has to legislate civil rights. But saddest of all, we have a president who vetoes the Civil Rights Act of 1990.

## LETTERS

### Crybabies

Regarding the article in a recent *ODE* concerning the fear of many homosexuals on campus:

I, as a straight, normal person, also have fears that perhaps some of these people might approach me and try something on me.

It sure is strange that the term "gay-bashing" has come into use recently, but how about "straight-bashing"?

Why don't these crybabies grow up and realize that if you choose a lifestyle that is not the accepted norm, you're putting yourself into the position of being criticized?

Ron Williams  
Staff

### Let's get active

Defining what is Judaism? A religion? What if you don't believe in God or prayer — are you still Jewish? Is it an ethnic group? What about black Jews?

We can discuss what it means to be Jewish forever, but

one thing remains clear: Only we can define ourselves.

Jews, let's get active. Let's show our presence on this campus and in our community. Only 2 percent of the U.S. population is Jewish; we need our voices to be heard.

Let's get to know and get involved with our co-minority groups: GALA, Black Student Union, MEChA, Muslim Student Union and Native American Student Association. We at the Jewish Student Union want to work with you and for you. Let's celebrate the fact that we are all unique. We are lucky enough to be different.

Jewish students should speak up and reach out. Get in touch with JSU, come to meetings, get to know our wonderful Hillel Rabbi Hanan Sills. There's more to being Jewish than just our last names.

Phil Zuckerman  
Student

### Proves point

In regard to the responses to "Outta My Face" (*ODE*,

Oct. 18):

I don't think there's any need for you to apologize on behalf of all males since her letter was specifically addressed to "the men on this campus who invade women's privacy."

Any man who does not fit this description need not be offended. We recognize that all men are not horrible, sexist people. However, I would like to publicly thank Ronando Long for proving the point that Enna Dole's letter needed to be written.

Also, to R.J. Christiano, I would like to say that the reason women are objectified and used in ads to sell everything is because, as with almost everything in our society, men control the advertising industry. I don't appreciate your gross generalizations and your insinuation that everything women do is done to please or compete with someone else and that none of us have enough self-esteem to want to look good for ourselves.

Last but not least, I'd like to say that if there is such a thing

as a "world of feminists," please let me know where it is and I'll be on the first ship out.

Kronda Adair  
Student

### Climate control

In response to Ronando Long and R.J. Christiano's letters (*ODE*, Oct. 18):

I guess the best response to these letters would be a slightly humorous elaboration on the issue of violence against women on this campus. Alas, humor does not come to me.

Anger comes and has not left me since I read the *Emerald* this morning. I find myself fantasizing about feminist censorship of *ODE* letters. Or even better, a daily statement to the effect that it only takes 30 percent of a women's strength to break an aggressor's nose. Wouldn't a broken nose be a neat way to identify male aggressors on campus streets or on a date?

Instead, of course, male education on the issue of violence

against women has to be the "rational" answer. Send them to Women's Studies 101.

Yet I have come to doubt whether we will achieve this raising of men's consciousness when the world around us is still so full of sexist images, values and people.

Here I am confronted with Long and Christiano, another two men who refuse to take responsibility for the crimes their gender has committed. Riddle and "blaming the victim" is still what a woman has to expect when she dares open her mouth and talk about the abuse, the harassment and the constant fear of men.

I appreciate Dole's courage and her clear articulation of women's experiences on campus.

Attitudes such as Long's and Christiano's are responsible for creating a climate on this campus in which the next rape will almost certainly occur — deal with it.

Lisa Kuppler  
Graduate History

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