

EDITORIAL

Measure 11 a wolf in sheep's clothing

Measure 11, the issue that would give tax credits to those who choose to educate their children outside the public schools, would also allow parents to choose which public schools to send their children. This measure is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The measure would do little to improve the public school system; rather, it would gut a system that already is in dire need of improvement.

Supporters of the measure argue that allowing parents to choose a public school for their children would create a competitive market where the best schools would get the students, and therefore, the tax dollars.

The problem is that some families do not have the resources to transport their children across town to the "best" schools. Those children would be left in neighborhood schools that are underfunded because of a lack of students wanting to attend. Through no fault of their own they would be receiving a second-rate education.

Because schools would be operating on a competitive basis, the most popular and well-funded schools would be in the position to pick and choose whom they accept.

Do Oregonians really want primary-school-aged children competing for the best schools? Children in these formative years should not be labeled, as they would be, by what school they could attend.

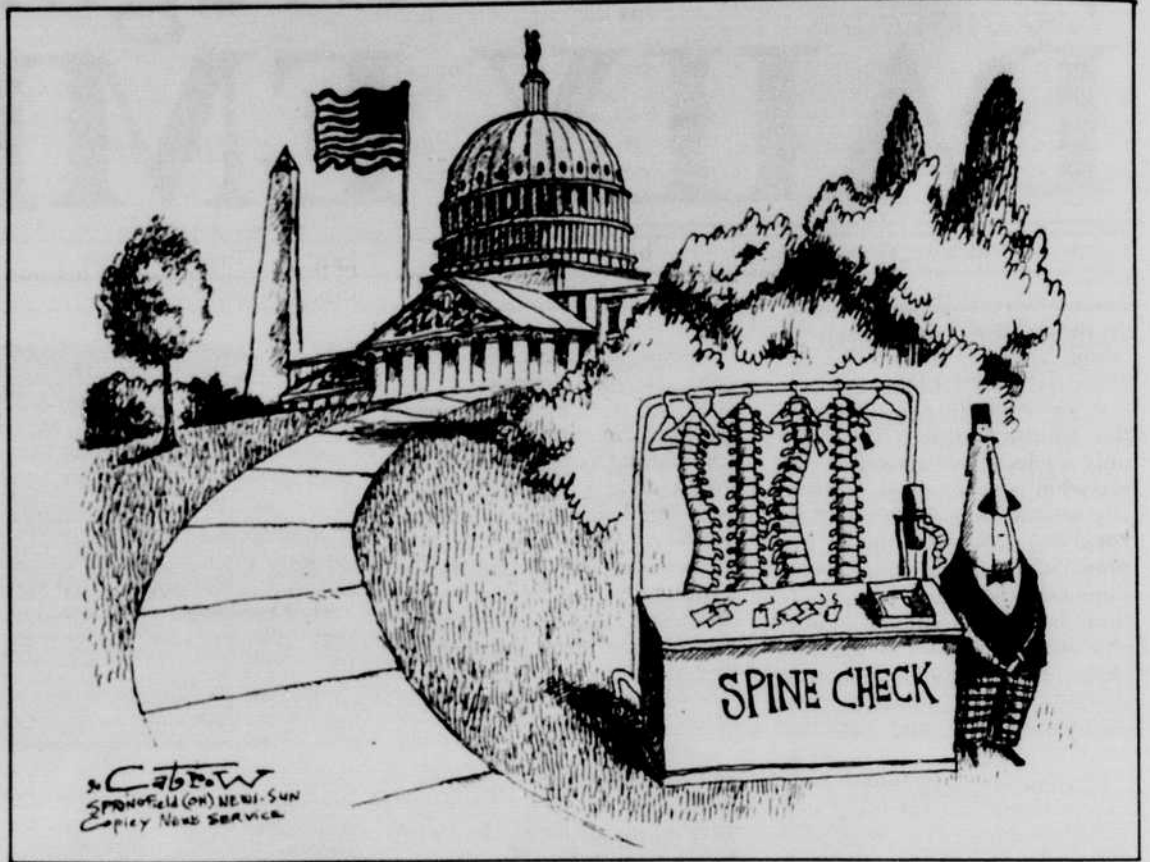
Measure 11 is also being opposed by the Association of Retarded Citizens of Oregon because of the tax breaks it would give to people who educate their children at home or through private schooling.

Because private schools do not need to accept disabled or special education children, the kids who need the most costly educations would be left in the underfunded public schools.

Giving tax breaks for private school tuition is also unfair to lower-income students. Because private schools can ask for tuition up front — usually several thousand dollars — students whose families could not afford the price would again be left going to public schools with incredibly shrinking tax bases.

It is true that the public school system has become lack-luster and needs revamping. However, sacrificing underprivileged and disabled students at the altar of school reform is not the answer.

Be fair to lower-income and disabled students. Vote no on measure 11.



Measure 5 will cripple state services

Measure 5, the property tax limitation measure, must be defeated. While most Oregonians agree the state must relieve property tax burdens, a hatchet is the wrong tool for the job.

Property taxes help fund many basic services including schools, police and fire departments, libraries, ambulance services, road repairs, parks, universities and community colleges.

Measure 5 requires the state to replace the lost revenues of schools, but not for any non-school services.

While Measure 5 would lower property taxes, it does not provide alternative revenues to fund the services to be cut.

But what happens in the meantime are higher income taxes or a sales tax.

A sales tax could replace property tax

revenue, but Oregon voters have not historically favored sales tax measures.

Higher income taxes would probably replace property taxes as the main revenue to fund the non-school services. The state currently spends 27 percent of its general fund revenues (mostly from income taxes) for local schools. In the fifth year under Measure 5, this amount would jump to 73 percent without the state gaining any additional revenue to replace property tax dollars.

Measure 5 would reduce property taxes to \$15 per \$1,000 of assessed property value — an obvious temptation to individual homeowners.

We do need property tax relief, but what we don't need is a draconian measure cutting vital governmental services.

Measure 5 is not tax relief. It is for people who neither need nor want the majority of vital services funded by property taxes. Vote no on 5.



LETTERS

Yes for LCC

On November 6, voters will be faced with a decision of vital importance to the future education of our community: whether or not to support the Lane Community College tax base proposal.

In relation to the educational, economic and social value LCC brings to the community, the price tag of this tax base is a wise investment. Although property taxes in this area are relatively high, the LCC request is not only urgently needed, but very reasonable and affordable.

If this tax base is established, the owner of an \$80,000 home would pay an estimated additional \$23.20 per year for LCC. Surely the future of our community is important enough to justify this increase.

LCC is only asking for enough funds to maintain the services it currently provides. With the expected need to retrain displaced timber industry employees in future months, LCC must receive the support of all those who care about Ore-

gon's future.

I strongly urge all students to support the LCC tax base.

Andy Harris
Political Science

The real thing

In the editorial section (ODE Oct. 23), you have encouraged us to "boycott Coca-Cola products in the EMU and residence halls."

Then we should boycott all other companies or corporations represented on campus, also. Let's slash the tires of every Toyota, Nissan, Ford, Honda, Peugeot, Mercedes Benz, Mazda, Audi, Honda, Volkswagen and BMW parked on or around campus.

Move off campus with picket signs to the local Kentucky Fried Chickens, Pizza Huts, British Petroleum and Shell stations. Boycott Japanese and German products because their respective governments supply the South African Defense Force with much of their military equipment.

If the soda we choose to

drink is a political decision, then so is the choice of what car we drive, where we eat, where we fill up with gas, and with whom we choose to associate with.

Last I heard, Mandela had been released and the national state of emergency had been lifted (first time since 1968). South Africans still face the Group Areas Act (the heart of apartheid), but with the current trend and the desires of F.W. DeClerk, that will be lifted soon, too.

It seems that some of the political decisions we have made have paid off (to a certain extent, I realize all is not well there, but...).

Yes, Coca-Cola is still sold in South Africa. It is also sold in Chile, Israel, the U.S.S.R., and as far as I know, in Iraq. Each of these places persecute people for their political and religious views.

Yet, Coca-Cola is sold here in the United States, too, where the latest trend shows us reverting back to harsh racial disregard. But does that mean Coke is the drink of people of ha-

tred? I don't think so.

Jeff Englehorn
Student

Forewarned

Before voting on the Trojan measure, people should read "Mineral Resources and the Destinies of Nations," by Walter Youngquist.

In the 1920s we were warned, given our oil reserves and rate of consumption, that we were headed for economic disasters and possibly war. This is a good time to understand why.

The Middle East can meet present demands for oil for 100 years. As other countries modernize, this demand will increase and supply will rapidly decrease, increasing the potential for war.

There are major problems with all alternative sources of energy. Before closing the Trojan plant it is advisable to know the problems you choose, so you can at least be prepared for them.

Our government prepared by militarizing the Middle East at tax payers expenses before Saddam Hussein. Hello, economic disaster and possibly war.

Our only good choice is population control and strict conservation, but this is not an uninformed public's choice.

Hopefully, students will become well-informed and give us better choices in the near future. We desperately need an informed public and better choices fast.

Carol Seaton
Springfield

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.