LETTERS

No on 10

We urge all pro-choice voters to vote no on Measure 10, which requires doctors to notify one parent of girls aged 15 to 17 seeking abortions. Moderate voters on the abortion may be swayed by misinformation from the "Yes on 10" campaign. Here are some facts.

For girls to qualify for the notification exceptions the rape or incest must be *reported* within 10 days of its occurrence. Since only one in 10 rapes is reported, and even less frequently for incest, most girls will not qualify for the exceptions.

Measure 10 does not address the needs of pregnant girls in less-than-ideal family situations. All similar laws nationwide allow pregnant teenagers to request a notification exception from a judge. Measure 10, however, does not. If passed, it will be the *most restrictive* parental notification law in the country.

Measure 10 will *suspend the license* of doctors who fail to comply with its notification requirements. Also, doctors will face stiff fines which cannot be insured against. Without access to safe, confidential medical care, Oregon teens will face dangerous and deadly options — abusive adults or illegal abortions. The Oregon Medical Association strongly opposes Measure 10.

Communication between parents and teens is an important goal. Most pregnant girls voluntarily tell their parents. However, Measure 10 does not further this goal for those who cannot.

The informed pro-choice is a no vote on Measure 10.

Jackie Corday
Six co-signers
Women's Law Forum

Not far enough

I like Measure 11, the one that increases educational choice. I think that many of those who oppose it are more interested in educational bureaucracy than in individual children.

There is, however, one thing wrong with Measure 11. It lets parents have tax breaks for sending their children to schools like Ecclesiastica, the one in California where an 8-year-old girl was beaten to death and many other students were regularly beaten.

The Oregon Legislature has recently banned corporal punishment from the public schools. And maybe psychological abuse will also be seriously addressed soon.

But what about the private schools? Measure 11 is lacking a clause that the non-public schools that benefit must have at least the same standards for protecting children from abuse as the public schools. The current standards for ensuring a child's physical and psychological safety in the public schools may be improved to further protect children. Measure 11 needs to require non-public schooling to be involved to match or better any improvements.

Children are hurt enough as it is. Let's not vote for a measure that increases parents' ability to gamble with their children's lives without any safeguards. Let's hold out for a better Measure 11 — one that includes the provisions I mentioned.

As an adult having parents with high degrees and an obsession with academic superiority, I know from experience that a beaten spirit is much harder to salvage than any missing knowledge or skill.

Alice Berry
Eugene

Off the field

On the evening of Saturday Oct. 27, a member of the University football team harassed my roommate and I as we waited at the check-out line at 7-11. After trying to bully his way in front of us in line he talked about not having to think twice about hitting girls, and how he had hit plenty.

As we tried to leave he and a friend blocked our way. When we went around they said, "That's right, you need to learn to go around."

I retorted something back and they followed us out. One of the group said "White girls don't understand black guys," as he reached in my roommate's open car window and slapped her. Then he told us everyone from Southern Oregon is prejudiced.

I called 911 from the pay phone with the football player standing behind me telling me it didn't matter who I called. When they found out I was calling 911 they left.

Some of my reactions to their harassment may have been inappropriate, but at no time did my roommate or I say or do anything that could have been construed as racist. I was rude because I felt they were being sexist, demeaning and because I felt we were being unduly harassed.

I also assumed (wrongly) that a University football player who is in the public eye would try a little harder to be a positive role model rather than be involved in and incite incidents that not only make him, but the whole football team look bad.

I am not a racist. I don't like you and it's not because of your color. It's because of your sexist harassment and the fear, humiliation and hurt you caused us to feel.

If this sort of incident is your idea of a black thing, then you're right, we wouldn't understand.

And a note to those who witnessed the incident: thanks for nothing.

Jennifer L. Boyd
Eugene

Oregon
DAILY EMERALD

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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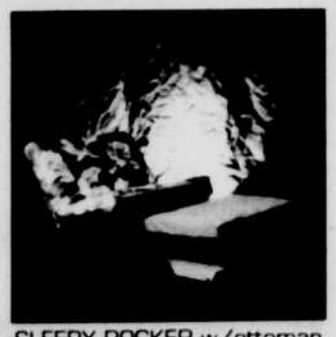

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