

Technicality springs Jolin, but it ain't over

Last Tuesday, an overlooked law scuttled the ethics case against Cottage Grove's Democratic Sen. Peg Jolin, who is accused of falsely telling her constituents she was in debt when her campaign coffers were really in the black.

A technicality — an unintended loophole — and Jolin walks. When Oregon legislators passed the innocuous bills this past session, they could not have known the impact.

The two bills put 120-day deadlines on ethics investigations. Like most new bills, the measure would have exempted cases currently under investigation, such as Jolin's.

But somebody screwed up. That clause was accidentally left out of the final drafting; the one the legislators passed. It is amazing and incomprehensible that not one of the 90 lawmakers caught the omission. No one said a thing.

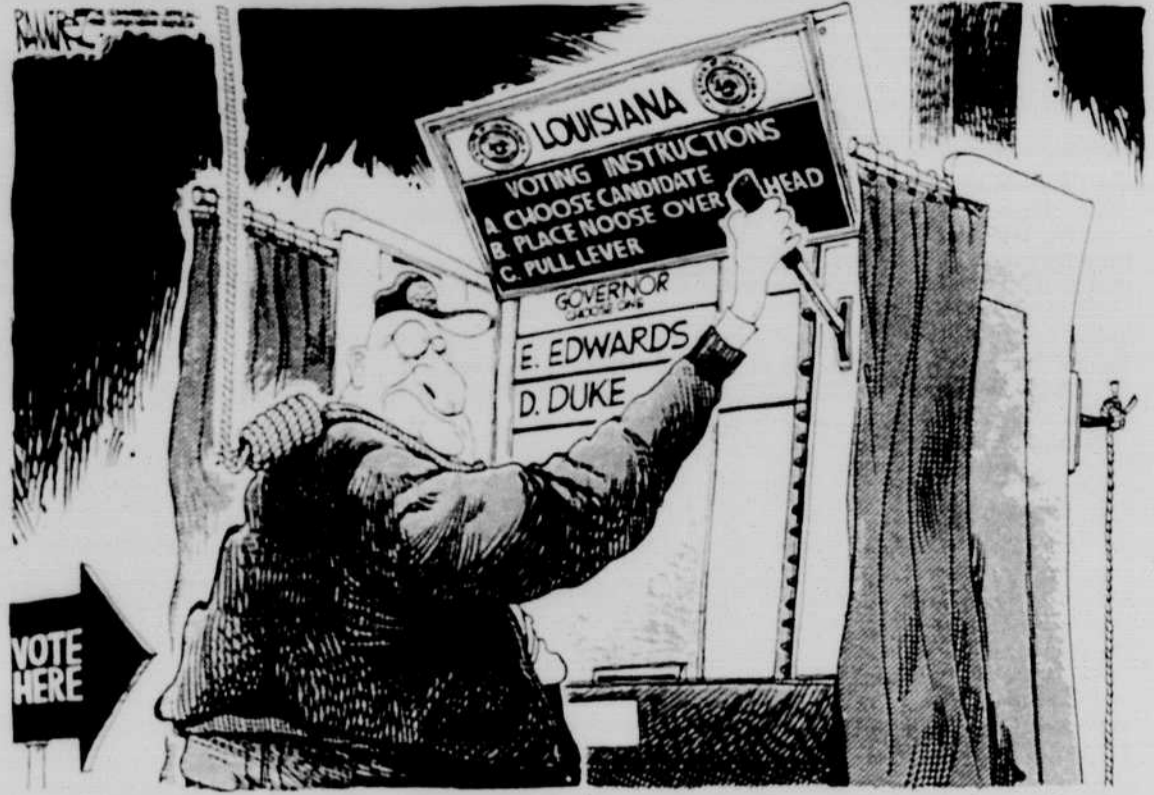
The new statute wipes out Jolin's case, as it does the ones against Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller and Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette, who were on the chopping block for accepting trips to the Independence Bowl for their wives. In fact, the law pretty much founders most ongoing investigations.

The legislative members who drew up the two bills are claiming innocence, saying the original intention was to exempt current investigations. Ethics committee members are fuming, seeing their hard work go down the loophole drain.

Whatever the case, it was an ill-conceived bill gone awry. A 120-day statute of limitations for ethics investigations is ludicrous. Fraud cases (the civilian version of ethics violations) have much longer deadlines. Six months just isn't enough time to collect information, interview witnesses and give a fair trial.

Lawmakers sure tied their own hands on this one. With another session not scheduled until 1993, legislators need to find some way to get these bills off the books.

As for Jolin, her troubles — though temporarily suspended — are not over. This investigation is kaput, but there is nothing preventing ethics committee members from slapping a new date on the old case and starting anew — something they should do for every investigation trashed by the two bills.



LETTERS

Duck dew

Shoogagoogagunda my fellow rubber duckies. Just an ordinary CHUD. (Charismatic Humanoid Undergraduate Dweller) comin' from the underground to tell ya'll about another story left untold.

With so many highly intellectual debates plaguing the news, my beat may get labeled as that sticky, smelly, five-day old, but still fresh dog-doo on the bottom of your shoe, but 'tis funky.

The football team wasn't the only one gettin' whooped at the Cal game. Late in the day, while folks fled the stadium and Oregon fans turned off their boob-tube, feathers were flyin' furiously on the sidelines.

Even those pesky security guards couldn't keep the flustered Duck from smakin' the Cal mascot around a bit. After being confronted by the boyish lookin' bear, da' Duck let him have it (bam, bam) with two clean blows to the head.

A meaningful lesson to be learned: While most had given up, our mascot kept up the fight. The fight for respect, the fight for our pride, the fight we all desire to win. Two icy cold, radiation-like, thirst quenchin', make ya' horny, bottles of Mmm, Mmm Mountain Dew for da' fightin' Duck. Please boycott high movie prices.

Until next time, Shoogagoogagunda ya'll!

Justin Zeulner
Eugene

Vantastic

Your paper is lacking one of its more charming elements this fall term, and I miss him.

Susan Ungern
Parent

Evalyn Lemon
Senior

You might call the following "A Lament for a Missing Friend." Sing it to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean":

I never subscribed to *The Emerald*;
I don't live on campus, you see.
My daughter would send me the comics —
I'm a reader of Hudson Van C!
Refrain:

Bring back, bring back
My Hudson Van Curen to me,
to me.

Bring back, bring back
Oh, bring back my Hudson to me!

Now *Oscar the Freshman's* amusing.

The world of the Weasel's OK.
But I'd really much rather read Hudson —

The others can all fade away.

(Refrain)
Is Hudson really going with Hilary?

Is Anthony still his best friend?
I'm glad they escaped the Inferno.

But their story was too short to end.

(Refrain)
There's plenty of untapped material,
New things he could do or might see.

So come out of hiding Mike Russell,
And bring back my Hudson to me!

(Refrain)
Hudson could travel in Europe
Or try joining ROTC.

You could even send him to classes(!).

Just bring back my Hudson to me!

Get the message? Thank you.

Bitter lemon

Regarding Michael McGee's letter on health insurance (*ODE* Oct. 23): It is astounding that, in this country, health care is something only the rich can afford.

Poverty is not always a choice. Some people are poor because they are too sick to work. People with bad health histories experience difficulty getting work because employers find it more cost effective to hire healthy people. The total cost of providing a health care plan for employees is less if the employees don't use the plan.

Persons in ill health find it hard to get work, which makes it difficult to get health care since they do not have the money to pay for it. Insurance is also expensive and difficult (or impossible) to get in the case of a bad medical history.

All people have the right to earn money, and spend it however they choose. But with those rights come responsibilities. We share a measure of responsibility for our fellow citizens. For every chronic drunk or drug user that gets, what some see as unwarranted, medical care, how many elderly people, people too unhealthy to get work, children who can't work, do we also help? Should they be excluded from the benefits of living in this country simply because they lack money or the means to get money?

A sports car is something you can earn, transportation is something we all need. Health care should be an essential service, not a luxury item.

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