

Measure 9 symptom, not cause of hate

Ballot Measure 9 claimed its first victims with the deaths of two homosexuals in Salem last week.

Or did it?

Hattie Mae Cohens, a black lesbian, and Brian Mock, a white gay man, died Saturday, Sept. 26 when the house they shared was firebombed. Immediately following the tragedy, opponents of Measure 9 began using Cohens and Mock as martyrs for the No on 9 cause. They believe that the deaths are the result of a climate of hostility created by Measure 9 and Cohens and Mock are but the first of many to come.

However, they may be jumping to conclusions. There were at least four other people living in the house at the time of the firebombing, including a reputed member of the Crips gang. Any one of them could have been the target.

Police have arrested four suspects, at least two of whom have been identified as being associated with racist skinhead gangs in Portland. Skinheads have never needed a ballot measure to justify their brand of hatred and violence.

With the November election getting near, there are still many undecided voters who may be swayed by this incident. If it comes out that, yes, Cohens and Mock were killed because they were homosexual, opposition to Measure 9 may increase. However, if another reason is found, the Oregon Citizens Alliance and other Measure 9 supporters will point to this incident as another example of gay-rights supporters crying wolf.

An equally plausible reason for the attack was that Mock, a white man, was living with Cohens, a black woman. Nothing stirs the ire of racist neo-Nazis than mixed-race couples, and that fact alone was more than likely the motivating factor in the attack.

Of course, the reason for the firebombing, whether it was homosexuality, race or gang affiliation, is irrelevant. All hate-crimes have a common root in ignorance, and it is at that level the problem needs to be addressed. Measure 9, the OCA, neo-Nazi skinheads and their brethren are but symptoms of the greater illnesses of prejudice and bigotry.

To blame Measure 9 for the deaths of Cohens and Mock is to suggest that defeat of the measure will make the problem go away. Nothing could be further from the truth. Defeat of Measure 9 will do little more than maintain the current status-quo. Hate-crimes existed before Measure 9, and they will continue to exist even if the measure fails.

The fight for equal rights will not end with the (hopeful) defeat of Measure 9. Rather, it will have just begun, and many more people will die before the war is won. Cohens and Mock were not the first, but rather two more in a long line of innocent people who have been killed because of who they were.

THE OREGON TIMES - DUNSMuir
CORRECTION
TODAY'S CHUCKLE
Dan Quayle can't spell
"potato" Hal Hal Hal

THE LIBERAL PRESS

WEATHER
Ozone hole expands.
Bush held responsible

ELECT BILL CLINTON!

Inept Bush Panics — Accuses Media of Bias

Clinton Correctly Views Coverage as Fair

In an effort to revive his faltering re-election campaign, George Bush today whined about the media and its coverage of his presidency. Looking silly and frenetic, he claimed reporters tend to favor the distinguished Governor of Arkansas, whose insightful analysis of current affairs has

Clinton appeared totally in control and in charge of the facts as he disputed the soon to be ex-President's charges of unbalanced reporting. "I think the press coverage of this campaign has been just fine," said



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Voting for GOP Linked To Cancer

Many people who vote Republican wind up contracting cancer, according to a recent medical survey conducted by the non-partisan Democratic Medical Doctors for Clinton Association. While no clear

See GEORGE, A4, C4, 1

Inept Bush

LETTERS

Trashing Trojan

More than 15 years ago I became the first person to be arrested at the Trojan nuclear plant. Ninety-five other prisoners of conscience quickly joined me on the bus bound for Multnomah County jail.

One of the jailers asked why we blockaded the plant. As I explained my reasons, he looked more and more upset. "It sounds to me," he said, "like they've arrested the wrong people."

Following a well-publicized trial with testimony by cancer researchers, an insurance company executive and a former Oregon Department of Energy head, the "Trojan 96" were acquitted. The jury heard our message.

Listen to the facts, Oregonians. You are in danger. You've been entrapped by a shabby investment that imperils countless future generations.

Since then, the people of this state have missed several democratic opportunities to remove this cancer from our midst. The data we had in the 1970's concerning the health risks of nuclear power has only increased and become more condemning. Recent seismological evidence shows that Trojan has always been a disaster waiting to happen.

We have two more opportunities at the polls. Oregonians must not be fooled by millions of corporate advertising dollars. PGE now says, "We'll shut it down anyway by 1996." Like they took care of their waste pools by 1980 (still there and overloaded)? Shutting down Chernobyl by 1991 would have been four years too late!

Vip Short
Eugene

Whitewash

Recently there has been a new trendy T-shirt complimenting many faces of the University student body. The message reads, "Love see no color." This message is reminiscent of other profound crunchy sayings like, "give peace a chance," "world peace," or my personal favorite, "peace dude."

Now these slogans are simple, easy to print on T-shirts, and complement the ever pop-

ular Texas and Birkenstocks quite nicely, giving almost any liberal that sincere "gee, I'm not a racist" look. However, the newest slogan, "Love see no color," is not quite so harmless.

As a Korean-American woman, I have found that love — or perhaps more accurately expressed, validation from white people — does come one's way if you conceal your color, assimilate your culture and meet the white standard of beauty as much as possible. In essence, if you whitewash yourself then the saying holds true.

But we are different colors, and one's experience differs because of their ethnicity. This is a wonderful fact, and as a culture we must start celebrating the diversity that exists, instead of the old liberal mentality full of oppression and denial.

Racism is complex and often hides itself in complacency. Love does see color. It's time for white people to start educating themselves about the experiences of people of color.

Christina Lowrie
History

Not again

Departments have closed. Tuition has skyrocketed. Enrollment has dropped. An education that will prepare Oregonians for the 21st century has become harder to obtain and will be less accessible for working class people in the upcoming years.

This is a result of Measure 5. Many who voted for it now realize it was a mistake, that the effects have crippled state institutions, and the benefits have gone almost exclusively to large corporations. Many are owned not by Oregonians but by stockholders who reside out of state.

What is particularly distressing is that University students voted in appallingly low numbers. While voter apathy is rampant, it is the 18-25 age group that votes the least. Perhaps those who say we, as college students, are to blame for the sad state of Oregon's higher education system are partially correct. True, it isn't encouraging to see politics controlled by PAC's and interest groups, but voting *does* matter.

Students need to realize that democratic systems don't work

unless the people contribute.

Every student who isn't registered to vote should do so. Registration cards and drop boxes are located throughout campus, including the ASUO office in Suite 4 of the EMU. It only takes a couple of minutes.

And remember, if you don't vote, you have no right to bitch about the outcome.

Andy Harris
ASUO Asst. State
Affairs Coordinator

No fear

I am a straight Christian and, until recently, a single father. Examining gay and lesbian rights concerns and family values helps me glimpse old fears of being called a queer and fears of having an "abnormal" family. Fear numbs me in hidden ways and generates hurtful judgments of others.

Jesus directs us to wash each others feet. Paul admonishes us to greet each other with a loving kiss. Could I kiss the man next to me in church or wash his feet? What about the Christian with AIDS?

Why is there so much condemnation of certain sexual behaviors and so little practice of God's intimate rituals? Are we paralyzed by our fears?

God's love can overcome my fear of being treated harmfully as an abnormal, perverse fag if I share affectionate intimacy with other men. Love can also overcome my hurtful, labeling judgments as it frees me from this fear.

God, teach me to cherish the diversity of loving relationships between individuals and all unique, loving family bonds. Forgive me all fears that shun, condemn and deny thy loving kindness in our world.

May your still, small voice direct our vote in November. May we each strive with your loving spirit not to blame homosexuals — or others with differences — for our fear of them.

We can cast stony votes of fearful judgment. Or our votes can unfurl messages of Jesus' accepting love.

Ethen Perkins
Eugene

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