

Veto override came four years too late

Congress has finally found an issue worthy of overturning a presidential veto. After four long years of upholding vetoes on such silly ideas as civil rights, family and medical leave or imposing trade sanctions on China, Congress found something close to the heart of middle America.

Cable television.

Certainly no issue has been more pressing, and society has no greater problem than the spiraling cost of cable TV. By a 382-139 margin, Congress overturned President Bush's veto of the cable bill on Tuesday, the first override of Bush's presidency.

Whether the cable bill is good legislation is not the point. Congress has spent the last couple years rocked by scandal and ineptitude. It has failed miserably to represent the true interests of the American people.

Certainly ... society has no greater problem than the spiraling cost of cable TV.

Rather than pass legislation dealing with the stagnant economy, health care and the education system, Congress has been too busy bailing out its buddies in the S&L scandal, losing control of its checkbooks and making asses of themselves on TV. And, of course, guaranteeing every American's fundamental right to MTV and the Home Shopping Network. Why?

Obviously, it is an election year and Congress decided that fooling the American public into believing it actually has its concerns at heart would help in the polling booth.

Lobbying by the broadcast networks and the entertainment industry also certainly played a significant role in deciding the vote. Congress votes where the money comes from, pure and simple. If the only lobbyists in favor of the bill were consumer protection groups, the bill wouldn't have stood a chance.

It is also likely a good number of Republican senators and representatives voted against the president in a last ditch effort to distance themselves from what has clearly become a sinking ship.

Cable TV is not a fundamental right and should not be treated as such. If Congress is truly concerned about controlling cable monopolies, there are adequate anti-trust laws to serve that purpose.

Hopefully, when citizens cast their votes Nov. 3, they will measure their candidates performance (or lack thereof) over the last several years, and not on one vastly overrated, unimportant vote.



LETTERS

Our mistake

We, the members of the Survival Center, would like to apologize for planning our general interest meeting for Wednesday, Oct. 7. At the time we planned it, we did not realize that day was Yom Kippur.

If there were any students inconvenienced by this mistake, we would like to invite them to contact us at 346-4356, or to come to Suite One of the EMU. We are an environmental and social justice group.

We hope you had a good holiday.

Shasta Willson
Survival Center

against the ugliest issue that has ever hit Oregon. I'm voting for a leader, Mary Burrows, who understands the values of Eugene.

Vote No on 9.

Carol Berg
Eugene

All together

After reading your story on Jackie Balzer and her appointment as an administrator devoted completely to the needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual students, I wondered whether or not the position is really needed or financially feasible.

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual students already have very active support groups and issue councils at the University. The addition of the administrator is a good example of the special rights, privileges and opportunities being granted exclusively to homosexual groups.

If the same theory is taken further, there should be an administrator designed to create a better atmosphere for politically conservative students, also in the minority at the University. Anyone can tell you, though, that the latter position is far from being created.

What anyone, heterosexual or homosexual, does in their bedroom is their business, not anyone else's. However, when badly needed resources are being spent based on sexual behaviors for services already provided, that penalizes everyone at the University who is not a homosexual.

Even homosexuals are penalized because the money and manpower spent on the new position provides no new services — it only duplicates other services offered by numerous organizations at the University and around Eugene.

In these times of tough budget-cutting and compromises in

the quality of our education, rather than concentrating on "homophobia workshops" and liaisons between gay students and the University, let's concentrate our resources on improving the education and atmosphere for all students, not just a few.

Aaron Ray
Journalism

You're joking

I am writing to express my true disbelief of the naivete expressed by Darrell Fuller in his OCA commentary on Oct. 6.

The Oregon Citizen's Alliance is clearly a controversial group. However, Fuller seems to forget what the OCA is striving to achieve. Should the OCA succeed in its desire to pass Ballot Measure 9 through legislation, the lifestyles of gays and lesbians are not the only thing at stake.

Should the lifestyle of the gay and lesbian community be denied, who is to say that, eventually, the lifestyles of Catholics, Jews, and women will not eventually be denied? If a group such as the OCA gains the ability to legally practice segregation, wouldn't it be possible for any other group to fall victim to the same injustice?

To parallel such men as Martin Luther King, Jr. or Abraham Lincoln and their goals to the goals of the OCA is ludicrous. The OCA is not another "radically revolutionary" group as Fuller claims. Rather, they are radical imbeciles.

Mr. Fuller, I encourage you to disregard your religious beliefs and consider a more humanistic approach to life. Everyone has a right to choose their own lifestyle.

Heidi Printz
History/English

Burrows deeper

Mayoral candidate Ruth Bascom continues to use rhetoric that is disturbingly similar to the Oregon Citizens Alliance "back to the closet" campaign goals. Bascom supports an individual's right to behave as they wish "in the privacy of their home." Virtually all other candidates questioned about OCA campaigns in a survey last spring had far, far stronger words in opposition to the OCA's attacks on Oregon homosexuals.

Bascom told me that she did vote along with the rest of the Eugene council to oppose OCA campaigns against gays. It's not the same thing — to go along with peers — as it is to take a strong, personal stand as a mayoral candidate. Her rhetoric is a tepid stance aimed at pandering to any OCA voters.

On the other hand, her opponent, Mary Burrows, leaves no question about her firm opposition to discrimination and bigotry. Bascom's literature makes nary a mention of opposition to attacks on human rights, at least not the literature she distributed at the Oct. 1 ASUO Street Faire.

Burrows understands this is Eugene she seeks to represent, not Springfield. Eugene residents will not tolerate bigotry. Strong stands are needed

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