

Measure 3 would eliminate choice

The right to vote is perhaps the most sacred privilege enjoyed by members of a democracy. When people go to the polls, they have the opportunity to elect the men and women who they believe are most qualified to represent them in government. Ballot Measure 3 would deny Oregonians that right.

Measure 3 would set term limits on Oregon's state and federal congressional delegates. Service in the House of Representatives (both federal and state) would be limited to six years, and service in the Senate, federal and state, would be limited to 12 years and eight years, respectively. Additionally, the measure would impose a lifetime maximum of 12 years in the Oregon Legislature.



Advocates of the measure argue that incumbents are too powerful and too difficult to defeat. They believe that their measure would prevent the development of career politicians and open the political process to a greater variety of people.

The text of Measure 3 should simply read, "We, the people, are too stupid to think for ourselves. Therefore, be it enacted by us that our right to vote not be further encumbered by requiring intelligent thought and free will." In a nutshell, that's Measure 3 without the typical political prose usually found in ballot measures.

For example, the voter's pamphlet contains the following as an argument in favor: "Just re-elect them (incumbents), they tell us, and things will get better. But we have been re-electing them year after year and times are not getting better." Whose fault is that? The inability of voters to see beyond the rhetoric of 30-second television commercials is not the fault of the candidates.

While Measure 3 would guarantee the eventual ousting of bad politicians, it would also mandate the removal of good politicians. Regardless of the quality of work that an incumbent has performed, and regardless of how many people want that candidate to remain in office, he or she would be forbidden from further service. Depriving government of quality servants is tantamount to throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Measure 3 would also increase the power of non-elected bureaucrats who can spend their entire careers in government service, immune from any system of checks and balances.

There is no question that campaign reform is needed. Limits on contributions and spending are the fairest way to ensure that candidates do not get elected simply because they have more money than their opponents.

Measure 3 would institutionalize voter apathy. Term limits already exist — they are called elections. Vote no on Measure 3.



LETTERS

Belittling

With Columbus Day upon us, I am in no way surprised to see the campus newspaper (the *Emerald*) further perpetuate the indignation of the indigenous people of this continent.

In the Oct. 8 issue, the name "Geronimo" is headlined above a photograph. The word is in a joking prank involving a "dummy."

Geronimo was a great and honorable man who devoted his life to fighting for justice among the Apache.

Never have I heard of such civil rights activists as Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, or Malcolm X referred to in this joking context. Geronimo deserves to be among this group. He and his people were oppressed and destroyed by our society. Yet you continue to belittle and insult him.

It is interesting how swiftly this institution latches onto the phrase "celebrate diversity." It is odd how, in actuality, this institution celebrates the destruction of diversity. Good things could be done by the *Emerald* to promote unity and understanding during this Columbus Day commemoration. But instead we get subtle implications that our society was right in exploiting the indigenous peoples of this continent. Please stop promoting this ignorance.

Joshua Docherty
Undeclared

Shocked

I would like to respond to Jon Wollander's letter published in the *Emerald* (Oct. 12). I, like many, am surprised, shocked and hurt that a small fraction of Oregon residents are even considering such a measure. My shock is even greater when I read alarming narrow-mindedness such as that reflected in Wollander's letter. He says that "those choosing to engage in high-risk dysfunctional sex are designated the heroes."

First of all, sex can be high risk regardless of whether it occurs between heterosexuals or homosexuals, or is functional or dysfunctional. To imply that only sex within the context of a homosexual relationship is dangerous is to suggest that Wollander's sex education and/or experience is not too vast.

Secondly, no one is being labeled a hero in this controver-

sy. Finding the winners, losers and heroes is a typical attitude expressed by people who don't educate themselves or attempt to empathize with those around them.

The rejection of Ballot Measure 9 is in no way a mandate for widespread homosexual relationships nor will it favor one sexual preference over another. It simply protects this type of personal decision from the interference of government. The failure of this measure to pass will allow people to continue choosing their partners according to their personal preferences. Whether their relationships be sexual or platonic, feelings shared between two people, by definition, are private and choices relating to these feelings fall within the inalienable rights of the individual.

Vote no on 9.
Allison Soderstrom
Nursing, LCC

I'm gone

I was born and raised in Oregon. But the passage of Measure 5 two years ago and the mere presence of Measure 9 on the ballot this year have convinced me to leave Oregon when I complete my education. I refuse to spend the rest of my life in a state where so many people believe that the government should force discrimination against homosexuals but not fund higher education.

Now that I have announced my intention to leave Oregon, will I be charged non-resident tuition rates, since I am here "primarily for educational purposes"?

Kirk Jepsen
Sociology

Clear choice

Kevin Hornbuckle is the progressive candidate for the Ward 3 City Council seat. He has years of experience as a grassroots activist and community organizer.

He is opposed to the big-money, established interests that have traditionally controlled the City Council. Because Hornbuckle's egalitarian ideas appeal to Ward 3 voters, he received broad voter support and beat Eben Dobson by several hundred votes in the spring primary, despite being outspent by several thousand dollars.

The big-money elite are worried because they know that Hornbuckle's election will result in a progressive majority in

the City Council. They are closing ranks behind Dobson and will surely pour additional thousands of dollars into the race (Dobson refuses to agree to a spending limit). Yet they know this may not be enough to defeat a community activist with the widespread support of the people.

Hornbuckle has and will continue to struggle for the rights and interests of gays and lesbians, women, minorities, the disabled, the working class and the poor. He vigorously opposes the OCA. A lengthy list of progressive organizations and community activists endorse Hornbuckle's campaign. Hornbuckle has a solid theoretical framework to support his slogan: "For the People, For the Common Good."

The choice is clear. Kevin Hornbuckle is the progressive Ward 3 candidate for the Eugene City Council.

Chuck Areford
Eugene

Don't believe

Who is really to blame for the disintegration of our economy, timber jobs, complex ecosystems and climate?

Bob Packwood, Mark Hatfield, Bob Smith, Les AuCoin and other western congressmen, past and present, have been deciding the fate of our economy, natural resources, environment and timber jobs for years. Every year for 20 years, these men have voted for mandated timber cut levels (in their language, "monies appropriated to the U.S. Forest Service and BLM based on harvest targets") that they knew could not be sustained by the temperate rainforest of the Pacific Northwest.

These men voted for unsustainable cutting levels implored by corporate interests and other special interests, including local governments who can only see bigger dollar signs to anchor their positions.

Second in blame has been the leadership in the White House. All these leaders can see are dollar signs entering the Federal Treasury from the timber/mineral resources taken from our forests. For example, 15 cents to 20 cents of every timber dollar does not return to the state.

Don't believe the rhetoric — the half-truths that are designed to divide us and to benefit the wealthy and powerful.

Shannon Wilson
Student

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

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