

Keep Alton Baker's inherent beauty

Very few cities have natural parkland within their boundaries. Eugene's Ballot Measure 20-01 seeks to keep the city in that elite class.

Measure 20-01 would prohibit development of East Alton Baker Park, setting it aside for "passive recreation." "Passive recreation" is defined as recreation that is dependent upon the natural landscape. Examples include jogging, bicycling and hiking, just to name a few.

Opponents of the measure want to build eight soccer fields in the park. They claim Eugene is "woefully short" of soccer fields, and with participation levels rising, the situation will only worsen.

However, it is the opposition's argument that falls "woefully short," not the number of soccer fields. There is not a lack of soccer fields in Eugene, but rather a lack of quality soccer fields. The money spent developing new fields would be put to much better use improving already existing facilities.

That said, there are more important reasons to vote for Measure 20-01. Two of the four plans for the Ferry Street Bridge alternatives would put either a two-lane or four-lane road right through the middle of the park and virtually adjacent to a native plant sanctuary.

Other plans propose developing University football practice fields on the old Day Island landfill. The landfill is currently an EPA Secondary Superfund site and already leaks toxic materials into the Willamette River. Any construction on the site could result in greater seepage and further contaminate the river.

Measure 20-01 is not an immutable resolution. Its purpose is to protect the park today, not forever. Should a dire need for development of the park arise, the measure can be revoked by a vote of the people.

That fact alone is perhaps Measure 20-01's strongest point. It would prohibit any development without first gaining the people's approval. It would prevent the city council and private developers from attempting another development fiasco like the golf-course that was proposed this past year.

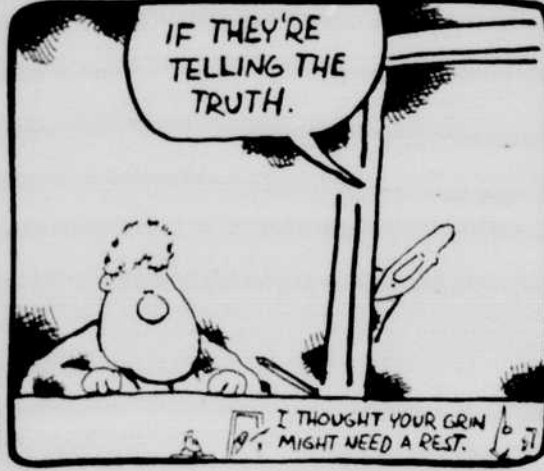
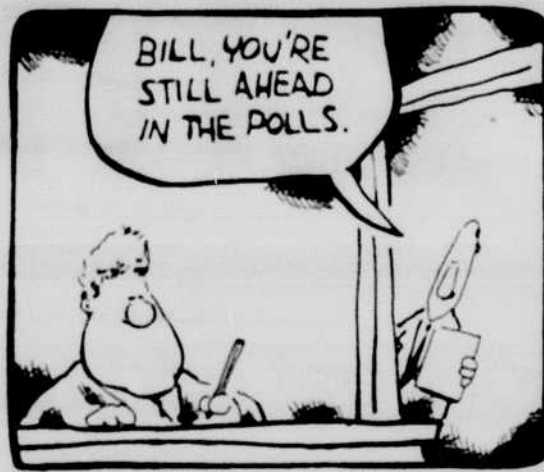
Eugene already has landscaped parks aplenty, as do most cities. Eugene is fortunate to also have natural parkland in its midst, something most cities lack. Eugene has more than enough soccer fields, it only needs to maintain them. The Willamette River is already polluted enough, there is no need to add to it.

Vote to keep East Alton Baker Park in a natural state. Vote yes on Measure 20-01.



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LETTERS

What a guy

With all the recent rhetoric about family values that we have been bombarded with, something happened at last Thursday's Clinton rally that I felt illustrated the essence of that issue.

I decided to bring my six-year-old daughter, Chloe, thinking it would be a good experience to remember. We were lucky enough to be in front of the podium and being that close was exciting. After Gov. Bill Clinton spoke, he came down to greet his supporters. As he moved closer to us, so did the crowd behind us and slowly but surely my daughter was being crushed.

She was wedged in so tightly that I couldn't lift her out of danger and she became extremely frightened. When Clinton reached us, with the arms of a father, not a politician, he reached out and pulled her to safety. He turned away from the crowd and instructed his security team to help get me out of the crowd. After calming my daughter down and making sure that she was OK, he handed her back to me and was moved along again by his security people.

Somehow, the whole incident said more to me than any campaign speech could have. That's what family values are about: people caring enough about each other to make a difference. Yes he is a politician and a good one, but at that moment he was a compassionate, caring man and that's what we need in the White House.

Sara Beale
Asian Studies/English

Nine hurts kids

Everyone is wondering how courts will interpret Ballot Measure 9. I am more concerned about how our children will interpret it.

When their own teachers start calling people perverts, will our children interpret that as meaning it's OK to call each other dirty names and disre-

spect each other's opinions and lifestyles?

When "homosexuality" is made synonymous with "pedophilia," will students begin accusing same-sex teachers of "staring at them inappropriately," as happened in Springfield last week?

When gay children can find no parent, no teacher, no school counselor, no organization, not even a pamphlet to help them understand their feelings, will they interpret that to mean they are subhuman, therefore unworthy of the simplest human decency?

When their own teachers call them "abnormal, unnatural and perverse," will these children interpret it to mean that, in our society, in the 20th century, in this great freedom-loving country of ours, it is better to be dead than different? Will more and more of our children see suicide as the only relief from their pain?

After Measure 9 passes, the courts can spend millions of our tax dollars to interpret what the language "really" means. In the meantime, a jury of children will have already come to a consensus. And if Measure 9 is later thrown out by the courts, the damage will have already been done.

Measure 9 is not the way to express your love for children, your respect for freedom, or your human decency. Please vote no on Measure 9.

Jeanine Holly
Class of 1978

Keisling for state

As a Clackamas County legislator for eight years, I can explain why Rep. Randy Miller, R-Lake Oswego, would make a terrible secretary of state. He is too partisan to fairly administer this critical office and he is insensitive to the problems of ordinary Oregonians.

Many times during a legislative session, citizens would call members of the county legislative delegation and ask to meet with us to discuss their con-

cerns. Callers would include foster parents, senior citizens, educators, local Children's Commission members and others. The Clackamas County legislators would get together, Republican and Democrat alike, to listen to their concerns. While not all local legislators could attend every meeting, Miller was consistently absent. Miller would be even more distant as a statewide office holder.

When it came to issues of concern to Clackamas County citizens, Miller was absent without leave. Would he respond to the issues that concern ordinary Oregonians if elected? We can't count on it.

I have often been called by Miller's constituents. They would tell me that Miller wouldn't help them, but perhaps I would.

Miller has also proven that he is too partisan to impartially administer the office of secretary of state and chief elections officer. His role as legislative attack dog for the Republican Party earned him the criticism of local papers.

We need a secretary of state who will be fair, impartial and non-partisan. Oregonians will be better served by electing Phil Keisling as our secretary of state.

Dave McTeague
State Representative
District 25

Letters deadline

The *Emerald* will not run letters endorsing candidates or ballot measures as of Monday, Nov. 2.

Deadline for letters concerning election issues is noon, Thursday, Oct. 29.

Letters that do not appear on Friday will not run.

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

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