

LETTERS

Think first

As Election Day approaches, it is imperative that you begin to educate yourself on the issues that will be decided (if you haven't already).

Ballot Measure 9 threatens the very existence of academic and intellectual freedom, not to mention civil rights, on this campus. If the right-wing OCA gets its way with its so-called "no special rights" initiative, it will be the first step in fulfilling their agenda of creating a fascist, Christian-extremist state, with people like Lon Mabon, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson controlling such issues as reproductive rights, freedom of expression and sexuality. If you don't think it can happen here, don't be too sure.

Furthermore, we are at a crossroads. We have the chance to elect leaders who will take this country into the next century. We simply can't afford four more years of the Reagan-Bush-Quayle dynasty. The same goes for Bob Packwood, who has been among the slickest of politicians known and is more concerned with raking in hefty donations from logging and pro-Israel PACs than the interests of Oregonians. Of no less importance are the races for state and local government. The campaign for Oregon House District 41 is a close race between Cynthia Wooten and incumbent Marie Bell. You should know that Wooten is pro-choice (Bell is not) and will make the future of higher education a priority (Bell hasn't).

Educate yourself and vote.

Andy Harris
Political Science

No axe

If Eugene Decisions and the increase of social problems has taught us little else, it's that we need leadership on our city council. We have a diversity of ideas that reflect the wonderful diversity of this community. Unfortunately, we still need to reach a consensus that transforms this diversity into actions that benefit the whole commu-

nity. Negative tactics, spiteful words and zealous ideological axe-grinding can only make the current situation worse. We need community leaders, not community dividers.

It is for these very reasons that so many community activists — Right to Privacy, The Lane County Labor Council, the Oregon Women's Political Caucus and both mayoral candidates — support Eben Dobson for City Council Ward 3. As is obvious to all but his opponent, these are not "big money" groups. Dobson listens to all points of view and supports the ward as a whole, not just selected portions. He has an open mind and listens to all groups.

It may be simpler for Dobson's opponent to listen only to those few groups with which he already agrees and ignore or criticize everyone else. However, as the *Register-Guard* mentions in its endorsement of Dobson, this "us vs. them" mentality is divisive and potentially devastating for this city. Eugene needs to go beyond this simplistic approach if we want to give meaning to the term "quality of life." Dobson's open-minded approach will bring leadership and progress.

Please vote for Eben Dobson. He is our best chance for unity and diversity.

Jeff Julum
Eugene

Lifestyle

I am writing in response to Jerry Russell (*ODE*, Oct. 27).

"Aside from the debatable issues of life, liberty, and property," the undeniable core of the homosexual movement is the requirement that all public schools teach that homosexuality and all other chosen sexual behavior is normal, right, and natural, though there is no scientific evidence to support this proposition.

Regardless of one's religious beliefs or one's personal feelings about homosexuality, do you really want the schools to be held hostage by a curriculum that seems to come straight from the doctrine of Queer Nation, LGBA, NAMBLA and so on? Or shall academic responsi-

bility prevail and realize that promoting the chosen lifestyles of homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, or masochism has no precedent in the curriculum of public schools over any other chosen lifestyle.

Allen James
Biology

Extremes

Ballot Measure 9 has created an extreme polarization of people throughout our community. Some Christians have supported it in ways that are cruel, harsh and un-compassionate. As a result, any Christian who supports Measure 9 may be labeled racist or bigoted. Some Christians opposed to Measure 9, in the name of compassion, have presented arguments that many believe distort the biblical truths regarding homosexuality.

Between these extremes are a large number of Christians who hold different opinions about the legal and political implications of homosexuality, yet agree on the biblical teaching regarding it. They believe homosexuality is a sin and, like any sin, brings negative conse-

quences. They believe God, through Jesus Christ, has provided forgiveness for the sin of all people, even homosexuals. They oppose intolerance, inequality, racism, bigotry and violence against homosexuals or anyone else. They believe that anything that attempts to legitimize homosexuality ultimately hinders rather than helps homosexuals. They believe that every person who turns to God in acknowledgement of their sin and in acceptance of Christ is made "a new creation" and is empowered to live according to God's standard rather than their own designs.

Measure 9 has not made homosexuality a political issue. Homosexuals have made it a political issue by years of political maneuvering. Christians who hold to the beliefs stated above and oppose Measure 9 are not racists or bigots. They are simply responding to an issue they believe should be addressed according to the biblical truths upon which they base their lives.

James Sanders
Springfield

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U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio
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