

# No no no no no no on Ballot Measure 9

Ballot Measure 9. Those three words and the hatred they represent will remain forever a blemish on Oregon's history. Future Oregonians will have a new symbol for hatred, intolerance and evil — "OCA." It is destined to be our legacy, and we should bow our heads in shame.

The very fact that Measure 9 exists says more about our society than any analysis ever will. The thought that one group of people could be overtly singled out for institutional discrimination is repugnant.

Measure 9 would amend the Oregon Constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." It would require Oregon's public schools teach that philosophy to its students.

Scott Lively, communications director for the OCA, on Tuesday said he believes there is a statewide homosexual conspiracy attempting to force its militant agenda into the state's school system.

Homosexuality, or for that matter heterosexuality, is not discussed, encouraged or promoted at any level of the state's school system. In fact, until the OCA brought the issue up, most children had virtually no overt exposure to homosexuality.

Perhaps the OCA deserves some thanks. Were it not for them, homosexuals may have never found their collective voice to the degree they have. Perhaps even more important is the response by the heterosexual community.

People across the political, religious and economic spectrum have found common ground in opposition to the measure. They have discovered they know more homosexuals than they may have thought, and they have learned homosexuals are, in fact, people, too. Without the OCA, this level of awareness may not have come for years.

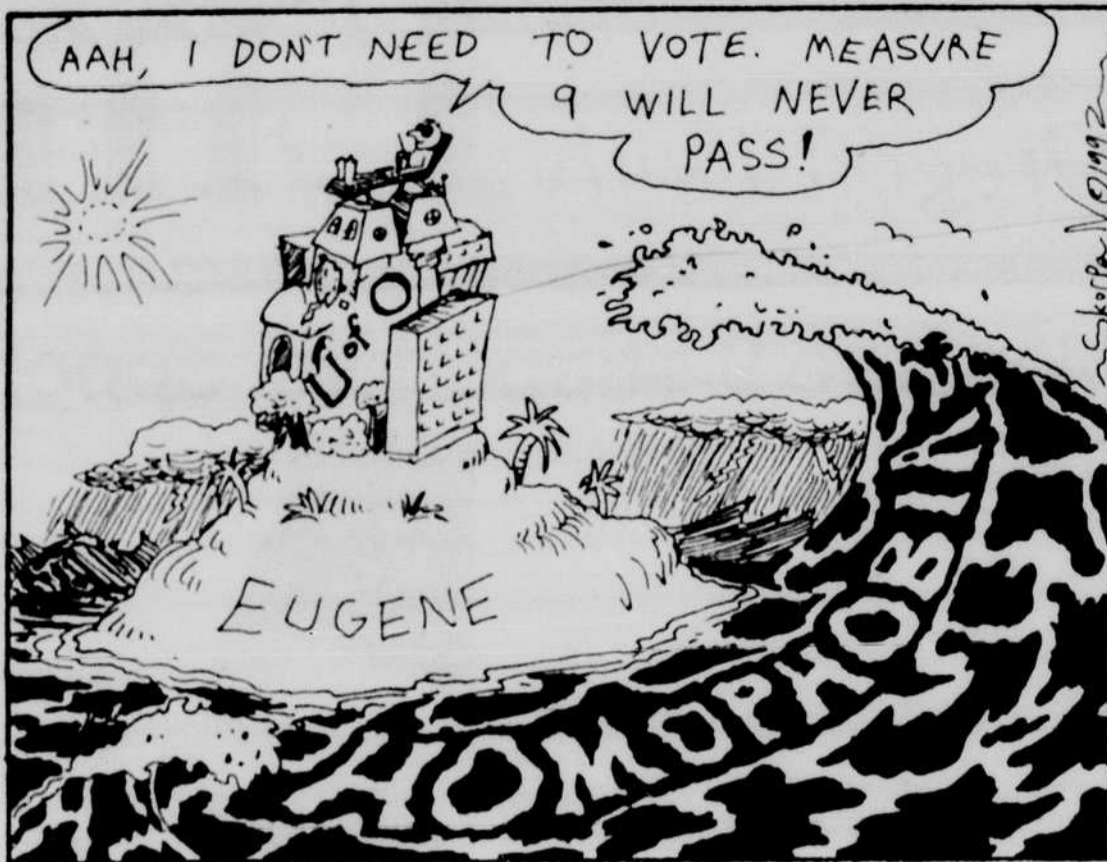
The failure of Measure 9 will not be a victory for anyone. Defeating it will only maintain the status quo and then only on a legal basis. Homosexuals' social status has been set back a hundred years and it will be a long road just to reach pre-OCA levels of acceptance.

Voting no on Measure 9 is only the easiest first step in what will be a long and traumatic healing process. Not only must Oregonians work together to accept homosexuals, they must also work to accept the OCA and its membership.

Tolerance and understanding is a two-way street — and until all sides can come to accept one another, Ballot Measure 9 will never truly be defeated.



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## COMMENTARY

# College Republicans oppose 9

By Jeff Osanka

Wednesday night the College Republicans of the University voted unanimously (15-0) to strongly urge Oregonians to vote no on Ballot Measure 9. The vote followed a lengthy discussion of the possible ramifications of Measure 9.

Kim Kerbs, president of the College Republicans, said people on campus who are surprised by the result need to learn more about the GOP.

"We see Measure 9 as another example of expanding big government," Kerbs said.

Kerbs said the traditional Republican philosophy, shared by most rank-and-file Republicans, opposes measures that interfere with people's private lives.

Economics major Dierdre Molander was active in two Republican U.S. Congressional campaigns and served as an intern for Sen. Bob Packwood in Washington, D.C.

"Discrimination initiatives like Measure 9 not only go against my personal beliefs about privacy, but they are also bad for business," Molander said.

"The Associated Oregon Industries, a pro-business lobbying group, says 'government has enough to do without regulating the personal behavior of individuals in the privacy of their own homes and lives.' I agree," she said.

College Republicans member Deanna Beppu is a history major. She is also opposed to Measure 9, saying, "For myself, I don't personally like homosexuality. And as a Japanese-Chinese American, I know our nation can't afford to take even the first step toward discrimination. We need to remember our history and treat individuals with respect. That's why I've become involved in fighting Measure 9."

PPPM student Martin Lewis is a lifelong Republican who recently finished a four-year term on Lane Community College's Board of Directors.

"Republicans already know

what it's like when alternative voices are muted on campus," he said. "That's why we're alarmed by a measure that would restrict what teachers can teach in the classroom. Education, especially at the collegiate level, has to be free from excessive governmental restrictions."

Republican precinct worker Stefan Stent is joining the National Guard after graduating from the University. He believes Measure 9 would have a chilling effect on education.

"Some of us have been campaigning as 'Republicans No on 9' all term," Stent said. "A 'Yes on 9' person told one of us why he supported the measure: 'One of my teachers has been saying things contrary to my moral beliefs; and by voting for Measure 9, I can prevent my fellow classmates from hearing such statements and being fooled.'"

Stent challenges that assertion. "While I don't always agree with everything my teachers say, I have the brains to be able to listen, think about issues and decide for myself; and I think my fellow students are equally capable," he said.

William Siegel, a CIS/mathematics major, said, "I have a strong sense of moral values developed over the years through prayer and faith. I don't want and I don't need the government deciding what my moral values should be."

"I draw a distinction between a personal belief in what is right and wrong, and having the government impose its heavy hand over people's lives. As a conservative, I oppose state-sponsored restrictions on free decision making," Siegel said.

College Republicans Treasurer Pete Knox was unable to attend the meeting. When reached for comment, he said: "I'm not surprised that College Republicans voted unanimously against Measure 9. We join Senators Packwood and (Mark) Hatfield, (state school) Superintendent (Norma) Paulus, (University law school) Dean Dave

**'We need to remember our history and treat individuals with respect.'**

— Deanna Beppu, College Republicans

Frohmayer and former Governor Vic Atiyeh in opposing Measure 9. I don't know of a single Republican member of the State Legislature who supports Measure 9."

Susan Stowell, a business major from Virginia Tech, reminded Republicans that Measure 9, like many of the measures on the ballot this year, is poorly written.

"Voters should remember that voting 'no' doesn't say that you approve or disapprove of the issues being discussed," she said. "Responsible voters can separate those knee-jerk reactions from their analysis of the actual text of the measures."

"Remember that by voting no, we're not changing anything. Voting no is the true conservative position when you have doubts about a piece of legislation," she said.

College Republicans Vice President Kirsten Bay encourages Republicans to become more active on campus.

"A lot of Republicans at the University think they are the only ones," she said. "In fact, over the past 10 years the percentage of Republicans among University students has been 30 percent to 34 percent, pretty close to the statewide average."

"Republicans should get involved before and after the election. We meet two Wednesdays per month at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU. Check the *Emerald* for our schedule or leave a note at our office (behind the staircase next to the EMU Copy Center) and we'll call you."

Jeff Osanka is a member of Republicans No on 9.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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