

'92 election issues coming to a close

The battle is over and the dust is settling. All that remains is to brush ourselves off, pick up the pieces and check out the results.

First and foremost for Oregonians, Ballot Measure 9 was defeated. Voters realized the measure was not about special rights at all, but about denying equal rights to tax-paying citizens.

But we can't get comfortable yet. This will not be the last we hear from Lon Mabon and his OCA robots — they have talked about retooling the measure and submitting it again, perhaps with softer language next time.

Although the measure lost, we have to recognize that a good 45 percent of voters said yes. These voters represent a large chunk of Oregon — only a few thousand more citizens voting yes and we would be mourning the demise of our state.

With a softer-worded argument, those few thousand citizens could sway in the other direction. It isn't hard to imagine.

The gay and lesbian community could rectify this by concentrating a little less on gay rights in Oregon and more on education about gay issues. As insensitive as that seems, the fact is that many Oregon voters have become alienated by homosexuals demanding equal rights.

The gay rights movement has to start at the beginning. Before these voters warm up to the idea, it will be necessary to inform them as to why gays and lesbians deserve these rights. Otherwise, anti-homosexual measures such as these may continue to torment the state and the nation.

In other races, Bill Clinton was elected president to no one's surprise. Everyone breath a sigh of relief. Clinton is a superior candidate and will bring welcome change to the White House.

Everything went basically according to plan. Voters embraced the idea of term limits and subsequently re-elected almost every incumbent. Apparently voters couldn't stop themselves when they get to the voting booth — they needed their incumbent rush. Maybe term limits will help them recover from their incumbent addiction. They obviously can't do it by themselves.

Ballot measures 5 and 6 went down hard. We can only hope that PGE acts responsibly in its phase-out of Trojan and ensures that all safety measures are taken.

The Packwood-AuCoin battle was too close to call at press time. And although we didn't endorse either candidate, the fact that the race is over is refreshing. It was a negative, depressing campaign. Neither side showed a concern for Oregon voters, contenting themselves with accusations over issues. Even national newscasts mentioned the campaign as being ridiculously negative.

And now all that's left is to rest. It's been four years since we've had to think about madness at this level. Now we can sit back, reflect, and worry about the next four years.



OPINION

Today's lesson: Be nice to liberals



Write Angles
Martin Fisher

Whoever said "you can't please all of the people all of the time" must have been an editorial writer for the *Emerald*.

During the past couple of weeks, the editorial pages of the *Emerald* have dared to be critical of Democratic pep rallies and candidates.

The first ripple of dissent followed an editorial that was critical of a Democratic rally masquerading as a non-partisan voter registration drive. The editorial criticized the rally for being so clearly partisan.

Organizers and supporters of the rally were obviously upset by having this pointed out and were quick to express their displeasure with the *Emerald*. Apparently the editorial writers were expected to reap nothing but praise for registering loads of Democrats.

But suppose the rally had been sponsored by Republicans who registered legions of conservatives to carry the GOP banner. No doubt campus liberals would denounce the drive as "dangerous" and a threat to us all. And, of course, they would expect the *Emerald* to condemn the rally.

Apparently, exclusivity is good when carried out by liberals, but bad when carried out by conservatives. How could the editorial writers have been so naive?

The second ripple of dissent followed a criticism of the Clinton rally at McArthur Court.

That editorial was critical of the slipshod manner in which the rally was apparently organized. Regardless of how exciting and energetic the rally may have been, it was at the expense of nearly 10,000 voters.

The loudest complaint we

heard concerned the number of people reported outside. As if the editorial writers counted each and every person. Considering the people who didn't like the crowd estimate most likely never actually saw how many people were outside (they were inside, no doubt singing repeated choruses of "Happy Happy, Joy Joy"), and given the comments made by people who, after seeing the crowd inside, said they believed the crowd outside was bigger, the argument becomes somewhat moot.

The editorial's criticism of allowing children to displace voters at the rally also generated some controversy. Certainly, getting children interested in the democratic process will, hopefully, motivate them to participate when the time arrives. However, their participation should not come at the expense of participation by registered voters.

The purpose of a political rally is to gain voter support. You don't do that by making thousands of voters stand outside because school children are receiving a civics lesson.

Many of the kids in attendance most likely saw the event as a chance to get out of school. They don't vote. Their opinion of Clinton means squat.

As for the schools that felt it necessary to bus their students to the rally — it's called a video camera. Look into it.

The third and (so far) final ripple of dissent has come from the decision not to endorse Les AuCoin for senate.

"But," we've been told, "don't you realize that Bill Clinton needs a Democratic Congress if he's to be effective?" Hello? Anybody home? We already have a Democratic Congress. Had one for more than 50 years. Come Jan. 1, it will still be there.

To top it off, some people have accused the *Emerald* of running non-objective editorials. News flash — that's why they're called "editorials." Editorials are opinions and are not

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supposed to be objective.

Nor, as one person suggested, are journalists permitted to "volunteer any of their time to a cause." It's called ethics — get a dictionary; look it up.

Perhaps the most bizarre complaint has been that the *Emerald's* advertising reflects a lack of objectivity. Of course advertising is not objective. Why? Because — hold your breath — advertising is *paid for*. Yes, that's right, paid for.

To be fair, not all of our recent criticism has been from the left. An editorial cartoon advertising fictitious "Gay Ban" sunglasses (mocking the OCA) stated that the glasses were available in "Nazi brown." Apparently, this offended a Nazi, who felt the cartoon destroyed his political credibility. Huh?

And what does that say about the OCA? When Nazis become offended at being compared to your organization, how much lower can you go?

The editorial writers are not trying to win popularity contests or the "Good Liberal Award." They have no intention of becoming the cheer-leading mouthpieces for any belief or ideology.

In these days of sharply defined ideologies, reality and truth are treated like loaded guns; they are there to blow holes in your value system and sink your political ship.

If that's the case — praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.

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