

Jolin case example of need for reform

Tuesday's conviction of State Senator Peg Jolin, D-Dist. 22, is a perfect example of why the public's opinion of politicians is so low. It is also a good example of why approving term limits missed the mark.

Jolin, 40, served in the Oregon House from 1981-1989 and in the Senate from 1989 to the present. After her 1990 re-election campaign, Jolin had a \$28,000 surplus left in her war chest.

However, she didn't let that minor technicality stop her from sending a campaign letter claiming a \$10,000 debt. Nor did it stop her from gladly accepting the \$4,000 in donations that came pouring in afterward.

Senate leadership can prove to the people of Oregon that it will not tolerate unethical and illegal activity on the part of its members. Jolin should be sent packing and her seat declared vacant immediately.

By allowing her to remain, the Senate would be implicitly condoning her behavior. Oregonians do not want criminals for senators, nor do they want a Senate that allows criminals to be members.

Elected office recognizes an implicit trust between the people and their representatives. Jolin violated that trust.

Many would say this serves as an example of why term limits are necessary. They are wrong. Term limits would not have prevented Jolin from committing fraud, nor will they prevent others from trying.

The solution is campaign reform. Jolin might have been prevented from illegally soliciting contributions had there been contribution and spending limits in place.

Campaign reform would also break the stranglehold the incumbents often have on their office. Term limits allow incumbents to purchase their office for 12 years. Campaign reform would prevent anyone from ever purchasing an office or abusing the fund-raising ability that comes with incumbency as did Jolin.

The people of Oregon should not have to wait until Jolin comes up for re-election in 1994 to remove her from office. The Senate deserves better, District 22 deserves better, and the people of Oregon deserve better.

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LETTERS

Better spent

I am new to Oregon, having moved here from Connecticut in the early summer.

In Connecticut I was a student and later an employee at Yale, where partners of students, faculty and staff have equal access to the university's facilities and benefits regardless of marital status or sexual orientation. From this environment I came to Oregon just as the battle over Ballot Measure 9 began.

I watched as the state divided, tensions grew, people were attacked physically and verbally, two were murdered, a combined total of almost \$2 million was raised — all over something I couldn't believe was on the ballot in the first place.

I am sure the state could have used the energy and the money in more productive endeavors.

On Nov. 3, voters in Oregon rejected Measure 9. Instead of accepting this graciously, it seems that its defeat has given the OCA and its followers renewed vigor. They must feel, after everything that's happened, that now they will have to work extra hard to save the state.

The state will be divided again, tensions again will be high, more money will be raised, and more people will be attacked and possibly murdered.

I just do not get it. With so many real issues to put one's energies into — the homeless, world hunger, the environment, battered women, crime, drugs, illiteracy, poor education, abused and neglected children — how can these people get in such an uproar over who someone else may or may not sleep with?

Bruce Tabb
Eugene

unteered to help in the campaign to defeat the anti-homosexual referendum with my faith in the people of Oregon, or at least of Lane County, intact. Even though the ballot measure failed, I came face to face with the hate gays and lesbians have been experiencing for years.

I wonder if an initiative had been held in 1964 on the civil rights of blacks, what percent would have voted not to allow constitutional protections to apply to these Americans? What we learned from the Nov. 3 election was that 43 percent of the registered voters of this state would discriminate against gay and lesbian people if they had the chance.

And you think we don't need legislation to protect the civil rights of gay and lesbian Oregonians?

Elaine Green
Eugene

State of Satan

Not only should business interests have breathed a sigh of relief when Ballot Measure 7 failed miserably, so should all Oregonians.

Does (Emerald associate editor) Colleen Pohlig know why there are "deepening financial crises facing education today" in Oregon? Her analysis of Measure 7 (ODE, Nov. 4) left me wondering. She mentioned that "some students and citizens again saw a state that is unwilling to solve the ... crises." What is this "state" that is unwilling?

Church Lady: Hmm ... could it be ... Satan?

Yes, basically. Those who voted for 1990's Ballot Measure 5 are responsible for this crisis — they are the unwilling ones.

Pohlig's story said "if Measure 7 had passed Nov. 3, it would have relieved the state of providing most of the funds to K-12, freeing up some money ... to go toward higher education." Actually, it would have relieved those who voted for

Measure 5 two years ago.

You are blaming the wrong people when you blame Measure 7's opponents. Blame the citizens who weren't willing two years ago to pay for their child's education, not the businesses of Oregon.

Let me make one point perfectly clear. It is not a firm's obligation to educate our youth, it is the citizen's obligation, our obligation, to do such.

Fact: Firms choose to locate where costs are low and a great work force exists.

What Measure 7 offered to existing firms (and firms looking to locate in Oregon) is high costs and a work force unwilling to educate itself.

Tony Brown
Graduate Student
Economics

Learning suffers

I am appalled that a rap group that is openly anti-Jewish was invited to the University to perform. Is Jewish oppression somehow not important enough or not serious enough to take a stand against?

This is not about being politically correct. This is about creating and sustaining a community in which every person feels safe and valued. In the absence of such an environment, learning suffers.

Pat Bryan
American English Institute

Hot java

This morning I dragged myself into the Breezeway cafe in the EMU for my morning 20-ounce fix of black coffee. To my surprise, I was able to get a scorching hot cup of organic java. Besides the fact that organic coffee tastes better, I am also assured the only chemical substance in my cup is caffeine.

Moe Reynolds
English/Political Science

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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I'll never be the same as I was before Ballot Measure 9. I vol-