

## Vote yes on ozone but no on initiative

"Good Intentions, Bad Government."

This slogan, designed to help defeat Eugene's Ballot Measure 20-03, the so-called "Ozone Initiative," couldn't be more accurate. That's exactly what the initiative is: a bad way to go about correcting a legitimate and serious problem.

The depletion of the ozone layer is, in the opinion of some of the world's leading scientific minds (including 104 Nobel Prize winners), one of the gravest environmental threats facing humanity today. Continued destruction of this vitally important shield against ultraviolet radiation has been linked to, among other things, human health problems (increased rates of skin cancer, cataracts and even reduced immunity to disease), and serious disruption to the world's food chain from the bottom up.

But as serious as these problems are, Measure 20-03 is simply NOT the way to solve them.

Measure 20-03 would amend the city charter to bring about a ban on a variety of products containing chemicals that are seen as harmful to the ozone layer. The city charter is Eugene's basic governing document. It can only be changed by popular vote. Ozone protection should not be handled this way.

The proper way to bring about the protections promised by the Ozone Initiative would be to let the Eugene City Council enact an ordinance, not to have the voters amend the city charter. An ordinance would still carry the full weight of the law; the difference is, it wouldn't require a vote of the people to change each and every little detail of the law.

It would be laughably naive to think that the ozone initiative would not need any fine-tuning. Although some cities have enacted ordinances to protect the ozone, no other city has amended its city charter to provide ozone protection. There is simply no realistic way of knowing what unforeseen problems might arise. All that Eugene would know for sure is that if a problem came up, only a vote of the people — costly, unpredictable, and subject to delays — would be able to deal with it.

No one knows exactly how much the ozone initiative would cost the city to enforce; supporters say enforcement costs could be covered by fines paid by violators, while opponents think that setting up a legal system to enforce the law would cost tens of thousands of dollars. The unprecedented nature of this initiative would make a charter amendment an irresponsible gamble. If costs spin out of control, the City Council needs to have the authority to handle it.

Five members of the current City Council have endorsed Measure 20-03. That's a majority. Clearly, there are enough pro-ozone votes on the council to bring about an ordinance and stick to it. As soon as the voters reject 20-03, they should demand the council to act.

If citizens are unsatisfied with the protections of the federal Clean Air Act and think a local solution is the only one that will work, then they should press the City Council to pass an ordinance. Voting yes on 20-03 may be a vote "for the ozone layer," but it's a vote *against* Eugene.



## LETTERS

### Save trees

Once again May is here with every thing it offers: midterms, sun and this year Clinton's new forest plan. Whether you've had the chance to read it or not you are probably asking yourself the same question, "Is this good or bad?" Well the answer most most likely depends on if you are a tree or not. Or at least it depends on if you are interested in saving our ancient forests.

If you feel confused by the plan, you are not alone. The main focus of the plan, ecosystem management, baffles even experts. Nigel Blakley, from Black Hills Audubon Forest Practices Subcommittee, said, "Ecosystem management is what you want it to be." In the past it has been defined as everything from a way to stem the loss of biodiversity, an attempt to head off legislation, a way to cater to the timber industry and rural communities, and a way to implement the National Forest Management Act. Some rightfully fear that it is the government's way of shedding responsibility for endangered species by shifting the focus.

One thing ecosystem management is not is permanent protection. Presently there lies no such thing in Clinton's plan. Currently, with less than 10 percent of our ancient forests left there is no time to lose. When this land is logged, we lose species, clean water and air, soil quality and valuable medicines.

Please act on this issue and write Bill Clinton demanding (or asking if you would rather) permanent protection. You may even bring your letters to the OSPIRG office, Suite 1 EMU, and we will mail them. For more information, or to get involved in this important fight, call 346-4377. Don't wait until it's too late.

Peggy Seltzer  
OSPIRG

### Good times

I was saddened by the tone of David Miller's comments regarding Cinco de Mayo celebration. It is true the Cinco de Mayo celebration is a bigger holiday in

the United States than in Mexico. However, Mr. Miller is incorrect to imply that it is somehow a mockery or a co-opting of another culture.

Over a generation ago, it was the millions of Mexican-Americans themselves, in particular farmworkers, who adopted the Cinco de Mayo as a way to instill cultural pride, sharing and self-determination.

The Mexican people and culture is very broad, diverse and reaches out to many parts of the world. It is unfair to negate the experience and reality of the many millions of Chicanos/Latinos in this country who see the Cinco de Mayo as a positive opportunity to build pride in their communities.

Viva el Cinco de Mayo!

Bryan Moore  
Spanish Instructor

### Famorty

When the outside community sees Amazon Family Housing, they often perceive these buildings to be ugly. But to many of us in Amazon these buildings are rich in history and hope. Many refer to Amazon as a Famorty—this is the nontraditional student's fraternity, sorority, family community. Where else can you run to your neighbors and ask for help in physics, or with your child's algebra. Amazon is an encyclopedia of knowledge not only for the students, but for the children as well.

My children, as well as many others here in Amazon, speak of going to college just as it is in the homes of traditionally successful families. The biggest difference between myself and my children is that they speak of a college career first and a family second.

Family housing is the basis of cultural diversity. Many people say "honor diversity," but since

Eugene is not that diverse, the full effect cannot be appreciated. In Amazon we are privileged to have people of many nations, backgrounds and beliefs to expand our horizons.

Lastly, I believe that welfare perpetuates welfare, but at Amazon parents are breaking the attitude of poverty by modeling for the children that through hard work, education and community there is a means to an end. We chose poverty to insure success.

So next time you drive by Amazon and think the buildings are unattractive, remember inside those buildings great things are happening for a better future for all.

Jaimee Dawson  
Special Education

### Endorsed

Peter Wotton is the only candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Both candidates were interviewed and completed a written questionnaire on issues of transportation, metro planning, parklands and natural areas, and pollution. While our endorsement process gives heavy emphasis to environmental concerns, we also look for strong leadership skills and an ability to work effectively with a broad spectrum of people. Based on all of these criteria, we conclude that Peter Wotton is the superior candidate by far.

Our community is facing a critical period of rapid growth and change. It is crucial that we elect a city councilor with a commitment to environmental stewardship. Peter Wotton will protect, preserve and enhance the environmental assets of our community. Please vote for Peter Wotton on May 17.

Charlie Ogle  
Sierra Club

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.