

# EDITORIAL

## Invest in education with lottery money

With the ongoing budget crunch statewide, state legislators are looking for new ways to fund essential programs.

One of the proposals currently being considered would divert some lottery dollars to fund public education in Oregon. Lottery money is used now to fund economic development projects throughout the state.

If the legislature passes this bill, it would be placed on the ballot for a May 16 election. Should voters approve the measure, lottery dollars would fund education as well as economic development, the current destination for the money.

The idea is an excellent one. Oregonians gamble millions of dollars every year in the state lottery, and education is badly in need of money. If both the need and the money are there, the state has no excuse for not funding education with the available funds rather than make students statewide suffer. Keno for the kids could be an interesting way of funding the neighborhood school.

Currently, lottery dollars fund economic development, usually in the form of expanding museums, tourism facilities and other programs that make Oregon a more livable state for locals and more attractive to those visiting from outside the state. However, Oregon must determine what its priorities are. What is the point of building a museum if Oregon's youth can't read?

Although many agree the lottery should fund education, there are other proposals that aren't as favorable.

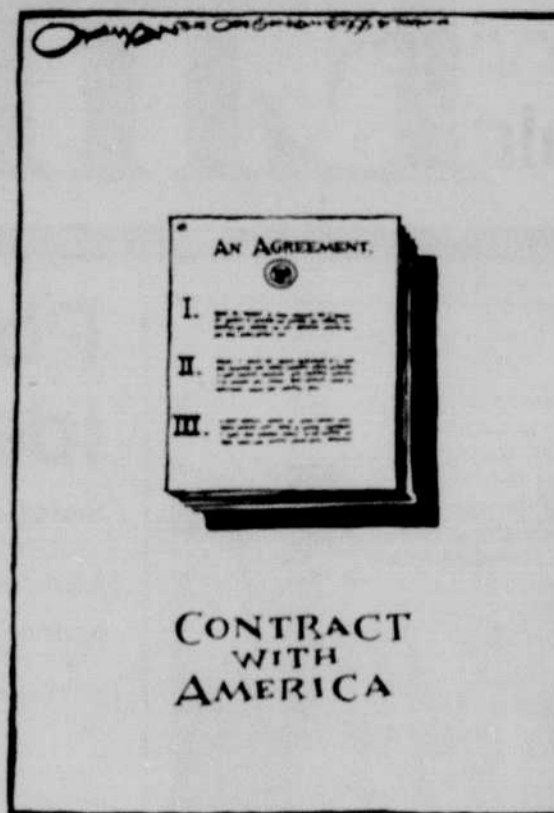
State Senate President Gordon Smith wants to link the allocation of lottery dollars to education with a trust that would help to fund education in the next century. Smith, a Republican, wants to develop the trust, endowed partially by lottery dollars, so it has \$1 billion by the end of the decade. Proceeds from that account would fund education.

The Senate may pass the trust fund provision, but the House didn't support the measure when it first considered the bill. This may be the downfall for either the trust fund or the entire lottery proposal.

Though the idea may seem good on the surface, trust funds are an unrealistic way of funding education. A fat trust fund for education will become a funding source for other programs, and when the time comes to fund education, there will be no money left. A quick fix in the short run, a trust fund is a bad idea in the long term.

The idea to fund education from the lottery is not a total fix to the chronic problem of funding education in Oregon. Only months of work on the part of the legislature will help to alleviate the budget crunch schools are expected to encounter.

However, this proposal is a step in the right direction, and will help to ease the budget shortfalls education is expected to have during the next biennium.



### LETTERS

#### Morally right?

Sadly, your observation that "Roe vs. Wade will not be overturned" is true. The "pro-choice/death" movement will march on. However, your statement that "[T]he only way for the decision to be negated would be for a constitutional amendment" reveals your complete ignorance of Constitutional adjudication. Unlike the Bill of Rights, which has been severely curtailed in several instances, a woman's "right" to exterminate her child is not a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. Contrary to your poorly formed legal opinion, if you multiplied Justice Scalia by five, abortion would be illegal.

Even given the legality of killing humans in the name of women's right, is it morally right? Just because our nation's laws allow this type of murder does not make it right. For example, in Dred-Scott, the Supreme Court determined that blacks were not human; rather, they were viewed as chattel. Hitler mandated that Jews were not human and exterminated six million. Both policies were legal, but were they "right?"

I do not condone any type of violence. Killing doctors and other workers providing this "service" reduces the pro-life movement to the same sordid level as those performing the massacre of innocent humans. I realize my word choice will offend people. However, people need to realize that unless a surgical killing is performed on a woman, she will, as if God planned it that way, give birth to an infant. I pray that God have mercy on your souls and forgive you.

Scott Harwell  
Law

#### Focus on N.Y.

The "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act" bill was again introduced to the House of Representatives this month. It has been rejected four times already. What is so interesting is that the bill was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, from New York.

The bill calls for a complete ban on logging and other com-

mercial activity on more than 16 million acres of forests, from Wyoming to Oregon and Washington. Needless to say, this would greatly affect the economies of the states named in the bill, and especially the communities that rely on the forestry business for their livelihood. I am sure if a bill was introduced that would affect her own state as much, with thousands of jobs lost and revenues gone, the representative would not be so quick to support it. I also find it interesting that the supporters are not focusing on the environmental problems in their own states.

Oregon was found to be the healthiest state in the United States in an environmental study done last year, and New York produces most of the country's garbage. Remember that barge full of tons of waste that floated around for so long? I think the supporters of this bill should clean up their own states first, instead of trying to pass the focus onto another state, which is doing quite well without their help.

Dayna Terry  
Undeclared

#### Save the wolves

Brian Womack, in his Jan. 24 column, attacks wolf reintroduction as a project of "Big Government" and as therefore unwarranted. I would like to attempt to set the record straight on this important program.

First, have you ever seen a wolf? I don't mean your friend's pet hybrid, I mean a real wolf, in the wild. If you had, you would realize they are far more complex social creatures than "vicious killers." (What about what we white folk did to Native Americans or African-Americans?) This label is an unfortunate stereotype started by fairy tales and encouraged by

ranchers. Wolves have families, protect their young and communicate in ways we have not yet begun to understand.

Second, wolves have inhabited North America far longer than humans, including Native Americans. This makes us the invaders, by a few thousand years. How would you like it if a wolf came to your door with a shotgun and told you to leave? Or would you rather they just started shooting without a warning? We have already destroyed their livelihood by extirpating them from the lower 48 states; the least we can do is provide them with a little leeway in the last remaining wilderness areas, like Yellowstone and central Idaho.

Third, most predators keep the balance. Evolution is driven by mutations; most mutations are bad, and must be eliminated quickly so they don't reproduce. This is where wolves and other predators come in. Studies show that when wolves hunt, they are actually unsuccessful the vast majority of the time; they only kill the weak, old, and excess young. Instead of trying to eliminate competition, ranchers should encourage predators. Further, compensation programs such as that started by Defenders of Wildlife in Montana should be expanded.

Finally, wolves are courageous, beautiful creatures, at least the equal of humans, even if they don't follow the trappings of modern, "civilized" society. They deserve to exist on this world as much as any other creature, to flourish, bear young, grow old and die. If we as a species don't find a way to allow this, we will bear the burden of this decision. Such a path will inevitably lead to less biodiversity; it may lead to our own demise, as well.

Marty Bergoffen  
Law

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## Emerald

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