

EDITORIAL

Education needs lottery proceeds

It's time to take a gamble on education

In a vote-by-mail election, Oregon voters will decide whether to amend the state Constitution to allow profits from the state lottery to be used for public education. If Ballot Measure 21 passes, public schools will be able to use the same dollars that are now being used to promote business and build museums.

This measure is desperately needed to help save education in Oregon. Public education is on its last legs. If a new source of revenue isn't found soon, Oregon students and teachers will suffer.

It's obvious that Oregon residents won't support a sales tax and other measures to boost educational dollars. Any measure that increases taxes is likely to fail in this state.

Ballot Measure 21 seems to be a compromise. It's a creative way to find more money for schools without taxing citizens. Although this measure is not enough to solve the education crisis, it will create extra revenue that is desperately needed. Some support is better than none.

The lottery is expected to raise \$720 million in 1995-97. If this measure passes, the state Legislature can decide how much of this money will go to public schools. The measure requires the creation of an education endowment fund that would receive 15 percent of lottery profits after July 1, 1997. Investment earnings of the fund would support public education.

Unlike other proposed remedies such as 1994's Ballot Measure 15, this measure does not discriminate between higher education and grades K-12. All levels of the state's school system need more money. All are important to the development of Oregon's future.

Supporting education through gambling may seem ironic. However, Oregon schools have reached a point where it doesn't matter where the money comes from. Some educators don't want to encourage gambling but they realize the lottery is the only remaining source of gambling.

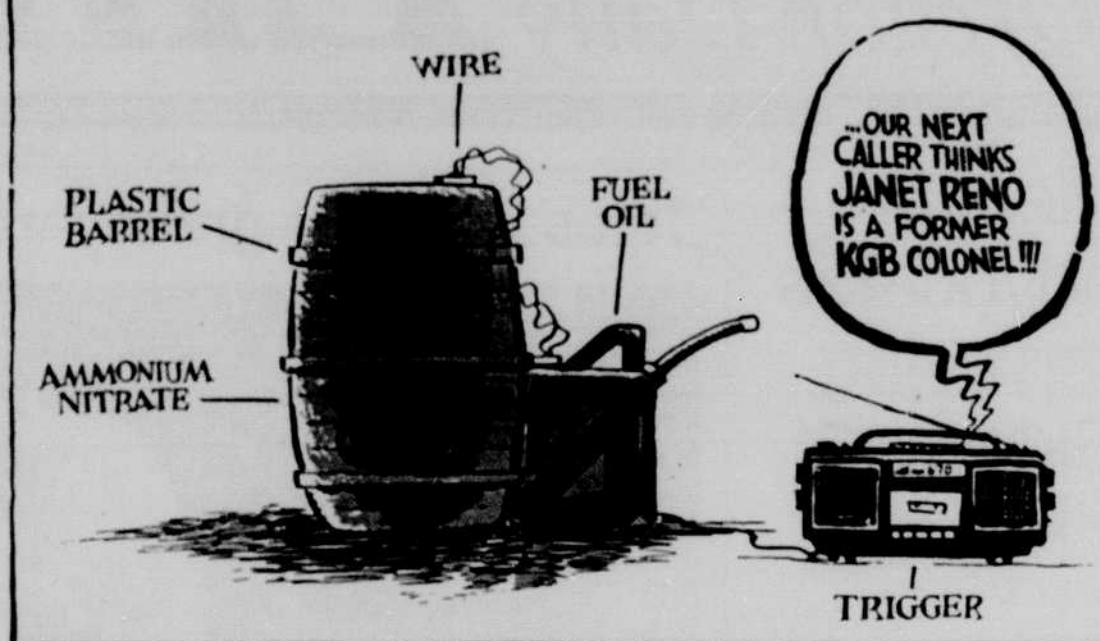
Ballot Measure 21 will be able to tap the people who have extra money to give to education without creating any hardships. If people can't afford to support schools, they shouldn't be playing the lottery. This measure also allows the Legislature to grab money from tourists, such as a sales tax would.

Oregon residents might be more willing to play the lottery if they knew their money was going to a better cause such as education. And playing the lottery is more fun than paying taxes. Imagine spending \$1 to support the state school system and pocketing a \$100 million jackpot.

State residents have seen benefits from lottery dollars. Oregon Lottery revenues have funded impressive educational and tourist centers such as The Museum at Warm Springs. But it's hard to justify spending this money on frills when the state can't afford to fund its schools.

Vote yes on Ballot Measure 21.

HOW TO MAKE A BOMB:



LETTERS

Petty story

I am writing to you wishing to file a complaint for pettiness. The *Emerald's* choice to run a front page story (*ODE*, April 21) on Sen. Joey Lyons' use of a Senate computer and printer to print a one-page letter to the editor was ridiculous.

Obviously, your paper has interest in seeing Joey look bad. Why else would such trash make the front page and why else would you make it sound like he paid for the printing only after he was accused of campaign violations?

Jason Grigsby, who filed the complaint, is also the campaign manager for the Williamson/Kelton presidential ticket. I find it odd this little political twist was never mentioned. The fact that Joey has been helping Kantrowitz/Scott is enough motive for him to try and slander Joey.

Your paper's endorsement of Williamson/Kelton makes it seem suspicious that you also have an interest in slandering Joey (although this is nothing new). Now, this may all seem like wild accusations, but the *Emerald's* immediate response to a petty complaint being a front page article is, you must admit, suspicious. Somehow, I feel my complaint won't get the same treatment.

I'd like to add one more thing. I have several friends on the Senate, one of which who showed me personally many academic, non-Senate related papers that Jason Grigsby has saved on the Senate computer hard drive. Is this not using the computer for personal uses — the same "violation" that he complained to you of?

Keep your head out of the muck. This is a student election, for crying out loud.

Benno Lyon
Undeclared

board near the Art History office dedicated to the topic of women. There is a list of women faculty members only.

I have to ask what is the need to print a listing of just women faculty members? Isn't it redundant to a list containing all faculty members, male and female?

Are the women alienating themselves as a group and are they emphasizing the distinction between themselves and males by doing so? Doesn't this go counter to the equalization of the sexes?

I'm not griping here. I only have questions as to what's really going on when this happens.

I ask myself what type of person feels the need to have this sort of attentive focus directed toward themselves.

Is it merely to draw attention to themselves? Is it that they are egocentric and see themselves as a group that you should pay attention to?

In these days of rational thinking, it seems to make sense that the only way to progress is by doing and doing well.

I personally will give attention to people or peoples for what they are or no, not for the shallow reason that they are of a specific gender, race, or group only.

Fred Whitney
Music

Vote yes

Lane County citizens will vote on two important bond measures on the May mail-in ballot. As citizens, we have the privilege and responsibility to study the issues so that we can vote with wisdom and foresight.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through active and informed participation in government. League members study governmental issues, reach agreements, formulate positions and then take action based on those positions. In this election the League takes a stand in favor of these bond measures.

Vote yes on Measure 20-44, Lane Community College bonds. Adequate funding is needed to maintain and upgrade the facilities and equipment so that our community college can continue to provide effective job training, retraining and other programs.

Thirty years have passed since the college was founded; in that time the enrollment and course offerings have multiplied and technology and needs have changed.

Vote yes on Measure 20-48, Lane County Juvenile Justice Center bonds. Population has increased and juvenile violent crime has multiplied many times while the 41-year-old Skipworth facility has aged.

Youths are released early to make room for others because there aren't enough beds. A larger center with varied programs can protect the community while it houses and treats the offender so that these youths can become responsible adults.

For you now and for all of us in years to come, the League of Women Voters urges you to be an informed citizen when you vote in May.

Sally Weston
Jeanne Armstrong
Co-Presidents,
League of Women Voters of
Lane County

Attention

I have a tendency to agree with Michael Endicott's commentary (*ODE*, May 1), in which the women band themselves together as a 'group,' so to speak.

In Lawrence Hall on the second floor there is a bulletin

CORRECTION

In a commentary published Tuesday ("Strike won't stop education") by John Moseley, University employees threatening to strike were referred to as "OPEU members." According to the University Communications Office, who distributed the commentary, the correct term is "OPEU-represented employees." Represented employees have the choice of paying dues and being union members or paying "fair share" and not being members. All have the right to strike.

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