

EDITORIAL

Help improve LCC, vote yes on 20-44

Thirty years ago, Lane Community College opened in Eugene, enrolling about 7,700 students. Last year, LCC enrolled more than 36,000 students in crowded facilities. Times have changed and LCC needs money to expand its facilities and services for students to come.

Measure 20-44 would allow LCC to sell \$42.8 million in general obligation bonds beginning this summer. LCC will use the money to help build new classrooms and other facilities, buy computers, expand community outreach centers and help make health and safety improvements.

LCC was created in 1964 and hasn't asked citizens to approve a bond measure since 1966, when an almost \$10 million bond passed and helped to fund construction of the main campus.

Clearly, LCC — like the Eugene-Springfield community — has changed and grown over the past 30 years. Responding to the needs of Lane County, LCC now offers job retraining and business development for companies in addition to its function of being a two-year community college. Classes are more available as well, with sessions held at the main campus in Eugene, at a number of centers throughout the county and at area high schools.

However, the ability of the college to adapt to the needs of students is limited by its facilities. As more students utilize LCC, classrooms will become more overcrowded. This bond measure will help improve LCC by allowing it to add classrooms and build new facilities for students.

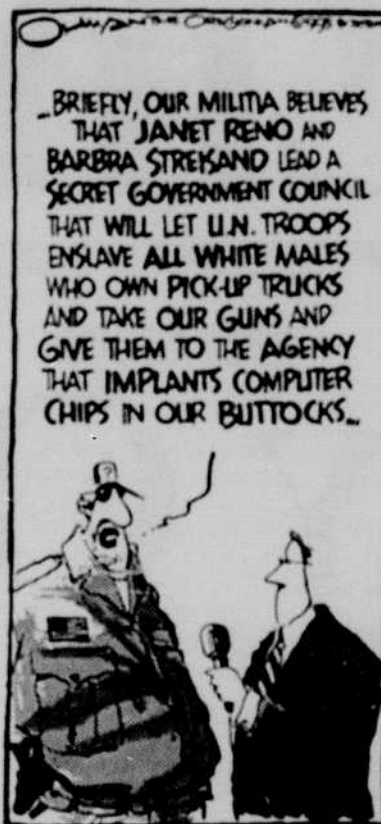
Technology has changed over the past several decades as well. With new computers and other items being used in the working world, LCC needs to be able to acquire such items so that it can train students how to use them. The bond issue gives LCC money it needs to acquire and keep pace in the fast moving world of new technology.

As beneficial as the community college is to the area, LCC can't help students without assistance from the community. LCC should be given the chance to expand its facilities and expand opportunities offered to students. Voters should approve the LCC bond measure.

The bond issue will be far from overbearing on voters. In fact, the \$42.8 million bond will cost property owners about \$25 per year for the owner of a \$100,000 home — certainly not back-breaking when one considers the wealth of services that LCC provides. The bonds will be repaid over the course of 15 years.

LCC is more than justified in requesting funds to improve the area's community college. A community college that has served Lane County for three decades, LCC has demonstrated that it asks for money only when it truly needs it. Voters should show that they care about LCC as much as the school does for the community and approve the ballot measure.

Vote yes for LCC. Vote yes on Measure 20-44.



OPINION

Militias, 1960s have similarities



BRIAN WOMACK

If you know this town at all, you know that people here put the 1960s in the same place that most people put their moms and Mother Theresa.

Mention the '60s to counter-culture veterans, and tears will likely form in their eyes and dribble down their cheeks into the joints they're smoking.

The '60s were high point of this century, they contend. And they do mean high point.

Those hippie buses. Those protests. Those tie-dyes.

Actually, I think I saw those things on the way into the office today.

Anyway, the sixties do have a certain aura to some that no other decade can claim.

But were the sixties all they were cracked up to be? Could those years actually have had some faults? Of course, they did. The problem is that some of those faults are alive and well to an even greater extent here in the 90s.

The problem I'm talking about is right-wing militias.

Some historians are drawing some striking similarities between the left-wingers of the '60s and the right-wingers of today.

An article published in the Sunday edition of *The New York Times*, explained, "There is a sense that Vietnam War-era turmoil tore a hole in the post-World War II social fabric and that although it was the left that opened the rift, it is the right that has driven a truck through it."

"What happened in the 1960s was that the government was successfully 'delegitimized,'" said Gerald Marwell, a sociologist at the University of Wisconsin-

sin who studies American political movements.

The militant right is fearful of the federal government — paranoid might be a better way to put it. There are some claims that United Nations troops have taken over Yellowstone National Park. Other claims contend that foreign military vehicles are cruising rural Michigan.

So these gangs of paranoid radicals get together and form militia to head off the impending stampede.

Are there some paranoid radicals from the '60s, as well? You bet there are.

Karlton Armstrong, who now runs an outdoor juice stand, became well-known for planting a fertilizer and fuel oil bomb at Sterling Hall, the location of the University Of Wisconsin Physics Department. It was also the home of the Army Math Research Center — the target of the bomb. The explosion slaughtered a graduate student in one of the most infamous episodes of the era.

Hmm... fertilizer... bomb. Where have we heard those words recently?

Though Armstrong said he didn't want the destruction of life, it still happened. It also points to a group of people who have become so incensed with their government they will go to great lengths to bring about their goals.

In his book, *Soul on Ice* (1968), Eldridge Cleaver of the Black Panthers echoes some of those same attitudes. "Blacks are looking on and asking tactical questions. They are asked to die for the System in Vietnam. In Watts they are killed by it. Now — NOW — they are asking each other, in dead earnest: Why not die right here in Babylon fighting for a better life, like the Viet Cong? If those little cats can do it, what's wrong with big studs like us?"

I could almost hear David Koresh saying this about the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Obviously, not all are happy

with these comparisons.

Paul Soglin, the former anti-war activist who is now mayor of Madison said the linking of the two eras was insulting.

I think it's pretty apparent that not everybody in the '60s was blowing up buildings. But they did have these attitudes toward the government that could have ushered in the atmosphere necessary for the militia group types. Before the '60s, the '40s and '50s had a national consensus that government should be respected and valued, as the article points out.

To take a broad brush and label anyone who participated in the counterculture as being solely responsible for right-wing militias today is both unfair and ridiculous. Yet the 1960s were a time that created the contempt for the government that the ultra right-wingers are now feeding off. When people are burning draft cards, waving the flags of the enemy and spitting on those who fight in their country's wars, it's probably a good indication that government is being disdained. And as the historians point out, that can be potentially harmful to us today.

But along with the violence that was suffered by '60s radicals on a physical level, we shouldn't forget most of the tragedies of the '60s were on a cultural level.

Bringing in these values meant treating sex cheaply, having casual attitudes toward drugs, holding authority in contempt, and creating more selfishness with people as they sought to "find themselves." When you reject the moral underpinnings of a country, bad things will ensue.

People need to get over their love affair with the '60s.

No utopia was created — only attitudes that I hope our country can eventually overcome. We need a healthy respect for authority and the law. The '60s did much to destroy that ideal.

Brian Womack is a columnist for the Emerald.

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