

Smoke screen

There are small steps that each of us can take to make life better for others. A yes vote on Measure 44 is one of those steps.

Cigarette smoking causes many acute and chronic diseases that health care providers see. In Oregon, tobacco costs all of us about \$900 million in health care and lost productivity annually. Measure 44 will increase the cigarette tax from 38 cents per pack to 68 cents per pack. Ninety percent of the \$138 million raised will go to the Oregon Health Plan and ten percent will go to a campaign to discourage smoking, especially directed toward young people.

The supporters of this measure include people whose profit from this is the satisfaction of helping others to enjoy good health — the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, state and county medical societies, etc. The opposition is the tobacco industry, who know that as the price of cigarettes goes up, fewer people will start smoking.

Please join us in voting for Measure 44 on Nov. 5.

Paula F. Ciesielski, M.D.
Donna Scurlock, M.D.
Eugene

Go recycle

Don't be fooled by misleading advertising and money that poisons citizen initiatives! The negative advertising that has been put forth on Measure 37, to expand the Oregon Bottle Bill, has been confusing many otherwise devout recyclers and upstanding intelligent citizens. Do not be

fooled by these negative, anti-recycling, anti-environment, anti-community ads sponsored by Coke, Pepsi and out-of-state interests. The bottle bill *needs* to be expanded, just look in any public garbage can, on any street or in any park. Non-deposit beverages are *not* making it into the recycling bin.

There is nothing confusing about the expansion of the Oregon Bottle Bill. Any container covered will be marked as it is under the current bill: Oregon 5-cent deposit returnable! The only confusing part of the expansion measure is the misleading messages being presented by the opponents.

Less than 50 percent of the single-serving beverages on the market are not covered currently under the bottle bill. A no vote on Measure 37 is a nail in the coffin of recycling. Vote yes on Measure 37.

Ezra Louthis
Environmental Studies

Reject light rail

All Oregonians are being asked to pay for a new light rail in Portland. Those of you outside the Portland area are being offered \$375 million for your own transportation projects, to match the \$375 million going to Portland's light rail. What you may not know is that your \$375 million will actually cost you \$584 million.

This disturbing analysis comes from the Oregon Transportation Institute, a private non-profit organization based in Portland. The high cost is the result of two factors: lottery bonds earmarked for transit and road projects must

be repaid with interest, and your share of the state's general fund earmarked for those uses won't be available to you for education, criminal justice and other uses. And, while Portland gets its light rail money all at once, the rest of Oregon gets most of its money over a 10-year period.

In addition to costing you more than you get, none of the \$375 million must go to fix one pothole, pave one highway or build one road. No specific projects are even identified. The money can be used for Columbia River dredging and pedestrian or bike paths. It doesn't have to be used for roads at all.

Many experts understand that the light rail hasn't reduced traffic congestion or air pollution in Portland. It diverts scarce resources away from better transit alternatives. Now, all Oregonians are being asked to help pay for Portland's transit mistakes.

Steve Buckstein
President
Cascade Policy Institute

Yes on 38

During an Eastern Oregon trip on Oct. 11 and 12, between the town of Spray and Fossil Beds National Monument Headquarters, I witnessed on two separate occasions cows tearing through the chocolate brown sediment filled John Day River. I don't doubt that there are conscientious ranchers like Joan Lathrop (Oct. 18, ODE) but from my many trips to Eastern Oregon, I find more resistance to the suggestions and reasoning behind Measure 38 than progressive acknowledgement and response to the problem of degraded water

quality and aquatic habitat. If the No on 38 members of our human community had spent as much time and money on appropriate ranching practices as they have against this initiative, they would have garnered much more empathy from the west side 'burians. But they haven't, so thank you for voting yes on 38.

Hal Hushbeck
Environmental Studies

Fence alternatives

I don't like fences and I strongly support Measure 38. Does this stance appear contradictory? It's not. Despite what opponents have claimed, Measure 38 does not force ranchers to build fences. In fact, fences are not mentioned anywhere in the text.

Measure 38 does require ranchers to keep livestock out of polluted waters if their livestock contributes to the problem. Fences are not the only way to achieve this end. Hedgerows and/or shaded upland watering sites are just as effective. In addition, ranchers can comply by developing an approved water quality plan.

It's not fences that ranchers fear. It's the measure's enforceable time lines for taking action to protect water quality. Here it's important to point out that ranchers are not expected to be in compliance the day after the election. In fact, ranchers have until 2002 to comply if they operate in a watershed that supplies municipal drinking water and until 2007 for all other waters.

The text of Measure 38 speaks for itself. I've read it and I'm voting yes on 38.

Holly Knight
Eugene

Smith unfair

A popular bumper sticker I've noticed reads: "The Right Wing has a White Ring to It." This sentiment was underscored during the Tom Bruggere/ Gordon Smith debate on Oct. 20. Bruggere pointed out that Smith's employees were denied health insurance. Smith retorted that the "regular ones" have coverage. It's the seasonal workers, predominantly migrant workers of Latino heritage, who are paid minimal subsistence wages and receive zero benefits.

This inequity of benefits may be because, in Smith's own words, he does not regard migrant workers as "regular" folks. So it's no surprise that Smith Frozen Foods reaps huge profits and Gordon Smith can pay himself \$2 million annually. Huge salaries are not crimes, but when they are reaped on the backs of low salary/no-benefits workers, it's unconscionable.

Conscience and character do matter. Tom Bruggere's record tells a better tale. Industry magazine reports consistently rank Bruggere's company at the top of worker appreciation polls. Bruggere was a leader in advocating employer-paid child care.

We need leaders in the U.S. Senate who value workers and treat them humanely. It's not just good business, it's the right thing to do.

Maybe someday the "Right Wing will do the Right Thing" for workers, *all* of them. But until that day comes, this Republican is voting for Tom Bruggere.

Carol Berg
Eugene



Little Caesars® Pizza

DUCK DAY



!!!SPECIAL!!! Sunday, Oct. 27th ONLY

1 MEDIUM PIZZA

with cheese
and pepperoni

\$2.99

No Substitutions. Round pizzas only. Limit 3 pizzas. Valid at this Little Caesar's location only.

Carry out only. No deliveries. Sorry, no rain checks.

You Must Show Valid UO Student Body Card To Receive Special Offer.

1711 WILLAMETTE

Next to Blockbuster Video

343-3330