

# OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

## Ballot measures important, need vote

**OUR OPINION:**  
The measures on this week's ASUO ballot may actually make a difference. Here's our picks.

With the ASUO Executive race already decided, many students may not see the point in voting in the general election this week. However, despite the fact that the presidential spots have been decided, there is a very important reason to vote in this election — ballot measures.

Here are the *Emerald's* endorsements for the 1997 ASUO ballot measures.

**Club Sports**  
**YES** This ballot measure would raise student incidental fees by approximately \$0.43 per term to help support Club Sports.

We support this measure because it will help raise money to lower the cost of participating in Club Sports. Club Sports provides a great opportunity for students to get involved with outside physical activities.

Everyone should have access to these programs, not just those who can afford to pay the dues. For a reasonable cost, Club Sports could be made more accessible to all students' needs.

**Footnotes**  
**NO** This measure would increase student program fees by approximately \$0.34 per term per student to help fund Footnotes.

While we support Footnotes and believe it deserves a spot on campus, we do not support this measure.

The reasoning is fairly simple. Footnotes is not a student group; it is an independent company. As such, it should support itself with the money it makes from subscrip-

tions, not student fees. If Footnotes needs extra cash, Footnotes subscribers will have to fork over the money.

**Lane Transit District**  
**YES** This ballot measure would institute a student incidental fee of \$6.60 per term per student to provide students with unlimited bus service within the Lane Transit District Service.

For many students, the bus represents their only means of getting to and from school. For countless others in the dorms, the bus is their only way of getting off campus. We support this measure because it provides a valuable transportation service for a relatively low cost.

**Pocket Playhouse**  
**YES** This ballot measure would raise student fees by approximately \$0.03 per term to fund the Pocket Playhouse student theater.

On the one hand, this measure should never have come to the ballot. If representatives for Pocket Playhouse had turned in their budget to the Programs Finance Committee when they were supposed to, this ballot would never have been brought to the students.

On the other hand, at only \$0.03 per term, it seems silly not to support the student theater. Considering how insignificant the increase is, we support this measure.

**Saferide**  
**YES** This measure would increase incidental fees by

approximately \$0.65 per term per student to purchase a new vehicle and wheelchair lift.

This measure is probably the biggest no-brainer of them all. Saferide is an incredibly valuable service, and it should be accessible to all women. For those reasons, we support this measure.

**Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**  
**NO** This measure would increase student incidental fees by \$0.11 per term, per student to fund the student group SETA.

We do not support this measure for several reasons.

First of all, SETA already received a significant increase in student fees from the PFC. We don't believe they need any additional money.

Second, SETA is a highly political and controversial organization with clear stances against animal research that do not reflect the views of the entire campus. While they certainly have a right to promote their views, we do not believe they should seek additional fees from the entire student body since their views don't represent those of the student body.

The ballot measures may very well have a greater direct impact on students than any ASUO position because they deal with what could be the most important issue in higher education: money.

For that reason, all students should seriously evaluate these measures and then actually vote on them.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the *Emerald* editorial board.

### Quoted

"I came here today to tell you we will continue to lead the State of Israel until the year 2000, and even beyond 2000."  
*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, assuring his party that he is here to stay*

"I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't, and so the best thing I can do is ignore the politics... and just call it like I see it."

*Attorney General Janet Reno on criticism that she didn't seek an independent counsel to investigate Democratic fund raising violations*

"I don't apologize for the music. I don't apologize for making the appearance on the show, but for whatever negative fallout there might have been, I regret that."

*Pat Boone on his January appearance in black leather at the American Music Awards*

"I feel horrible about this losing streak, but I don't feel horrible about the way we played today."

*Chicago Cubs manager Jim Riggle, after losing 13 straight games to open the baseball season*

"Nature has no malice toward us, but nature is sending us a message."

*Mikhail Gorbachev, urging college students in New Orleans to protect the environment*

"I'm a good Republican. I hope my integrity is intact. I want to help the party, help Newt."

*Bob Dole on loaning Newt Gingrich \$300,000 to pay ethics violation fines*

"They got me busier than a one-legged man in a butt-kicking contest."

*51-year-old Dolly Parton on the schedule at her theme park Dollywood*

### LETTERS

#### Visible voices

On April 17, the *Emerald* printed an article on a student tax relief bill sponsored by State Sen. Randy Leonard. I was very pleased with Sarah Keech's story regarding Senate Bill 1158, and its emphasis on the positive effect that a tax relief would have for working students.

The area that was not a focus of the article is the challenge that the bill faces with the Republican-controlled legislature and April 25 cut-off date for hearing of new legislation.

Senate Bill 1158 is stuck in the Revenue Committee chaired by Sen. Ken Baker of Clackamas. Although the Republican party is known for wanting to cut taxes, because students are not a wealthy interest, this tax relief is not receiving conservative support.

The answer to this problem and the fate of SB 1158 is for students to make their voices heard. If you think that working students should not be taxed on the money they earn to attend college, please call and/or write Sen. Ken Baker and other mem-

bers of the Senate Revenue Committee requesting a public hearing for Senate Bill 1158.

**Jef Green**  
Political Science

#### Parallel events

The world condemns the capture of the Holy Land, and the United States stands alone with the occupier Israelis.

Money-media man Rupert Murdoch and muscle man Arnold Schwarzenegger are awarded by Israeli supporters in New York, while bullets kill the children of the natives in Palestine.

Women cry and men scream, and Henry Kissinger and Newt Gingrich applaud.

Pundits make God a real estate agent for Israel, while bulldozers do their job—to prepare homes for newcomers and destroy homes of human bombers.

Go to sleep; be quiet; drug your conscience so Israel can expand and prosper.

"Jerry Green leaves Oregon for Tennessee for more money."

**M. Reza Behnam**  
Eugene

#### A new party

Here at the Really Regressive Party (RRP), it has come to our attention that the system of student government that operates on this campus has serious holes in its ability to represent students as a collective entity. The collection of candidates on this year's slate are symbolic of the useless drips we get every year. The candidates slated for this year will promise to do one of the following:

a) Reinvent student government; b) support multicultural issues; c) support the Greeks; d) make campus safer; e) promise to solve the parking dilemma; f) all of the above; g) promise free beer.

While these appear as campaign promises each and every year, it is obvious they are never fulfilled. Our ASUO Executive this year has managed to take away student seating at a basketball game in the name of race relations, has proposed using your money to finance a completely unnecessary amphitheater and has found zero causes and activities to bring the campus together as

a whole.

The RRP is stringently against the continuing useless droning of monotonous candidates sputtering the same collection of cacophonous claptrap. We are the first officially sanctioned political group on campus, ever. None of the other candidates have taken on this responsibility, and none will because of their reluctance to alter the status quo. The RRP is dedicated to guiding the student majority, so that they will not fall prey to the trappings of the candidates' usual drawl.

**Chris Kantowitz**  
Really Regressive Party

#### Sound of AI

As long as we are convinced to spend at least \$300,000 on a new amphitheater, I think that it would be reasonable to spend a few thousand dollars more to soundproof those classrooms that immediately face that corner of the EMU.

I teach in Friendly 106. On Tuesday, I once again had to shout over the music coming from the EMU mosh pit. It's

not that the Macarena is that bad of a song; I was just terrified by the thought that Al Gore might Macarena his way through my classroom asking for campaign contributions.

How to spend our \$300,000 might, in fact, be a decision that we can make in a moral vacuum, isolated from social realities that surround the campus. Let's, however, look at the difficulties of teaching and learning in foreign languages in Friendly 106 and 214, and perhaps in other classrooms in the amphitheater's sound path. At least budget for some insulated windows.

**Bruce Waller**  
Germanics

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### Letters policy

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be typed, double spaced and include the author's name, signature, and phone number. The identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Letters must be limited to 250 words or less. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar or style.