

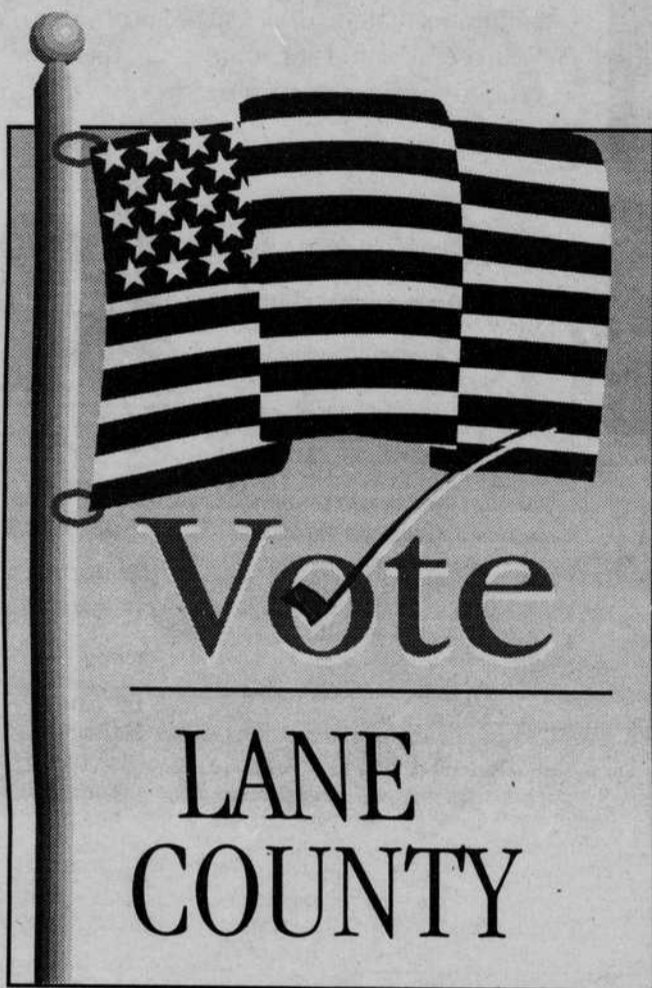
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Perspectives

Oregon Daily
Emerald

The Emerald's endorsements

Oregon's primary election ballots are due May 16. The following are the Emerald editorial board's endorsements for city positions and ballot measures. The Emerald will run its endorsements for national candidates and state positions and ballot measures Wednesday.



CANDIDATES

Position — Endorsement — Reason

Mayor — Jim Torrey — The current mayor is the only candidate with extensive governmental experience and is recognized for a sincere fight in the interests of disadvantaged youth.

Eugene City Council, Ward 2 — Betty Taylor — The citizen activist has been a member of the council since 1997 and is willing to voice unpopular opinions to fight for constituent needs.

Eugene City Council, Ward 3 — Tracy Olsen — A University graduate and owner of Doc's Pad will best represent student views.

Lane County District Attorney — Doug Harclerod — A few miscues over 16 years isn't bad. He handled the entire Kip Kinkel situation pretty well and generally achieves good results.

Lane County Commissioner — Bobby Green Sr. — He has performed well as the 1999 chairman of Lane County Board of Commissioners and offers good diversity to the board as an African-American.

These endorsements represents the view of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Lane County measures

Number — Issue — Reason for endorsement



20-28 — Shall [Eugene School] District 4J impose \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to support operations for five years beginning in 2000-01? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than 3 percent.
 — A fairly small amount of investment that shouldn't be too much to fund schools, which should always be a high priority.



20-29 — Shall the Eugene Charter of 1976 be amended to provide compensation for the mayor and city councilors?
 — By paying a relatively small stipend, economic barriers to civil service will be decreased for the less wealthy. The jobs are currently less accessible to those who have to provide their own incomes — a reality this measure would help remedy.



20-30 — Shall the Eugene Charter be amended to authorize EWEB to undertake telecommunication activities such as voice, video and Internet access?
 — EWEB is a public utility that should provide services at a reasonable cost. Therefore, it should undertake the services of modern convenience as competition to large corporations, and it already has much of the infrastructure in place.



20-31 — Shall the city issue up to \$36,620,000 of general-obligation bonds for a new downtown police station and downtown fire station? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.
 — Dilapidated infrastructure needs reinvestment to maintain high level of public service. However, this measure will only be passed with at least a 50 percent voter turnout.



20-33 — Shall the [Bethel School] District be authorized to issue general obligation bonded indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$27,500,000? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limitations of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI, of the Oregon Constitution.
 — Another school bond that should be passed as an important investment in the area's youth.

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Letters to the editor

MP3s are consumer's right

After reading your editorial on the "dangers" of the MP3 format, I must say that I disagree with the sentiment it puts forth. The issues surrounding MP3s are not merely about the rights of the musicians. Not only does this legal action help put more money into the pockets of producers and

other hangers-on in the music industry, it also impedes our personal rights to free exchange of information.

When compact discs were first released onto the market, many consumers predicted that the price of CDs would go down once they came into heavy production, and they were right in thinking so. But despite this, the price of CDs has actually risen over the past few years.

MP3s are simply an advance that takes

advantage of our bigger, better and faster technologies, and it is clearly not going away. There are already musicians, such as They Might Be Giants, who have released entire albums in MP3 format, specifically for on-line purchase. The music industry as a whole should be embracing this new format, not banning it.

The music industry needs to follow the lead of the common people and work with this new medium, not against it. We do not attempt to deny their freedom of speech by

exchanging MP3s, and they should at least be civil enough to allow us the same courtesy.

Sarah L. Giffrow
 CIS

Don't bring the pictures back

I was very concerned to hear that Justice for All group is planning on bringing the Genocide Awareness Project back next year. I do believe that all people have a right to