

Ballot

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sure people are informed."

Lord, who is the community outreach and member services director for Food Front Cooperative Grocery, added that since Oregon doesn't produce a lot of genetically engineered foods, the bill is aimed more at food imports than exports.

Pat McCormick, who was hired to help fight Measure 27, said the opposition is worried about consumer and retail costs.

"There are substantial logistical problems," he said. "The sheer breadth of the measure causes concerns for cost."

McCormick, a Portland political consultant, said the opposition is primarily composed of Oregon farming, retail, restaurant and grocery industries.

Another controversial measure to appear on the ballot deals with health care and the fate of insurance companies in Oregon.

Measure 23 would create the Oregon Comprehensive Health Care Finance Plan designed to pay various medical bills for all Oregon residents. A state fund would finance the plan and be composed of government funds, a payroll tax and a progressive income tax.

John Partidge, a chief petitioner for the measure, said he hopes to establish the health care system state-by-state.

"I think this is a good thing for the whole nation," he said.

Mike Becker, vice president of Public and Community Affairs for Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, said significant harm would be done to Oregon industry as a result of the new taxes accompanying Measure 23.

"I don't see it as just a health plan issue," he said. "Oregon indi-

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21 years to 18 years.

Measure 18: Allows certain tax districts to establish permanent property tax rates and divide into tax zones.

Measure 21: Revises procedure for filling judicial vacancies, electing judges; allows vote for "none of the above."

Measure 22: Requires Oregon Supreme Court judges and Court of Appeals judges to be elected by district.

Measure 23: Creates health care finance plan for medically necessary services; creates additional income, payroll taxes.

Measure 24: Allows licensed denturists to install partial dentures; authorizes cooperative dentist-denturist business ventures.

Measure 25: Increases Oregon minimum wage to \$6.90 in 2003; increases for inflation in future years.

Measure 26: Prohibits payment, receipt of payment based on the number of initiative, referendum petition signatures obtained.

Measure 27: Labeling of genetically engineered foods sold or distributed in or from Oregon.

SOURCE: Secretary of State

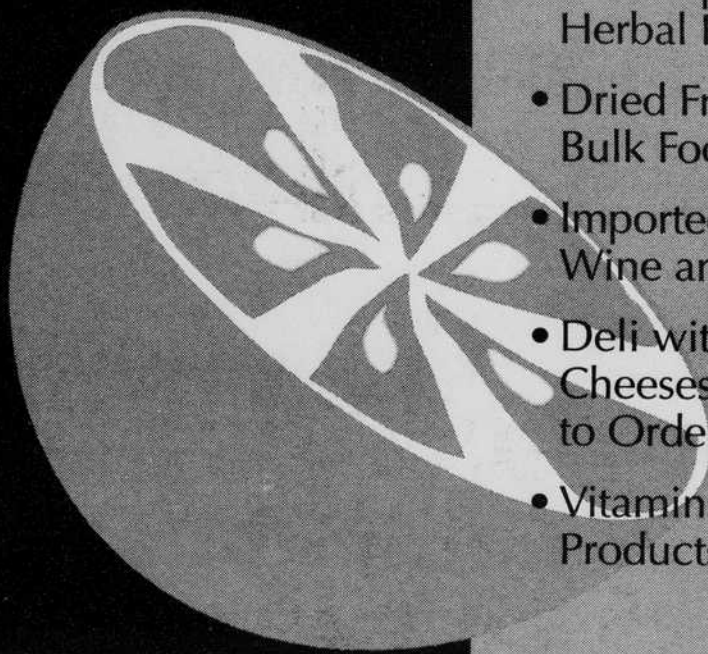
viduals and businesses can ill afford the largest tax increase in Oregon's history."

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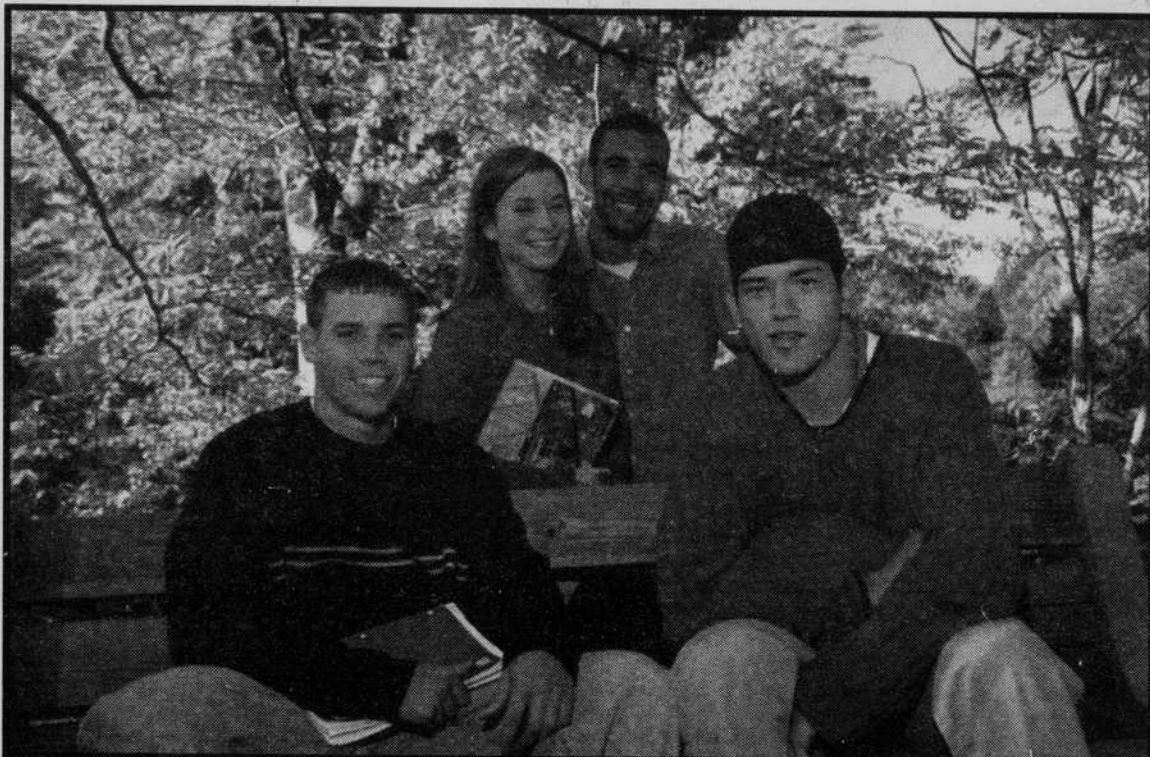
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