

Tuesday, October 29, 2002

Editorial

Prozanski best candidate for District 8 voters

Students seeking a state representative with experience representing their interests should vote for Floyd Prozanski for District 8.

Prozanski can boast seven years in the Oregon Legislature as a member of the House of Representatives. His opponent, while a student, can claim only a failed run for ASUO Executive.

While we feel that a student's viewpoint would be welcome in the House, Greg McNeill has no experience in office, and his ideas sound unformed. Some experience on Eugene City Council committees and then the Council itself would be good first steps.

Prozanski has staked out his position as a champion of higher education, and especially of students who don't have wealthy parents. He has said that he will introduce legislation to freeze tuition, something that can't come fast enough given that tuition may rise next term if an income-tax increase ballot measure doesn't pass in January.

Further, Prozanski will work to revitalize the state's higher education funding system. Although a sales tax may be anathema to many in Oregon, after the budget crises of the summer, anything, even a radical solution, has to be considered.

Elected representatives must be answerable to the people they serve, and we heartily endorse a candidate that has concrete ideas that represent students — not just a candidate who is a student.

Pass Measure 25 to improve lives of state's neediest

More than 100,000 workers in Oregon haven't seen a wage increase since 1996. We have one question: In six years, has the cost of rent, food or electricity increased?

Of course the cost of living has risen since 1996, and it only makes sense that the bare minimum the state allows workers to be paid rise along with it. We recommend that the University community vote yes on Measure 25, which would increase the minimum wage by 40 cents in January and then tie it to annual cost-of-living increases beginning in 2005.

Some people might think that the only people earning minimum wage are teenagers living at home. That is simply not true.

Currently, more than 60 percent of minimum wage workers are women. And 25 percent are single parents who have children to feed. Seventy-three percent of students over the age of 20 earn minimum wage. These people are the ones that need an increase the most; as it is, they are barely sliding by.

Most workers in Oregon aren't earning minimum wage, so this measure wouldn't affect them — or put their employers out of business, as opponents like to claim.

The people most affected by this bill are the people who need the most help just to survive, including students confronted with ever-increasing tuition and cost of housing and books.

Tying minimum wage to the actual cost of living makes sense and would avoid us having to write this editorial again in a few years. Vote yes on Measure 25.

Editorial policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com.

Censoring the revolution

Last Tuesday, one of the most brilliant, talented and politically motivated women came to speak at the University. Sarah Jones performed her one-woman show to a filled 180 PLC, and she demonstrated the brilliance of using comedy to make a political statement.



Meghann Farnsworth
 Just think about it

It is a shame that most

women do not know of Sarah; while she is tall, athletic, and represents the epitome of strength, women such as Sarah still represent a minority of voices in the everyday lives of women. Instead, we are barraged with images of anorexic models, movie stars who carve, pump and starve themselves into "perfection," and musicians (read: corporate performers) who simply "sing" the lines fed to them.

Our society allows women to subject their bodies to endless scrutiny for magazine ads — only to have them airbrushed over — and then wonders why anorexia and bulimia are such problems for teenage girls; MTV loves Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, both of whom sing, as Jones calls it, "the illegitimate child of hip-hop: hip-pop." And yet, they ignore a strong, multitalented woman like Jones.

All Sarah had to do was dip her foot into the same spotlight to criticize, not to conform, and she was censored. What does this imply about what we want women to see



and hear, about what we want them to say? We condemn women who "go against the grain," so to speak, and support those who conform.

The Portland station KBOO was slapped with a \$7,000 fine from the FCC for playing Sarah's song, "Your Revolution." The FCC claimed the song "intended to shock and titillate" the youth of America. Good gracious! The titillation of young people — what a shameful endeavor never before attempted by any other artist!

The lyrics in "Your Revolution" are a reworking of lyrics already used in common rap songs, and I'm hard-pressed to find similarities between lyrics such as those in Eminem's "Kill You" — "Shut up, slut! / Just bend over and take it like a slut / You're goddamn right, bitch and now it's too late / I invented violence you vile venomous vomital bitches," and those in Jones' song:

"Your revolution will not be you smacking it up, flipping it or rubbing it down / Nor will it take you downtown, or humping around / Because that revolution will not happen between these thighs."

While I certainly believe in free speech, even if it means men like Eminem become popular, progressives such as Jones are still silenced by the almighty dollar. Eminem was censored for a short period of time, but his record company put up such a stink and gathered together enough money that the decision was overturned. However, Jones does not have that kind of power and, consequently, her song remains censored.

Our society has become so bent on "entertainment," whatever that means, that real dialogue about prevalent issues are lost in the chatter of "that thong," "it's getting hot in here," and "even when I'm with my boo"-type garbage.

As long as female entertainers fit with the common perception of womanhood, they are allowed to speak; America is completely comfortable seeing women "shake that ass" across the screen as long as they don't say "Think I'm gonna put it in my mouth because you / Made a few bucks / Please brother please."

Don't talk back, women, just "take it."

As long as women such as Sarah Jones cannot speak their mind without getting censored, and talentless men such as LL Cool J, Puff Daddy (or is it P-Diddy?), and Sisqo can use women's bodies to promote their "songs," our society will remain in its unbalanced state where men who come from women's bodies refuse to respect them.

Contact the columnist at megghannfarnsworth@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.

Measures will bolster student interests

Guest Commentary

Today you are being asked to participate in a campuswide special election. This election has been organized to allow you to vote on changes to the ASUO Constitution that cannot wait until the general elections held later in the year. In the election today, you will be casting your ballot to ensure that our governing process will allow for students' interests to be prioritized. The following ballot measures will affect the ASUO incidental fee allocation process and the timing of the general elections, and I strongly encourage you to vote yes on all four ballot measures.

Ballot Measure 1:

This ballot measure is asking for an exception to the limit on the percentage of increase that ASUO programs will receive in the allocation process this year. This is an important measure, as it will allow for the Programs Finance Committee to en-

sure that there is funding for equipment at the Recreational Center which has been supported by student fees in the past. It also will allow for the growth and development of more than 140 ASUO programs.

This ballot measure will also give students an opportunity to look at the stipends that students receive and to evaluate if there is a fair level of pay for student workers. This is a one-time allowance.

Ballot Measure 2:

This ballot measure is also asking for an exception to the limit on the percentage of increase for the Athletic Department Finance Committee. This committee works to secure the football and basketball tickets that students receive. In the past, the preseason games have been paid for out of the ASUO Student Senate budget; however, this year, there are not sufficient funds, and the ticket costs have increased.

Voting yes on this measure will allow the ADFC budget to grow so that we can guarantee that students will have tickets at the preseason football games.

This is a one-time allowance.

Ballot Measure 3:

This ballot measure is asking that the usual 7 percent increase for the EMU budget not include the ASUO or EMU building reserves. This measure will allow for necessary improvements to the EMU building, including a septic problem and a leaky roof, but will not limit the amount of growth that EMU programs, such as Club Sports and the Craft Center. This is a one-time allowance.

Ballot Measure 4:

This ballot measure will extend the timeline for holding student elections. As we do not have the referendum process, it is no longer necessary to have elections during only winter term.

This measure will allow the ASUO elections coordinator to use discretion in setting the timeline for general elections, allowing for more preparation, greater voter turnout and increased student participation.

Rachel Pilliod is the ASUO president.