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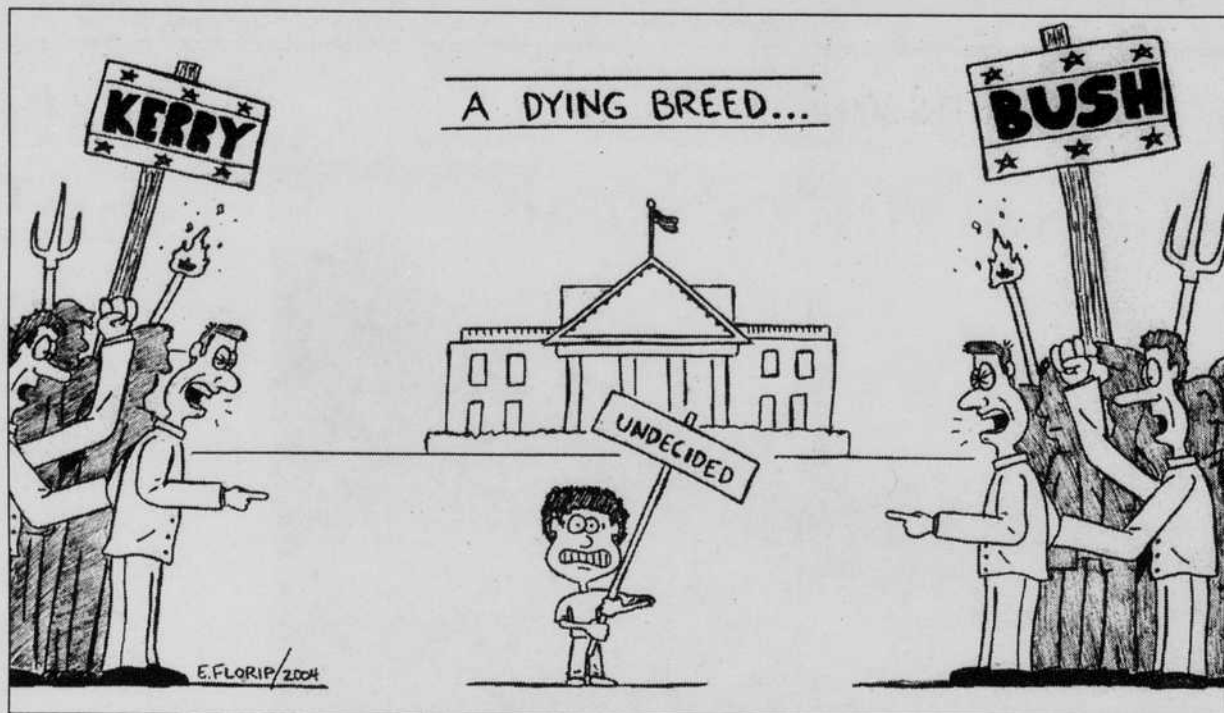
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ERIC FLORIP | FREELANCE GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR

■ In my opinion

Columnists chop down Measure 34

Chuck Slothower — NO

Measure 34 has the right intention, which is to safeguard Oregon's forest land from excessive timber production. But as we all know, the road to Springfield (hell is so passé) is paved with good intentions. While Oregon's state forests could stand a reorientation toward conservation and away from timber production, Measure 34 would micro-manage competent professionals. People who manage state forests know what they're doing. They don't need voters tying their hands. Perhaps an even greater concern is that Measure 34 would negatively affect local school funding when schools need every red cent they can get. The Voters' Pamphlet estimates the measure would decrease local government revenues by \$17.2 to \$19.4 million a year, much of which would come out of school funding. The initiative is far too blunt a tool to manage the delicate balance of Oregon's forests.

Travis Willse — NO

While new high-tech industries have propelled Oregon's exports into the 21st Century, the state's forests remain one of its most valuable, if contested,

assets. Forestry experts spent seven years building a working plan for state forest management around the collective knowledge of agencies, county officials, academics, conservationists and others who have a stake in one of Oregon's oldest legacies. Measure 34, however, would discard the benefits of this balanced, organic process in favor of a ham-fisted approach that blindly and inappropriately reassigns priorities. Worse, including state expenditures and decreases in state and local government revenue, Measure 34 would cost at least \$26.2 million annually in an already cash-strapped state. In myopically zeroing in on only one priority for a system as complex as the state's forests, economy and livelihood, Measure 34 can't see the forest for the trees. Vote no on Measure 34.

Ailee Slater — NO

A yes vote on Measure 34 will result in at least \$17.2 million less per year for local governments, cutting \$8.6 million in school funding and more than 2,000 jobs throughout Oregon. Instead of this costly measure, forest management in Oregon should be allowed to operate under its current system,

which is already managed for mixed uses, including the timber industry as well as protection of the watershed and fish and wildlife. Because timber revenue funds forest management, Measure 34 would actually reduce money that counties are currently using to protect drinking water and wildlife habitats. Although the environment is certainly an important issue in our world today, I implore voters to remember that the Oregon economy cannot be held responsible for the poor environmental choices of our nation, especially with a measure that could do more harm than good to the protection of precious natural resources.

Jennifer McBride — NO

I don't live in Tillamook. I doubt I will ever visit the Tillamook forest. We're in a time of economic crisis, and I don't feel comfortable taking food out of people's mouths and money from our schools, hospitals and mental health care facilities when sustainable forest management is possible by other means. I trust the Oregon Department of Forestry knows more about what they are doing than I do, so I will vote to leave management in their hands.

INBOX

Legal abortion allows termination of human life

Why is this country obsessed with terminating human life? I want to seriously think about this question. The pantheon of great legal, moral and scientific minds in our society have done everything within their power over the last 40 years to justify the termination of human life. We call it abortion and it has developed efficiently into a billion-dollar industry. In keeping with our great entrepreneurial spirit, Americans have figured out how to generate an insatiable, capitalis-

tic institution based primarily on the termination of human life.

How cold is our conscience as a nation, as a people and as individuals? This great beacon of life, liberty and property daily calculates the marginal rates of return for the n + 1 abortion. Without a blip of concern we forecast for the third quarter whether we will terminate a sufficient volume of human lives so as to meet operational costs and deliver reports at board meetings.

Many are enjoying the act of hating Bush during this election season, even

comparing him to history's greatest captains of evil, such as Hitler and Stalin. Hitler rose to kill two-thirds of an entire race by exterminating six million Jews. Stalin topped that by killing 20 million Ukrainians. But this election year we have to make it a priority to topple the Bush administration because he opposes an institution we have deemed a constitutional right, an institution responsible between the years of 1970-2000 for performing over 38 million legal, reported human life terminations.

Ethan Nelson
Eugene

■ Editorial

Varying levels of controversy hit ballots

Measures 31 and 32 — YES

There is a reason why nobody ponied up \$500 to come out against these two measures in the Voters' Pamphlet — both are largely uncontroversial. Measure 31 would delay an election in the case of a candidate's death. Some are weary of changing the constitution for a problem that has not yet occurred in Oregon, but this is a proactive fix that would ultimately strengthen our democracy. Measure 32 would change the wording of the state constitution to allow fees and taxes assessed on mobile homes to be used for purposes other than highway maintenance and repair. This measure is nothing more than a bureaucratic responsibility. There's no reason to oppose this benign proposal by our state legislature.

Measure 33 — YES

We support the use of marijuana for medical purposes. It is the humane thing to do. Measure 33 would improve our existing medical marijuana law by providing easier access to the drug. As the law stands now, patients are forced to grow their own medicine or rely on a "caregiver" to grow it for them. We don't force people to brew their own Morphine when they are in pain. If we are going to take seriously the use of marijuana as medicine, then we must allow those in need to purchase the drugs from a convenient dispensary. We must also allow patients to have enough of the medicine so that it can be maximally effective. Measure 33 would do all of this.

Do not believe the fear mongers. This measure will strengthen, not weaken, our medical marijuana law. This measure will not result in de facto legalization. This measure will not create rampant drug use. This measure will not break the bank or cause the feds to lock up all Oregonians. Measure 33 will simply remove the barriers that currently exist between patients and the medicine they need to ease their pain and suffering.

Measure 34 — NO

We appreciate the spirit behind Measure 34. Our forests have been mismanaged. The ethic of conservation has lost to the pressures of industry time and time again. However, we cannot in good conscience support this measure. The initiative process should not be used as a backdoor means of manipulating the management of our forests.

The 50/50 solution outlined in Measure 34 — in which half of the Tillamook forests would be managed for restoration and half for production — sounds fair but is arbitrarily drawn. Balancing protection, recreation and timber production is a complex matter. This complicated decision-making process should not be pre-empted by activists with a ballot measure.

Furthermore, we cannot be certain of the consequences of 34. Perhaps Measure 34 is the best thing for Oregon's forests, perhaps it's not. But deciding an issue like this one through the ballot would set a dangerous precedent for an initiative process that is already dangerously misused.

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