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★ AMERICA VOTES 2004 ★

Amending marriage: A CONSTITUTION CONTROVERSY

Measure 36 would ban same-sex marriage in Oregon; some deem the amendment necessary, while others say it is discriminatory

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A day shy of eight months after Portland-area officials first issued marriage licenses to gay couples, garnering statewide and national attention, Oregon voters will determine the legal future of marriage in the state.

One of the most hotly contested issues on the ballot, Measure 36 would amend the state constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman, effectively banning same-sex marriage in Oregon.

Advocates assert that the measure is necessary to preserve traditional family values, while opponents claim the measure would write discrimination into the state constitution.

Oregon statutes currently dictate that marriage is a civil contract between a man and a woman at least 17 years of age who solemnize the marriage by declaring "they take each other to be husband and wife."

Oregon is one of 11 states offering voters a chance to enact measures defining marriage as between one man and one woman this November — but same-sex marriage advocates predict Oregon is the state in which they have the greatest chance of succeeding. Oregon voters rejected three anti-

gay rights measures between 1992 and 2000.

Measure 36 reflects an ongoing national debate about gay marriage, with both major presidential candidates taking stances on the issue. President Bush deviated from the Republican Party's stance on Tuesday, saying he supports states' rights to allow civil unions for same-sex couples, but he has said he favors a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Sen. John Kerry has campaigned for states to determine whether they permit same-sex marriages.

Following a court

case challenging the issuance of marriage licenses to roughly 3,000 same-sex couples, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Frank Bearden ruled April 19 that same-sex marriages already issued by Multnomah County are valid, but ordered the county to cease issuing licenses. Bearden also said in his ruling that the legislature should create laws that provide all couples with the protections afforded by marriage within 90 days after the start of its next session. Otherwise, Multnomah County would regain authorization to resume issuing same-sex marriage licenses.

The case has since been appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court, which will hear oral arguments starting Nov. 17.

Legal experts differ on how the measure will affect the issue of

same-sex marriage and the ongoing court case.

University law professor Dominick Vetri said the amendment should be defeated because it may preclude civil unions for same-sex couples in the future.

"Proponents of Measure 36 are trying to remove the possibility of the courts finding it's a denial of the privileges and immunities clause," he said. "The proponents of (Measure) 36 will go back to court and argue that the court case is now moot because the public has amended the constitution to bar marriage."

Vetri added that the measure may also affect whether the legislature decides to allow marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples if mandated to provide legal rights for gay couples by the Court.

"At a minimum, (the measure) takes the heat off the legislature for providing civil unions and that's what's important," Vetri said.

Kelly Clark, a Portland attorney advising the Defense of Marriage Coalition, disagreed, saying allegations that the measure would preclude civil unions for gay couples are "just wrong."

Clark said the option to create civil unions for gay couples under the current law should still apply if the measure succeeds.

"I personally support some notion ... of a civil union or some sort of benefits for gay and lesbian couples to be decided by the couples and I wouldn't be working for a ballot



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

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LUNAR ECLIPSE



Astronomy buffs and amateur stargazers turned out to watch a total lunar eclipse Wednesday night — the last one Earth will get for nearly two and a half years.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, ash from volcanic eruptions can make an eclipsed moon look much darker. The recent eruptions of Mount St. Helens in Washington were not expected to affect the eclipse because they consisted of far more steam than ash.

The next total eclipse of the moon will not be until March 2007.

— The Associated Press

Controversial workshop sparks new policy recommendations

Following illegal events at a workshop last spring, the school of journalism outlines new guidelines

BY MORIAH BALINGIT
NEWS REPORTER

The University's School of Journalism and Communication is currently reviewing recommendations for new policies that more thoroughly define the responsibilities of faculty members in workshops.

The recommendations follow the controversy surrounding an advertising workshop last spring.

Famed advertising executive and University alumnus Dan Wieden of international advertising agency Wieden and Kennedy conducted a workshop for advertising students on confronting their fears. Wieden, who is known for his unconventional teaching methods, gave the students a variety of interesting, and in at least one case illegal, assignments. One student's assignment was to run naked across a golf course — a person can be charged with disorderly conduct if three or more people file complaints with police.

The workshop garnered national attention when participant and former Emerald columnist Marissa Jones criticized Wieden for his teaching methods and the journalism school for being unresponsive to her concerns in her weekly column "Cry Me a River."

"I know I should never have been asked to do something ethically wrong for a class assignment," she said in the column. "I should never have been exposed to a learning environment where the instructor seemingly took advantage of his authority for his own amusement at the expense of the students."

School of Journalism and Communi-

cation Dean Timothy Gleason responded to the column and the flurry of media attention with a memo in which he accepted full responsibility for the workshop and vowed to take action to protect the welfare of the students.

"The faculty will begin work immediately to examine existing policies and, where necessary, outline new guidelines intended to safeguard students against any assignments that might lead them to actions inconsistent with the ethics and vision of the school," Gleason said in the memo.

As of now, Gleason has assembled a three-person committee of faculty from the journalism school to draft the new policies.

"There's a committee that's reviewed (current) policies and has come up with a draft ... that is under review," he said.

The recommended new set of guidelines outlines the responsibilities of faculty members in coordinating workshops with visiting instructors. The guidelines state that a coordinating faculty member must formulate a syllabus in conjunction with the visitor and observe every workshop session.

The purpose of the guidelines is "to insure that the workshop contributes to the overall curricular goals of the sequence and the school," according to a draft of the policies.

Gleason maintained that the policies being drafted aren't necessarily being created because of the Wieden workshop, but that they are "certainly in some degree prompted by the events last spring."

"This is not a committee looking at the Wieden workshop," he said. "It's looking at policy as to how we are running these workshops."

University Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Lorraine Davis said she spoke with Gleason about the new policies in her monthly meeting with him.

"We haven't come to closure on it," she said.

Davis added that there are no plans to draft new policies for the entire University because of the workshop and that there is still no policy specifically barring professors or instructors from giving out assignments that require students to violate the law.

"We expect courses to be offered with the highest integrity to meet the objective of the course," she said.

Gleason emphasized that he "was not in any way suggesting that anyone was acting unethically at all," but attributed the conflict in the workshop to "miscommunication."

"Whenever you get an assignment that's out of the norm ... there's a possibility that things might be misunderstood," he said.

Gleason said he hopes the new policies will lead to improved communication and greater involvement of faculty members in workshops. He added that the policies might have prevented last spring's incidents.

"If there had been a policy in place, and if the faculty member was more involved, we might have had better communication and we wouldn't have ended up in the situation," he said.

As of now, Gleason said a workshop with Wieden has not been scheduled for the spring.

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Registration fraud under investigation in Eugene

Secretary of State investigates Sproul and Associates; fraud suspected on several campuses

BY CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTER

While walking through the ASUO Street Faire on Oct. 7, junior environmental studies major and ASUO finance senator representative Stephanie Erickson was approached by two men with petitions, one of who asked her if she wanted to sign a petition regarding child abuse, Erickson said.

"After I signed it, he said he was a part of a republican organization and they were sponsoring the petitions, and in order for my signature to count I had to register as a Republican," Erickson said.

Erickson said she wasn't sure if she wanted to do it, but she thought it would be OK to register as a Republican for a week in order to support the petition's cause.

"He asked my birthday and started filling (the registration card) out for me," Erickson said. "I started filling out my name and address and he started filling out the other parts like the party affiliation. I felt really kind of schemed," Erickson said.

After consulting a friend about the situation she decided to go back and ask for her registration card back, she said.

"He said he didn't have it — even though it was 20 minutes later he wouldn't give it to me or look through his pile," Erickson said.

Cases like this have been reported

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