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since 1983

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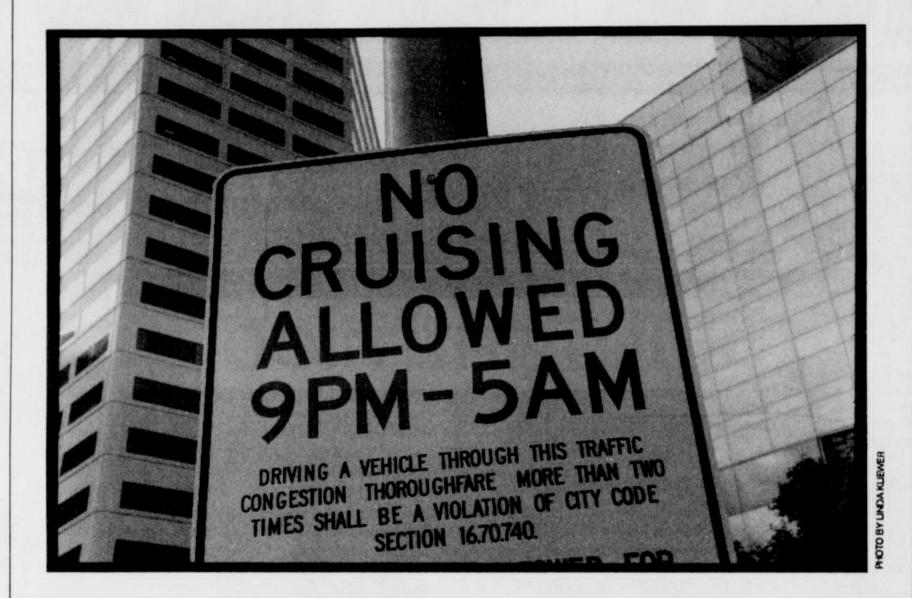
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steppin' out



editorial

Another important election

A ballot may have already arrived in your mailbox. For the sake of the sexual minority communities, fill it out and send it in—this election is vital.

by Renée LaChance

ast March we endorsed Vera Pool for sheriff. We were excited by the possibility of radical change in the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, and we wanted Pool to be the one to make those changes. It seems that most voters supported change—nearly 60 percent—but they couldn't agree on who best to implement it. Votes for change were split between the two candidates who most advocated it, Pool and Dan Noelle, which forced this runoff. Noelle garnered more votes than Pool and now needs our support to defeat current Sheriff John Bunnell.

The current policies and practices of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office are stuck in the '60s and need to be updated. The good-ol'-straight-white-boy system perpetuated in Bunnell's administration is discriminatory, outdated and harmful to our community. Currently, the Sheriff's Office has few women, people of color, or sexual minorities in its law enforcement ranks.

Dan Noelle will change that. Noelle, on leave from his position as assistant chief of the Portland Police Bureau, has served on the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment and the Portland Police Sexual Minorities Roundtable. He co-drafted the partnership agreement between the Police Bureau and the sexual minorities communities. He has command experience and is well qualified. Noelle is committed to creating a Sheriff's Office that better reflects the community it serves, and he is skilled enough to create partnerships with other agencies to provide effective service to Multnomah County.

Cast your vote for Dan Noelle for Multnomah County Sheriff.

Three measures also grace this May 16 election, two statewide and one for the Portland metropolitan area. All deserve your consideration.

Ballot Measure 21 would commit lottery funds to education, in addition to creating jobs and funding economic development. Some people think lottery dollars are tainted and could be laundered by being funneled to a good cause like education. Whatever the reasoning, dollars are dollars, and Oregon's schools are in desperate need of those dollars. Vote yes.

Ballot Measure 22 would require legislators appointed to fill a vacancy to have lived in their districts for at least a year prior to appointment and to live there while they are in office. No argument there. Vote yes.

Ballot Measure 26-26 authorizes Metro to sell \$135.6 million in bonds to purchase or enhance 6,000 acres of land for green spaces. Targeted areas that could benefit include the Sandy River gorge, Forest Park and some Portland-area ponds, lakes and sloughs. The cost to the owner of a \$100,000 home is less than \$23 per year. A small price to pay to preserve wildlife and green spaces in the urban area for decades and generations to come. Vote yes.

For your vote to be counted, ballots must be returned by mail or in person to the county election office by 8 pm Tuesday, May 16.

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