

# opinion

## Life or death; voters choose

Legal killing in Oregon is not the answer to reforming murderers--it's an excuse.

Ballot Measure 8 is not just another issue. If voters approve it, it will give courts the right to decide who should live or die.

This measure, as described in the Oregon Voter's Pamphlet, "Requires death penalty if judge, beyond reasonable doubt, finds: defendant acted deliberately with reasonable expectation death would result; and probability defendant is continuing violent threat to society; and defendant responded unreasonably to provocation, if any, by deceased."

Proponents contend that capital punishment is a less costly alternative than lifetime imprisonment. But, how can we compare \$130,000 for construction of a gas chamber to one human life? Death by cyanide gassing is inhumane as you are forced to kill yourself by holding your breath, knowing your next will be your last.

Court costs are expensive, too. Taxpayers will be shelling out money for long-term trials and appeals, the time of judges, prosecutors, guards, witnesses, psychiatrists--the list goes on and on, and so will some of the trials.

Capital punishment has not been proven to be a deterrent to murder. Clinton Duffy, former San Quentin Prison warden, said that in 30 years of questioning thousands of robbers and murderers, not one admitted giving any thought to the death penalty at the time of committing the crime. Duffy is one of many prison officials who say the death penalty is no deterrent to violent crime.

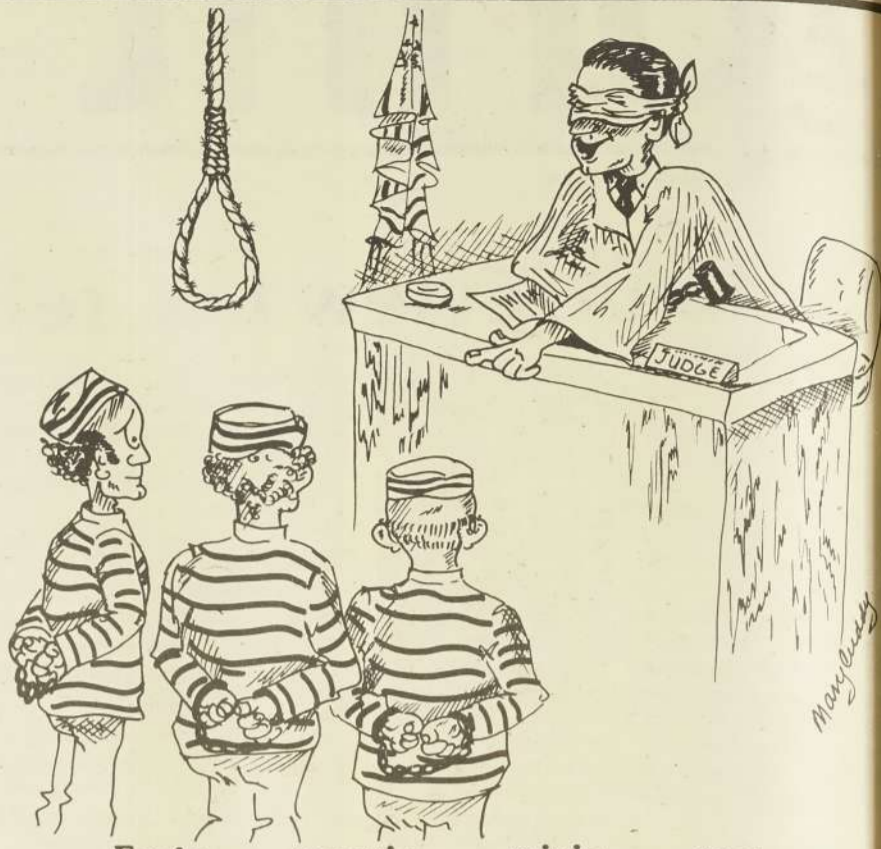
Statistics confirm these findings.

In 1920, Oregon had no death penalty and the homicide rate in the state that year was 4.1 per 100,000 population. That same year it restored the death penalty and in 1921 the homicide rate was 7.7. The rate fluctuated and was 3.8 in 1963. Oregon repealed the death penalty in 1964; the next year the rate was almost the same at 3.9.

Studies in Philadelphia, Pa., of well publicized executions in the 1920s and 1930s showed more homicides following the executions than preceding them. And in 1940 after four widely publicized executions there was no drop in the homicide rate.

These statistics make voting "no" on Ballot Measure 8 a humane decision.

*"I shall ask for the abolition of the punishment of death until I have the infallibility of human judgment demonstrated to me."--Thomas Jefferson* C.B.



## commentary

By Eugene Lawson  
Of The Print

"But You Don't Have Any Experience!"

How many times whether in your academic career or out of it, have you noticed a job which seemed exactly what you'd like to do?

Zoom! The procedure begins and, with a thousand other applicants, you rush to the personnel office, resume in hand, and fill out the tedious but required application. Everyone knows--especially you--that your academic qualifications are par excellence. You are bright, hard-working, ingenious, all-American--not to mention trustworthy, loyal, friendly, courteous, kind, etc.

But the days, or weeks, drag by, and . . . no job. Con-

fused, perplexed, and feeling like the last item at a white elephant sale, you call the personnel office to find out why you weren't hired--you of all people! After 45 minutes of polite pleasantries and generalized commendations about how pleased they were with your application, the truth finally emerges: you don't have any experience--an unforgivable oversight on your part.

So, having no experience--or feeling you have none--how do you get hired? Well, let me suggest one alternative out of my own experience (oh, sorry, guess that's a touchy word.)

I, for one, am interested in teaching. Having had over three semesters of voluntary

tutoring in elementary schools and having also worked in an educational office, I could list this as experience. I am also interested in youth work. Here, volunteer efforts in church youth groups, big brother programs, boys' clubs, Scouting and, again, the tutoring, come in handy as direct and related references.

There are many volunteer positions, wither through work/study or just plain service, for those who are willing to invest a little time. At times, credit can also be arranged. To investigate such opportunities, call your local volunteer bureau or community service center.

I can assure you, the benefits and training you experience will be of value in a variety of situations and occupations.

## feedback

To The Editor:

Jay Haight in your Sept. 27 paper criticizing the design and the staff of the Inskeep Environmental Learning Center struck home. I am on the board of the E.L.C. and have always felt the project was exceptionally well designed and staffed with qualified and talented people.

Mr. Haight's criticisms of the design and the staff of the E.L.C. seem to be based on philosophy that the only "real" environmental learning is an "intense, observational approach, emphasizing the reciprocal interactive process occurring between organism and environment in an ecological situation." I presume that this situation is one in which man does not attempt to

modify the environment but merely observes.

The E.L.C. is most certainly not an unmanaged area where natural plant communities are allowed to establish themselves and go through normal successional patterns. Prior to becoming what it is now, it was a clarification pond for cannery wastes. What value would there have been in letting such a sterile environment develop naturally without man's intervention? At best, such a process would have been very slow.

Instead, the area was planted with native and non-native plants that were suitable to the area and would attract native wildlife. Trails were built so people could see what was being done. Other "non-

neutral" elements were added, such as hordes of school kids and families on weekends.

The Inskeep Environmental Learning Center is not a wilderness outside of man's influence. It is a carefully designed and highly used park where people can observe that an environment very attractive to people can also be very attractive to native wildlife. I am sorry, Mr. Haight, but I can not believe that it would be improved by your dynamite or your bulldozer. I doubt if you do either.

If you are really interested in improving the E.L.C., join the association that runs it. We would be happy to listen to your ideas.

**Dan Green**  
Oregon City  
Clackamas Community College

## the print

1960 S. Mollalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
Offices: Trailer B; telephone: 656-2631, ext. 309 or 310

editor Cyndi Bacon \* news editor Scott Starnes  
arts editor Leanne Lally \* sports editor Mark McNeary  
photo editor Kelly Laughlin \* staff writers Happle Thacker,  
Gene Lawson, Mike Koller, Elena Vancil, Brenda Nolan  
staff photographers Mark Benson, Greg Kienzle, Charlie Wagg  
cartoonist Mary Cuddy \* Graphic Designer Bev Boston  
\* professional adviser Suzie Boss \* business manager Mark Barnhill

The Print, a member of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, aims to be fair and impartial journalistic medium covering the campus community as thoroughly as possible. We encourage participation through letters, free lance articles and story ideas and suggestions. Deadlines are the Friday of the week prior to the Wednesday publication

Page 2

