

opinion

Vote: honor the privilege

Registered Oregon voters will be faced with some very important issues on the Nov. 7 ballot.

If you are not registered to vote, then do it today. There are measures on this year's ballot that will affect each and every one of us.

If you don't think you know enough about the issues, and the candidates on the ballot, there is no time like the present to learn about them.

Speeches, candidate fairs and posters are available to you for information. The voters' pamphlet is an excellent source to get to know the issues.

People are not exercising their right. In Clackamas County during the May Primary election there was a very poor turnout of registered voters.

Of 1,003 registered 18-year-old voters, only 462 voted and only 414 19-year-olds out of 1,570 voted. The numbers don't get better with age.

There were 2,792 registered 26-year-olds with only 589 voting. Of 40-year-olds, 966 voted and 1,297 did not; and 889 50-year-old registered voters voted with 891 not exercising their right to vote.

Have people forgotten they have a right to vote? Or are the issues not important enough to vote on?

It seems to us that measures concerning the death penalty, state funded abortions, limitations on public utility rate base, property taxes, regulation practice of dental technology and vehicle registration and fee increases are of importance to everyone.

Students should know what's going on politically before the election date. Informed voters make better decisions about candidates and issues.

Still don't get the picture? Pick up a voters' pamphlet and start reading. Contact the local county election board and find out what you have to do to register to vote. But, most importantly, vote in the Nov. 7 election.

FRANKLY SPEAKING . . . by phil frank

THIS HAS BEEN A
FREE SPEECH MESSAGE
IN OPPOSITION TO THE CITY
ORDINANCE AGAINST
DOG LITTER...
..THIS STATION MAKES AIR
TIME AVAILABLE FOR ANY...



PHIL
FRANK

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feedback

To The Editor:

I'm not exactly an Eric Sevareid or Howard K. Smith; nevertheless, I'd like to comment on a few social issues of today that deeply interest and disturb me.

First is the use of artificial stimulants to achieve a temporary state of happiness. I am reminded of a quote from a good friend, "happiness depends on happenings, but joy endures through any circumstance." The use of drugs, alcohol, and other consciousness altering stimulants is--in my opinion--a stupid and degrading risk. Why use something artificial to achieve a state that one should be able to reach naturally? I do not question the use of such things, but the way in which they are abused. We must not make the mistake of confusing one word, or application, with the other.

Next, I am angry at the issue of abortion. That this issue should even be considered is an outrage--except perhaps in

the case where having a child would cause death. Abortion, to me, is the direct result of a too general tendency in our society--wanting to have all the privileges (fun and games) without any of the responsibilities. We want our sexual freedom, but if we happen to get pregnant through our own carelessness or licentiousness, or if we happen to get someone else pregnant, to heck with having children. Get an abortion; destroy the evidence. I mean, after all, how will we find the time to be footloose--or is that just loose?--and fancy free if we're tied down with a child? Nor do I believe in birth control. The reason for this comes from a movie, "Forever Free," in which a tribal leader tells the social worker--who is frustratedly trying to pass out the pill--the women of the village have their own form of birth control. In plain, simple words, the best form of birth control is self-control--the simple ability to say no. However, it seems we would rather make

a literal bloody mess than to take the responsibility for our own actions.

Third on my list is voting and political elections. I think that the main reason for the extremes of corruption in government and business is that we have forgotten, or are no longer interested in, a "government by the people, of the people and for the people." We are willing to gripe and complain about bureaucracy and federal spending, but either we think (copping out) we can't do anything or else we develop the philosophy of "let George do it". Well, I don't know who George is, but I'll vote for him the next election. Speaking of voting, as well as "doing something about it," I

feel that our voice *does* make a difference. We must remember, and take the firm attitude, that these legislators are elected by us to represent us. It is our own fault if we allow apathy and indifference to take away our rights. We are to blame if we vote--or put into office through not voting--the most popular candidate, or the one of our party affiliation. (After

all, Mother was a Democrat/Republican/Tory/Whig/what-have-you). The first words of the Constitution of the United States are, "We the people . . ." And we, the people, also need to be united in seeing that "government by the people, for the people and of the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Eugene Lawson

the print

19600 S. Molalla 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 Happie Thacker,
Gene Lawson, Mike Koller, Elena Vancil, Brenda Nolan,
Don Ives, Joy Felgum, Steve McPherson
staff photographers John Bosserman, Greg Klenze, Charlie Wagg
Chuck Quimby * cartoonist Mary Cuddy * graphic designer Bev Boston
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re-elect
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Pd by Re-Elect Stan Skoko Comm., G. Tuor, Treas.
2410 S.E. 5th Avenue, West Linn, Ore. 97068

