

# Monologue

## Measure 2 jeopardizes College, services funding

By D. Dietrich  
Arts Editor

This editorial was going to be directed toward some aspect of the presidential campaign but I discovered an issue which will become a major source of tension on this campus very shortly. I'm speaking of the impending Ballot Measure No. 2 which features 1.5 percent property tax limitation measure.

I'm afraid that voters will approve Measure No. 2 out of a blind panic caused by increasingly straining property taxes. The basic idea of the measure is, of course, a positive one. We would all like to see property taxes go down.

Unfortunately, this measure would create more negative repercussions than it's worth. If passed, the measure would cripple school libraries, social services and law enforcement among other public services.

The measure would roll back real property taxes to 1.5 percent of the assessed value or to the tax rate effective on July 1, 1983, whichever is lower. The assessed value of the property would only be allowed to increase up to 2 percent a year. Voters may overrule the measure twice a year in May and November.

On the surface it sounds like a good plan, but when you stop to forecast the reductions and where they would take place, the picture becomes bleak.

Proponents of Measure No. 2 say it is absurd to try and forecast the specific effects before becoming committed to this drastic move.

According to Oregon Legislative Revenue Office projections and the State Department of Education, Clackamas Community College would have had a 33.1 percent loss of property tax revenue had Measure No. 2 been in effect for 1983-84. Because school districts attain about 70 percent of their total funding from property taxes, this cut would literally cripple all levels of public education.

On the College campus itself, if Measure No. 2 passes, it will mean a cut back of about 30 faculty members, according to a quote in *The Oregonian* by William J. Ryan, college business manager. The consequence is that 540 full-time students could be turned away.

Not only would community colleges be directly affected, but those of you planning on transferring to a major university in the next couple of years. You might find tuition higher and classes limited because the Oregon Legislature may have no other choice

Summerill



by Richard Byington



but to dip into their general fund for the University of Oregon and Oregon State, in order to rescue the public school system.

Along with cutbacks in the educational system, we can expect accompanying problems. Widespread layoffs in other state institutions or offices will add to the problem. In fact such layoffs would jeopardize Oregon's finally stabilized unemployment situation. Furthermore, Portland already maintains a high crime rate and Measure No. 2 also means cuts in law enforcement. This certainly could worsen that crime rate.

Supporters of Measure No. 2 still insist such speculation is exactly that, speculation. They say the ability to override the limitation every May and

November will take care of the 'true' needs of the taxpayers while allowing them to exercise more control over traction.

In fact, the voters would have so much control that such vital matters as minor street improvements would have to be voted on by the whole tax district. And in order for the voting to be valid more than 50 percent of the eligible voters must go to the polls. These numbers have not always been reached in previous elections.

Ballot Measure 2 was born of a need to reduce property taxes, but the effects of its passage are simply to extreme to benefit anyone. Hopefully, those inclined to vote for Measure No. 2 will think of the long-range effects before the November elections.

## More Hatfield/Hendriksen debates would help voters

By Shelley Ball  
Editor in Chief

It seemed to take forever, but last Sunday Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield and Democratic Senate challenger Margie Hendriksen finally had their first debate on the television program "Viewpoint."

The debate, however, wasn't publicized much, so it is doubtful that many people saw the telecast. Hatfield and Hendriksen should have more debates, yet there seems to be no plan for that at this time.

After spending more than 30 years in this field, it can be said Hatfield and Oregon politics go well together. His political background boasts a two-term governorship and a three-term, 18-year-long career as a U.S. senator for the state, among other things. And Nov. 6, Hatfield will be on the ballot to attempt to extend his senatorial position to a fourth consecutive term.

But not all has been well in the world of politics for Hatfield, as the recent investigation into his relationship with Greek financier Basil Tsakos would prove. The senator's long-held image of being a clean politician was in danger of becoming muddied, but it appears Hatfield is off the hook, at least for now.

Following the announcement by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, that committee lawyers did not find any evidence sufficient enough to bring about a full investigation of Hatfield's relationship with Tsakos, a relieved Hatfield most likely wanted to forget the whole thing had ever happened.

Hendriksen, however, is making it difficult for Hatfield to forget the investigation. She has been doing her utmost to win support by reminding voters Hatfield may not be

through the woods of the Senate Ethics Committee just yet. She has also been criticizing the senator's actions concerning social programs. She states in her press releases that Hatfield has supported administration cutbacks in mental health, child nutrition, public health and senior programs.

Hendriksen has been quoted as saying Hatfield has "a zero percent voting record on questions of concern to Oregon farmers," and she has denounced a newspaper ad that has pictured Hatfield in a Boy Scout uniform as being "ill-timed to coincide with the election."

But of all the issues Hendriksen has chosen to criticize Hatfield on, the one she spent a lot of time voicing was the fact Hatfield wouldn't agree to a debate with her until last Sunday.

One has to wonder why this was an issue at all. Hen-

driksen, a dark-horse candidate for U.S. senator, could definitely use more debates to help her gain more support. However, she has gone up against a political figure who has been in Oregon politics so long he has been labeled by critics as a political institution for the state.

The loyal supporters of Hatfield are not likely to change their vote for him in November, simply because he has all those years in Oregon politics on his side. Hendriksen's political career hardly measures up to Hatfield's in experience (she became state senator in 1983). So why is it no future debates have been

scheduled?

More debates between the two candidates would benefit each of them. Hendriksen would get more exposure and Hatfield would have various opportunities to defend his record and thereby put to rest Hendriksen's claim that he is merely hiding behind it for political support.

The way it stands now, most voters will not get a good chance to find out more about Margie Hendriksen. And that's too bad, because she could have been to some voters a better choice for senator than Hatfield has been.

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