

All signed letters to the editor should be 500 words or less and will be considered for publication if submitted by 1 pm the Friday prior to publication. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing. We reserve the right to not publish any letter.

## Editorial

# Measure 9 threatens free speech, school funds

The Clackamas *Print* believes Measure 9, to be voted on in the Nov. 7 general election, would violate the right to free speech as protected by the constitutions of both the United States and Oregon. For this reason, the *Print* opposes Measure 9.

Measure 9 would require that "instruction of behaviors relating to homosexuality and bisexuality shall not be presented in a public school in a manner which encourages, promotes or sanctions such behaviors." Non-compliance by any school could result in the "withholding of all or part of state funding."

This reasonable-sounding language is nothing less than censorship in the guise of student protection.

The Oregon Constitution protects citizens from intrusions by government into their free speech rights.

Section 8, Article 1 forbids laws "restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever..."

When Measure 8, an initiative relating to sexual orientation, was approved in Oregon in 1988, the Oregon Court of Appeals overturned it, finding "free and open expression about sexual orientation is clearly protected..." by the Oregon Constitution, and "expression may not be punished in the interest of a uniform vision on how human sexuality should be regarded or portrayed."

Measure 9 could also jeopardize federal funds for Oregon schools. The Federal Equal Access Act states: "It shall be unlawful for any public secondary school which receives Federal financial assistance...to deny equal access

or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting...on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings."

Groups in support of homosexuality or bisexuality, like Clackamas' Rainbow Group for gay and lesbian students, would likely be in violation of Measure 9. Since other groups do not have similar prohibitions placed on them, Measure 9 raises the issue of equal treatment, not only endangering federal aid, but violating, again, the Oregon constitution.

Section 20 of Article 1 of the Oregon Constitution states: "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which...shall not equally belong to all citizens."

While the *Print* opposes Measure 9 on the basis of freedom of speech, many other individuals and groups have spoken out against the measure for other reasons.

Planned Parenthood of Oregon asserts, "Measure 9 would severely limit what our kids learn about birth control, abstinence and AIDS/HIV prevention..." and "...Measure 9 will create even more danger to our kids by taking away vital counseling services for lesbian and gay students that help prevent teen suicide attempts."

Oregon Teachers and Parents state: "Teach respect and fairness, not exclusion," and "our schools should be places to reinforce values of tolerance and respect, not harassment and fear."

If discussion of homosexuality and bisexuality may be governed, what speech will be the next target?

### WHO OPPOSES MEASURE 9?

- Oregon Parent Teacher Assoc.
  - Planned Parenthood
  - Children First for Oregon
  - Oregon Nurses Association
  - League of Women Voters
  - Ecumenical Ministries
  - Oregon Education Association
  - Oregon Republican Mainstream
  - Peggy Fowler, President, PGE Rural Organizing Project
  - Human Rights Campaign
  - Nat'l Ass./Letter Carriers, Br. 82
  - Basic Rights Oregon
  - American Civil Liberties Union
  - American Fed. of Teachers
  - Oregon Library Association
- (Partial list)

## If you vote, politicians will have to listen

A news story in last week's *Print* pointed out that only eight percent of people between the ages of 18 and 24 voted in the last election. I've been wondering why.

At the age of 18, United States citizens gain one of the premier privileges of being an adult in this coun-

try. Yet, many people have ceased to believe their votes make a difference. Unfortunately in this case, if you believe it, it becomes true.

### Stand and be counted.



Tam Oliver  
Feature Co-Editor

try. Yet, many people have ceased to believe their votes make a difference. Unfortunately in this case, if you believe it, it becomes true.

People in power in our government actually pay a great deal of attention to voting groups such as women, seniors and farmers. However, if your attitude as a group is to give up the power that comes from voting, then they don't have to listen to you. It's as if you don't exist.

Yes, voting requires taking responsibility. All privileges come at that price. However, this is the age of communication and technology. Never in history has information been so freely available to everyone. Of course, it's a bit of a task to seek and sort it out, but developing the ability to do so may be the most important thing you learn in college.

It's a shame to see young adults putting their heads in the sand, when the country badly needs new ideas and input. By not voting, you are giving away part of your personal power.

The state of Oregon has made it

easier than ever to vote this year. Oregon is the first state to ever have an entirely vote-by-mail general election. Your ballot will be mailed to you between Oct. 20 and Oct. 24. If you have registered and do not receive a ballot by mail, you may call your local county elections office for assistance. The telephone numbers are listed on page 375 of your Voters' Pamphlet.

The ballots must be received at any county elections office (designated in the Voters' Pamphlet) by 8 p.m. on Nov. 7, so a postmark that date will not count.

And there are many ways to become informed on the issues. There are web sites such as <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/nov72000/nov72000.htm>, newspapers, television and the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet. Additionally, every ASG representative is prepared to explain to every student the seven measures on the Nov. 7 ballot that will directly impact students. Go to the ASG office in the Community Center and ask questions. Speak your piece too. Your opinions are important.

And don't let the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet intimidate you. If you can't be informed on every issue, then vote on the ones you know and care about. If you stand up to be counted, they will pay attention.

After all, they are politicians.

## Protect the children, vote yes on 9

Measure 9 prohibits public school instruction encouraging, promoting, or sanctioning homosexual/bisexual behaviors, and provides penalties for its violation. Sounds simple enough, right? In fact, the bottom line is, Measure 9 is

that simple. This measure is about the children, and even if homosexuals do what they do, that doesn't have any place in the children's curriculum. This is a measure that will ensure the standard of education for them.

We've seen what's going on with the curriculum down in California, and that's not how it should be. In the last four years the Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), has greatly accelerated its activity in California and we (Oregon) are their next target!

This is a measure that leaders of the GOP (Republicans) in Or-

gon have endorsed. In a meeting in June, closed to the press, the majority of the

100 delegates endorsed this student protection act.

The initiative pretty closely tracks what the party platform says. "While we respect individual rights of privacy and while we are tolerant of different preferences, we oppose government's efforts to validate or sanction homosexual activity," said Rep. Kevin Mannix, R-Salem.

Another issue intertwined in this measure is religion. The measure has split churches. About 75 percent of Oregonians classify themselves as Christians, while about 17 percent consider them-

selves to be non-religious (the highest percentage in the nation, according to the 1990 National Study of Religious Identification, conducted by City University of New York). In a literal interpretation, the Bible states that same-sex relationships are an "abomination" deserving death. The Christian Coalition of Oregon has also taken a stand.

"We're at a crossroads," said Executive Director Lou Beres. "When you affect our kids and want to teach a lifestyle that is completely against God's word, that's the line in the sand."

David Reinhard of the *Oregonian* agreed that the underlying morality of this measure cannot be denied. Pro-homosexual curricula, films and handouts have become commonplace, such as the infamous Los Angeles Unified handout that claimed Abraham Lincoln was a homosexual.

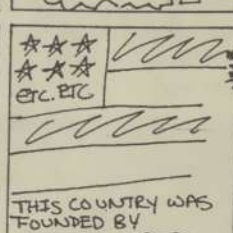
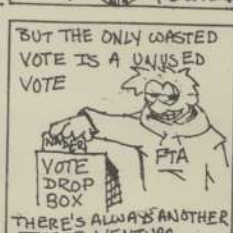
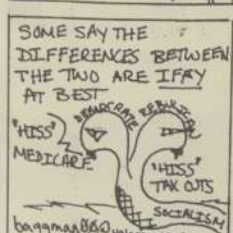
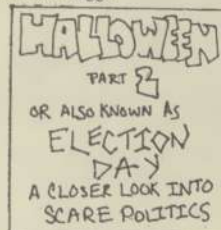
It's not about singling out one group of people, it's about making a moral decision for the future.

### Education, Principle, Action.



Michael Choe  
Staff Writer

Jonathan Baggs



Editor-in-Chief:

Diana Scrivner (x2447)

Web Master:

Jim Spickelmier

Feature Co-Editor:

Maggie Jirasek

Staff:

Amanda Gosser

Feature Co-Editor:

Tam Oliver

Chris Lundgren

A & E Editor:

Mandy Good

Corinne Rupp

Copy/Opinion Editor:

Sandy Lapo

Dana Palmer

Sports Editor:

Jason Lingel

Elena Boryska

News Editor:

Sieve Nielson

Jenni Chavez

Photo Editor:

Mike Pollock

Lisel Muggli

Business Manager:

Scott Cronin (x2578)

Secretary:

JoAnne Gale

Advisor:

Linda Vogt (x2310)

The Clackamas *Print* aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas *Print* do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty, or The Clackamas *Print* advertisers. Products and services advertised in The Clackamas *Print* are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas *Print*. The advertising rate is \$4.75 per column inch. The Clackamas *Print* is a weekly publication and is distributed every Wednesday except during Finals week. The Clackamas *Print* Copyright 2000.



19600 S. Molalla Ave. Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
(503) 857-6958 ext 2309  
ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us