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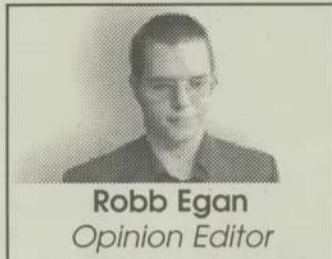
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Measure 28: A low-cost solution for our ailing schools



Robb Egan
Opinion Editor

Less than a week remains before the Jan. 28 deadline for the Measure 28 special election, and while early returns of voting ballots are coming in record numbers, a great number of voters, including many of my fellow students, are still unaware of the importance of the election, whose outcome will greatly affect the entire new year for Oregon.

Measure 28 is, put simply, about money. The government needs more of it, and bad. Should the measure be approved, for the next three years the amount taxpayers will pay on taxable income will be increased from 9 percent to 9.5 percent. It is estimated that the increase will cost the average taxpayer around \$114 a year.

I ask those of my fellow students who object to having to pay that extra tax to consider that should

Measure 28 fail, the state Legislature has planned more than \$300 million in budget cuts, including at least \$90 million in cuts to university and community college funding.

This means increased tuition costs, fewer course offerings, and for tens of thousands of students it means educational programs will be unavailable. Any money you save by not paying a miniscule increase in taxes will be immediately swallowed up when the college is forced to raise tuition fees.

One of the loudest arguments being shouted against Measure 28 is that giving the government more money is not going to solve any of our problems, and an increase in taxes will cause economic recession as companies lay off more people and new businesses are driven away from Oregon by the possibility of higher corporate income tax.

This rather stubborn viewpoint fails to take into account that 129 Oregon State police officers will be given the pink slip, and hundreds of teachers, nurses, caretakers and social workers will be laid off when the budget slashing commences in June. Furthermore, it is unlikely that

companies will want to move to Oregon after considering how difficult it will be to find properly educated employees.

Others argue that giving more money to the government would only contribute to their already abysmal use of taxpayer money, and might set a dangerous precedent, allowing Legislature to simply increase income taxes to compensate for their own poor budgeting. These people feel that the government should be forced to make due with the money already available, and that non-vital programs should be cut from the budget so that more funds can be shifted to schools and public services.

While this might sound like one of those duh kind of arguments, making revisions to the budget now will not solve the immediate problems many schools and public service programs are facing.

School systems are in dire need of funding, public services are struggling to keep up, and our own college is facing serious budget problems. I urge you all to make the responsible choice and join me in voting Yes on Measure 28.



Letters to the Editor

Keep cells out of class

Dear Editor:

I am asking you to please consider the following.

The students of our college should have the freedom to learn without interruptions. Cell phones cause interruptions, and this problem must be addressed.

Cell phones have been the cause of distraction during presentations I have made, midterms and finals I have taken, and during regular class time. During one such presentation a cell phone distracted me and the flow of my argument was broken. In a business class a student answering her phone during an important midterm detracted from my testing experience.

Teachers do not allow students to talk during a lecture or have a friend come visit them during a lecture. This is no different from allowing cell phones to ring during class.

Cell phones in class are disrespectful, rude, and their use shows a lack of respect towards other students in the class because of the disturbance they cause. Their use does not represent proper etiquette in a classroom environment.

There should be more strict rules against cell phones. If every teacher made it more apparent at the beginning of each term on their syllabi as well as verbally that cell phones are not welcome then the school would have a better academic environment.

Sincerely,
Jon Freid

A few thoughts on Measure 28



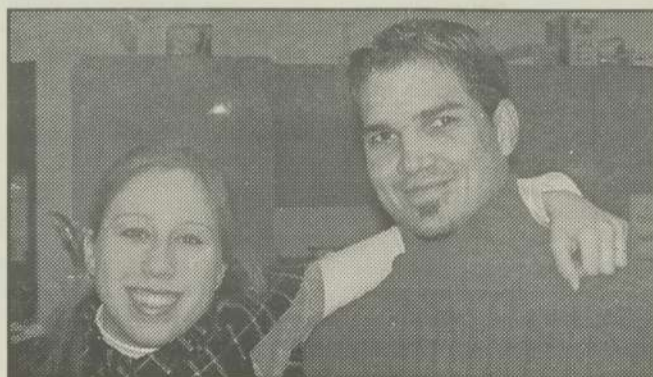
Mike Caudle
"Measure 28 is a way to fix our current state budget crisis that comes with little to no cost to the individual taxpayer."

"It's a band-aid. I'm leaning towards voting yes, but I feel we really need better management of funds so this doesn't happen again."
Marlies Berney

"I can sympathize with people who don't want Measure 28 to pass, but community colleges can't take another hit."
Christopher Cox



Erica Dahlin
"I've already voted yes. A lot of the money will go to schools, and schools are a cornerstone in our society. People need education."



photos by ROBB EGAN Clackamas Print



You can drop your ballots off at the ASG office in CC 140 until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 28.

For more information call ext. 2247