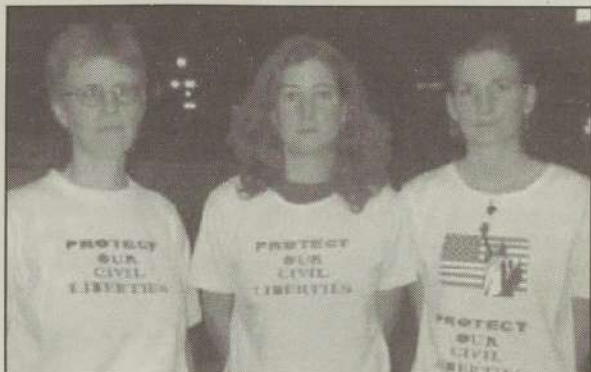


Not at our rally! Controversial T's get teachers the boot

By Maras
Clackamas Print

It seems a day cannot pass without yet another liberal troublemaker stirring up mischief — how dare I! A week does not go by when some subversive organization (the “school teachers”) break into my house, leaving valid tickets to a Bush rally, in an attempt to promote their “pro-life” communist “freakin’” propaganda, such as “pro-our civil liberties” shirts.

It is exactly what happened when Medford school teachers infiltrated the front lines of the Republican Party at the Jackson County grounds, wearing t-shirts with the phrase “protect our civil liberties” on the front. Talk about party discipline! The three got what they deserved, though; they got kicked out of the rally for having “pro-life” messages on their



The three teachers model the ‘outrageous’ shirts.

despite the fact that he has proclaimed that he does not listen to public opinion. They did not feel represented, and they took it upon themselves to bring democracy to the leader, rather than the leader bringing democracy to the people.

The system of representative government which we practice in America seeks to find the perfect balance between true democracy and an aristocracy, which can only work if the people's feelings

are represented (go figure). This balance is just as important—if not more so—than the system of checks and balances between the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches we learn about in school.

When the system starts to fall out of step with itself it becomes time for a change. If America has been reduced to the point that incidents like this seem to indicate, it is time that change must come, and it must be either a change made by the president, or by the people.

Their intent was to bring their message to the President ...

ating the protection of our civil liberties. The three educators admittedly had worn the shirts to get a stir out of the GOP. After being angered by peaceful protestors being kicked out of Bush rallies, they decided to do a little test of their own, with a perfectly neutral and universal American theme such as the protection of civil liberties. Little did they know how well their plan would work.

New speed bumps overkill

By Piazzisi
Clackamas Print

campus speed bumps: useful, or just a pain in the butt? First let's look at the facts. The standard bumps measure 24 inches wide by 4 inches high. Let's face it, the bumps are ginormous: when someone is driving over them at the same time). For one to believe that speed bumps are a little overkill. I myself purchased a completely separate vehicle

everyone else does, when I heard metal scratching and fiber glass scraping.

Naturally, I stopped the car and



Photo Illustration by Joel Gaynor Clackamas Print

got out to see what the problem was. I slowly approached the front of the car to find that the bumper was resting on the speed bump. If my bumper couldn't make it over, how would the rest of the car? I got back in the car and eased off the clutch, giving it a little gas. The sound came right back. At that point, I turned around and went home. Needless to say, I

didn't register for school that day.

A couple of days later, from the safety of my home, I registered online. I was now left with the challenge of finding a new vehicle. One that could climb mountains—I mean CCC speed bumps! Then the list of cars that could do this started scrolling through my head. My first thought was a tank! No, a Caterpillar—wait, no, an H1! Shortly after that thought I realized that I had a budget. Sorry, you won't see me strolling around campus with a tank any time soon.

I'm happy to say I now have a car that is speed bump compatible; I just have to go over the speed bumps at 4 mph. If you want to see my new car, all you have to do is go out to the parking lot and find the baddest vehicle out there. Then go down four cars and over two rows; I'm parked over there somewhere.

Voting can be overwhelming, but don't let that stop you

The following article originally appeared in the October 17 issue of The Oregonian. Trista Cornelius is an English Instructor at CCC.

By Trista Cornelius
Contributing Writer

By the time I turned 18, I'd been told that voting was my civic duty and choosing not to vote was a disgraceful shame. So I voted during the 2000 election, but I voted ignorantly and much of the ballot blank. Looking back, I realize I thought I wasn't smart enough to vote. Perhaps that's one reason why the percentage of twenty-somethings who vote is so low. During my first college semester, my philosophy professor asked me to raise my hands if we voted for Measure 5, which limited property taxes and shifted the responsibility of funding schools to the state in 1995. I raised my hand proudly, not

because I believed in the measure I'd voted for, but because I'd voted, and that's what I thought mattered. My professor looked disappointedly at those raised hands. I've since had more than a decade to learn how Measure 5 rocked the foundation of Oregon's public schools.

I was too embarrassed then to admit I didn't really understand the measure. When I could have been organizing voter parties during college, gathering other young voters to discuss the issues, I was hiding in my bedroom trying futilely to read the Voters' Pamphlet.

Near the end of my 20s, my embarrassment about barely voting finally overcame my shame about not feeling smart enough to vote. Now, in my early 30s, I have a system.

Last week, I ran into my philosophy professor from 10 years ago. We fell into a discussion about voting. I suggested that maybe the Voters' Pamphlet is a bit hard to read. He agreed, “Oh, yes.”

He said he thinks many people make their decisions based solely on the Voters' Pamphlet's one-page summary because the onslaught of all the other media becomes overwhelming. I sighed a bit of relief and agreed with him because I'm one of those very people.

Then I dared to explain my voting method. During an election season, I leave the Voters' Pamphlet out on the coffee table. Even though often exhausted and frustrated, I read a little bit each evening, making notes and drafting my decision before penciling it in

Procreation shouldn't be the ultimate point

By Hillary Ferguson
Opinion Editor

With the recent hubbub surrounding gay marriage and a certain unfair constitutional amendment, one main defending argument focuses on a gay couple's inability to procreate. This, in one word, is ridiculous. With the state of the world as of late, we should be commending the gay community for not having children.

Until the agricultural revolution, the world population hovered around a mere 10 million. Then came the plow and the population began to grow significantly. In 1800, the count reached a whopping one billion, and in only 200 years since the count has exploded to over six billion—and the growth isn't about to slow.

price? What kind of life will our children have if everyone pops out four or five of the ankle-biters? There are so many children who will never know a family, yet we have our own. Maybe we should ensure the lives of the children which exist now, instead of throwing more into an unstable situation.

Still, some people argue that there's nothing one can do once they're pregnant. Here's an idea: don't get freakin' pregnant in the first place! Take it from me, it's not that hard. It's this magical little thing called the birth control pill—take it.

Let's take this one step further. Maybe China had it right when they mandated that families could only have one child; that would definitely slow the population boom.

Here's another suggestion: a



Be fruitful and multiply...



Now divide.

Now, turn your attention to the thousands, if not millions, of parentless children around the world. Many of them spend their youth never knowing the emotional stability of a loving family. Some are bounced from foster home to foster home. Still worse, some of these children are sold into sweatshops or forced into prostitution as young as 7 or 8, boy or girl.

This being said, I am able to make my point: people shouldn't be procreating.

Within the next century, the population is expected to reach 10 billion! This means more housing developments, wider freeways, less agriculture and less oil. If you thought rush hour was a hassle now, just imagine another couple billion people trying to merge into your lane. It is still undetermined if the current agricultural system is going to be capable of feeding everyone.

When I see a family of more than two or three kids, I see a selfish family. Yes, we all want to have children, but at what

parenting license. The government makes us take classes and a test to do the easiest of tasks, such as fishing and driving, yet they'll let any old idiot get knocked up. Parenting takes a lot more effort and expertise than rowing a boat to the middle of the river and casting a line.

What's even more infuriating is that some people have kids specifically for the tax breaks. The government should punish families for having more than one biological child. (This would exclude multiples, such as twins.) Perhaps, then, people would think twice before deciding not to wear a condom.

Methods of birth control should be made cheaper and more accessible to the public. This could also prevent thousands of unwanted births.

I'd like to leave you with one final thought: a child is a privilege, not a right. The government insists on dictating every other aspect of our lives, so why not the one that makes the most impact on the life of not only the child, but the world in general?