

Nature Girl

People are animals, too.



"Because it's not natural." That explains (term used loosely) why we should change Oregon's Constitution to ban gay and lesbian couples from legal marriage.

According to Constitutional Amendment 36 campaign literature (another loosely-used term), nature never intended two men or two women to do what a man and a woman do – such as unfairly divide housework. Real marriage as nature intended is suitable for only one type of couple – no girlie men, or, we can infer, manlie girls – allowed.

The "natural way" (aka their way) is the only way, they say. Nature never intended for human beings to marry someone of their own sex. Neither did nature intend people to drive cars, wear socks, or eat Cheez Whiz, but that's another matter.

Amendment 36 proponents disregard the scientific proof that lots of nature's creatures like to pair up with their own kind. Among nature's un-natural creations – animals with a proclivity for same-sex coupling – are the macaque monkeys, chinstrap penguins, bonobo chimpanzees, and fruit bats. Other critters known to hang at nature's gay bar include dolphins, elephants, goats, guinea pigs, gorillas, orangutans, sheep, vultures, cardinals, ostriches and flamingos – some of which mate for life, which is more than you can say for most heterosexual humans. The list of nature's creations engaged in un-natural acts extends even to insects, notably burly female fruit flies and sissy male bed bugs.

You don't have to go that deep into the animal kingdom to find nature's own straying from the one-man, one-woman path. Look no further than our best friend. Yes, the beloved dog, often human's main link to the natural world, is, in some cases, a true "friend of Dorothy" – and we're not talking Toto.

Take the case of Jacqui, a perfectly natural pure-blood French poodle. This silver-grey beauty, intended by her owners for breeding, would have nothing to do with the boys. When Jacqui came into heat she wanted to hang with other female dogs – whom she referred to as "my peeps." Male dogs – not known for their ability to suppress their natural instinct – came around and the bitch (single entendre intended) raised her hackles, snarled, and bared her teeth. When that didn't get rid of her clueless suitor, she chased, cornered and nearly shredded him.

When her humans imposed breeding (aka the heterosexual lifestyle) on the little bulldagger, Jacqui attempted escape. Asserting the right to live as her own nature intended Jacqui is said to have pulled out her doggie cell phone and called the ACLU.

Despite the unequivocal fact that nature made Jacqui – and bedbugs, and The Village People – we still have misguided humans trying to impose a gay marriage ban on the grounds that it's unnatural. Measure 36 wants heterosexual-only marriage carved into constitutional stone. Apparently they can't tolerate the notion that some wedding couples might not look like the cake-top decoration.

In their eyes only heteros are deemed fit by nature itself to marry the person with whom they plan to share life's path – and expenses. Only male-female couples should be entitled to insure their spouse under company policy, make life-saving medical decisions for each other, and comment on the bizarre changes aging wreaks on their spouse's body. Heterosexual marriage, they've determined, should remain the only kind of marriage that is state-sanctioned and constitutional. Otherwise we'd have utter chaos where every couple who feels like it could go right out and promise to care for one another forever. Fine fix that would leave us in, everybody equally contributing to the 50 percent divorce rate.

Unless unequal treatment for gays and lesbians is voted into our Constitution, Amendment 36 supporters reason (really, really loose term), the natural order will be so disrupted that we face the destruction of "traditional marriage." Are they afraid that marriage equality will invalidate their picture-perfect fantasy where all marriages are the same and everyone votes however their pastor tells them to? What's so natural about that?

To volunteer to help the No on 36 campaign call 344-2811. Writer Sally Sheklow teaches writing at LCC Downtown Center.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOX AND UO

Bravo to Lois Wadsworth for refusing to pull punches in her review of *Outfoxed*. Her use of "toads" and "toadies" perfectly describes charlatans at Fox who have the temerity to describe themselves as newpersons.

They are blatant. But there is a more subtle reason "couch potatoes blot up" the lie that Fox has a news operation. Evidence can be found right here, at the UO, where a fine Journalism School confuses the public and demeans itself by awarding degrees in journalism to students majoring in public relations and advertising. Those fields operate in a way antithetical to journalistic principle.

It's a sham that can't be justified by adding the word, "communications," to the school's name. No wonder an unthinking public is ripe to equate Fox's blustering for legitimate news coverage.

*George Beres
Eugene*

CONCERN FOR DARFUR

I would like *EW*'s readership to familiarize themselves with the genocide in Sudan's Darfur region and join fellow concerned citizens in pressuring the U.S. and U.N. to mount a forceful humanitarian mission to Sudan without delay. I found a chilling account, including video of survivors of the slaughter and daily updates, at <http://passionofthepresent.org>

The genocide is still in its early phases — one million Sudanese are at risk and 100,000 have died as of Aug. 31. The unpopular government lacks the power to stop the genocide, even if they weren't complicit in it.

Use Rwanda as a history lesson: Extremists in the government first murdered moderates in their own party to clear the way so they could commit genocide. Some 800,000 Tutsis died while U.N. peacekeepers watched helplessly — they were not allowed to use force to prevent crimes against humanity. Romeo Gallieres, commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force, claimed that with 5,500 troops and the permission to use force he could have prevented the genocide. Instead, his (cries) were unheeded. He discovered that his miniscule force was a pawn in international politics used to calm the demands of first world people to stop to genocide. He also learned that, according to an official in the U.S. Department of Defense, the life of one U.S. soldier is worth 80,000 Rwandans.

I've seen "Get U.S. out of U.N." signs around Lane County. They want to keep our right to use our military uninhibited by any treaties. However, the U.S. has lost credibility after 50 years of increasingly bold imperialism, most recently in Iraq. We cannot mount forceful missions alone. This is a complex issue: politicians here and abroad routinely use the guise of humanitarianism to meddle in the internal politics of smaller countries. Educate yourself so you can make accurate demands of your representatives in Congress.

*Rose Wilde
Eugene*

REASON TO VOTE

As a recent college graduate who spent her teen years waiting for the day I could

register to vote, I am saddened by the fact that the majority of my generation do not vote. I wonder if my generation's non-voters realize just how important this election outcome could be when it comes to our future. In the Bush economy, tuition costs skyrocketed, making attending college a privilege only for the rich. Even in our "improving" economy, tuition at the UO is rising again. While George Bush does not seem to have any plans to reduce college tuition, John Kerry wants to help make college affordable for everyone. Through a "service-for-college" program, Kerry will allow young people to trade two years of service to programs such as AmeriCorp and PoliceCorp for four years at a public university. Many of the students who take advantage of this program will work in low-income elementary schools helping the younger generation prepare for a bright future. By giving such a short amount of time helping to improve the lives of others, any one who wants a college education will be able to afford one.

In this election, where every vote is critical, John Kerry is the only candidate who will provide the less privileged an opportunity to attend college without being overwhelmed by debt. And if the youth of this nation expect politicians to continue to care about the cost of education, they will turn out in droves this election.

*Jo Hedelman
Eugene*

EXTEND THE DRAIN

I would have to agree with Jeffrey Stout's assessment (8/26) of Jiffy Lube and their environmental program. If they were concerned about the environment, they would offer alternative oil that would extend the oil drain rates, and provide more protection for the engines of their customers. Longer drain rates means less used oil to recycle. I use oil products from Lubrication Engineers of Ft. Worth Texas. The additive package in the oil reduces friction, which enables me to get 3.5 more miles per gallon in my vehicle. I have extended my oil drain rate out to 20,000 miles with less engine wear. Some of us depend on a vehicle for our livelihood. We just have to minimize its environmental impact until an alternative comes along.

Lubrication Engineers' products are available to the general public, but I am sure Jiffy Lube could buy in bulk and pass the savings on. I found the company at www.le-inc.com

*Craig Taliaferro
Master Industrial Supply*

HOOKED ON PILATES

Kudos for printing an article (8/26) that includes Pilates! But you overlooked my favorite, The Pilates Center.

Located at 1680 Willamette (right behind Dot Dotsons), certified instructors Lara London and Elise Moore provide incredible (and challenging) private sessions and mat classes.

I discovered Pilates a couple of years ago when I pulled my Achilles tendon and couldn't run. Now I'm running again but I'm also hooked on Pilates.

Please spread the word for ALL the great facilities providing Pilates training in our community.

*Shaun S. McCrea
Eugene*

91.9 KRVM will be at the big E.C.!

• Keeping Real Variety in Music •

SIGNED BENEFEST GUITAR WILL BE RAFFLED !!

Look for our singing DJs in the parade!

Stop by our booth and say hello!

Buttons, T-shirts and Ballons, oh my!

See you at the Celebration!