

citizens' concerns about growth, land use and environmental protection? Or why "sprawl-friendly" candidates always seem so well funded?

Measures 46 and 47 are the Big Fix that Oregon needs to help restore a democratic system that verges on being completely dysfunctional. Amazingly, some progressive groups are opposing these measures, creating confusion. Oregon League of Conservation Voters has labeled them "deeply flawed" and "counterproductive." While I have supported OLCV in the past, I find it hard to understand how they can be on the same side as Associated Oregon Industries (the "pollution lobby") on this issue.

As Mr. Houser pointed out, if we wish to eliminate special interests, we must do so in an even-handed manner. OLCV is, after all, a special interest group too. So let's take advantage of this historic opportunity to promote government in the *public interest*. Measures 46 and 47 will provide a comprehensive set of reforms that will help put Oregon voters back in charge. Find out more at www.fairelections.net.

Eben Fodor
Eugene

DISTASTEFUL

I agree with Denise Lunn (10/19) in that I find your "Savage Love" column more distasteful than the escort ads. Of course, sex is a driving force in most people's lives, but to give space to its most seamy side is not something I think the majority of your readers want. This sort of thing belongs in a porn publication (if it belongs anywhere), not in *EW*. Please reconsider the tenor of this column.

Jane Dods
Springfield

WACKY SEX QUESTIONS

How fitting that Dan Savage's sex advice column replaced the display ads with photos for escort services. Many feminists love Savage, according to his profile in *Ms. Magazine*.

I've enjoyed reading Savage's column for years online and I look forward to reading it in *EW*. Newspapers are still more convenient than a laptop to read at a coffee shop.

Fans of Savage know he is not your mother's Ann Landers. Savage's unique perspective perhaps comes from him being a gay man who is raising a kid with another man he wants to legally marry.

Savage's advice is always entertaining even when I have no interest in the wacky sex questions. I am also intrigued by Savage's liberal views that often paradoxically overlap with the conservative philosophy of *Time* magazine columnist Andrew Sullivan.

Thomas Kraemer
Corvallis

NO SAFETY IN 43

Measure 43 seems at first glance like a simple and reasonable request. Most parents' reactions to notification are similar: They want to know if their teenage daughter is seeking an abortion. But it is not safe to tell every parent. The goal here is to get parents to look beyond their own daughters and see the community at large.

In this measure there is no exception for rape or for incest. Sending notification to an abusive home is putting gas on the fire. Girls who are trying to get help from medical professionals are frightened away by threat of parental notification. They are at great risk of taking things into their own hands and seeking an illegal and unsafe abortion from unlicensed physicians. This measure pushes vulnerable teens away from support systems that are safe.

Doctors are also at risk. If Measure 43 passed, they would be required to send a 48-hour notice via registered mail to parents of any girl 15-17 trying to obtain an abortion. These doctors are open to lawsuits if this letter does not make it to the girl's home for any reason. There is no exception for a mix-up at the post office. This is huge. Safe trained professionals could have their licenses taken away as a consequence of a postal service mistake. When this happens, the only safe resources a girl has for this procedure is taken out of her community. This measure is not safe. No on 43!

Marissa Gaulton
Dexter

AUDITOR APPRECIATION

Thanks you for the information about the new "internal auditor" the county has hired. I would hope that this is a position that can be described as a "performance auditor." I assume it is.

Auditing the books is one object of importance. A performance auditor audits the system of service delivery to the citizens. They not only could "save millions of dollars, increase accountability and efficiency and even make the administrators' job easier," but primarily they act as a consultant to the administrator and heads of the departments to help them fulfill their individual missions statements. Then they follow up with an audit later to see if the departments have succeeded in their plan. The need for this type of auditor is not to be "hard nosed," but rather helpful.

Until we can get that message across, the city staff or the city manager is not likely to be receptive to the idea. It's true: No one likes anybody looking over their shoulder. Most people appreciate helpful suggestions.

Bob Cassidy
Eugene

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC

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