

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Let's put community first

On the eve of the first anniversary of the District 18 Leadership forum a disgusting display of self-centeredness and political manipulation occurred at a scheduled debate sponsored by the Northeast Neighborhood Coalition for the Republican Chad Debnam and Democrat Margaret Carter. They are candidates for State Representative in District 18.

This debate never happened. Carter was a no-show because her campaign committee perceived a bias and disorganization surrounding the debates. Debnam gloated as Carter's non-appearance went over like indigestion among the 40-person crowd. But he finally conceded he had stacked the deck to favor himself. The debate ended when a panel member resigned because a member from both campaign committees engaged in a harsh, verbal confrontation before the audience at the King Neighborhood Facility.

This lack of dialogue left a big information gap as the true concerns, complaints and issues of residents in District 18 evaporated behind this petty display of political immaturity. Residents in District 18 are subjected to a universe of inequities in a galaxy called America, on a planet called Portland. Our children score three grades behind their white counterparts on their scholastic achievement tests; their parents are either unemployed or underemployed; and their mothers cannot walk the streets because outsiders regard Northeast Portland as the city's whorehouse.

As politically pitiful as it is, both candidates are conspicuously silent on these hard pressing issues. Instead, Debnam runs around crying that Carter will not debate him while Carter

does not run around at all.

On November 2, 1983 leaders in the Black community gathered to pull the resources of District 18 behind one candidate to prevent the humiliation of Ed Leek's victory over a list of fragmented Black candidates who split the votes up every which way.

During the leadership forum, the participants voted Carter the winner, earning her the unquestionable support of many. On May 15, 1984 the community glowed with her victory as she won two to one over the incumbent, three to one over the loser of the forum, Harold Williams, and four to one over Debnam.

That glow diminished to a twinkle as Carter stood voters up last Thursday. She should not expect the Neighborhood Coalition to have the political astuteness of the League of Women Voters. But District 18 voters did show up and the influence of the moderator, combined with two independent panelists, diluted the stacked deck. A politician goes where he or she is called and not to the most convenient or comfortable places.

Debnam's unethical behavior seems criminally insulting to residents who expected a fair and impartial debate. His failure to remedy this explosive situation added fuel to the fire as honesty, integrity and impartiality took a back burner to greed, exploitation and manipulation.

All of this proves that politics and politicians spend more time working against each other than working together for the good of the community.



The Observer endorses:

Walter Mondale, President
Geraldine Ferraro, Vice-President

Our endorsement of the Mondale/Ferraro ticket is a strong indictment of the unfairness of the Reagan Administration's genocidal support of South Africa. Reagan's economic policies have redistributed the wealth of America to create a wider gap between the haves and the have-nots. We feel the Mondale/Ferraro Administration will be fairer to all Americans -- not just those making over \$80,000 a year.

Margie Hendriksen, U.S. Senator

Hendriksen has one of the most progressive records in the Oregon Legislature on the environment, Affirmative Action and Senior Citizens rights. She has made significant contributions to the cause of individual freedom. She has backbone and will stand up for what she believes. She will be a much-needed voice in Washington, D.C. to represent all Oregonians.

U.S. Representative, 3rd District

No endorsement Ron Wyden (D), Drew Davis (R). Wyden's refusal to be an active opponent of South Africa and his support of the Sullivan principals, which makes apartheid more comfortable for the oppressed, is enough for us not to encourage voters to mark their ballots for him. Davis has no active political record that reflects the concerns and issues of our readership. Therefore, we issue no endorsement for Wyden or Davis.

Barbara Roberts, Secretary of State

Roberts has a solid record of service to women, workers and people of color. Also, her experience as Majority Leader in Oregon's House of Representatives is enough for us to encourage voters to mark their ballots for her.

Gratten Kerans, State Treasurer

His support for divestment of State funds in South Africa proves he would financially stick up for the exploited, exposed and unrepresented.

William (Bill) McCoy, State Senator, District 8

McCoy seems to be much more in touch with the community in the general election than he was in the primary. His experience in the Senate should produce results for residents in the district.

Margaret Carter, State Representative, District 18

Carter is the best qualified to represent the concerns of the district. She speaks out and tries to be informed on the issues.

Portland City Council

Dual endorsement of Herb Cawthorne and Bill Deiz. The *Portland Observer* urges voters to mark the ballots for either Cawthorne or Deiz. Cawthorne's School Board record, his dedication to progressive issues, his early support and work for the presidential candidacy of Jesse Jackson, prove he will be a progressive voice on the City Council. Deiz's experience working on Mike Lindberg's staff and his accessibility proves he would be a fair Commissioner.

Caroline Miller, County Commissioner, Position No. 3

Miller's support for the elderly, the young and the helpless is a much-needed voice on the County Commission. Always available, Miller could instruct other politicians on the who, what, when, where and why of citizen participation in county government.

Gretchen Kafoury, County Commissioner Position No. 2

Kafoury gave up her Seat in Salem because she believed in the self-determination of the community. Her political record and Human Service experience demonstrates that she will represent the district fairly, competently and progressively.

Michael Marcus
FOR JUDGE CIRCUIT COURT DEPARTMENT 13*

BALLOT MEASURE 2: Constitutional Real Property tax limit
NO on 2.

We ask voters to vote No on 2. We concede the desperate need for property tax relief and we are disappointed that the legislature did not have the guts to draft property tax reform. But the impact of this measure would devastate vital services and schools.

BALLOT MEASURE 3: Create Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) to represent the interest of utility consumers
YES on 3

Currently consumers have no voice in the rate-making process since the one-person Public Utility Commissioner has no backbone to stand up against rate increases constantly requested by the Utilities. Voters should ask themselves, "How much will my Utility bills rise because of the company's expensive opposition to Ballot Measure 3?" The voluntary membership group, CUB, will also provide invaluable consumer information to the public as fairness is restored to the process of rate setting.

BALLOT MEASURE 4: Constitutional amendment establishing State Lottery Commission.

BALLOT MEASURE 5: Statutory Provisions for state operated lottery if constitutionally authorized.
NO on 4 & 5

Who will reap the economic development benefits that this measure promises? The majority of players will likely be low and middle-income and non-whites, but there are no provisions to ensure that these groups will benefit. Also, there is an ethical question involved since a major manufacturer of lottery tickets helped write the measure.

BALLOT MEASURE 6: Exempts Death Sentencing from constitutional guarantees against cruel, vindictive punishment

BALLOT MEASURE 7: Requires by statute death or mandatory imprisonment for aggravated murder.
NO on 6 & 7.

There is something morally wrong with an "eye for an eye" justice system. The majority of inmates on the death row are Black males. We concede the need for corrective punishment but adding the death penalty to an already unfair criminal justice system is not the answer.

BALLOT MEASURE 8: Revises numerous criminal laws concerning police power, trials, evidence and sentencing.
NO on 8.

This measure is mistitled "Victims' Rights." It should be called the police rights measure. It has 25 separate provisions that have little or nothing to do with victim's rights. It would allow illegally obtained evidence to be used in court and tilt the scales of justice unfairly.

BALLOT MEASURE 9: Adds requirements for disposing of wastes containing naturally occurring radioactive wastes.
YES on 9.

Any restrictions on radioactive waste should be welcomed by all Oregonians. Pollution of ground water is already a major problem in many areas of the country. These basis health and safety provisions will give our children a chance to survive in the 21st Century.

BALLOT MEASURE 28: Justice Serial Levy.
NO on 28.

This is a disguised jail levy. A large part of the funds are targeted for opening up older jails. The funds will come from property taxes that are too high as it is. Other sources of revenue need to be explored to counter the criminal on the streets.

Letters to the Editor

#2 blues

To the Editor,

Much has been said and written recently concerning the effects of Ballot Measure No. 2, the property tax limitation measure, on schools throughout the state. Rightly so, because the effects can be disastrous.

Just as in any governmental agency, or private business for that matter, when revenues are reduced, services must also be reduced. Ballot Measure No. 2 makes no allowance for providing even the most necessary of services. Perhaps we ought to look at what happens to our great state when these essential services are reduced. Ask your special districts what they will have to do if Measure 2 passes.

Since June 1984 there have been several new districts formed. These districts did not levy taxes in fiscal year 1983-84. Since they did not levy for 1983-84, they can receive no tax revenues for 1985-86. None! That's a provision of Ballot Measure No. 2.

Ballot Measure No. 2 may solve one problem for the people of Oregon; but it will create insurmountable problems for years to come. A "no" vote is strongly urged in order to retain our lifestyle.

DONALD L. PICKENS

Preserve justice

To the Editor,

In recent years, the criminal justice system has been the subject of much debate. Criticism has been leveled at its various components. In response the courts and state legislatures have amended laws and issued new opinions. Groups such as the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency have undertaken major studies, such as the Oregon Prison Overcrowding Project, in an effort to obtain the raw data necessary to support well-reasoned change. At times, however, emotional pressures come to the fore on particular issues and serve as the impetus for hasty action. Such is the case in Oregon this year with Ballot Measure 8, the so-called Victims' Rights Initiative.

Ballot Measure 8 purports to be a victims' bill of rights. It is, however, nothing of the kind. Only seven of the 20 substantive sections deal with victims' rights.

The other remaining sections of the initiative reveal its true purpose. They are designed to radically alter many of the long-established procedures which ensure fairness in our courts and to increase the power of prosecutors in an unfair manner.

Section 22 is the most troubling section of Ballot Measure 8. It repeals seven statutes which are at the

core of our definition of individual rights. These changes would significantly limit individual liberty by increasing the right of police officers to stop and hold people, or frisk or search them on the street. It would also eliminate laws which help the courts deal with police lawlessness. This grouping of different laws is an abuse of the initiative process.

STEVEN WAX
Legislative Committee
Oregon Council on
Crime and Delinquency

Carter best

To the Editor,

I'm voting for Margaret Carter for State Representative for District 18. Margaret has been active in Portland Gray Panthers, Center for Community Health and the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs. She is aware of the people's needs in District 18.

Margaret is a former instructor at the Albina Youth Opportunity School and a counselor at Portland Community College. She works with our young people and knows they represent our future.

I urge you to vote for Margaret Carter who has been an active member of our community and knows how to get things done.

ZACKERY E. BOUEY III

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