

# EDITORIAL

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## The real statistics

### To the editor:

The Predator Defense Institute (PDI) recently released a comprehensive investigative report on the cougar controversy in Oregon. Here are its major findings:

- More than 93% of all cougar "incidents" recorded by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) from January 1994 to May 1996 were unconfirmed. The majority of the reports were based on nothing more than phone calls to district offices of the ODFW.

- Of the 832 cougar incident reported provided by the ODFW, 644 were recorded as sightings, and 188 as damage complaints, but only 3.25% of the sightings and only 10.10% of the damage complaints were confirmed. These percentages represent only 21 confirmed sightings and 19 confirmed damage problems

statewide in well over two years!

- There has never been a documented attack by a cougar on a person in Oregon history.

The PDI report invalidates the trophy hunter's claim that cougar incidents are rampant. It also demonstrates that a trophy hunting season does nothing to reduce the remote risk of an encounter between people and cougars.

Existing law already allows private landowners and state and federal damage control agents to eliminate individual nuisance cougars. It simply bars trophy hunters from harassing and killing cougars in the wilderness with the aid of packs of radio-collared hounds. Voters should oppose Measure 34 and prevent cruel and unsportsmanlike means of cougar hunting.

—Brooks Fahy

### Hispanic view of Republican party

#### To the editor:

As a Hispanic American businessman and a former active member of the Republican party, I would like to explain why this year, I will be supporting President Clinton.

Like the majority of Hispanic business owners, I feel the Republican party has become increasingly hostile to Hispanics. When we see the Republican party abdicating control to anti-Hispanic racists like Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole, Pete Wilson and Phil Gramm, we see a party that has deteriorated into a mean-spirited entity headed by bigots. Choosing Jack Kemp as the Vice Presidential candidate is too little, too late.

As result, Hispanic business owners like me have stopped supporting Republican candidates for President

and Congress and have started supporting Democrats. While President Clinton and the Democrats leave much to be desired with regard to sensitivity to Hispanic Americans, they have been much more supportive and inclusive to us.

Bob Dole has made a fatal error in embracing the anti-Hispanic policies of the right-wing of the Republican Party. And Gordon Smith with his new image and supposed more tolerant attitude, doesn't fool me or the rest of Oregon's Hispanic Americans. Come election day, I will be supporting President Bill Clinton and Senate candidate Tom Bruggere.

Frank E. Rivera,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Advanced Data Concepts

The tide is turning in California against Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action statewide ballot initiative. Recent polling by the Field poll shows that support for Prop. 209 has dropped below 50%.

Though the proposition is still favored by 47-32%, the percentage of undecided voters has now grown to 21%. And as Field poll director Mark DiCamillo was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle: "You can almost see the public pulling back a little."

The Field Poll was conducted from October 1-8, right on the heels of the California bus tour organized by NOW, the Feminist Majority, and the Rainbow/PUSH Action Network. Reverend Jackson toured the state from south to north over a four-day period, joining with Patricia Ireland, Eleanor Smeal, and Dolores Huerta to campaign hard against Prop. 209 in San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Sacramento, San Jose, and San Francisco.

## NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

### Stop Prop. 209

This bus tour generated enormous public and media response, and may have turned the tide against the initiative. As DiCamillo also noted, "...the more interesting aspect is that this has nothing to do with paid advertising. So all of the awareness is being generated through the free media."

African American voters strongly oppose Prop. 209 by 52-25%. Latinos also oppose the measure by a small margin, 44-42%, while Asian Americans are split 41-41%. Whites provide the plurality of support for the initiative, by 49-28% in favor. Women

currently favor Prop. 209 by a small margin, which means that changing the minds of white women will be the key to victory.

As TV and radio advertising kicks in during the final weeks before the election, these numbers will change. The good news is that the trend is in the right direction--and Reverend Jackson will continue to keep the pressure on. He led a rally in San Diego the day of the Presidential debate (10/16), and he is organizing a big rally in Los Angeles on Sunday, 10/27, to kick off the final effort to defeat this measure.

Once Californians realize who is supporting this measure -- Newt Gingrich, Pete Wilson, David Duke, and the Republican Party -- they will turn against it. Once Californians recognize that the biggest beneficiaries of affirmative action have been white women, and thus, the white family, they will turn against it.

Professions have opened up to white women, so that they can be doctors, lawyers, airline pilots, even astronauts.

At the same time, corporations have been downsizing and outsourcing the jobs of white men, leaving women as the main breadwinners for many families.

Once Californians are clear that affirmative action is a majority, not a minority, issue--benefitting white women, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and the disabled--then Prop. 209 will be defeated. As Reverend Jackson puts it: "We must feminize the face of affirmative action, and remind the voters that it is a majority issue. Then we will win."

## p e r s p e c t i v e s

### Are You Caught Up In The Net (of Education)?

A number of parents, students and teachers are making it perfectly clear that this is exactly how they feel about the media-driven onslaught from this audience with my suggestion that the "Information Superhighway" hooplah was reminiscent of the P.R. blitz which preceded the ill-fated "New Math" and "Metric" systems.

I really seem to have hit a nerve when I asked, "will the 'Net' also infinitely expand to conceal the fact there are many yet who cannot count, read or write very well, in front of or behind some desks." Several members of my industry organization, AOI, have voiced a similar alarm and like them, my years of industry experience enable me to recognize a well-financed, market-driven crusade when I see one.

Today, I am writing from a 'loaned-office' out here in the Beaverton-Hillsboro electronic pastures where a number of executives and managers are my former students at Portland State University. They say things like, "we already have too many in the work force who require remedial work in the basics because they have been ill-served by an education system heavily given to hyperbole -- and little to results."

And today at lunch we had the CEO, at a luncheon for supervisors and trainers, passing out photo copies of page 27 of the October issue of "Today," the journal of the National Education Association. He has both a wife and a sister who teach in the Portland School District and proceeded to quote extensively, if not approvingly, from the journal's hyperbolic excursion into the "Net" (Kickstart).

#### To the editor:

I am one of many llama ranchers in Deschutes County. I am, to my knowledge, the only llama rancher in the country to have had llamas killed by a cougar.

In spite of my experience, I oppose Measure 34, the baiting and hounding measure.

The passage of Measure 34 will do nothing to protect my livelihood or my livestock. It will only bring

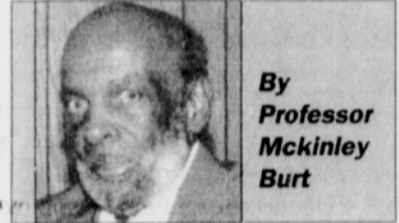
little use to students if teachers do not know how to use the technology to teach daily lessons'; like you would know how to teach a given subject with a computer if you didn't know how to teach the same subject without a computer. Could we get a product off the line with that kind of flawed logic? just what do they think a computer is?"

With an understanding nod toward the previous speaker, I prefaced my presentation with a citation of a coming book by Andrew Grove, president of Oregon's Intel Corp., the world's most successful chipmaker and Oregon's biggest employer, "Only the paranoid survive" (fear is healthy). I've met some very progressive folks from that firm and expect to make a presentation there as well. And perhaps gain some new consulting contracts.

I immediately made the point that had I been sufficiently "paranoid" and "fearful" of the bureaucratic Portland School District in 1969-1970 when I set up my 5000 sq.ft. "Telecommunications and computer Center" at the southwest corner of Belmont and S.E. 24th St. -- the Portland education scene would be quite different today.

In close agreement with this would be the many who came to my 'open house' in January 1969. No 'entertainment centers' or 'electronic play pens' for alleged "slow learners", it was all about an innovative and efficient new learning system -- the future!

Those still around, from school, government, industry and the community who were there, are left to wonder as to "how far ahead of the nation Portland schools could have been had they been able to see the



By Professor McKinley Burt

### No on measure 34

cruel and unsportsmanlike methods of trophy hunting back to Oregon.

It is rare for cougars to kill livestock. Cougars are efficient in killing traditional prey, such as deer, elk, rabbits, and porcupines. The rare cougar that kills livestock is usually a young animal seeking a territory; hound hunters don't want to kill these juvenile cougars because they are not desired trophies.

Hound hunters killing cougars

deep in the wilderness do nothing to protect ranchers from cougars. These hound hunters seeking trophies are not helping ranchers, because they are not targeting problem animals.

Farmers do lose money to wildlife, primarily to prey species such as deer, elk, and rabbits. Cougars prey upon these species, keeping their populations in check. Cougars help farmers and ranchers far more than they hurt them.

We must be rational, not emotional. Randomly chasing cougars in the wilderness and killing them will do nothing to solve the rare problem of cougar attacks on livestock. The Department of Fish and Wildlife and ranchers can and should deal with the rare rogue cougar under existing law.

I urge voters to oppose measure 34 and to support intelligent and responsible wildlife management.

Sincerely--Bill Boyer

## The other side of domestic violence

#### To the editor:

I am writing this letter because I am deeply concerned about the domestic violence law that is in effect in Oregon. At the risk of being jailed for perjury, I have something to say, and I hope that it is heard.

Less than a week ago, my husband and I got into an argument. In my anger, I went to the court house and filed a restraining order against him. I lied, I made up a story, and based on his criminal background, was granted an order against him. During court, I didn't cry, I had no black eyes, no busted lip, no marks what so ever to justify things that I said he had done to me. And I had said that he'd done

some pretty violent things.

I then called the domestic violence agency and had them serve the restraining order. They came over to my house to pick it up. Again, not once did anyone ask to see any bruises or marks. They just took my word. After all, I'm a woman and he's a man.

I have set in on several hearings regarding the issue of restraining orders. In one such hearing, a woman alleged that her husband had beaten her, threw glasses and other dishes at her, burned her with a lit cigarette, etc. She had no marks, didn't go to the hospital for the large lump she claimed she had from the thrown

dishes. In the end, it was found out that all the things she said that he'd done to her, she had in fact done to him. In this instance, there were actual witnesses. His restraining order was thus lifted, and the judge ordered them to go home and work things out. However, this man had been kicked out of his house, separated from his children, all because she was a woman, thus so easy to believe.

My husband now lives on the street. Why? Because I was angry and knew that this great old justice

system would work in my favor. I have an associate who claimed that her boyfriend beat her, filed a restraining order against him, and had it granted. She did this because she wanted to get high, and he wouldn't give her the money to do so.

Where is the justice in this state when our men, both young and old; black or white; rich or poor, have to suffer because women such as myself can't stand the heat, and don't know when to get out of the kitchen?

—Tamla Murphy

### Letter To The Editor

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