## **OPINION**

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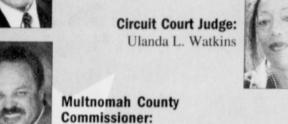
#### **Democracy in Action!**

#### Our Voter Guide:

The Portland Observer makes the following endorsements for the Nov. 7 General Election:



Governor: Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Democrat



Measure 40: No

Takes away your vote for all Supreme Court judges.

Lew Frederick

Measure 41: No

Tax deduction would reduce revenue for state services.

Measure 42: Yes

Credit scores in insurance rates discriminate against minorities, poor.

Measure 43: No

Another attempt to chip away at Roe v. Wade. Measure 44: Yes

Opens Oregon Prescription Drug Plan to all.

Measure 45: No

Throws out limited African-American incumbents with term limits.

Measure 48: No

Imposes arbitrary state spending limit that hurts schools, seniors and low-income people.

Multnomah County Library Levy: Yes

Retain our vital library services.

Portland Public Schools Levy: Yes Funding is needed to improve, maintain local schools.

CONTROL:

pees in the shower.

INSTANT

man thong

CONTROL:

### **Bringing Dignity to the Addicted**

#### Stress people's strengths, not their symptoms

BY KAREN WHEELER

If you've never been addicted, this may surprise you: Getting into treatment for an alcohol, drug or gambling addiction is often a frightening experience. You're afraid of change, scared to live without your habit, questioning whether you because people down about your failings.

Nobody can make treatment giving people hope supports wellness. easy, but Oregon is

ence.

I remember the story of a was a worthwhile person. homeless heroin addict. She wound up in the hospital after fighting addictions need to hear being hit by a Mack truck while bones, it was a miracle she even staff, writing into contracts with about hope for recovery; we vices.

survived.

The last time I though, she was in recovery from her addiction and encampus.

and Drug Abuse Programs.

Science tells us addiction is a disease, yet addicts trying to get only personal quality of life, but well may be treated more negasaw this woman, tively than the chronically ill person with heart disease, diabetes or cancer.

rolled in a master's in treatment -- say, an individual program on an Or- uses alcohol or drugs while on a egon university pass -- is often discharged from the program. But that is like What changed? denying treatment to the cancer

For the first time patient who misses a chemo You talk to a cancer patient about deserve success hope for recovery; we should be have beaten you talking to addicts that way, too. Regardless of the disease, we believe

going to make it a better experi- in years, someone -- it was her appointment or the diabetic who parole officer -- told her she eats a forbidden box of dough-

> It's the same message people when they're in treatment. This

We are telling state-financed treatment providers to stress people's strengths and resilience,

state-financed treatment provid-should be talking to addicts that ers and reporting to the way, too. Regardless of the dis-Governor's Council on Alcohol ease, we believe giving people hope supports wellness.

Recovery is an issue of not also reduced medical, judicial and other expense to the public.

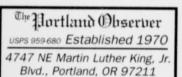
To be successful, treatment shouldn't be treated solely as a An addict who relapses while medical episode. It should be supported by families who are engaged, by peer-to-peer counseling, by alcohol- and drugfree housing and by other continuing supports that promote recovery

> People who want to get into treatment and recovery or who want to help a loved one should keep these two phone numbers handy: regon Partnership: 1-800-923-4357 to learn about alcohol and other drug treatment and Gambling helpline: 1-877-278-6766 for information about free, Lottery-financed treat-

No matter how long you have been addicted, we believe you have strengths to overcome your disease. We believe in your recovery.

Karen Wheeler is addictions wandering on a highway shoul- is what we're telling Oregon not their symptoms and illness. policy manager in the Oregon der. With dozens of broken Department of Human Services You talk to a cancer patient Department of Human Ser-

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# Retters to the Editor

The decision by a grand jury health and law enforcement comthat there was no criminal mis- munities work together. conduct in the police in-custody duty use of force.

for the outcome is our current ribs punctured his lungs. system which puts the District Attorney, who works with poof asking a jury to indict those same officers.

We are encouraged that the atportlandcopwatch.org. Mayor and the Chief are pledging to improve the way the mental

However, we hope that they death of James Chasse Jr. is do not divert attention from the disappointing, but not surpris- fact that James Chasse did not ing. As far as we know, there has die because he suffered from never been an indictment of a mental illness, he died because Portland Police officer for on- police officers beat him so severely they fractured 16 of his We suspect that one reason ribs and splintered pieces of his

We look forward to giving the community a space to remember lice on a daily basis to indict James Chasse, Jr. in a peaceful criminal suspects, in the position memorial vigil next Friday at First Congregations Church. For more information see our website

Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch

#### **Politicizing Judges**

has avoided judicial partisanship. concept that is contrary to a fair This protects judges from being and impartial judiciary that tries swayed by campaign contributions and has helped to maintain public respect for our courts. redistricting when legislative dis-Measure 40 will end that great tradition.

elected by a district (not state- ests. wide, as now is the case), with the Legislature drawing the districts and assigning existing appellate judges to particular districts.

The measure may be appealing at first glance because it seems to foster geographic diversity, judiciary.

Measure 40 undermines judicial independence. Its sponsors know the measure will make it easier for special interests to pick off appellate judges who make decisions they don't like - or to dissuade judges from making those decisions in the first place.

Measure 40 invites the Legisjudiciary by carving Oregon into else. districts for purposes of electing Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges. Voters would then elect judges to "represent"

Unlike many states, Oregon their district, which itself is a to follow the law.

Measure 40 requires judicial tricts are reapportioned, assuring that the lines will be drawn at Measure 40 provides that each the height of partisan wrangling of Oregon's Supreme Court and in the Legislature. It makes judges Court of Appeals judges must be more vulnerable to special inter-

Instead of voting in all seven Supreme Court races, each voter could vote in only one. Instead of voting in all 10 Court of Appeals races, each voter could vote in only two. Special interests will have a greater impact on smaller, regional elections where they can but this is a Trojan horse for exploit single issues, and 15 perthose who would politicize the cent of the voters in just one district could force a recall election of a judge, instead of needing 15 percent of the voters in the entire state, as is now required.

The judicial branch is intended to serve as a check on the legislative and executive branches. Instead of bending to the political sways of the day, judges should decide disputes impartially and to lature to play politics with the be faithful to the law above all

> Don't put our judicial system at risk. Vote 'No' on Measure 40. Gary M. Berne

Portland attorney



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