

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Supporters of recall are not the issue

The defense developed by supporters of Columbia County Commissioner Bruce Hugo presents him as the only person in state and county government who has ever accomplished anything positive; it also implies that his opponents are people of bad character.

What his supporters haven't done is address the issue: Hugo was convicted of two counts of theft of county money and one count of using his office for personal benefit. The two theft counts stemmed from 21 separate incidents when he used a county credit card for personal benefit. It was not a single mistake; it was a pattern of malfeasance.

A mailer defending Hugo was sent to voters claiming there would be "A return to backroom deals in the county courthouse," if Hugo is recalled. That may not call Commissioners Joel Yarbor and Bill McDonald dishonest, but the only thing it lacks is to spell out their names. The statement also strongly implies that former county commissioners Jack Peterson, Michael Sykes and Dale Heimuller are dishonest. Apparently Hugo's supporters forgot whose fingers were caught in the till.

On the front of the mailer, in big, bold letters is: "Bruce Hugo is not the first public figure to make a mistake. But Bruce might be the first to honestly admit he did." The first sentence is accurate; the second is ludicrous.

Hugo's supporters say he should be retained because he is bright and competent. That attitude says a lot about their ethical standards—it's okay to retain competent thieves, but inept thieves should be recalled.

This situation is why the recall process was developed. The only issue is that Hugo stole county monies and used his office for personal gain. He should be recalled.

Court decision no surprise to watchers

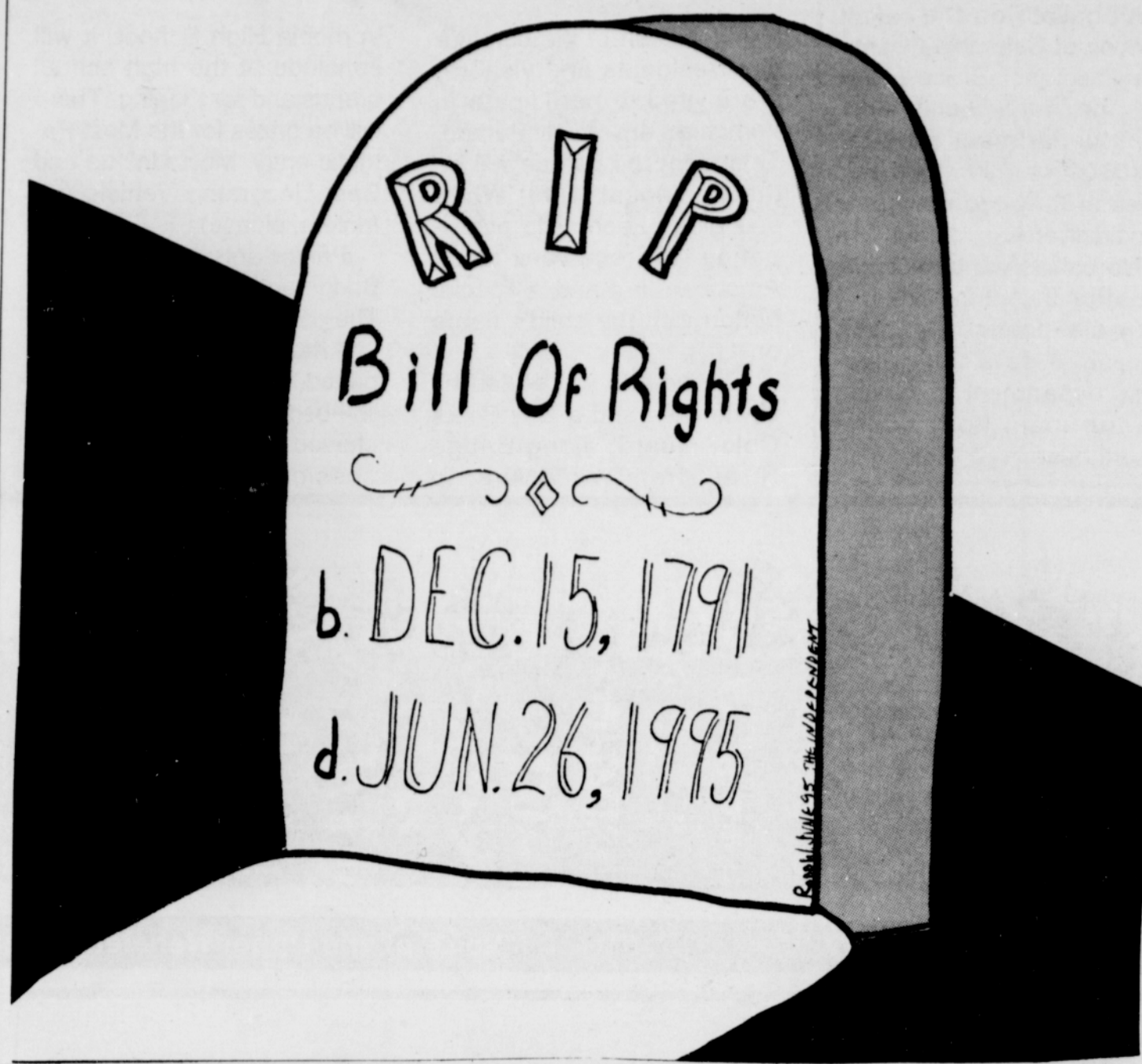
Anyone who has been watching the steady erosion of constitutional rights over the past fifteen years, especially the rights of juveniles, can't be surprised by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of Vernonia School District's mandatory "suspicionless" drug testing policy.

The most discouraging part of the majority decision was the emphasis Justice Antonin Scalia placed on the importance of having schools function as surrogate parents, rather than considering the purpose of the Fourth Amendment.

On the other hand, Justice Sandra O'Connor, who wrote the minority opinion, presented an outstanding, brief history of how and why Fourth Amendment rulings have evolved.

For the first time ever, the court has permitted random searches of a broad group of people without grounds for suspicion, according to Stephen Kanter, a professor at Northwestern School of Law.

This decision threatens the rights of all Americans.



The Josi Report

By Rep. Tim Josi
Oregon Representative, District 2

Now that the 1995 Oregon Legislative Assembly is over I want to take this one last opportunity to thank everyone again for the chance to serve as your State Representative. I recognize what a privilege and honor my fellow citizens have bestowed on me by sending me here to be your collective mind, heart, and voice. To be entrusted with formulating public policy that will affect my friends and neighbors is a great responsibility. I will always be indebted to you for your confidence in me to do the job well.

Though I am moving on to a new life with my family I want you to know that this experience has touched me in many ways that I will never forget. I can truly say I have grown as a person during the five years I have served you, and I would like to think that this personal growth and awareness has increased my ability to serve you well.

Over the three sessions I have represented you, the state has had to address many divisive and difficult issues, that is, of course, to be expected. As our state's population increases and our traditional resource-based economy gives way to one that is service and technologically based we will continue to experience disagreement on which policies are best to carry our state forward into the next century. It is now that we need to be thinking in the long term so we may develop a coherent plan which will enable Oregonians to continue to enjoy the beauty and bounty of our

great state.

Some of the most important of the issues that face us entail the use of our natural resources. I have been fortunate to be on committees that worked these policy areas. The questions of how, when, and by whom our resources will be used will continue to be extremely important. We have worked on these issues constantly and will continue to work on them; there is no escaping it. How do we devise good land use planning laws that protect our farm and forest lands without destroying reasonable growth? How do we maintain or recreate healthy watershed systems to ensure clean water? How do we divide our water so that human consumption, agriculture, business, and fish survival needs are all met? How do we protect and manage our wildlife so that clams, salmon, deer, and yes, even spotted owls, are still here in years to come?

I have come to believe that we can find common ground on which we can address these questions and arrive at answers that will benefit us all long term. It is not easy, but it is possible. I sincerely hope that I have been a positive part of this process during my tenure in office and that as I leave the legislature, our state will be better for my having been here.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you.

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Ike Says

By David Michael Jones, member
Isaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

I just got back from a fishing trip on the Deschutes River and would like to share some information with our readers. I was fishing the salmonflies and golden stoneflies for native redsides and hooked and lost the biggest trout I have ever had on a fishing line of any type. That "hook-up" was on a black stimulator; but I had the best luck on bullet headed salmonflies. This is not delicate dry fly fishing, the flies are often all of two inches long and fish are aggressive as one could possibly want. In four days (two trips) I hooked, landed and released

(granted, some were long distance releases) more large native trout than I ever have in my life of fishing. I brought a number of fish in just long enough to turn the barbless hook out and slip them gently back into the current. One of the largest I had to hold in the eddy of my waders while its mouth and gill covers pumped the cool, clear, oxygenated water past its gills. When it felt strong, I gently released it into the river. A nice three to four pound trout released into the clear water of its home to propagate its species.

The reason this fishery is so good is because it is a baitless, barbless fishery in which