

Port Orford Today!

Port Orford's most popular newspaper
Distributed from Bandon to Gold Beach

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The Downtown Fun Zone

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Golfers' Heaven

By Evan and Valerie Kramer

Day 10 (Sat., Aug. 24) - Grantown -
Edinburgh (Airth)

On the way south, we visit (when open) the Ballroom of Balmoral Castle - the Royal Family's Scottish retreat and Crathie Church, where Princess Anne was recently married. (When Balmoral Castle is closed, we will visit Glamis Castle, childhood home of the Queen Mother.) Then we pass through Braemar, host of the Royal Highland Games, to the university town of St. Andrews and its world famous Golf Links. Finally, we cross the splendid Forth Bridge to reach Airth Castle. (FB)

Leaving the northern-most on our journey we left the Inverness area and headed south towards London. The drive thru the Scottish Highlands was, as always, beautiful. Our guide, Rona, told us about grouse hunting and fishing in Scotland. It seems it's not as simple as in the United States. It is very tightly controlled, permits are expensive and catches are very limited.

We made a stop in Pittlochry, conveniently located at a wollen mill outlet. Valerie bought a sweater, a scarf, and an audio tape of British folk music while Evan got a vest and some shirts.

Because the royal family was in residence at Balmoral Castle, we got to visit Glamis Castle (pronounced glahms). The Queen Mum who lived here in her youth is now 96 years old. Glamis is a real castle. We visited about 10 rooms on our tour and got to traverse old, stone spiral stairs, see the 3' thick outer walls, and speculate on the location of the entrance to a secret room. Many of the rooms were very elegant and seemed fairly modern in construction but others let you get a real feeling of being in an ancient castle.

We passed through Dundee, Scotland's 4th largest city, famous for 3 "J's" - jam, jute, & journalism. From the bus we saw the RSS Discovery which carried Scott's polar expedition. Dundee was a whaling port until World War I.

From Dundee, we headed to St. Andrews and the east coast of Scotland. St. Andrews is the home of the British Open and they say it's the birthplace of golf. We had a good view of the 18th hole but we're not sure now if it was the course they hold the British Open or not as they have four courses at St. Andrews. George, being an avid golfer, thoroughly enjoyed the visit and took home plenty of St. Andrews Pro Shop souvenirs!

The golf courses are located near downtown and are right along the coast. This

was Evan's one and only opportunity to take a little stroll along the nice, wide beach and watch the sun setting to the west, over land.

Continuing on south we crossed the Firth of Forth on a major highway bridge. Beside the auto bridge was an even more impressive railroad bridge. At the foot of the railway bridge lies Haws's Inn (sp?) in which Robert Louis Stevenson wrote "Kidnapped."

It wasn't far from St. Andrews to Edinburgh where we finally got our delayed Fish & Chips on the pier at Harry Ramsdens. We spent the next two nights in Airth Castle. Well, not actually in the castle, but in a very modern room in a nearby building.

Day 11 (Sun, Aug. 25) - Edinburgh
Sightseeing

On our morning sightseeing tour, we visit the imposing Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland's elegant capital, and view Holyrood House, the former home of Mary Queen of Scots. The rest of the day you're free to shop along elegant Princes Street or visit a nearby Stately Home. Tonight try an optional Scottish evening with haggis, Highland dancing and bagpipes. (FB)

Continued Inside

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Port Orford Tide Report Courtesy of the Port Of Gold Beach

Date	High	Low	High	Low
Thu Oct 24	10:31am 7.8	4:21am 0.8	11:10pm 6.8	5:07pm 0.3
Fri Oct 25	11:11am 8.1	5:06am 1.1	NONE —	5:56pm -0.3
Sat Oct 26	12:02am 6.8	5:51am 1.4	11:48AM 8.2	6:40pm -0.6
Sun Oct 27	-1:53am 6.7	5:33am 1.8	11:25AM 8.1	6:22pm -0.7
Mon Oct 28	12:39am 6.5	6:12am 2.2	12:01pm 7.9	7:04pm -0.6
Tue Oct 29	1:28am 6.3	6:54am 2.6	12:37pm 7.6	7:48pm -0.4
Wed Oct 30	2:17am 6.1	7:36am 2.9	1:15pm 7.2	8:30pm -0.1
Thu Oct 31	3:09am 5.9	8:25am 3.2	1:56pm 6.8	9:17pm 0.3

Golfers' Heaven

Continued from Front Cover

We spent a couple of days at Airth Castle, north of Edinburgh. We arrived in that city on the last day of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Tattoo is held in a makeshift stadium assembled in front of the port-cullis to Edinburgh Castle. It holds over 9,000 people and takes three months to erect and six weeks to disassemble. Most of us on the tour would like to have attended the Tattoo but being the last night it was already sold out. It ends with a lone bag piper playing. The Tattoo is part of the month long Festival of music and arts that takes place every August. The main street leading to Edinburgh Castle is named the Royal Mile. This was where people built their homes and businesses who wanted to be seen by the royal family as they departed and came back to the Castle: Today it is a wildly successful commercial street and was jammed with people enjoying the Festival.

We started our day in Edinburgh with a bus tour of new town and saw the former homes of Lister, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson and others as we drove around. Then we saw old town including a brief stop at HolyRood (rood = cross) castle at the lower end of The Royal Mile. The tour finished by taking us to the upper end of The Royal Mile and into Edinburgh Castle. Before we entered we saw the 11:00am changing of the guard. We saw the prisoners-of-war cells and the military prison. We saw a huge cannon that threw a 14" (approx) ball 2 miles. After the tour we shopped. Valerie got a jester's cap and a wizard's hat for £10 each from a street vendor and three books on bagpipes. Later she listened to a piper for half an hour while the rest of us searched for bargains and the hidden rest rooms.

The miracle mile had frequent "closes". A "close" is a narrow foot passage that leads from one street to another. Generally the entrance from the street was

Official Weather

Provided by the City of Port Orford
Public Utilities Department

Date	High	Low	Rain
Sat Oct. 13	62	46	.02
Sun Oct. 14	60	46	.32
Mon Oct. 15	60	42	Trace
Tue Oct. 16	59	41	—
Wed Oct. 17	59	49	1.35
Thu Oct. 18	56	41	.51

something of a tunnel through the row of buildings. Some led thru dirty courtyards of garbage cans and some would surprise you with a beautiful garden. It seemed quite an adventure to explore them.

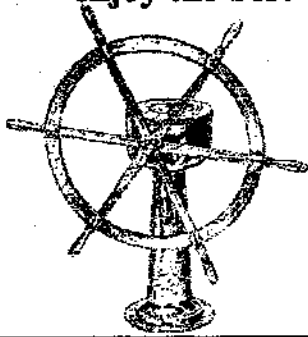
Our Sunday evening dinner was a special event called, "A Taste of Scotland" held in the round stables at Prestonfield House. As we left the bus, we were greeted by a piper at the door and ushered in to our table for dinner and a musical show. Seating was at very long, narrow tables at which we were packed like sardines. The menu included Flan of garden vegetables with seasonal leaves or cream of leek and potato soup, sauteed breast of grampian chicken or baked fillet of salmon, vegetables, raspberry shortcake, coffee, and the special treat . . . Haggis, bashed neeps and champit tatties which was served "during the interval" (intermission). It was an interesting experience but not one I'd care to repeat. Among

Continued in this issue

Wheelhouse Restaurant

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but our customers
enjoy the best



Golfers' Heaven
Continued . . .

other complaints, the cigarette smoke drove Evan and I from the hall several times.

If you want to know what Haggis is, you can read a traditional recipe at <http://alpha.wcoil.com/~highlndr/haggis.html>. Of those brave enough to try it, one person said it tasted like spiced ham. Someone else said it was "gristly - gritty"

The show ended about 11pm and we rode back to Airth castle. We were up early the next morning at 6:15am and we'll tell you about that part of our journey next week.

Breakfast Special

October 24 - 30

One Egg, Small Order
Hashbrowns, 2 pcs Bacon
or Sausage, 1 pc Toast

\$3.20

Hours:

7 am - 9 pm Every Day

Harvest Hoe-Down

Our Port Orford Beachcombers will hold a special Harvest Dance the first Saturday in November.

Johnny Nichols will call the squares starting a 8:30p.m., & Denise Harris will cue the rounds. Pre-rounds will begin at 8p.m. All square dancers are welcome, and we invite anyone interested, to observe. We will have a Photography corner set up to take pictures.

The Beachcombers Hall is located just 2 miles north of Port Orford on Nichol森 Drive. Come join the festivities Saturday November 2.

Dahlia Open Field

Rogue River Dahlias will host its fifth annual Open Field on Sat. and Sun., Oct. 26 and 27 from 10:30am to 2:30pm at its farm near Gold Beach. Visitors are invited to stroll around 25 acres of dazzling dahlias - from delicate anemones to giant dinnerplates. Five-foot wide beds splash brilliant stripes across the landscape in brilliant oranges, radiant reds, deep purples and pure whites. Photographers and gardeners alike look forward to this annual event.

According to owner Ralph Mathison, "We try to open the field once each year so folks can come and enjoy the dahlias up close. We hope folks will take a leisurely stroll by the field and snap a few pictures. For those who simply can't resist the temptation, we're repeating our popular B. Y. O. S. (Bring Your Own Shovel) cash-and-dig dahlia sale for \$3 per plant." This is the only time each year when the field is open to the public. After the Open Field, the dahlias will be mowed, dug, sorted and packed for shipment to wholesalers in the US and Canada.

"Over 200 varieties are in bloom again this year. And the color display promises to be tremendous! Folks who have visited us before will want to take special note that we have moved; our new farm is on the South Bank of the Rogue River, approximately 2 miles east of Highway 101 on Jerry's Flat Road. Look for the signs - and the flowers." For additional information, call 247-2828.



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Elect

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bill Roberts

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Commissioner #3

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bartlett's Cafe

Sunday Oct. 27

Barbecued Ribs

Monday Oct. 28

Chicken Enchiladas

Tuesday Oct. 29

Beef Stew

Wednesday Oct. 30

Lasagna

Thursday Oct. 31

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26th Annual Xmas Bazaar

The 26th annual Community Christmas Bazaar will take place in Brookings on Saturday, November 16th at the Brookings Harbor High School. Vangie Andreason & Marilyn Shipley, Co-chairpersons for the Christmas Bazaar, announced that all 90 tables have been sold and there is a waiting list for any drop-outs. For many it marks the beginning of their Christmas shopping. The Bazaar features displays from individuals churches, local organizations, and youth groups, many who use the proceeds as a main fund-raiser for their yearly activities. There is such a variety of hand-crafted items that most people tour the tables more than once to see the things they missed the first time around. There will be many homemade goodies, breads, candy, honey' jewelry, dolls, ornaments, angels' doll clothes, mall hangings, quilts floral arrangements' toys, scarves, paintings' ceramics, and much mmm more. There will be a Christmas Tree and for \$1.00, you may select any gift wrapped package of your choice. The traditional Bazaar luncheon will be sewed; a ho' chicken salad casserole, molded salad, homemade pie, rolls and coffee or tea. The luncheon is from 11am An 1pm. The

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sponsoring organization, Brookings Nite Extension Study Group, maintains a strict watch on products, requiring a focus on handmade arts & crafts. As one of the largest events in the community, the Bazaar draws enthusiasts from hundreds of miles away to both the

show and the accompanying luncheon put on by the combined Brookings area Extension Groups. The Bazaar is open to the public from 9am to 5pm. There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend.

Pat Davis, publicity Chair

Letter To The Editor

Martha Weaver-Britell deserves the votes of all Coos and Curry County voters who are fair, open-minded and dedicated to maintaining Oregon's livability.

I have never seen anyone with more dedication and willingness to learn everything about the job she is doing than Martha. Her preparedness at Port Orford City Council meetings is second to none. She has repeatedly shown a remarkable working knowledge of city ordinances and a willingness to confront any issue with courage and compassion. Her par-

ticipation in the Point Orford Heritage Society, North Curry Families' and Children's Center, North Curry Strategic Planning Team and various other civic organizations all exemplify this same drive and dedication.

No one is more concerned about the difficult and sometimes contentious issues which face Oregon today than Martha. Martha has the unique ability to bring people together rather than create divisiveness. Whether it be rural vs. urban, industry vs. natural resource, or old vs. young, she always sees working together as the only satisfactory way to solve problems. As a native Oregonian, I see great value in creating a diverse and open-minded Oregon where people of different viewpoints and backgrounds live in harmony. Martha Weaver-Britell exemplifies that standard and would be a perfect addition to Oregon's House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Holly Witt

Council Workshop Session

The Port Orford City Council will hold a workshop session on Monday morning, Oct. 28, 8:00am, at the Paradise Café.

Elect: Lloyd H. Olds

County Commissioner Position#2

"CONCERNED CITIZENS"

Business Owners - loggers - Fisherman - Environmentalist

The Timber Workers are being told, I'll shut down logging.

The Contractors and Builders are being told, I'll put a gate at each end of the County and stop all development.

The Environmentalist are being told, I'll do everything in my power to open logging, and building up all the way.

The Commercial Fishermen, and Sports Fishermen are just absorbing all the rumors coming their way, and trying to sort out fact from fiction.

Here are some facts to help you make your decision.

FACT: I am in this campaign to help our County. I have no other motives, or personal vendettas.

I will do everything in my power to help the Timber Industry, the Fishing Community, and the Citizens of Curry County. We must look forward to our future together.

As a child, I have many fond memories about riding in my Dad's logging truck. As an adult, I have set chokers, fell trees, and operated heavy equipment. I understand your problems, and dangers you face, not to mention the hard work

involved. I seldom touch a piece of lumber without thinking what it took to get it to market.

As a former Commercial Fisherman out of the Port of Brookings-Harbor, I understand what long hours and treacherous Oceans mean. I know that to be one of the "High-Liners", you must work on your boat when everyone else is picnicking.

You have to be putting your gear in the water, when everyone else is eating breakfast. I understand! I've been there!

One of my earliest, and longest loves has always been the outdoors. I began hunting at nine years of age, trapping at twelve, (it's in my blood, one of my Great Grandfathers trapped with Osborne Russell, and Jim Bridger in the 1830's). I love to Fish small streams, and have hiked most of the Cascade Wilderness in Washington State. I love our Country and its Wilderness Heritage. I consider myself a Common Sense Environmentalist, as we all do.

When it comes to Businesses, Building, Developing, and Contracting. Many of my friends are Builders and Business owners. I watch as they struggle each month to make ends meet.

To everyone in our County I can only promise that I will represent each person, or group as if you were the only ones I had to represent.

Am I promising you the world? NO! What I am saying is - I truly understand your concerns and needs. I will do everything possible to use Common Sense when making decisions that affect all of us.

Don't get caught up in Rumors, Garbage Gossip, and Empty Promises Check the facts, before you make a decision.

If you want down to earth representation from someone who will put every effort into trying to help, then I ask for your vote and support on "November Fifth".

Thank You!

Lloyd H. Olds





Elect

John Spicer

Curry County District Attorney

John Spicer has worked in Curry County for the past 22 years as an attorney in the general practice of law. His experience in the area of criminal law and his extensive trial experience have involved Class A, B, and C felonies and misdemeanors.

Because of his 22 years of criminal law and trial law, John Spicer has the experience and knowledge needed to best benefit the community.

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Sixes Grange Meeting

Sixes Grange #856 will hold its monthly business meeting Thu., Oct. 24, at 7:30pm, at the Grange Hall next to Sixes Store. No pot-luck is planned.

A highway clean-up is planned for Sat., Oct. 26. Please meet at the Grange Hall at 10:00am, weather permitting.

Bereavement Support Group

The regular meeting of the Bereavement Support Group will be on Friday, October 25, at noon, in the Truculent Oyster Restaurant, 236 6th Street, Port Orford.

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a spouse, child, relative, partner, or friend is invited. For more information, please call Donna Smith at 332-1300 or Luana Berens, LCSW, at Curry county Home/Health Hospice at 247-7084, 469-0405, or 1-800-535-9472.

Can You Solve Them?

We haven't done any of these for a while so sharpen up your detective skills and give them a try. Answers below.

89. In his own home a man watches as a woman dies, yet does nothing to save her.

92. A man is alone on an island with no food and no water, yet he does not fear for his life.

93. A husband coming home hears his wife call "Bill, don't kill me!". He walks in and finds his wife dead. Inside are a postman, a doctor, and a lawyer. The husband immediately knows that it was the postman who killed his wife.

93. The postman is a man. The doctor and lawyer are women.

92. He is on a traffic island.

89. He saw it happening on TV.

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Letter to the Editor,

The past eleven years, I have known and worked with Elaine Joy on various committees, and I know her as honest, hard-working, and trustworthy.

Elaine's always there for her children and their activities, and her door is always open to the youth of Gold Beach. She's currently co-chair of Project Graduation, and you'll always see Elaine at GBHS cheering on the teams.

Her strong work ethic is beyond compare. Elaine is open to other's ideas, giving credit where credit is due, and a pleasure to work with. Elaine is running for County Clerk, because she has been asked by so many, many people in the Courthouse and throughout the County, and Elaine loves and wants to serve Curry County.

Elaine gave us four great years as County Clerk before (plus 12 years as Elections manager) and we need her sincere, friendly attitude back in office again. Take note...everyone from Port Orford and Brookings...most of us in Gold Beach that know both candidates, are definitely voting for Elaine Joy.

Elaine has run a first class campaign, although her opponent has distorted the truth and made false statements. Elaine has not stooped to that style of campaigning. Elaine, as always, handles herself with integrity and honesty, and is a person that Curry County can be proud of to elect as our next County Clerk.

Linda Boyd

Thanks Merchants

The Cedar Bend's Women's Association wishes to thank Port Orford merchants who generously donated money and prizes to the fund raiser held for Oasis Shelter Home. A good time was enjoyed by more than seventy players and a sizable check was written to help Oasis stay available to battered women and their children.

Thanks locally go to Buck's Sentry Market, Sister's Natural Grocery, The Wheelhouse Restaurant, The Wooden Nickel, Coos-Curry Supply, Jennie's Old Town Cantina, Grantland Mayfield, Western Builder's Supply, Crazy Norwegian's Fish and Chips and Bartlett's Café.

We had successful tournament and fund raiser. Another big thank you to all those who helped make it so.

Elect Lloyd Olds

Editorial Opinion By Evan Kramer

I support Lloyd Olds for Curry County Commissioner, position #2. Olds gained a lot of respect from me when he trounced the incumbent Democratic party commissioner in the May primary thus doing his part to give residents of Curry County a chance for a new voice to be heard in Gold Beach.

Lloyd Olds credentials are impeccable. He served three terms of duty in Vietnam. He has worked as a fisherman and owned and operated an opal mine. He served as Justice of the Peace for eight years in Brookings as well as Brookings Municipal Court Judge for eight years. Judge Olds ran again for Justice of the Peace in May, 1994 and beat 4 opponents winning with a 67% margin. However, the justice of the peace positions both he and Richard AuFranc in Port Orford were elected to were not funded by the board of commissioners. Both justice of the peace courts were eliminated as of January 1, 1995, before Olds got to serve one day in office.

Lloyd Olds hasn't made campaign promises he can't keep or raised our hopes to unattainable levels. He has promised that if elected he will form advisory committees from all parts of the county which he will use to help him stay better informed of each area's needs. He has given his word he will listen to the people. He deserves to be part of the new majority on the board of commissioners.

Democratic Women

Democratic women in Curry County are meeting at noon for a no-host luncheon at Sporthaven Restaurant at the port in Brookings-Harbor. Discussion will address the 23 ballot measures, pros and cons.

All democratic women and their guests are invited to attend. For more information call 469-4215 or 247-7944.

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State Ballot Summary by Valerie Jean Kramer

I've tried to make sense out of the 1996 Voters' Pamphlet and thought I'd share my research and opinions with you. I know some of you will disagree with various decisions I've made. That's ok. This country has thrived for 200 years on diversity. What is important is that you learn about the issues then vote to express your views. The more informed votes, the better.

Measure 26 - Principles of Crime Punishment

Changes the constitution to read punishment for crimes shall be founded on the principles of "protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one's actions and reformation" instead of "reformation and not of vindictive justice."

Arguments in favor assert that the change will better protect citizens, especially from those criminals who we are unable to reform. Opponents fear that the loss of "not of vindictive justice" weakens the citizens' protection from the state.

Valerie Kramer says, "vote yes." Lets take action to protect innocent crime victims now. We can protect the guilty from vindictive justice when, or if, it becomes a problem.

Measure 27 - Legislative Oversight of Administrative Rules

Changes the constitution to require the legislature to review and approve rules filed by state agencies.

Arguments in favor say it will make agencies more accountable and will reduce the number of rules generated. They claim the executive branch of government is too powerful. Opponents say that this review process would burden the legislators, that the rules are made by experts but would be reviewed by people with less expertise, that too much power would be put in the hands of the legislators, that important health and safety

rules might be delayed, and that bureaucracy and red tape would increase.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." We all want less red tape and fewer rules but this isn't a good answer. The legislature can pass new laws to correct problems with agencies' rules. The voter initiative process provides another control. This measure violates the concept of separation of powers.

Measure 28 - Residency Requirements for Veterans' Loans

Repeals certain residency requirements in the constitution regarding eligibility for veterans' home and farm loans

Arguments in favor assert that similar restraints have been found unconstitutional in other states and that the change will provide more equitable benefits in comparison to other states. No arguments against were submitted.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." It's fair; It shouldn't have any significant financial impact; and it would probably be required if challenged in court.

Measure 29 - Governor's Appointees

Currently a governor's appointee who is not confirmed by the senate can hold office until a successor is appointed and confirmed. Prop. 39 amends the constitution so that s/he can hold office for only 90 days after which the office is vacant.

The legislature claims this will encourage speedy action on appointments by both the Governor and Legislature. No independent arguments in favor were submitted. Opponents argue that the Legislature could effectively abolish committees by not confirming appointments.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." The system works and I see no compelling reason to change it.

Measure 30 - State Pays for Mandated Programs

Amends the constitution to require the state to give money to local governments for the cost of any new state-mandated

programs or for increased levels of services for such programs. If passed, the voters would have to reconfirm it in the year 2000 or it would be repealed on June 30, 2001. The measure includes a number of conditions and exceptions.

Arguments in favor assert the change will make the legislature more accountable for their actions and will bring more stability to local budgets. Arguments opposed feel the law is too confusing and could lead to a different quality of life in different parts of the state.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." This was a tough call for me. Because there are ways for the legislature to work around it if necessary and because it is only for a trial period with voter confirmation required to continue beyond 2001, I feel it's worth trying.

Measure 31 - Limiting Free Speech

Amends the constitution to say, "Obscenity, including child pornography, shall receive no greater protection under this Constitution than afforded by the Constitution of the United States."

Proponents assert the need for better regulation of the location of various businesses. Opponents fear a fragmenting of one state standard into hundreds of local standards. They oppose censorship and support the freedom of citizens to decide for themselves what they read, see or hear in the privacy of their own home. They cite a variety of classic novels, plays, and movies that have been censored in the past under similar laws. They cite the recent Oregon Supreme Court's confirmation that nothing in the existing free speech law prevents "the vigorous prosecution of child pornographers."

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." I do not want someone else to decide what is fit for me to see. I'll make my own mind up, thank you. As an author, publisher, and owner of a video store, I feel very threatened whenever these pro-censorship measures arise. So far, Oregonians have

consistently defeated them the same way we constantly reject state sales taxes. I hope you'll join me in defeating Prop. 31.

Measure 32 - Authorize Bonds for Transportation Projects

Passage of measure 32 permits the state to raise \$750 million for various transportation projects especially the Portland region "South North light rail." The Voters' Pamphlet has nine pages of detailed laws involved.

Arguments in favor cite increasing traffic congestion in Portland and the need for alternatives. They point out that money will be available to other parts of the state as well. Arguments opposed claim the light rail project (the cornerstone of this measure) is an expensive boondoggle that will cost more than the estimates and will not reduce congestion as much as other lower-cost alternative ideas.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." I like rail vehicles but I don't see why the whole state should pay for Portland's folly. The terrain to be traversed has too many hills, valleys, and waterways which will make the project much more expensive than rail lines in flatter parts of the country. Portland will have fewer riders and a higher cost per passenger-mile than bigger cities. Money to repair country roads shouldn't be funded by bond issues - it is an ongoing need and should be funded by road or gas taxes or from the state general fund.

Measure 33 - Limit Legislative Change to Statutes Passed by Voters

Amends the constitution to prevent the legislature from amending or repealing laws enacted thru the initiative process for a period of five years. After five years a 3/5 vote is required.

Arguments in favor assert that this measure will prevent the legislature from circumventing the will of the voters. Arguments opposed express concern that the law may be unconstitutional.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." I sym-

pathize with those who drafted this initiative but the arguments in favor gave only one example that this problem exists and it happened in 1988. We elect the legislators and if they do not conform to our will, they can be recalled or replaced at the next election.

Measure 34 - Repeal 1994 Bear/Cougar Initiative

Measure 34 would repeal all laws other than legislation and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) rules enacted since 1975. This includes repealing the 1994 initiative limiting hunting bear and cougar with bait and dogs. All authority to manage wildlife would be given exclusively to the OFWC which is composed of seven political appointees.

Arguments in favor claim the public is endangered by the cougar population and that those who voted for the 1994 limitations on hunting methods were, "duped by a bunch of out-of-state wackos." Opponents claim that baiting and hounding are cruel hunting methods. They claim that killing predators in the wilderness does nothing to protect livestock. They claim that current law allows continued hunting of cougars (using other methods) and "places no restriction on how managers and property owners may deal with cougars posing a threat to public safety or livestock."

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." I enjoy eating meat and I'm not opposed to hunting in a fair and sporting manner. Neither public safety nor ranchers will be helped by this measure.

Measure 35 - Health Care Payments

This measure would require that health care providers be paid for the actual work they do (five choices of payment plans) and prohibit pooling lump sums which pay for referrals, tests, treatments, and from which any leftover moneys go to the provider as a profit.

Arguments in favor claim that funding pools discourage health care providers from giving needed tests, referrals, and

treatments because they cut into the provider's profits. Specific cases are cited as examples. Arguments opposed claim that medical costs will rise and that the Oregon Health Plan could be lost.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." Costs may increase but I'd rather pay more and get proper treatment than save a few dollars and die, be crippled, or remain in pain because a provider wanted a few bucks more profit. Lets solve this problem now and continue to look for ways to safely reduce the cost of health care.

Measure 36 - Raises Minimum Wage

This proposed law would raise the minimum wage from \$4.75 now to \$5.50 in 1997, \$6.00 in 1998, and \$6.50 in 1999. The minimum was last raised in 1991.

Arguments in favor cite the increased cost of living and difficulty of getting by on a minimum wage job. They claim a low minimum wage encourages people to go on of welfare. Opponents claim that the raise is too extreme, that jobs will be lost and prices will increase. They also point out that the Federal government already raised it to \$5.15 this August. They argue that minimum wage jobs are entry level positions to allow new workers to acquire skills and are not intended to be jobs for primary bread-winners.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." The minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation over the last 25 years and needs to be corrected. This adjustment is painful but it is only fair to the many hard-working people who are underpaid.

Measure 37 - Bottle Deposits

Expands deposit program to include beer, water, and many other beverage containers.

Arguments in favor ask why containers made of the same materials, by the same manufacturers, distributed by the same companies and sold in the same stores should be treated differently. They claim the law would reduce litter, reduce garbage going to landfills, save energy, and

create jobs. Opponents claim the law is too confusing and unfair.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." I wish it had fewer exemptions but it's a step in the right direction. It costs very little, encourages recycling, and reduces litter. This is in keeping with the state spirit.

Measure 38 - Control Livestock Water Pollution

This measure seeks to prevent water pollution caused by livestock. It permits anyone to sue violators.

Arguments in favor claim it will protect the public health, improve salmon fishing, reduce water treatment costs, and increase fishing jobs. Opponents claim compliance could require expensive fencing and that expensive litigation could destroy ranchers and farmers even if they are found innocent.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." We all want clean water but this measure seems more interested in attacking ranchers than in clean water. Why else would the measure be aimed solely at pollution from livestock instead of at all sources of pollution? I also dislike the broad invitation to lawsuits included in the text of the measure. We can find a better way to protect our streams than this hostile action.

Measure 39 - Health Care Discrimination

Amends the constitution to prohibit discrimination among health care provider categories. For example, insurance could not exclude chiropractic expenses.

Those in favor feel Oregonians should be free to choose their medical care without penalty. They claim that safe, effective, and lower cost treatments are often available but are discriminated against by HMO's, insurance companies, etc. They say the measure will foster competition, and reduce costs. Opponents claim costs, including workers compensation fees will go up. They claim measure 39 is some kind of evil plot by the tobacco industry.

They claim the measure's language is vague and confusing.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." Increased competition and lower cost alternatives should reduce costs, not raise them. The measure is written clearly, simply, and concisely. I don't know if the tobacco industry backs it or not and I don't care. This measure makes sense.

Measure 40 - Crime Victims' Rights

This constitutional amendment would assure victims of crimes of various rights (13 rights were listed) including the right to have all relevant evidence admissible, the right to receive payment from a person convicted of an act which caused financial loss, and the right to try all charges in a single trial.

Proponents of this measure feel criminals will be less able to get off on technicalities, that it better protects the victims, and makes the entire process more visible to the victim and the public prohibiting hidden bureaucratic decisions to lessen sentences. Opponents claim it would take away your rights, that it is expensive and unnecessary and that it goes too far.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." We've all heard of criminals who went free due to technicalities and loopholes. This change seems fair and could prevent many injustices.

Measure 41 - Reporting Public Employee Earnings

Amends the constitution to require that all publicly funded employees' earnings shall be expressed in terms of total compensation (wages + benefits + vacation + retirement, etc.) per hour actually worked. Grants the public a right to access the complete information regarding total compensation of all public employees.

Arguments in favor feel that the public has a right to know how its employees are paid and that this method will allow for more fair comparisons and better informed decisions by the public. Oppo-

nents claim the information is already available, that the measure has no place in the constitution, and that it will increase costs.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." What do public employees have to fear unless they are being vastly overpaid. If so, the public ought to know about it! Lets get the truth on the table!

Measure 42 - Testing and Public Reporting of Grades 4-12

Amends constitution to require annual testing of all grade 4-12 public school students. Current law requires testing in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.

Proponents claim this testing will make our school systems more accountable and will help schools more quickly identify and fix problem areas. Opponents claim students will lose instructional time, communities will lose local control, that teachers will focus on test contents and that it puts unnecessary pressure on students.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." You can't fix a broken machine by looking at part of it every two or three years! Annual testing will let the public know exactly how good (or bad) a job their local schools are doing and will help identify and fix problem areas before students are beyond help.

Measure 43 - Collective Bargaining Law For Public Safety Employees

In 1995 the legislature changed the law to limit required issues for bargaining, reduce categories of public employees allowed to unionize, permit employee discharge in more situations, and changed the arbitration process. This measure would repeal those changes.

Those in favor claim that without this change they can't hire the best people and your safety will be jeopardized. The opposition claims the measure is an attempt by labor unions to grab back their unfair advantage.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote your conscience." The arguments in favor were

transparent attempts to scare the voters into voting yes. Only one argument was submitted in opposition. Neither side laid a clear groundwork of facts. I'll probably vote no.

Measure 44 - Increase Cigarette Tax & Fund Oregon Health Plan

This measure would permanently increase cigarette taxes by 30 cents per pack. The tax on other tobacco products would be increased from 35% to 65% or wholesale cost. A higher percentage of the tax would go to the state and less to local governments.

Arguments in favor claim that tobacco causes health problems and that a tax on them should be used to support medical care. They also claim that money spent on tobacco use prevention will reduce health problems (and expenses) in the future. The higher price of tobacco products will also discourage children from buying them. Opponents claim its unfair, that health care providers make too much money, that business and jobs will be lost, and that other programs will be hurt by the redistribution of tax moneys.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote yes." Tobacco has been shown to be deadly and addictive yet more children are falling victim to it every day. Tobacco use causes many medical problems, especially expensive problems such as heart disease and cancer. It is only fair that those who invite those problems should contribute more to their cure and control. If you don't like the tax, stop using the products. I wish you would, both for your own health and for the example you'll set for children.

Measure 45 - Raise Public Employees' Retirement Age and Reduces Benefits
Amends the constitution to raise the normal retirement age (except police and firefighters) from 58 years old to the Social Security retirement age (now 65-67.) Public employers could allow early retirement with reduced benefits. Medical benefits for PERS retirees would be

eliminated for non-disability retirees. Does not apply to benefits vested or accrued before effective date.

Those in favor claim this measure will put public employees on a more even footing with taxpayers. They claim the average public employee retiring in 1995 after 30 years gets \$2705 pension per month + social security (when of age) + cost of living increases + medical and dental care until medicare begins. By retiring at 58, these people can still go out and get another job. Those opposed cite the Oregon Supreme Court's decision that ballot measures can't interfere with bargaining agreements and that this measure would lead to costly litigation.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." If the facts presented are accurate, it would seem that public employees get excessive benefits. Powerful unions won't allow this to be changed. Since the courts ruled corrections by initiative unconstitutional, I don't know how to return to fairness but wasting time and money on a measure that will likely be overturned by the court seems pointless.

Measure 46 - No Vote Means a NO Vote

Revenue and tax measures may now be passed by a majority of those voting. This measure amends the constitution to require a majority of registered voters. Those not voting would be counted as "no" votes.

Arguments in favor claim that as little as 17% of the registered voters could impose taxes on everyone. Those opposed say it would make it almost impossible to raise revenues.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." It is better for the country to be run by the 17% who study the issues, discuss them with friends, family, and coworkers, and vote than to be run by the uninterested 83% who don't make any effort at all. This measure is a mean-spirited attempt to shut down government.

Measure 47 - Reduce and Limit Property Taxes

Amends the constitution to reduce property tax for 1997-98 to the lesser of 90% of 95-96 tax or 100% of 94-95 tax. For following years, the tax could be increased by no more than 3% per year. Provides a number of exceptions and loopholes.

Arguments in favor claim the state is raising property taxes too high and that the state plans to raise property taxes \$620 million over the next two years. Opponents claim that Oregon ranks 50th (dead last!) in support of higher education and that the situation would be worse if 47 is passed. They say it reduces local control, is less fair, and will lead to confusing assessments.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." Prop 47 doesn't address the real issue of rising assessed values. A 3% increase would just keep pace with current inflation leaving no room for new or improved programs and no cushion for years with greater inflation. It would be difficult to repair the damage from this measure.

Measure 48 - Term Limits

Amends constitution to instruct state and federal legislators to vote for congressional term limits in federal constitution. Non-compliance would be so noted on future ballots.

Proponents claim that congress won't vote for term limits without voter incentives such as this measure. Opponents fear it could lead to a constitutional convention that might make unwanted changes to the federal constitution without requiring state ratification. They say that even if you favor term limits, you should vote no on 48.

Valerie Kramer says, "Vote no." I'm not sure about term limits but I am sure I don't want to see a constitutional convention called. The risks there are much too great.

Whatever you believe. . . VOTE!