

RAMPAGE

Weekly

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CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP -

A Viewpoint from the Rampage Weekly

History, Politics, and the Fact

By Amy-Klassen Cox

One of the top issues in this year's elections was campaign reform. Many ideas were presented to the incoming Congress, and one request stands out among the rest. Aside from limits on financial contributions, one of the items being considered is the implementation of a national petition process, allowing every eligible voter to cast a ballot on national issues. This possibility raises some serious concerns.

The main question here is, what use would there be for the current legislative branch of the federal government? Are the Congressmen (and women) not elected locally to represent their constituents in the nation's

capitol? The senators and representatives are chosen to be the people's voice, to cast the people's vote on national issues. If those represented do not agree with their decisions, the power of re-call does exist to unseat politicians that displease the voters in their district.

There is a reason that the government is set up the way that it is. The founding fathers drafted the constitution to insure individual's rights and liberties, while constructing the government to keep the balance of power equal with a system of checks and balances. Elitist in their thinking, they felt that common men were not capable of coming to highly important decisions on controversial subjects, as at that time only the wealthy were able to afford an education at a university.

The people, which were at that time free white men, were allowed to elect representatives whose judgment they trusted to be fair and sound. As ridiculous and outdated as this mode of thought is, it does lead to a disturbing question.

If the citizenry was allowed to vote on national issues, how would it be known

See FACTS Page 4...

Proposition 209

A wise man once said, "You can't legislate morality." You also can't force people to do the right thing. The problem with Prop 209 is there shouldn't have to be laws forcing people to hire minorities and women.

This proposition is worded to make a person feel they are voting against discrimination but to many, it seems to remove a law that bans discrimination.

Being a victim of discrimination myself, I can honestly say I'm sorry this bill passed. As a young single mom of four in the seventies, I earned as much as \$2.50 per hour less than my male counterparts although I did the heaviest and the hardest work. When I enquired of my employer why he simply stated, "Because you are a woman, my dear."

An employer couldn't do this these days because he would be libel for a lawsuit. Is it now back to the old standards of hiring, and lower pay for being "less qualified"?

Of course there is an argument for Prop 209, because some people were passed over for minorities who may not have been as qualified for certain jobs. By "qualified" it means, some have had better advantage for education, they are not a different color, they are not the "weaker" sex.

Some will say they worked hard for a position and it

Proposition 209
By Pat Leon
Proposition 210/215
By Amy Klassen-Cox

Prop. 210

Proposition 210, the minimum wage initiative, passed with nearly two-thirds of the voters' support. This initiative will increase the state minimum wage to \$5 per hour on Mar. 1, 1997 and will further increase to \$5.75 per hour on Mar. 1, 1998.

Supporters of this action

- See Propostions Page 4 -

The Government Protects its people

By Ryan LaMar

With the passing of Proposition 215 came a barrage of red flags thrown everywhere. The supposed good intentions of this Marijuana Medical Initiative may actually do more harm than good.

With how loosely it is written, it seems to me it will be legal for a doctor to prescribe a joint to a six-year old with a boo-boo on his knee. Also wary of this proposition are the peace officers, moralists, and insurance companies, from which court action is all but sure to ensue.

This brings discontentment to the voters who so ardently ensured passage of the initiative. They feel cheated because what was rightfully voted in is not guaranteed to them and will be at the mercy of the conservative-dominated court system. They view our democracy

as a debauchery, because in their eyes the government does what it wants while suppressing the citizens by giving them a false sense of power.

Actually this view is incorrect. Though to some, government may represent a public enemy, it actually plays the role of protector of the people. In 1994 Proposition 187 was overwhelmingly passed by California voters. This proposition proposed the immediate withdrawal of all benefits to illegal immigrants and threatened deportation. But to the chagrin of the voters, it was overturned in court.

Why? Contrary to popular belief, the majority of Californians receiving public assistance are *citizens*. Also most of these illegal immigrants are cheap labor and provide for the prosperity of one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world and deserve the benefits they receive.

If Proposition 187 found acceptance in the courts, agriculture would experience a cheap-labor shortage which would force more expensive labor to be hired, thus in return creating higher prices and disgruntled consumers. The courts not only protected the minority from being forced to suc-

See Protection Page 4...

Proposition 215

Opponents of Proposition 215 will not let their opposition to the medical use of marijuana die without a fight. They plan to go to court to block implementation of the newly passed initiative. They have also threatened to seek out a higher power—the federal government, to enforce laws that still outlaw marijuana as an illegal substance. Their arguments against this initiative that barely passed with 55% of the vote, center on the facts that it does not require a physician's written prescription, nor does it state any minimum age requirement for those who wish to use marijuana.

The facts are that this measure will allow the cultivation and use of marijuana strictly for medicinal purposes, and only with a physician's approval. This measure will not allow recreational use of the drug or its sale. Many AIDS and cancer patients, as well as those afflicted with other serious illnesses, have been using prescribed cannabis for pain relief, and will now be able to do so without fear of prosecution. Tight controls that limit marijuana use to patients only will remain in place.

It's a shame that even though the people of this state voted, sending a clear message that more of us feel that it's okay for seriously ill people to use marijuana medicinally than those who do not, this measure may be overturned in court. It goes to show what a fallacy our concept of democracy is when a majority of us can reach a decision on an issue, controversial or not, and then have the displeased minority undo all of it in a court of law. It is not democratic, and it is not right.



Photo by Nathan Reppert

And the results are in...

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LIBRARY OR PRISON / THE OTHER SIDE...

By Leah Eddens

Last week's story by Sukhvir Singh Sodh, entitled "Library or Prison," has caused quite a commotion.

The article, alleging unfair treatment of minorities, and a stifling of a creative study atmosphere by library staff is "the latest tactic in an ongoing war between librarian Virginia Jolliff, and a certain group of students from India," one assistant librarian said.

"We were really surprised that the Rampage did that story without checking with us first. It was really unfactual," Jolliff said. "We've had problems for many semesters, it seems to be primarily with this group. When it's always the same group you remember."

Other librarians agree with Jolliff. "It's a group of six or seven students from India who have been going into the new wing of the library, kicking up their feet, gabbing and playing cards." Said librarian Ron Byrd. They have been kicked out of the library about three or four times; Dean of Students Robert Fox and the police have been contacted in the past because of the disturbance this group causes.

Byrd said that there have been several complaints from other students about the noise level when this group is present. He goes on to say that that the rules allow two people to talk quietly at a table, and if they wish to seat more to a table, there are accommodations around the corner of the room. If all else fails, there is the cafeteria which accommodates eight people per table and a substantially higher noise level.

"We're here to serve," said David Racki, Reference Librarian. "We do so much for students, for them (the group of students) to blast us like that is just too much." The librarians hold that they make the rules, and the rules are expected to be followed.

MEIKO'S
Corner

By Meiko Brumfield

LETTING GO

Are you a freshman college student who is troubled by the recent distancing between your friends and yourself? Are you wondering if you did something to offend you high school chums to make them neglect to call you and hang out like in the past? Are you yourself being interrogated by your homies for your lack of socializing, and can think of no logical reason why these events are happening?

hanging out is replaced on many students' list with studying, work or time spent with lovers. This doesn't mean that your friend no longer values your company—it just means that they choose to do other things with their time. A lot of my friendships are estranged due to school, work and the impact of priorities in my life. A lot of my friends are married, have children and rarely call, and I myself have

very little time to devote to keeping in touch with them. I think of them often.

As people grow up they also grow away from past habits, inclinations, activities and yes often friends

This is no case for *Unsolved Mysteries* or a chapter in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* but

rather something that happens often to recent high school graduates. As people grow up they also grow away from past habits, inclinations, activities and yes often friends. Once you're out of high school you have access to a vast number of experiences and have the opportunity to research who you really are. You may decide that college is not for you and choose to work full time or join a branch of the armed services, and you may find that your former friends may not agree with your decisions. Hopefully your friendship is based on respect and you and your friends can agree to disagree, but sometimes that does not happen and friendships are ended because of this alone.

But priorities change once out of high school and

understand that they are going on with their lives. Perhaps that's the way it should be. And as I say goodbye this week to my best friend who is pursuing his career in the military, I know we will communicate less and less, and have I accepted this fact.

He may not approve of the decisions I've made in my life just as I may not approve of his, but we both wish the best for each other and leave it at that.

So understand if your friends aren't around as much and use the free time from it to discover who you are as an individual. Cherish the memories you have of yourself along with your friends and keep them close to your heart though your friends may be far from it.

Dear Traci

By Traci-Ayn Grider

DEAR TRACI: It's close to the end of the semester; one month to go. I have a son, Scott. He's five. There's been no man involved in our life since I divorced his father. He's a bright boy and I don't want another man in his life unless I know he's Mr. Right. Well, so come here lately, I thought I'd found Mr. Right. He's an old friend from school and everything. I had a crush on him for 6 years. I even invited him to my wedding. I forgot to give him the address, but I invited him. Anyway, we've been talking practically every day for the last six months. It's been kind of a weird relationship but it's been obvious that we have feelings

for each other. He always used to say he had to get over his old relationship before he got in a new one but then he'd act so much like he liked me. I started dating someone else briefly, not too long ago and that's when we started seeing each other more on a different level. He comes over. He calls a few times a day but only a few weeks ago when he was mad at me, he said he didn't love me. Here's the problem. I gave him a \$200.00 necklace for his birthday last week with a charm on it that looks a lot like one he wears now. \$200 isn't a lot, but one: I'm a college student, and two: I have a son to buy things for. It was pretty and gold too. A week went by and

I asked him if he was wearing it and he said, "No, it's the Star of David. I'm not Jewish." "What?" I was thinking. So I acted like I didn't care. He went home a little while later and I haven't answered my door for him or the phone since. Today's the fourth day. What do I do? He couldn't possibly give a rat's BLEEP about me or he'd wear the chain anyway or just take the charm off, right?

NAUSEOUS

A> DEAR NAUSEOUS: Take a sea sick pill. I just did. When I received your letter I thought, "Great, finally a serious question to answer. But I analyzed it to death and put it through the mill and then, came up with several hypotheses. All in which I had to dig in to the possible psychosis of your partner. All so that what? I could get the real answer from a six year old. You see, I explained the situation to my son Joshua. Then, I asked him to consider a scenario for me. I had him figure out a thing that he disliked most. He came up with it, which reading books alone. Then, I asked him who his favorite girlfriend at school was. He replied adamantly "Stacy and Monique." I explained the value that adults put on money and gold and compared that to a powered car. Then, I simply painted a picture in his head...If Monique and Stacey gave you a gold chain for your birthday that had a long gold charm that said I LOVE TO READ BOOKS ALONE, would you wear it? He said, "But I don't like to read books alone." I said, "I know. That's the problem. So would you wear it." He said, "Yeh, because they're my friends. I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings. I'd wear it because they gave it to me." Sometimes there is no one wiser than a child and there is no view more pure or simplistic. "I would wear it because they gave it to me." I suppose the moral of this story is, actions speak louder than words!

RAMPAGE
Weekly

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POLICE LOG

11-5 A student was reported missing by his wife. The student's wife later found him at the student services building.

11-6 An unknown male exposed himself to a female student in parking lot D. The suspect was a white male driving a red pick-up. He was not apprehended.

11-6 A student reported being attacked on the Fresno Area Express bus while en route to FCC. The suspect was identified as an FCC student, but was not apprehended.

11-13 A student reported that she had been assaulted by a white male. Officers responded, apprehended the suspect and took him to Police Headquarters where he attempted to flee from the officers. The suspect was caught and transported to the Fresno County Jail.

The Rampage apologizes for the previous issue's story of the student receiving unwanted love letters. Sexual harassment is not to be taken lightly, and it should not have been reported as such.

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\$2.75

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Friday 6:30 am - 4:00 pm



ASB President, Cary Catalano



Patricia Valdez



Aaron Johnson

Question: What is your opinion on the election outcome?

Aaron Johnson, student, age 21.

"209 didn't surprise me, but I'm surprised that 215 passed. I don't think that the media should be so involved, they should have waited before they announced results in California."

Cary Catalano, ASG president, age 22.

"It's what I expected it to be. It's basically holding the status quo. I was disappointed with voter turnout."

Patricia Valdez, student age 21.

I'm surprised with the outcome of the propositions, but I'm not surprised with the presidential outcome."

Levi Winebrenner, student age 23.

"For 215 if things are done properly it'll work out, but it won't. I'm glad it's over, the political hype for the last two weeks has been a bit much."

Jeanette Powell, student age 18.

I wanted Dole to win, but I didn't get to vote. I haven't paid much attention because I wasn't registered."

Katrice Jackson, student, age 18.

"Even though I was registered, I didn't get to vote. I am pleased with the presidential outcome, but I am disappointed about 209, I think that's a big setback."

FACTS from front page...

are uneducated or ignorant of all of the various facets shaping today's issues. It is merely used to illustrate that many voters might vote impulsively on issues that demand close scrutiny and debate, something many citizens simply do not have the time to do with their work, school, or children taking up the bulk of their day. In theory, a national petition process where every single eligible voter actually casted a ballot would be wonderful. Unfortunately the reality is that voter apathy is already high, and those that do vote do not represent an equal sampling of our society. Traditionally, the old vote more than the young, the poor vote far less than those that are financially comfortable, white people vote in far greater numbers than all of the minorities combined, and those with strong religious beliefs take to the polls in force. Perhaps it is better to keep the national law-making process as it is, with the elected representatives doing what they were elected to do and voting on the issues that come before them.

That is a much more comforting thought than issues being decided by a biased public already too busy to pay attention to anything beyond their own opinions and viewpoints.

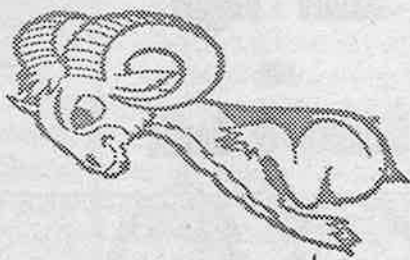
Protection from front page...

people. On the most part these elected officials are highly educated, specifically in law and economics, and are quite knowledgeable with the issues, whereas the majority of the people are not. They are paid to be meticulous in analyzing, scrutinizing, and debating the issues concerning a public that is apathetic, undereducated, and assiduous with other affairs. They make the decisions in the best interests of the people instead of letting them haphazardly vote in a direct democracy. Another problem with direct democracy is it is not completely representative because only a minority vote. Even though an indirect democracy too is the result of a minority vote, the elected officials from it represent both voters and non-voters—a broader representation. Through

this process the majority are protected from the inhibitions of the minority, and both are protected from their collective ignorance.

With the use of representative assembly and the court system, our government is effectively protecting its people from their worst enemy—themselves. Because the majority of Americans lack the knowledge required to make adjudications concerning paramount topics, it is to their benefit having representatives decide most of the issues for them, and the judicial branch to check these definitives. This is why Proposition 215 should have been a legislative matter, and it is essential that its fate is to be determined in court. Remember: Big Brother is watching you, but he's not such a bad guy after all.

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Propositions continued from front

209

hire a minority by law. No one should discriminate against another person. The ideal would be that we are all willing to not demand our rights, but to give others in need an opportunity to help themselves by education and work, and in that way cut down on hand-outs.

210

purchasing power of the minimum wage, as well as make work more rewarding than welfare. They claim that this will allow people to become more self-sufficient, saving the state millions of dollars in health and welfare programs.

Those opposed to this measure state that it will only hurt the economy. They claim that since our minimum wage will be higher than that of the federal wage or of any other state, we will suffer from severe inflation along with less jobs for the young and unskilled. Another fear that they have is that this will cause more people to go on public assistance, and also cause hardships on small businesses.

Whatever your opinion is on the issue, proposition 210 has passed much to the relief of the citizens currently earning a minimum wage.

215

would force their morality upon a public which obviously doesn't share their views? It is sickening to think that somewhere out there, there exists an overzealous minority bent on policing our values and morals.

RAMTOP 10 LIST

TOP TEN OFF-SEASON SPORTS ON ESPN

- 10- UNINFLATED BASKETBALL
- 9-FAT GUY HACKY SACK
- 8- NO HANDS AUTO RACING
- 7- SHIRTS & SKINS SPEED TYPING
- 6- AMISH RAKE FIGHTS
- 5- MINIATURE HORSESHOES
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