

editorial Second coincidence

The State Board of Higher Education meets Tuesday, March 23, to vote on a 23 per cent tuition increase. By coincidence, the meeting falls during the middle of spring break when most students will be off campus. This is not the first time such a coincidence has occurred. A 12 per cent tuition increase was approved last summer on June 24, after the end of the regular school year.

George Layman, board president, explains that board meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every other month and that this schedule is set by the board's administrative rules. "It's just a coincidence that this meeting falls during spring break," he says.

Several factors make it difficult to change the date of board meetings, according to Layman. Board members live in different parts of the state. Further, the time schedule of the budgeting process restricts the changing of dates because the board is approaching the end of the current budgeting year (June 30).

While these factors may make rescheduling of the meeting difficult, they are not impossible to overcome. A week's delay until March 31, the first day of classes for spring term, is not unreasonable. Such a delay would not throw the budgeting process that far behind. There is plenty of time to notify members so they can rearrange their schedules.

While it is important students present their case to the full board in March, it is tactically smarter to try to score points with the board's finance committee meeting Tuesday, April 24. Some board members will probably show up at the March meeting with their vote pretty much decided. The best way to influence these members is to show them a finance committee recommendation that reflects students' interests.

Given the alternative of not rescheduling the meeting and thus creating the appearance that the board is voting on the increase behind students' backs, it is imperative that the board move the meeting date to March 31 or later. We urge the board to do so. We also encourage students to present their objections to the proposed increase at the finance committee meeting Tuesday.

Letters— Attitude taken

Since William Boyd became the University president, most people, including the *Emerald*, have taken a wait and see attitude towards his policies.

During that short time he has dismembered the minority program and said a flat no to student participation in Mac Court governance even though students paid for the building, often provide the show (athletics) and if allowed a decent chance to buy tickets, constitute the bulk of the interest.

He said in effect students have no business participating in promotion and tenure and that students cannot have access to professor evaluation forms even though students must ultimately live with decisions made with them.

The old moth-eaten but still highly practiced and praised idea that the University is the guardian of its students or a second set of parents, surfaces time and again in our new president's doctrine of non-participation by students in areas that vitally affect them. I did not come here to be baby sat and I don't believe 16,000 other students did either. The child care centers have enough of a problem.

Just about the only people happy with Mr. Boyd at this point are persons involved with the football team and the alumni. We need not look very hard to find common interest there.

Admittedly, the office of University President is no place to win a popularity contest. But if the students and faculty voted for their

president, he might be a bit more responsive to the desires of the school—at least around election time. We might even be provided with articles of impeachment to wave around.

But surely, as we look back on our nation's revolution, we cannot conceive of so democratic a notion. It is interesting to note that one of the battle cries against another government by the few in 1776 was "no taxation without representation." Two-hundred years later and a whole continent away, that cry can again be taken up. Students should not have to pay money to a university that allows little or no representation on where it goes. Students should not have to pay money to a university which disallows input on major policy and governance.

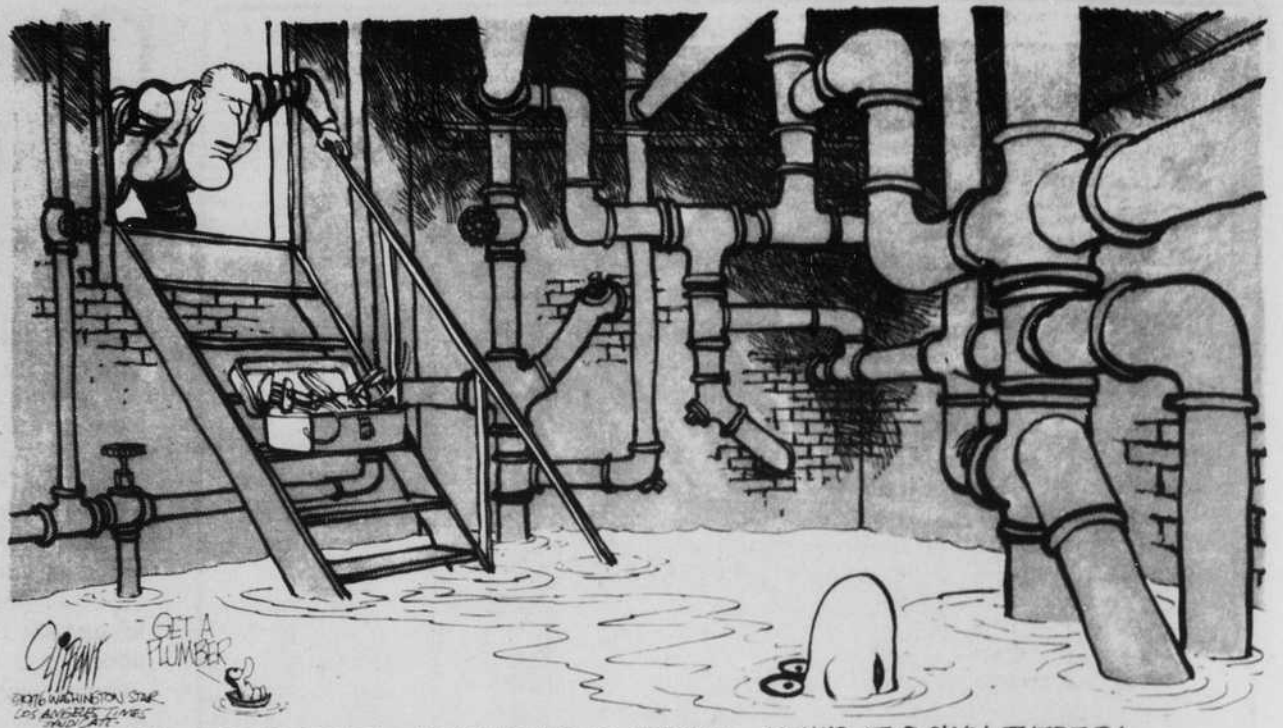
As the *Emerald* stated recently, the honeymoon is over. Students are aware of their basic human rights, and if they are not a flock of wholly apathetic sheep, they are quite prepared to fight for them.

Steve Dodge
pre-journ., soph.

Kept working

Variation to the usual University of Oregon curriculum is one great reason for SEARCH. SEARCH is a program that gives students, faculty and other interested persons the opportunity to teach a class that is not offered through the University. SEARCH may give three credits to the prospective teacher for his or her time and effort. Also, SEARCH courses give full credits for students taking them.

Each quarter this program interests students by offering to them courses ranging from science to music and art. SEARCH is



opinion

Stance targets articles

Pat Horton is not on his way out, whatever Les Zaitz might say.

The facts around the "controversy" are interesting and bear little resemblance to those presented in the series of articles that ran in the *Eugene Register-Guard* a couple of months ago. The *Guard*, reeling from a subscription drop and increased costs of a new press has been eagerly seeking flashy news stories with which to sell newspapers. Certainly this is a legitimate function of a newspaper, if the facts are correct.

What has happened is that the *Guard*, which has long disliked Horton because of his independent stance on law enforcement issues, has targeted the D.A. with an article consisting largely of vague innuendo and hot air. It has been the manner in which the allegations were made (catchy headlines and "red flag" language), and not their substance that has fueled the fires of controversy.

Since the article was printed, the Oregon Law Enforcement Council, the state Attorney General's Office and Lane County audits have cleared Horton of any wrongdoing. Interestingly enough, the *Guard* has been far more forgiving in two other recent cases—one in which County Commissioner Nancy Hayward "forgot" to include business her husband did with Lane County on a state ethics disclosure form and the other, the recent Washington D.C. real estate dealings of U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield's wife, who the *Guard* identified in a recent editorial as an "innocent victim."

The situation is not unlike the children's story about the emperor's new clothes. The *Guard* cries "scandal" and a few other members of the media, always anxious for a little excitement, convince themselves that they see it too, while the ordinary citizens look on and say "I don't see what you're talking about."

Pat Horton has been an exciting, progressive district attorney. His programs in rape prevention, consumer protection, liberalized marijuana laws, protection of the elderly and office management have been used as models in this and other states.

Many of us in Oregon have become blasé about our state's progressive marijuana laws. We forget that there are still many people in this state...and even in this county who don't like these new laws and would like to see casual and incidental users of marijuana in jail. They particularly don't like Pat Horton, the independent young D.A. who supported sane drug laws long before it was politically wise to do so.

Of course some members of the defense bar don't like Horton. His policy of trying serious

felonies such as rape, robbery, and murder instead of "dealing" them has meant a lot less plea bargaining in Lane County, thus harder work for defense attorneys.

It seems that a D.A. who stringently prosecutes crimes against life, liberty and property while moving toward more humane treatment of perpetrators of so-called victimless crimes, is a public official worth keeping.

There is a natural adversary relationship between the police and the D.A. Every police officer who makes an arrest wants to see charges filed—that's the job he's trained to do. The job of the D.A. and his deputies is to evaluate whether cases can be tried, whether the evidence is there, and even if there is other evidence that might exonerate the suspect. The fact is that Horton's staff has more experienced attorneys than any previous D.A.'s office, and wins more cases than ever in the history of Lane County. The policeman Zaitz spoke with who complained Horton's deputies wouldn't allow him to make arrests or seizures the way he's been doing it for 15 years would do better to note the considerable changes in criminal law that have been promulgated by the courts during that time.

Healthy debate on Horton's philosophy and programs is a good idea. Every public official should be the constant subject of such inquiry and debate. But what has been going on, unbeknownst to most Lane County citizens, is the backroom effort to "get" Horton by a few local political hacks.

What they have working against them is that they have fundamentally misjudged the people's intelligence. Ever since Watergate, some politicians and some media people think that any allegation of wrongdoing against a public official will immediately discredit that official and drive him or her out of office.

But I suspect that more often than not the voters can distinguish the wheat from the chaff, the lies from the truth. Such is the case with the Pat Horton "controversy." Despite the desires of his political opponents, Pat Horton will emerge from this stronger politically for having withstood and successfully rebutted the allegations against him and he should be better able to push for the innovative brand of law enforcement that has become his trademark in Lane County.

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Editor's note: Marquis is an aide to Lane County District Attorney Pat Horton and a past *Emerald* reporter and board member.

a good option for students who are not fully satisfied with regular courses. I enjoy the SEARCH program and appreciate all the people who keep it working.

Marianne Morino
rhetoric communication

Step away

The latest controversy now brewing between the administration and student leaders is over student evaluations of the faculty. The benefits that the student

would derive from the release of the evaluations seem minimal. Most students don't care one way or another. If you have to take a course, there's no way around it. And the best way to find out about a teacher is through the grapevine. There also seems little harm to the faculty in releasing the evaluations. Most students are quite generous in their evaluation of the professors, in fact too generous. If a professor continually receives low marks, he doesn't belong at the University. The administration should have taken care of him.

Harm or benefit to the student or

the faculty of releasing or not releasing the evaluations seem slight, yet the evaluations should be released. The major reason to release the evaluations is that there is no reason not to. Releasing the evaluations would in no way endanger national security. It seems a reflection of our times that the administration would refuse to release the papers. It reeks of "Nixonism." Releasing the papers would be a welcome step away from "Nixonism."

Bruce Rosenblum
accounting, Jr.

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