

editorial Recommendations mislead students

Following the Feb. 24 meeting of the State Board of Higher Education, the *Emerald* urged the ASUO executive and other groups opposed to the tuition increase to come up with alternatives rather than just opposing the increase. We suggested that they were "going to have to do some homework."

At the March 23 meeting of the board the ASUO executive came prepared and offered the board two areas of major savings that could have reduced the total budget and, according to the executive's estimates, held the increase to only about four per cent for resident students. The executive's homework was in vain, however, as the board chose to ignore these suggestions and voted to raise tuition in several areas to a combined average of eleven and a half per cent.

The executive's two proposals were to trim two per cent from a proposed 10 per cent faculty salary increase and using an extra \$202,000 of unexpected income from summer term 1975. The board's reaction to the suggestion to hold the salary increases to eight per cent was that the \$2 million saved would probably be claimed by the state legislature and spent elsewhere.

The board's assumption that the legislature in many ways exercises final control over the state system's fiscal policy raises the question who should students deal with when trying to hold down tuition increases and improving the quality of their education.

In the past the executive has worked with both the legislature and the board. Students went along with the board to the 1975 legislature to help lobby for the board's budget which contained a recommendation for no tuition increase. This recommendation turned out to be unrealistic. The legislature forced the board to consider raising tuition by refusing to approve enough money to cover the entire budget.

The board has misled students with its last four budgets. Each time the board has recommended no tuition increase knowing full well that the legislature was not going to make up the entire difference. The advantage of this tactic is that each time the board was able to claim that they were championing students' interests by not recommending tuition increases and blaming the legislature for forcing the increases.

Students, however, are now getting wise to this tactic. The ASUO executive has determined that the time to get involved in the budget process is before the board submits its budget to the legislature. The way to keep down tuition increases is to make sure that the board is not asking for more money than is realistic to expect from the legislature.

The board will begin work in the near future on its budget for the 1977 legislature. The executive plans to monitor the process closely to make sure the board isn't indulging in wishful thinking by expecting the legislature to cough up the entire amount. To hold down any future tuition increases, the executive will have to make sure any overly-fat areas of the budget are tightened-up before the budget reaches the legislature. The only way to keep the lid on tuition hikes is to insure the legislature is presented a budget everyone can live with.

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'SORRY, GEORGE!'

opinion

Sage advice on honesty relative

I should like to respond to your article titled "Indians criticize programs" by Mr. Craig Leman.

First off, I'm not a well-educated man, but I have lurked in the halls of learning at several different Universities. Then I elected to stop taking up space somebody else needed worse...and I went to sea aboard a commercial salmon troller to begin a long hard apprenticeship. This apprenticeship ended when I stepped aboard my own vessel, and began to go about making my own way in the world...independent of the umbilical cord that attaches the employee to the employer or other protective or dependent-type relationships.

Suddenly I discover that my years of hard work are for naught...indeed, according to some, I had no right to work from "can see till can't see" during the many years I sweated for another man, according to the Belloni decision.

I find it hard to give credence to the sincerity of Mr. Wilkinson who enjoys the safety of tenure and comfort of central heating — sallying forth infrequently to "fight for the oppressed," while the men who face ruin have supposed that they did no wrong by following the sea so that their taxes might be paid and their families be fed (for the past 70 years). The Oregon commercial salmon fisherman has never asked quarter, but only the right to earn his living by the sweat of his brow and the skill and strength of his hands. Mr. Wilkinson says that opposition to the Siletz Bill is "deep, vicious and well organized." How true, how true. The Siletz wish no special hunting and fishing rights beyond those of the Oregon citizen, sez he, but he refused to include, in the bill, a passage to the effect "regardless of existing legislation, the Siletz will seek no hunting or fishing rights beyond

those of the citizen of Oregon." Then it came to light that federal legislation exists now to gain those rights without tribal status. Why not go after them now? Ah, the laws of economics touch us all. With tribal status comes the Bureau of Indian Affairs and lawyers...the landscape fairly teems with them, once tribal status is gained.

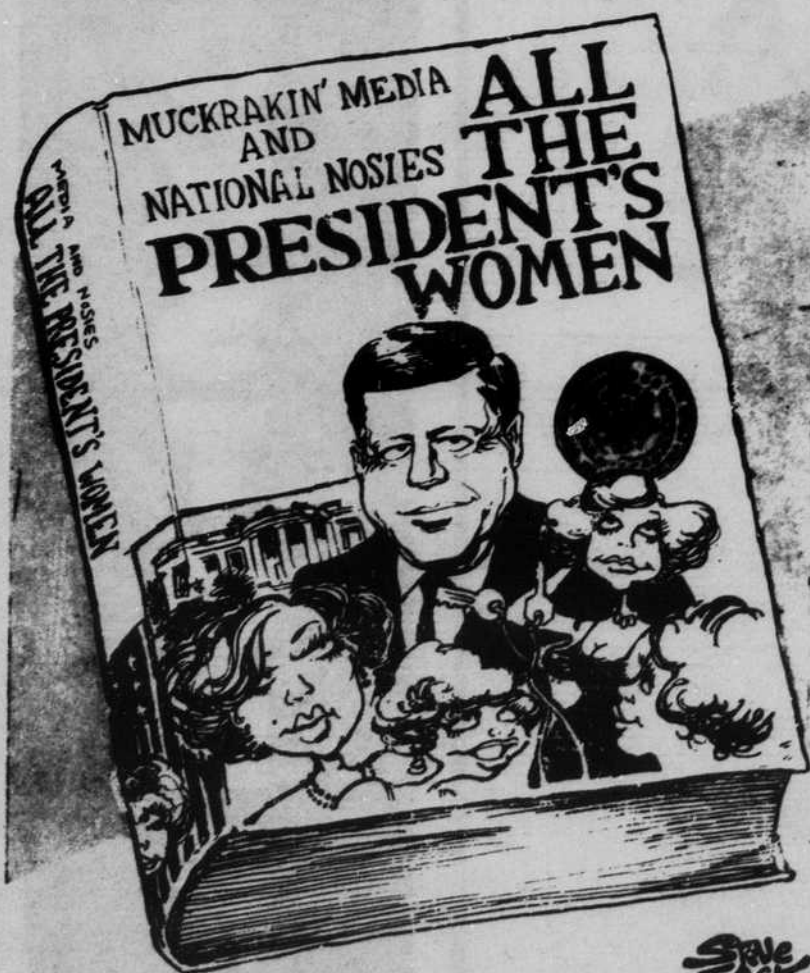
So Mr. Wilkinson's sage advice to his senior class on "honesty within the ranks of attorneys" would seem to be relative...honesty to whom and when shall it be applied?

Meanwhile, Oregon's professional fishermen fight the futile struggle of the desperate industry (Indian boat owners included) vs the Belloni decision which can only have one conclusion.

"Indians will live or die according to decisions made in Washington D.C.?" That's odd, I can conjure up quite a few Indians that fish alongside me, that catch as much or as little, that get as hungry or as drunk as I do... by the sweat of their brow (but then I'm way off base and judging by white man's standards again).

Have on, Charles Wilkinson, and after you have ruined a poor but honest industry, you can return to tenure and central heating and new classes to preen before. All we ever did was ask an even chance... so we could do odd things like earn our living on the ocean and pay taxes to support "the land of the free and the home of the brave," right?

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