

Professor labels safety-net plan 'a mockery'

By **TIM SCHELL**
Of the Emerald

The controversial "safety net" school finance proposal offers no real reform and will not control school costs, University political science professor Larry Pierce told Thursday's meeting of the Rubicon Society.

Pierce said State Ballot Measure Number One, tagged the "safety net" by State Senate Pres. Jason Boe is full of holes. The measure, which goes before

voters on May 17, would allow a six per cent increase in a school budget if the proposed levy is twice rejected by voters. Pierce said this six per cent increase would be, in effect, a 10 to 12 per cent increase without voter approval considering the increase of state school support from 29 to 34 per cent passed by the Legislature this year.

Pierce said the safety-net plan makes a "mockery out of voter

approval of school costs."

"This responsibility (of approving school budgets) is designated for the voters of Oregon in the constitution," Pierce explained that if the voters exercise this responsibility by rejecting a school budget it will be increased by six per cent anyway. This is the "mockery."

According to Pierce school costs are beginning to decline nationally, enrollment is beginning to level off and salaries of teachers are catching up with salaries in the private sector. Pierce feels that because of this "the inflationary increases in school budgets which are likely to result from passage of Ballot Measure One are a very high price to pay to guarantee that schools remain open, particularly when Ballot Measure One does nothing

to reform Oregon's expensive and unfair system of financing public schools.

"With the safety-net it is almost impossible to decrease property taxes with the increase in state school support," said Pierce. "The passage of the safety-net will tend to increase the percentage of 'no' votes in school budget elections."

Pierce speculated the safety-net will "substantially retard school reform." He said that if the measure passes "it will be the last you will hear of school reform this session. We will have to wait two more years." The safety-net will not help with the equalization of school districts in the state, he said.

Pierce said, "If Ballot One fails it will put pressure on the House

to look at more favorable alternatives" for school reform.

The proponents of Ballot Measure One say in the voter's pamphlet that it would keep schools open; Pierce agrees that it would. They say it would insure local control; Pierce says it would not because if the voters turn down a budget twice an increase of six per cent will still be allowed. They say it would make your vote count; Pierce calls this "double-talk." They say it would control school costs; Pierce says it would not because of an increase in state support and the six per cent increase. Finally they say it is the first step toward reform; Pierce says it is not reform and that if it does not pass there is a chance for reform with the alternatives now in the House.

the Plant Plumber



Warm weather bugs growth

By **MICHELE PEEPLES**
Of the Emerald

The spring months' welcome warmer weather may give your house plants the boost they need to come out of their winter dormancy. Make a check to see which plants are picking up speed.

If a plant appears to be growing at a faster rate, fertilize it once now and start a regular feeding program in one month. This short break-in period now allows your plants to gradually adjust to a regular feeding program in the spring and summer months to come.

Go over plants thoroughly to make sure insects haven't moved in. The warmer climates will bring pests out and they will have

no quaims in taking up an immediate food source — the source usually being the undersides of plant leaves.

A good magnifying glass will detect insects which are very small. The common and harmful spider mite is one of the smallest and eats away at plant leaves for some time until they can be seen much later by the webs they spin in the crotches of leaves. At this stage they are extremely hard to get rid of.

Not only do plants feel free from insects through cleaning, but it is a must if their leaves are to breathe and if the sun's rays are to be off full benefit.

A biodegradable soap can be used to cleanse the leaves and should be applied and rinsed off

with warm, not cold, water.

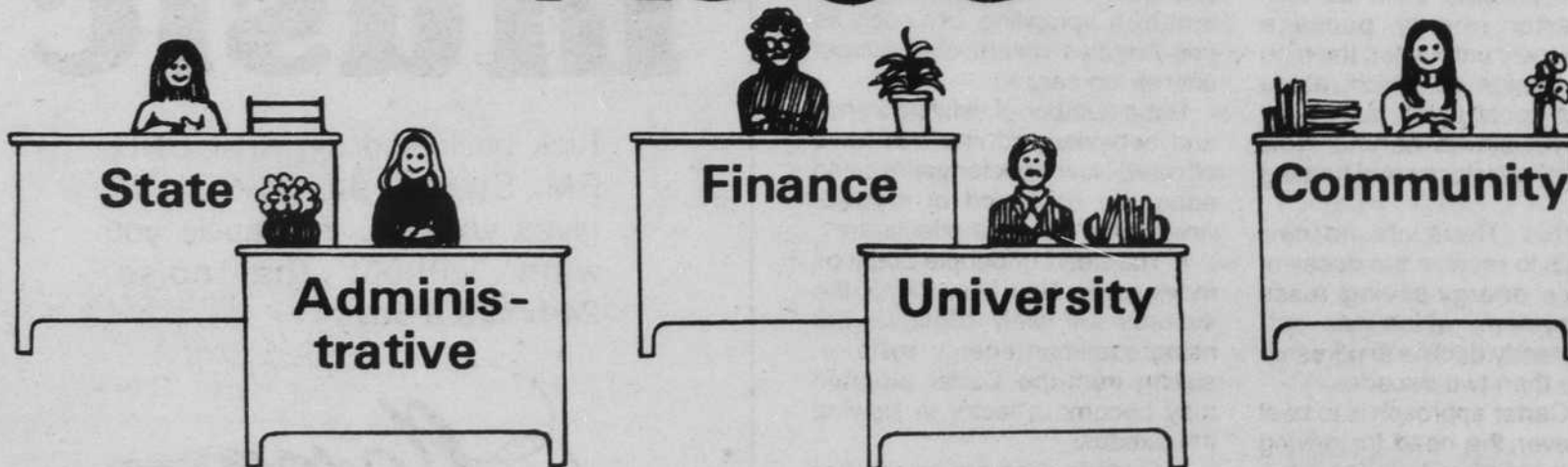
Sanitation in all plants is the clue, and should also be practiced when bringing new plants into the home. Isolate new plants for a couple of weeks to make sure that they don't carry any unwanted pests with them. A lovely collection of house plants can be destroyed in just a short time if a new plant introduces pests into your household.

Once the plant has a clean bill of health, a good fertilizer for the future should be acquired.

Keep in mind though, that your plants will benefit more if they receive half the recommended strength of a fertilizer applied at more frequent intervals (once every week). A large dose may do more harm than good.

If early precautions are made, house plants will benefit from both sanitation and fertilizers during the upcoming spring and summer months.

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