

# opinion

## Short-sighted system

Wanted: Congress to bail out a system that is overextended and shortsighted.

The Social Security System had to borrow for the first time in 47 years last month to meet \$1 billion in payments. November's cash flow problem is forecast to grow to \$60, \$100 or even \$200 billion in this decade.

A bi-partisan Social Security Commission issued options this week to a Congress torn on what to do — increase revenue, curb benefits or tax social security income.

The commission made numerous grab bag suggestions that can be put into two categories: gouge the current contributors or gouge the current beneficiaries.

For the present wage-earners, the choices are to raise Social Security withholding tax to 7.65 percent, force government and non-profit employees to join, remove the tax ceiling, implement a gasoline tax or increase the taxes of the self-employed.

For the beneficiaries, the options are: pay income tax on amounts received more than contributed, readjust receiver's tax brackets or delay, change or eliminate cost-of-living hikes.

There are already plans to meet some of the shortfalls with payroll tax increases. Realizing that the elderly can not exist currently on pensions that do not take inflation into account, solutions to the Social Security problem should consider the need of future receivers.

Undoubtedly Congress will adopt some mishmashed compromise. The Commission is torn on whether to advocate a short-term or long-term solution.

But it looks like those entering the job market will contribute 40 or more years of income which will never be recovered in payments.

When the baby boom reaches retirement age the drain on the government will be tremendous. The silver cloud is that by the year 2020 they just may have come up with a fiscally sound system.

## letters

### Seeking work

"Able, willing and seeking work" applies to as many as 15 million baffled and increasingly angry Americans. The phrase appears in the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (Title 15 of the United States Code, Section 3116).

Under that Act, the President can initiate a massive program of public works, retraining and other ways of putting people back to work and increasing our nation's productivity.

You can bet that President Reagan will not use his powers under this Act unless Democrats give him that message. Even then, he may drag his feet until the clamor from Lafayette Park and the Mall penetrates to the Oval Office and the White House living quarters just as it did on issues like civil rights and the Vietnam War for other Presidents.

Charles O. Porter  
Eugene

### Surely a jest

Who is Scott Williams, and what century is he living in? I read his Nov. 11 letter to the editor and was appalled. I am sorry he was hit in the face "with a plastic bowling pin", but it is difficult to be very sympathetic when he advocates harassment of others, even the jugglers, and proposes such stereotypical thinking (i.e. long-hair hippies, hippies-faggots, faggots-awful).

His letter is particularly appalling in view of his claim to be a junior journalism major. Surely he jests! Can it possibly be that he has remained so thoroughly ignorant after two years of a college education, or so evidently bigoted while pursuing a degree in a field that, at least nominally, demands objectivity? I'll wager Williams is not even a student; he must be here for the beer.

Anne Wyatt  
senior, pre-journalism  
womens' studies



'I DON'T APPROVE OF THIS WHOLE ACT — YOU REMEMBER THAT!'

## letters

### Pessimism

I was amused by Michael Morrow's pessimism. If he puts signs up for candidates, they get destroyed. If he votes for the "right" candidate, Atiyeh wins. Sounds like the lyrics for a blues number.

Through the observance of America's freedom of choice, I can choose to put on my headphones to Michael Morrow's pessimism; it is as enlightening as the Pioneer Cemetery. So what if I drain my dad of his million? Tuition is like an up elevator with my dad pushing the buttons. Actually he sends me money for a worthy cause; I will not have to sulk during the night in a cave with a group of socialists. Money is fun and comforting; I can buy textbooks. I can spend it on supporting a candidate and spend my time putting up lawn signs.

Time and the Cro-Magnons may destroy your symbol of freedom but "time is on my side," but of course.

Get happy, Michael, the elections are not the end of the political process. Maybe two years from now your candidate will win.

James Kirkland

### Against grain

Apart from its appropriately semi-illiterate aspect, a letter from Rick Galliher contained a glaring contradiction, and a not uncommon misconception. The contradiction warrants no more than repetition to demonstrate how confused was Galliher's reasoning. He said, "Everyone should have the right not to register" and "I would like to declare my support of the U.S. governments's decision to prosecute and incarcerate these people."

The misconception lay in his apparent acceptance of the na-

tionalistic line of pap that there is something unpatriotic, even un-American, about draft resistance. On the contrary, a strong objection to involuntary servitude has been part of this country's popular ethic since its independence was established by a volunteer army and especially since the civil war.

Conscription is not only morally objectionable, it goes against the grain of freedom-loving Americans.

The present government's re-establishment of draft registration for 18 to 22 year olds — those too young to have a clear memory of the cost of the undeclared, unpopular, and unjustified Vietnam war and how it was resisted; young enough, perhaps, to have not yet learned firmly that as adults they have the obligation, as well the right, to decide for themselves when to kill and offer themselves to be killed — was one of the crass examples of American political pragmatism in recent history.

A draft register does as much to "preserve our way of life" or "defend freedom in the western world" as any U.S. Marine.

Kyle DeBord

### Wasting time

This letter is in response to the article in Tuesday's Emerald which was about the seventeen member citizen's group that filed a lawsuit that protests the naming of the performing arts center.

Many more important things exist than wasting ones time on a lawsuit of this kind. These "citizens" should complain about the economy, the non-passage of the equal rights amendment, or the effects of a nuclear war.

The people who initiated the lawsuit should be honored that "their" performing arts center was given \$3 million extra in which to operate, instead of be-

ing angry about the fact that Eugene is not in the name of the center.

Although the following was not a factor (according to the donors) in the Hult's decision, I'm sure that if any of these citizens donated this large amount of money to a center, the benefactor would want the center named after them.

Considering two of the points argued, that the "defendant failed to give at least twenty-four hours notice of the meeting..." and "the notice given by the defendant failed to adequately inform news media," is the real issue that the "citizens didn't get a vote," or is it that the lawsuit initiators are jealous of the Hults because they didn't have \$3 million to donate?

Manny Hernandez  
freshman, theatre

### Well-done, but

First, congratulations to you and your staff for generally fine and thorough election coverage — before and after. It was well-done, and hopefully cured some apathy.

But was it necessary for you to mention what clothes Margie Hendriksen was wearing to Harris Hall that night? Margie is a fine legislator who ran a strong and efficient campaign for Senate District 40's seat. It is important to her constituents that she will be in Salem working for us. It is not important that she wore a blue cocktail dress on the night of her victory.

Or if it is important to know that, is it also important to know that George Wingard wore a brown tweed blazer, or Ross Anthony a navy blue one?

Please, women in positions of authority are important, but it is not for their outfits. Continuing to make fashion reports on them aids neither their credibility nor yours.

Kathryn Olney  
Office of the Librarian

## oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511  
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712  
Classified Advertising 686-4343  
Production 686-4361  
Circulation 686-5511

Editor Harry Esteve

Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Assistant News Editor  
Editorial Page Editor  
Photo Editor  
Sports Editor  
Associate Sports Editor  
Entertainment Editor  
Night Editor  
Associate Editors  
Higher Education  
Departments and Schools  
Student Government  
Features  
Politics  
Community  
General Staff  
Advertising Manager  
Classified Advertising  
Production Manager  
Controller

John Healy  
Marian Green  
Cort Fernald  
Joan Nyland  
Bob Baker  
Mike Riglinger  
Paul Danzer  
Jonathan Siegle  
Cort Fernald  
Debbie Howlett  
Sandy Johnstone  
Richard Burr  
Sean Meyers  
Michele Malassa  
David Brown  
Darlene Gore  
Sally Oljar  
Victoria Koch  
Jean Owenbay

## letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor **must** be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.