

# letters

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Masters doctor their theses  
 Doctors master their theories.  
 The students shuffle...  
 Birkenstocks and blue jeans  
 "Fasts for Life"  
 Greek boys and Big Gulps  
 while the graffiti growls:  
 "Your mother drinks de-caf."  
 "Why me Toto? Why am I here?"  
 — I've always liked Donald  
 Duck...  
 and I want a degree  
 from his university."

**George Bergeron**  
 senior, journalism

## Taxing, a point

Oregonians have heard only about 20 percent of the facts about the last legislative session. Here are important facts they haven't heard.

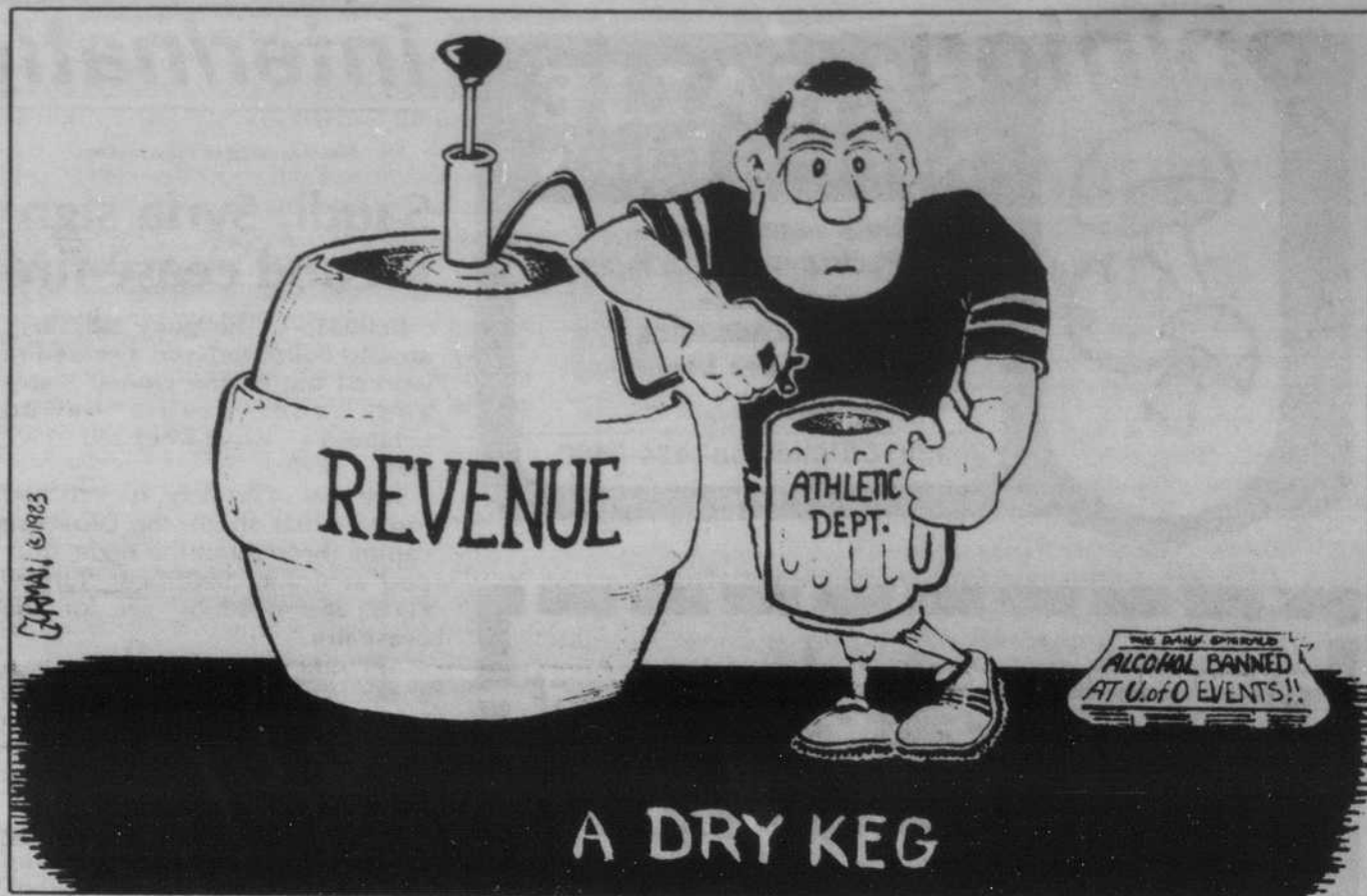
The sales tax passed by the House in the last session was designed to increase state of Oregon general fund taxes by \$800 million a year. This represents a proposed increase of over one-half in state general fund taxes. The sales tax was much broader in coverage than either California or Washington sales taxes. Most services like dry cleaning, hair cuts, a house call by your plumber, etc. were to be taxed at 4

cents on the dollar, as well as retail sales. Some have said failure of that proposal was a failure to provide tax relief.

The state had not levied property taxes for over 40 years. However, local governments and schools' property tax levies have increased statewide by 51 percent in the last three years. At the same time the income of all Oregonians statewide has remained about level. It is easy to understand why people feel pinched by the local property tax growth rate and by tax increases in general. They don't have any increased ability to pay taxes.

The Legislature provided property tax relief, despite claims to the contrary. Direct property tax relief totalling \$411 million will be paid to or for homeowners and renters in this two-year budget period through the existing HARRP program and the general all homeowners and renters program.

Other state payments for the next two years which reduce the demand for property taxes are \$917 million in aid to local school districts, \$104 million for community colleges, \$25 million of local court costs, and millions of dollars of other state payments. All of these latter state-paid



amounts have increased since the last state budget.

Did the state have money to pay these increases? Only by continuing cigarette and income tax increases made in 1981-82, and by increasing the tax per person. These totalled \$419 million. Direct payments to homeowners and renters were \$411 million which, with administrative costs, almost equals the amount of increase voted.

Did the state government need this money for its own operations? No. General property tax relief was started by state government in 1978. Since then it has applied \$5,145,000,000 of state collected taxes to fund direct property tax relief and basic school support and other aids to local government. If state government had kept back this money, it would be

enough to fund all state government activities at current levels for the next six years — without another nickel of state taxes being collected during that time span.

**Edward Fadeley**  
 pres., Oregon senate

## War Powers

I quote from the War Powers Resolution, title 50 U.S. code 1976:

1. President's executive power as commander-in-chief; limitation.

The constitutional powers of the president as commander-in-chief to introduce United States armed forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, are exercised only pursuant to:

- (1) a declaration of war
- (2) specific statutory authorization, or

(3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces.

2. Congressional legislative power:

Under article 1, section 8, of the Constitution, it is specifically provided that the Congress shall have the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution, not only its own powers but also all other powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Violations: Lebanon, El Salvador.

The sovereign power of the United States rests with its people.

**Ken Tomkinson**  
 citizen

## 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, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. 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 Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

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

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