

letters

Throw him out

In 1980, Ronald Reagan declared the country was in the midst of a depression due to a 7.5 percent unemployment rate. It is still 7.5 percent, but now we are told that we are ex-

periencing an impressive economic recovery. Likewise, four years ago the mortgage rate was 13 percent, termed disastrous by Mr. Reagan. After a roller coaster ride, it is back to where it started. This too, is no improvement. Yet, no one is

complaining.

When Jimmy Carter left office, we faced the spectre of a \$60 billion federal deficit. Reagan is the proud owner of a deficit more than three times that, which he claims will "go away." We are not that stupid, are we? With a trillion dollar defense budget, the deficit can only grow. According to the Congressional Budget Office projections accepted even by Reagan's closest economic advisors, if the present policies continue, the federal deficit will reach \$263 billion by 1989. That is frightening.

Concomitantly, the last four years have seen a dramatic rise in bankruptcies and farm foreclosures (small farmers)

rivaling the Great Depression Era. These are not just statistics, they are people like you and me who must struggle to make ends meet.

It is cold and insensitive to forget or ignore what Mr. Reagan has done to these people. We live in one of the most economically devastated counties in the nation. Eugene is just a pale shadow of the vibrant town it was in 1979. Those who have lived here for more than five years need not look far for tangible results of the Reagan administration's distorted priorities. Let's throw the bum out!

M.P. Schapiro
Eugene

Right to vote

Some issues warrant a bit of research prior to discussion. I think that Jeb Bianco should have spent some time looking into the facts before he climbed onto his soapbox.

Some "rights" are forfeited immediately upon conviction and incarceration for certain crimes. Prisoners don't necessarily have the rights provided for the general citizenship in the constitution. Today an attack on prisoners' right to vote, tomorrow... who knows? Someone might question their constitutional right to bear arms.

Alex Gardner
Pre Med

Re-elect Rust

I believe Jerry Rust has a vision of Lane County as a place where people can live harmoniously with each other and with the land in our stewardship. I did some research on his opponent.

Jerry's opponent was a Democrat until 1968, when she registered as a Republican. In 1972 she again changed parties, to Libertarian, and ran for Vice President. In 1976 she once more sought the Libertarian VP slot, this time unsuccessfully. She then ran (pant pant) for Congress in '76 on a platform favoring maximum harvest of all old growth timber. She opposed any ban on clear cutting. She said, "People who feel there is a value (in wilderness) should finance it themselves."

In 1980 she sought Packwood's Senate seat, again as a Libertarian. She said she would like to see timberlands eventually go into private ownership. "Everyone in Eugene knows Weyerhaeuser does a better job managing its forest land than the Forest Service does."

She called the minimum wage a "vicious law". She opposed restrictions on the sale of all drugs and pornography. Her philosophy is apparently based on Ayn Rand's "Objectivism" or the oxymoron, "The Virtue of Selfishness." In my opinion such blind contradictions are bankrupt of vision.

Her platform isn't clear yet, but her past record is. Her notions are outside of my vision of what Lane County should be, and I hope Jerry Rust is re-elected.

Lee Barckmann
Eugene



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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, Oregon, 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.

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