

Farmers are just tip of the iceberg

President Ronald Reagan believes that, "someone must stand-up to those who say here is the key, there's the treasury, just take as many of those hard-earned tax dollars as you want." Reagan made that statement as he vetoed a farm-aid bill designed to help out Midwest farmers facing foreclosure. Apparently, Reagan sees himself as the "someone" who is willing to stand-up against federal over-spending of "those hard earned tax dollars." This is hard to accept, coming from a president whose administration has added a trillion dollars to the national deficit.

The current farm crisis is not a budget issue, as Reagan has tried to make it and it certainly is not going to disappear, as administration officials hope. Some surveys put the number of small-scale farms being pushed out of business at more than 2000 a week. Reagan maintains that it is a much smaller number.

The current farm crisis originates in several ongoing events. Land values during the last two years have declined dramatically. In some parts of the Midwest, land values have dropped by as much as 50 percent. Interest rates, fueled by the ever-growing national deficit, have remained high and crop prices, undermined by big harvests and declining export markets, have stayed low. This is the same economy that Reagan has assured us is standing strong due to the economic policies of his administration.

The economy, however, is not standing strong. Farmers are one of the key indicators that show this. The federal deficit is far from balanced as Reagan promised. In fact, the deficit has soared since Reagan took office. We are walking on economic thin ice. The cry of the farmers cannot be ignored, and the fact that they are faced with mounting debt only typifies what life in America has become for a majority of people. From college onward, we are taught to accept that being in debt is the normal condition in life. We are a debt-ridden nation being led toward economic crisis by a debt-ridden government. The farmers are just the tip of the iceberg. The signs of economic instability have been around for years. But during brief periods of economic upswing, we tend to forget the whole picture. In the past, war has pulled us out of economic decline. Are we heading that way again? Considering the current military build-up in this country, it wouldn't come as a surprise.

Gillis is reaping the harvest he has sown

Political problems for Rep. Pat Gillis, R-Portland, are getting worse. This comes as no surprise, considering that Gillis is responsible for putting himself in a political mess to start with. During his election campaign, he devised a political mailing that falsely appeared to be an endorsement from the National Association of Retired Persons. Furthermore, in his personal description in the Oregon Voters Guide, he stated that he had a masters degree when in fact he never attained one. He has since been indicted by a Marion County grand jury on a charge of lying about his educational background.

Portland voters outraged by Gillis' dishonest conduct have successfully gathered enough petition signatures and are asking for a recall election. We hope they get it. We also hope that the results of such a recall election will force Gillis out of the Legislature. The 24-year old representative apparently had some bad training while preparing for a political career. He should have thought more carefully about his future goals before stepping into the realm of dishonest politics. He is now reaping the harvest he has sown.



FARMERS FIRST

letters

Oppose funding

As a Democrat, I wholeheartedly support having opposing political views represented in the political arena. I think that having a quality conservative newspaper on campus would be a positive contribution to students' political awareness. Although I do not support this conservative ideology, I do see the benefits of a balanced system.

Unfortunately, the Oregon Commentator does not fulfill this need. As a result, I oppose the IFC's funding of the Commentator.

Debra Liebowitz
Vice-President
University Democrats

Cash crop?

It seems as if the higher education advocates are complaining about the budgets again. I can see no reason why our own campus takes part in this useless begging. The University has its own means to an end, a cash crop!

The trees on this campus are worth money. With a logging operation working on campus, we could help make ends meet as well as expose visitors to Oregon's famed timber industry. Thirteenth Ave. could be opened to log trucks and heavy equipment. A single FMC skidder could handle all of the logs on campus with ease, and the military treads wouldn't tear up the lawns too bad, although we might have to replace a sidewalk or two. A

few good fallers could sneak some logs out of Pioneer Cemetery, making it look like the wind blew them over. There's some prime spots for log decks, too. Right between Chapman and Condon would be great, there's plenty of room for a loader and trucks.

Sure, some environmental types might oppose this operation, but so what? Why let a minority group ruin our educational quality? You're probably saying to yourself, "sounds good, but what happens when we run out of trees?" Well, the money made from the logging operation could be invested in a non-taxable high profit product, like cocaine. The University could supply this high-demand item at competitive prices. Just think about the cash flow at the University coke gardens! The solution has to be presented, let's take action.

Bill Brewer
Psychology

Unethical

Once again the vocal left have succeeded in their campaign of censorship. Claiming to speak on behalf of the University students, they have prevented a visit by CIA recruiters. It would be appreciated if these same self-appointed guardians of civil liberties would allow others the freedom to learn of viable career opportunities.

They have no right to disallow the student body the chance to hear the views of those they may oppose, nor to claim to be students' legitimate representatives as they do. Students for Ethics in Government is the organization responsible for the Tuesday, Feb. 26 kangaroo trial. Margie Boyd, organization member, was quoted as saying, "We do not believe that such an undemocratic agency should be granted the privilege of campus use."

This action was certainly not a showcase of democracy. The fundamental result of SEG's action was to deny to others their most basic freedoms: speech and assembly. Dangerous precedents are being set when one group is allowed to ban the CIA and the Marines and be given favorable coverage in the press. Yet, if some were to voice opposition to the Young Communists or the Gay and Lesbian

Alliance, they would be portrayed as fascists.

A time will come when only one set of opinions will be available. No matter whether that opinion is yours, is that what you want?

Dan Amos
Political Science

New mascot

As a University of Oregon student, I have been constantly inundated with quacks about my school mascot, the duck. I have had it up to here with quack attacks, milk and quackers, and being up at the quack of dawn. They assume that all of this will roll off my back like water. I'm finding it difficult to maintain proper duckorum with this ridiculous symbol hanging around my neck. In short, I think we should say, 'duck this,' and get a new mascot. I have a modest proposal.

After looking at other animal possibilities and a variety of insect life indigenous to Oregon, I decided to try another tack. (The mighty Oregon Gypsy Moth just didn't sound right.) I thus stumbled upon the ideal team name — the University of Oregon UFO's.

The "U of O UFO's" just rolls off the tongue. We have a perfect group motivation statement — KLAATU BERADA NICTO! The school colors are appropriate for LGP's (Little Green Persons). (Please note the symbiotic relationship between the average alien and the indigenous moss.)

Our frisbee team, the 'Flying Saucers,' would finally garner the respect so long deserved, and who's going to mess with a team that carries 'orayguns'? The football team could be outfitted with detection devices hidden in their helmet antennae (colloquially known as 'deely boppers'). Our advanced technology and scientific research efforts, such as our research in marsh gas propulsion and hubcap airfoil aerodynamics, would finally be taken seriously.

I like to think that there always are...possibilities. Let's join together to make our university truly universal.

Megan Snyder
Crystal Smithwick
Computer science
English

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