

## Endorsed illness plan step in right direction

President Reagan departed from his conservative political philosophy last week and endorsed a catastrophic illness plan for the nation's 30 million people on Medicare. The move is a good one for it will allow those afflicted with long-term, debilitating illnesses to receive medical care without facing financial ruin.

The plan, widely supported in Congress, would raise Medicare premiums by \$4.92 and limit out-of-pocket payments to \$2,000 a year — currently there is no limit. Medicare also would finance an unlimited number of days of hospital care.

Although the proposal is a step in the right direction, it could have gone further. Costs of prescription drugs, eye examinations, dental care and nursing home stays are not covered. These items consume a major portion of medical costs for the elderly and should have been included in the plan. Another issue that should have been addressed was putting a limit on doctors' fees. Presently, doctors can legally charge fees above levels deemed "reasonable" by the government.

Critics in the health insurance industry and within the administration itself charge the catastrophic illness plan would replace "a competitive private market with a government monopoly." This is nothing but demagoguery, stemming from the misplaced priority of putting profits over health care. The proposal, as it stands, is "budget neutral" — the \$4.92 increase in Medicare premiums would net the government \$1.8 billion per year, and this would cover the cost of the additional Medicare benefits.

Our nation's elderly need the illness plan the president endorsed, and hopefully it has opened the door for more comprehensive Medicare proposals in the future.

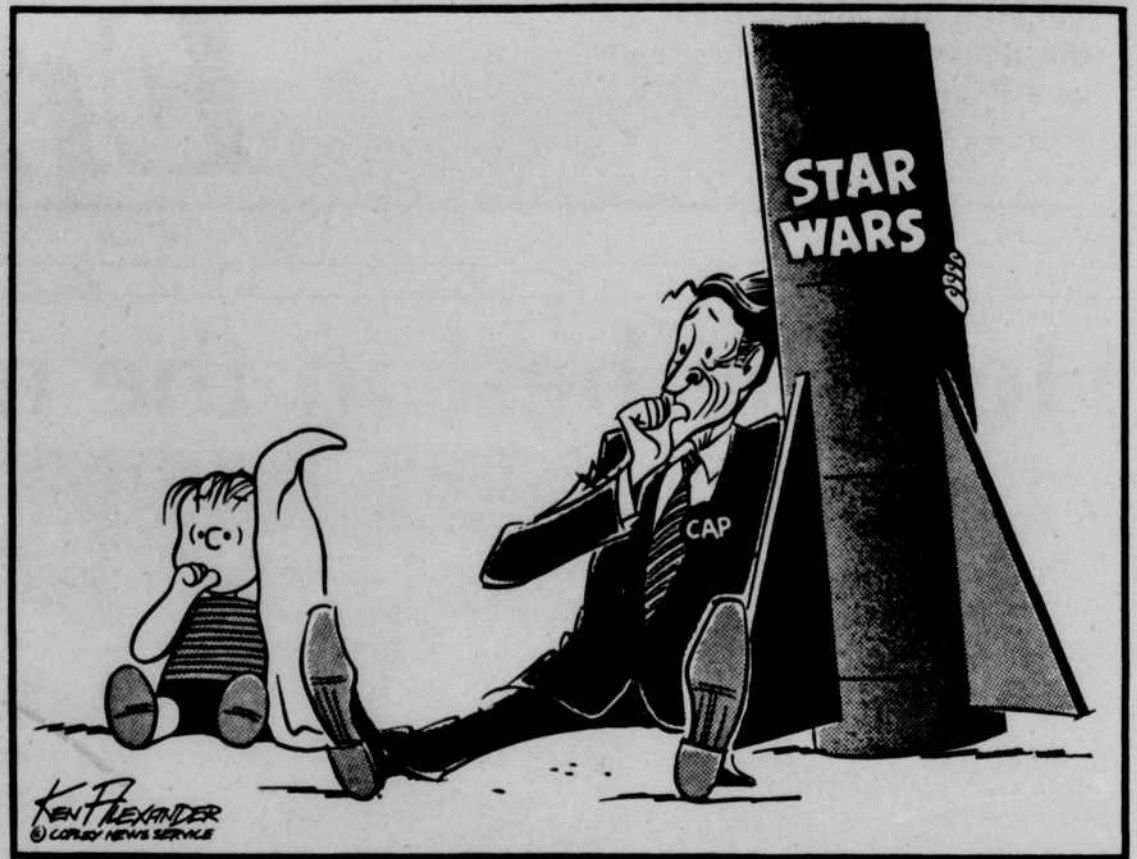
## The Klan's \$7 million loss will be our society's gain

A federal jury's \$7 million award last week to the family of a black teen-ager whom was brutally slain by members of the United Klans of America comes as proper vindication. Michael Donald was beaten and strangled in 1981 by six Klansmen in Mobile, Ala. Although the money will not bring him back, his family now can find comfort that justice has been done.

Klan assets have yet to be determined, but it's apparent they have the resources to pay the penalty. Already efforts are in the works to transfer title of the Klan's 7,000-square-foot national headquarters building in Tuscaloosa, Ala. over to the Donald family.

We question why none of the guilty was given a jail sentence, but Beulah Mae Donald, the victim's mother, was satisfied with the verdict. Alabama state Sen. Michael Figures, lawyer for the Donald family, similarly was pleased. He called the court's decision a "landmark ruling" and declared that the verdict "would make Donald's death the last Klan lynching."

In our pluralistic society, damnable groups like the Klan must be tolerated if freedom of expression is to exist. But no group has the right to commit wanton acts of violence, a law the Klan historically has violated. Our hope is that the federal court's decision will curb future Klan atrocities.



## Letters

### Feelings

I passed up the letters on religion. I also let the grammar letters go. Unfortunately, I find myself having to respond to a very strong statement made by Mary Sullivan (ODE, Feb. 11) in her letter concerning abortion. By making the statement that men who voice their opinions on abortion don't understand what they are talking about because they will never experience the feelings surrounding an unwanted pregnancy directly, she has spoken unwisely. She has slurred the entire male sex. It is true no man will ever experience such feelings directly, but men are capable of empathy. Such a narrow description of an entire sex is not just.

Andrew Maxwell  
Psychology

### Safe sex

On the issue of condoms, what Surgeon General C. Everett Koop has actually stated is that anyone foolish enough not to become totally monogamous should use condoms during sex.

Remember — condoms are not 100 percent effective in preventing AIDS transmission. To foster an attitude like, "I don't have to cut out premarital sex because I can use a condom and be totally safe," would be as stupid as someone saying, "I can get drunk and drive 90 mph because I wear a seat belt."

The last paragraph of your editorial on condoms and AIDS (ODE, Jan. 30) seemed to take a dim view on promoting abstinence prior to marriage. However, that's what the Surgeon General Koop is urging! His recommendations are also that the main emphasis in health education in schools must center on the dangers of non-monogamous, premarital sexual behavior. To promote condoms, and not abstinence, has been labled dangerous by many experts.

Fortunately, a person who abstains from sex prior to marriage, and then marries someone with similar attitudes, has nothing to fear from catching AIDS from sex, as long as neither individual commits adultery. Such couples can be as sexually active with each other as they please with no need of "safe sex" or condoms.

So much for the "Sexual Revolution."

Michael Cross  
Political science, history

### Justice

In regard to Dan Goulet's letter (ODE, Feb. 11) I wish to say one thing: BRAVO!

I thought I was the only person on this liberal campus who believed in justice. If Bissel was truly a "gentleman" he would have turned himself in immediately (or maybe not have attempted to blow up government property in the first place!). The only thing missing from your editorial was, "He was always such a quiet man..."

While our patriots were away defending freedom and democracy, Bissel was trying to destroy those very foundations from within.

Mr. Goulet's insight and awareness should not only be applauded, but also deemed a valuable and necessary part of our intellectual community.

Gina VanCleave  
Speech, RHCM

### Definitions

Professor Rousseve has written a number of letters to the ODE recently identifying himself as a "post-Christian agnostic." I think some attention to definitions would be helpful. Dictionaries typically define a Christian as one who believes in Jesus as the Christ (i.e. as divine) and in his teachings. But that leads us to defining "believes." We tend to use the word quite casually as in, I believe it's going to rain. A more useful and substantive definition is — to have faith in, to trust and rely upon.

If these definitions are accepted, a person is not a Christian because they grew up in a Christian home, attended a Christian church, graduated from a Christian university or thought of themselves as a Christian. As the joke goes, just because you sleep in the garage doesn't mean you are a car.

I grew up thinking of myself as a Christian. I went to church fairly regularly. However, I never "believed" in Jesus Christ. As an undergraduate I quickly became an agnostic and kept to that faith for 15 years. Shortly after joining the faculty here, and after an 18-month "search," I met Jesus Christ and became a Christian.

To the point: Trying to use terms properly, I would describe myself as a post-agnostic Christian. From his own letters, I wonder whether Professor Rousseve is properly described as a post-Christian agnostic? I would prefer to hope that he is a pre-Christian agnostic.

Jerry Bowman  
Associate professor  
of accounting

## 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, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

### General Staff

Advertising Director Susan Thelen  
Production Manager Wayne Michael Lottinville  
Classified Advertising Alyson Simmons  
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager  
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511  
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712  
Classified Advertising 686-4343  
Letter Perfect Graphics 686-5511  
Production 686-4381  
Circulation 686-5511

Editor  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Spectrum Editor  
Spectrum Assistant Editor  
Editorial Page Editors

Sports Editor  
Photo Editor  
Spectrum Photo Editor  
Graphics Editor  
Night Editor

### Associate Editors

Community  
Politics  
Higher Education / Administration  
University Affairs  
Student Government  
Student Activities  
General Assignment  
General Assignment  
General Assignment

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Gary Henley, Janet Paulson.

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, X. Kang Xie.

Michelle Brence  
Lucinda Dillon  
Michael Rivers  
Stephen Maher  
Stanley Nelson  
Michael Drummond  
Angie Muniz  
Capi Lynn  
Michael Wilhelm  
John Giustina  
Lorraine Rath  
Michelle Brence

Jolayne Houtz  
Nick Reed  
Chris Norred  
B.J. Thomsen  
Carolyn Lamberson  
Sarah Kitchen  
Karen Creighton  
Dennis Fernandes  
Scott Mabey