

# Editorial

## Deficit compromise must be reached soon

In the wake of one of the most severe stock market crashes in history, Congress is meeting in an economic summit to solve the problems created by an ever-growing budget deficit. It is vital that an effective, realistic plan to reduce the deficit be devised in order to prevent another recession.

Progress toward a successful compromise has been slowed, however, by Senate Republican's and the White House's refusal to raise taxes and their continuous push to cut more domestic programs. If this stubborn refusal continues, the summit will be pointless. Both sides will have to compromise their policies to find a formula that will work.

One Democrat participating in the summit said nothing had been accomplished because of the refusal to accept a tax increase. "We're right back in the center of the hurricane; we're no place," he said.

Because of this forboding sense of ineffectiveness, Democrats have appropriately developed another plan they may push through Congress after the summit. The plan would save nearly \$31 billion in the fiscal year.

House Speaker Jim Wright pressured the House to pass a \$12 billion tax increase package last Thursday. Although there were many apprehensions to the bill from Republicans and Southern Democrats, the bill was finally accepted. But the victory was more a show of party unity than concern over budget problems.

However, Wright said the bill would "strengthen the hand of the House in the budget talks." This will be important leverage needed to reach a compromise.

The package is only the first step toward reducing the deficit, though. Small increases were implemented on telephones, mortgages, estates and Social Security, and the bill defined other areas of tax write-offs as well. A \$12 billion dollar reduction is a drop in the bucket for a deficit already in the trillions of dollars.

Reagan has vowed to solve the deficit problem, but he seems unwilling to compromise his policies. It is time for the president to set aside his pride and face reality. It is virtually impossible to reduce the deficit without a tax increase.

In the past Reagan has simply cut domestic programs. But because of increased defense spending and foreign policies, this has not succeeded. Nonetheless, Reagan claims this system will work. Realistically, he must either cut defense spending or raise taxes. In the long-run it will be effective and beneficial.

Reagan announced a willingness to meet with Congress after the stock market crash. "It is preferable, if possible, that the executive and legislative branches reach agreement on a budget-deficit reduction package," he said.

For this meeting to be successful, the White House and Congress must stop blaming each other for the deficit, accept the problem and find an appropriate compromise. Petty arguing will accomplish nothing.

The deficit is a growing problem, hopefully the economic summit will open the way to a solution to the excessive spending.



# Letters

## Clarification

I would like to clarify a number of issues in the article printed on Oct. 30 in the Emerald regarding the current negotiations between the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation and the Oregon State System of Higher Education. The remark attributed to me that GTFs basically run the University was taken out of context. I was commenting on the necessity of having teachers for undergraduate courses, and the fact that in some departments GTFs teach more than half of the undergraduate classes. More important, though, was the omission of an interview I gave the reporter after that day's bargaining session was completed. The statement released by the Union was as follows: "We had a very successful bargaining session today. There was significant movement made at the table. We are optimistic and hope to have a contract in place by the end of November." Contract negotiation is a very delicate process. The activism of the rank-and-file membership of the GTFF has impressed upon the OSSHE/University bargaining team the need for open dialogue at the table. We

would hope that in the future the Emerald takes more seriously its role in this whole process: to report the news in a clear, factual manner.

Sandra Nemeth  
Business agent, GTFF

## Equal treatment

ASUO Minority Affairs Coordinator Harry Hintsala, quoted in an Emerald story as saying, "you choose to be gay or lesbian," and implying that gays should remain invisible to avoid harassment, is uneducated and insensitive (ODE, Oct. 27). Hintsala's comment shows not only that he is unaware of current sexuality theory, which holds sexual orientation to be at least in part genetically predetermined, but also that he has no idea what harassment gay people face. I agree that gay people who do their best to blend in are less likely to be harassed, but why should they be harassed at all? Only because they are different, just as Mr. Hintsala, a Native American, is different. In order to do his job, Mr. Hintsala needs to understand that someone who calls a gay person faggot on the street is engaging in harassment of the same kind and degree as someone who calls a black person nigger. This childish minority-bashing should be universally condemned. The Student Conduct Committee is considering recommending adding broad anti-

harassment provisions to the conduct code. Perhaps Mr. Hintsala can take advantage of public hearings on the proposed change to educate himself about the extent of harassment at the University. Only then will he be able to "coordinate" minority affairs for the ASUO. I am a gay faculty member and I expect to be treated the same, for better or worse, as my heterosexual colleagues. I will not disappear for the convenience of bigots.

Alan Contreras, member  
Student Conduct Committee

## Letter of protest

The Executive Board of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, Local 3544 of the American Federation of Teachers, would like to express its concern and anger over the recent treatment of University President Paul Olum at the hands of the State Board of Higher Education. While the Union has not always agreed with the policies of Dr. Olum, we have always found him to be a man of great integrity and dedication. Under his leadership we have seen the University move ahead with new vigor. To end this leadership early shows a lack of judgement on the part of the Board. We would also like to state publicly our deep and sincere appreciation to Dr. Olum for the support he gave the Union during last year's struggle over tuition waiver taxation and for his continued activism on behalf of GTFs and faculty.

The State Board owes the University community an honest explanation of its decision. Again, we protest the unilateral decision of the Board and urge them to reevaluate their action, considering the negative ramifications it is sure to have on the University of Oregon.

Charles Hunt, President  
Patrice Korjenek,  
Vice President  
GTFF Executive Board

## Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others. Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

**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 with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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