

Board's resolution of importance in 1989

Making New Year's resolutions is a common procedure for most at this time of year, bringing forth promises to improve the many aspects of one's life that indeed need improvement.

Unfortunately, these resolutions often are not kept.

This being the case, we would hope the State Board of Higher Education has made a resolution they intend to keep — the same promise they made last October and appear to have forgotten.

It's time we knew just what is going on in the University's presidential search process.

Last year, state board officials admitted they were doing a lousy job of communicating with the public and of keeping the public informed. The impetus for this serendipity on the part of the board was the failure of the initial state system chancellor search, which resulted in a more thorough and organized, yet lower-key secondary search process.

The board, realizing past mistakes, held a handful of public meetings to obtain that crucial and needed public input concerning the future of Oregon's higher education system. The result was the placement of a new chancellor, Thomas Bartlett, before the end of the year and in accordance with the search committee's timetable.

So where does this leave us with the search for a new University president?

University President Paul Olum will step down from his post in June, at the end of the fiscal year. That's only six months away — and judging from last year's failed initial chancellor search, this just may not be enough time to find a worthwhile replacement.

It would behoove the state board and the presidential search committee to let the public know the process and progress of the presidential search now, before we see the same failure as in last year's chancellor search at this time.

There is no need to produce any more dark clouds than those that rain on Eugene as it is.

Semesters canned by food processors via legislators

Surprise, surprise! After a lengthy and costly amount of research to change the University's quarter system to a semester calendar ... well, sorry, it's just not going to happen.

Questions must go out to the State Board of Higher Education, as to why they didn't foresee this impending maneuver by the Oregon Legislature and continued to pour money and manpower into the semester conversion.

But rather than fault the board, it is more important to point out the true power of the legislature in Oregon's higher education system.

In what was truly a political move, those particular factions (food processing and tourism interests concerned about a decrease in the labor pool during their peak seasons) that disagreed with the board on the semester conversion went "above board", so to speak, and appealed to the legislators to nip the conversion — not in the bud, mind you, but in full bloom. Their success points out the fallacy of the board's supposed autonomy.

What this particular move tells us is that anyone who doesn't agree with the state board may now be able to plead with the legislature and apply indirect pressure on the board to rescind its decisions.

While it is both important and necessary for a checks and balances system to be maintained in government, the particular situation with the semester conversion has very little to do with that lofty ideal. It has everything to do with economic self-interest.

We would expect the state board to know more about what is best for the higher education system than the food processing industry, which led the way in "canning" the semester conversion.

PREDICTIONS FOR 1989...



Letters

Misguided

As a member of College Republicans and on behalf of the Republican Party, I would like to apologize for the remarks of G.A. Baker that appeared in the Emerald on Dec. 9.

G.A. Baker is not a member of our organization, and does not reflect our views. He seems to confuse elements of conservatism with Republican philosophy (a common mistake in this environment), and to automatically assume that any and all Democrats are "weak-minded."

Republicans believe in the intrinsic power and sense of personal responsibility of individuals to positively influence not only their own lives, but the lives of others and of society in general. We Republicans point out people such as Dr. King who are able to promote social change through individual action, without relying solely on the machinations of government to do so for them.

In fact, during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's the majority of Republicans in both House and Senate enthusiastically supported Civil Rights legislation. George Bush himself went against his District's majority opinion in 1966 and fully backed Civil Rights legislation, reversing the anti-Civil Rights platform that had secured his seat in Congress in 1964. Politically this was not a popular move for Congressmen in midsixties Texas, but Bush obviously thought that some things were more important.

G.A., remember that you can

disagree with Democrats (or Libertarians or partisans of any other political party) without insulting their intelligence or beliefs or belittling their values. Part of the "kinder, gentler nation" ethic is to respect the values and beliefs of others as important to them, even if you disagree with them or think that these people are misguided.

Ross E. Johnson
Fourth District Chair
Oregon College Republicans

Wants proof

I would like to thank Jon Wollander for his hilarious comments on the passage of Ballot Measure 8 (ODE, Dec. 8).

He comments on the "... grossly unsanitary gay activities which inflict a monumental assault on the human body" and says that "Homosexual behavior clearly harms the participants and endangers all humanity."

I ask the self-righteous Mr. Wollander to present some iota of proof to back up his outlandish claims. If he truly believes that homosexual behavior harms the participants, then I would think he would not have to worry, would he? As for endangering all humanity, well, we would be long gone if this were true. As a matter of fact, in Central Africa, AIDS is primarily a heterosexual disease and rarely affects homosexuals. A much more serious threat to humanity is the buildup of nuclear weapons, starvation, the deteriorating ozone layer, destruction of the environment and the hate which is harbored in the paranoid mind of Mr. Wollander and other "homophobics." Perhaps Mr. Wollander is nearly over-compensating for his own feelings of inferiority and self-doubt by attacking others.

Edwin Budge Jr.
Eugene

A joke?

First of all, in response to G.A. Baker's "Weak minded" letter (ODE, Dec. 9), I would like to say thank you for the

laugh. Although I hope that letter was a joke, I feel the need to respond as if someone actually believed it.

Once again, thank you for so clearly stating the political views I oppose. Let's look at what you've said: "... such great men as Hoover, Nixon, North, Poindexter, Meese ..." and "... weak-minded losers such as Roosevelt, JFK, Martin Luther King ..."

Those men you would have us hail as heroes have accomplished nothing. Nothing except strengthening the hatred of the people of third world and other nations for our country.

Those you call weak-minded had the strength to endure beyond momentary conflicts to pull our nation out of the deepest depression ever in our country, to set in motion the technological and educational processes to put a man on the moon, to reduce to a nearly acceptable level the discrimination of one race to another. Your heroes, by their stagnation have allowed all three of these accomplishments to fall into near ruin (with the possible exception of technology — but we all know the goal of maintaining that is not for peaceful endeavors).

Jeffrey Hawkins
Student, thinker

Dirty habit

There have been a couple of letters to the editor this term about the problem of litter in Eugene. Maybe a good place to start confronting this problem is where it is subsidized by the government and by the student body. I've noticed, for instance, that three different bus drivers on my LTD route have this dirty habit. So while the city and state pluck litter from our streets, they subsidize the habit at the very same time — and set a poor example for us to follow, too. One phone call hasn't made a difference but several will, so join me in calling on our civil servants to clean up their act.

Alan Rutherford
Architecture

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