

# Better that Bush fill his shoes, not Ron's

When George Bush assumes power today as the 41st President of the United States, he faces a host of daunting challenges — many left in the wake of the Reagan years.

Reagan's farewell plans will prove an early test to the Bush presidency. He must now fulfill Reagan's promises to increase education spending and Medicaid payments to low-income families and take steps toward environmental cleanup while cutting the deficit with "no new taxes."

No problem here; after all, Bush can always raise the old taxes through the roof, without reneging on his pledge not to impose new taxes.

Bush faces the omnibus trade law passed by the last Congress (which took effect Jan. 1 of this year), which may mean Bush will be forced to retaliate against foreign rivals accused of unfair trading practices by U.S. firms. Bush also confronts the new Congress, which seems more aggressive on trade issues and quicker to enforce the law's stiffest sanctions. It will take the democratic Congress to keep Bush in line.

Bush faces the dilemma of diminishing U.S. competitiveness in education, investments, trade policy, research and development, which has granted the nation a trade deficit exceeding \$100 billion for the fifth consecutive year. Bush must reduce this deficit while assuring the nation's people that we will remain a superpower, and while imposing no new taxes.

And perhaps Bush's hottest challenge yet will be to avert war on the planet. The cold war has begun to thaw, but the bloody conflicts in the Third World seem to have increased. Bush would be wise to remove U.S. troops from where they don't belong, where they're not needed — and avoid embroiling the nation in a war without reason.

Bush has promised us a "kinder, gentler nation," — but right now, promises and rhetoric don't just look cheap, they are cheap.

After eight years as Ronald Reagan's sidekick, George Bush hardly has a fine example to follow.

## Inauguration week: waste of time, money, humanity

Fleets of limousines trek through the city, depositing ball-gown and black-tie-clad celebrants at dinners and dances and party after party.

Dynasty, right?

Wrong. Welcome to the inauguration celebration of the nation's 41st President — George Bush.

Yes, Washington, D.C. is raking in the bucks this week, (not to mention dishing them right back out) between the \$1,500-a-plate dinners, the choice seating at the choice restaurants, and the high demand for formal wear for those who just didn't pack enough from home.

One mink-draped woman told another: "I called home and had my daughter send me this (gown) because I looked at the schedule and realized I needed another one." And the understatement of the week comes from San Francisco banking executive Don Stephens: "I guess we'll be going to some parties here."

But between the glitzy and the gauche, between the 5,000 ounces of choice caviar ordered by the Ritz-Carlton to please the palates of its guests and the Maryland crab and roast pork served at one of the inaugural dinners, and between the Republican high-rollers and other well-heeled party-goers lies another element that has made itself heard — and justifiably so.

While we certainly don't expect the inaugural partygoers to notice, Washington, D.C. has one of the nation's highest rates of homelessness. While the wealthy Republicans were preparing for a candlelight dinner, the street people parked themselves on the plaza in front of the newly-refurbished Union Station to enjoy their own banquet of chili and rice, tortilla chips, salad and apple cider. Said one homeless man in reference to the inaugural dinners, "I think maybe they should eat the same thing we're having so they'll know what it's like."

It's the thought that counts, but this disgusting display of wealth beyond any decency far removes the wealthy party-goers from ever knowing what it's like to be without food, clothing and shelter (let alone caviar, champagne, limousines and ball gowns).

It's time Bush recognized the deficit and the many other problems facing the nation. A week's worth of partying certainly won't make the problems disappear — it just adds to the ire of the common people who have recognized the past week's celebrations as not only the most expensive inauguration in history, but as a monumental waste of time and money.



## Letters

### Donate books

Imagine walking through campus with an armed military lining the streets. Perhaps you would pass one of your compañeros being beaten by armed men. You then enter a classroom vacuous of materials. You have few study aids. Is this the way to receive an education?

Unfortunately, the above scene is a reality for the 42,000 students attending the University of El Salvador.

The University of Oregon/University of El Salvador Sister University Project is currently collecting books in order to raise money so that our sister university can purchase adequate educational resources. Instead of selling back all of your used textbooks, please donate one or many of them to our book drive. Boxes are located in the University Bookstore and in our office in EMU Suite 1. We will sell back the books for you and send the money to the University of El Salvador.

We would appreciate all of your support — thank you.

Melissa A. Medvin  
UO/UES Sister University Project

### Crime blurbs

While reading the Jan. 18 edition of the Emerald, I was struck by the front-page article concerning the theft of a graduate student's wood block print. This was certainly a worthy article, especially since, as art instructor Ken Paull pointed out, publicity will hopefully help stop the too-frequent thefts from Lawrence Hall.

What really struck me, though, was not the article itself, but the fact that the Emerald found it fit to report a crime of property concerning a student on the front page, but has not found it worthy to report the violent rape of a woman near Hayward Field last term, or the attempted abduction of a woman outside her dorm recently anywhere but in the police beat section near the back of the paper. It is essential in our efforts to stop rape to pay serious attention to crimes against women and stop delegating these stories to blurbs in the back pages. Perhaps front-page publicity of these violent crimes would too help stop the too-frequent rapes from occurring on this campus.

Kristen Hammerstad  
Student

### Beef

Students of the University Survival Center are concerned about the possible location of a fast food establishment in the EMU. Survival Center represents students who are concerned about ecologically and socially responsible lifestyles and economies.

We support the following two establishments proposing to operate within the EMU. Our first choice, Saturday Market, is a Eugene based non-profit organization which represents a diversity of locally owned small businesses, many ethnic, and all promoting wholesome foods. Secondly we prefer Jamie's Burgers which, likewise, is locally owned and would encourage continued growth of Eugene- and Oregon-based small business.

We would support establishments that adhere to the following criteria:

- offer nutritionally wholesome foods.
- encourage ethnically diverse foods.
- respect the EMU styrofoam ban and maintain an effort to keep packaging, paper consumption to a minimum.
- support small, Eugene/Oregon based business.

Because of our strong position on environmental conservation we cannot condone consideration of Burger King for its practices in Central America where its production of beef (one of the poorest quality beefs brought into America) is contributing to the sickening destruction of that region's tropical rain forests. The environmental degradation and disreputable business practices of Burger King and other nationally franchised operations forces us to oppose them as possible food merchandisers.

If no business meets our criteria and the present operation, Skylight Refectory, continues to lose money, we propose abandoning the search for a fast food establishment and renovating the space into student group offices, many of which already lack adequate facilities.

Kelly P. Beard  
"Steward" Editor

### My husband

I would like to thank Paula Gamble for her words of wisdom (ODE, Jan. 18). I agree that sex should be a "pure and simple" act "between a married man and his wife." My husband and I "practice" intercourse only within our "marriage"; we wouldn't consider practicing "natural, healthy and sanitary" sex with anyone else. There is one catch, however. My husband is a man and I am my husband's husband. Understand? Does this mean we can still get into heaven or not?

Scott Shoup  
Asian Studies

### 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.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.