

## So what was Bush trying to say to us?

When President George Bush faced Congress last week, many people probably had a feeling of *deja vu* — or at least of feeling of being trapped in some vague, surreal dream-escape.

In fact, Bush echoed his campaign sentiments of a kinder and gentler nation, but gave no clear indication of how he intends to make the necessary adjustments and revisions in government budgeting.

Not surprisingly, Bush continued the Reagan administration's practice of using unrealistic economic assumptions to pretend that the deficit is smaller than it really is.

Bush also painted an optimistic picture for the nation, claiming that projected federal revenue for the 1990 fiscal year will be \$80 billion more than 1989. This new money, Bush said, would enable his administration to increase spending in important areas while keeping the deficit below the \$100 billion ceiling set by the budget-balancing law.

So just when it seemed Bush might have been on the right track — the track of specific areas of spending — he said there are many areas in which "we would all like to spend more than I propose, but we cannot until we get our fiscal house in order."

Perhaps Bush should just get back to us when the fiscal house is in order and he has something worthwhile to say.

Overall, the Bush budget outline does not meet the economic demands of the nation at this time. According to Senate Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser, Bush's budget "gives the illusion of deficit reduction without decisively addressing the deficit problem."

Here, Bush should be wary. If he was trying to win Congress over in his budget proposal, he might not have succeeded because the budget committee chairman was not pleased with Bush's vague interpretations.

And as we all know, the goals that Bush attempted to nail down cannot be achieved by mere words and symbolic gestures.

The goals require money. But with Bush's lack of new revenue proposals, it's time he took *his* presidency seriously and stopped riding the coattails of Reagan and his final budget to Congress.

## Bush's acid rain pledge a promising place to start

On his first foreign visit after his inauguration, George Bush pledged to negotiate a treaty with Canada to limit American industrial emissions causing acid rain.

And while Bush neither set a timetable nor specified the size of the reductions, his statements can be accepted as larger and more promising than anything Ronald Reagan did for American and Canadian environmental concerns about the acid rain issue.

Yes, Bush's pledge remained vague, but Canadian officials have accepted this as a major step.

Before Bush, the Canadians believed they were going it alone on the acid rain crisis. The Reagan administration consistently insisted on a need for further study before any action could be taken against acid rain.

Reagan's bumbling blocked discussions with Canada for the eight years he held office.

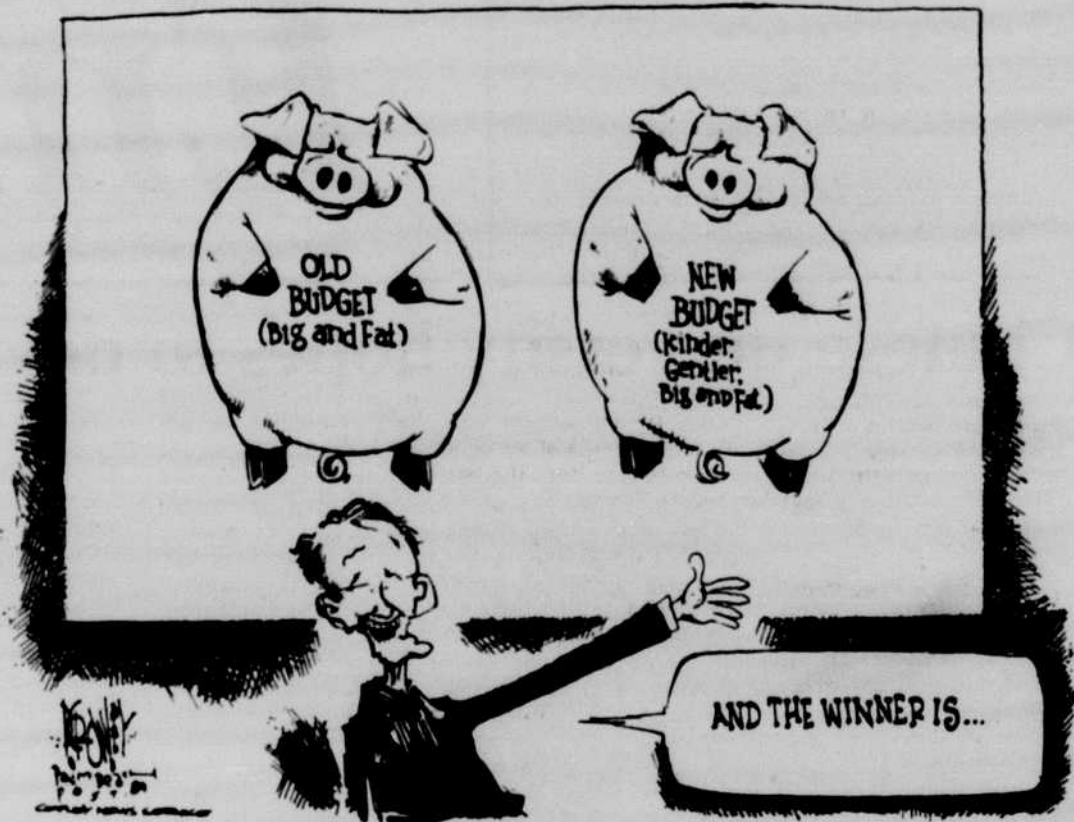
The Canadians, however, were not bumbling. Long ago, they asked the United States to reduce by more than half the emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, the two major pollutants that form acids when combined with water in the atmosphere.

The Canadian studies, in fact, have shown that U.S. emissions account for approximately 70 percent of their acid rain problems. Prevailing winds from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and neighboring states have carried pollutants east and north to New York, New England and Canada. Here, the acidic rain and snowfalls have damaged forests and poisoned lakes.

Solving the acid rain problem, however, will require difficult political choices for the Bush administration. Secretary of State James Baker III has said it will be difficult to determine who will pay the several-billion-dollar cleanup costs.

But in the meantime, the Bush administration is taking steps to alleviate this long-standing problem.

Bush intends to move toward a solution. And this is by far a kinder, gentler approach to the problems that poisoned relations between the United States and Canada during Reagan's tenure.



## Letters

### Punishment

As a former fraternity president I would like to register my extreme disagreement with the sanctions imposed on two fraternities involved in what police called a "near riot."

One of the sanctions was a requirement that the fraternities perform community service as a part of their punishment. I believe that service to the community is an honor, and a task that responsible citizens undertake in an effort to better their community. Teaching University students that community service is a punishment shows poor judgment and is highly inappropriate.

Scott Seibert  
Eugene

### Holocoenotic

In regard to Richard Gold's article "Tree Talk" (ODE, Feb. 14), I would like to mention that I care if the old growth forest "goes down screaming." I do believe that I am not the only one. Nor should I be.

I suggest that Richard Gold open a book or a newspaper and read about some of the catastrophic treatment imposed on earth by humans. If we were the "only things doing any thinking around this place," then we wouldn't be the ones destroying so many of the vital things upon which we are dependent. Granted, we have advanced brains capable of extending the boundaries of nature. (Without them, humans would be the most defenseless creatures on earth.) But humans were not put on this planet to exploit it and everything else residing on it, whether that is the way Richard Gold has interpreted the "Good Book" or not.

I also suggest that he take a reminder from the 1975 NASA report stating that the earth's climate is "holocoenotic"; in other words, it is a whole in which "any action influencing a single part of the system can be expected to have an effect on all other parts of that system."

And Richard Gold: Careless-

ness, individual greed and lack of regard for the future are not "the way it's supposed to be." What is "supposed to be," are old growth forests, a complete ozone layer, and a planet on which we all can live in cooperation with nature.

Richard Gold may live to be an old man. He may not drink water from the faucet, breathe air outside, or bare any of his skin to the sun, but he might make it. I certainly hope he doesn't have any children.

Annelise Couchman  
Student

### Net of time

The death of Dr. Robert Terwilliger, director, professor and researcher at OIMB, is a great loss to the University.

As past students, we worked with him and know him in class and in the field. Bob shared this excerpt from "The Outermost House" by Henry Beston with us, and we'd like to share it because we feel it represents Bob's respect and wonder of the marine environment:

"We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth."

We value highly what he taught us. We extend our re-

gards to his wife, Nora, and his family. We will miss Dr. Terwilliger.

Kate Furr  
Laura Dutton  
Biology

### Beta gripe

I am appalled and disturbed that the Emerald would print such a slanderous attack as the editorial against my brothers and myself (ODE, Feb. 13). The article I am speaking of concentrated on disaffiliating the Beta Theta Pi fraternity from the University.

The author justifies his conclusion that the Betas should be kicked off campus because of two isolated incidents. The first of these is last February's lawsuit against the fraternity and two individuals. The incident in question happened in 1984. Nobody currently living in the house lived here when the incident occurred, but the author believes we should be removed from campus because of it.

As far as last month's Chi Psi incident goes, it's over. The punishment (fair or unfair) has been rendered, and it is water under the bridge. We are all upset that this unfortunate incident occurred, and we are working at improving relations with our buddies across the alley.

This author should be ashamed for writing such a slanderous article. Why should we be punished for something that happened when we were in high school and for another incident that we didn't even start? Betas have a long and rich tradition at this University that we are very proud of. The next time you need headlines it would be appreciated if you would find another scapegoat. One last piece of advice: While we work on turning ourselves "into something approximating gentlemen," maybe you should work on turning yourselves into something approximating an objective newspaper.

Michael J. Ryan  
Beta Theta Pi member  
Friday, February 17, 1989