

# Time to hope for the best, expect worst

Ask around, and chances are you won't find anyone opposed to a minimum wage increase.

Except U.S. Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole (and congressional Republicans), who is doing her damndest to convince Congress that President Bush will veto any attempt to raise the minimum wage beyond the administration's goal of \$4.25 an hour by the end of 1991.

Dole also claims Bush won't accept a minimum wage raise plan without the inclusion of a six-month training period wage, where new workers could be paid as little as \$3.35 an hour for their first six months on the job.

After all, as the Democrats contend, at such a low pay scale, the job turnover rate in a six-month period is astronomical.

Not surprisingly, congressional Democrats are more than opposed to the Bush administration's proposal. They have proposed increasing the minimum wage to \$4.65 an hour over the next three years, with the training wage to be limited, if absolutely necessary.

But following Dole's testimony to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee last Friday, it seems as though any opinion concerning the minimum wage increase that doesn't follow Bush's plan won't be tolerated.

Sen. Edward Kennedy recognized this, telling Dole he hoped that "we're not getting hit with a take-it-or-leave-it."

Yes, Ted, that's exactly what's happening.

Realize, of course, that the minimum wage hasn't been raised since 1981. The congressional proposal can be seen two ways: as a 30 cent increase a year over the next three years, or as a 90 cent increase over the past decade. And the Bush administration is so stingy that it's opposed to this raise?

But all is not lost.

The federal minimum wage increase is unbelievably misery, but Oregon lawmakers are out to combat this while joining the ranks of 12 other states and the District of Columbia in the passage of a minimum wage law that takes precedence over the federal standard.

Today, the Oregon Senate is expected to act on a bill that would increase the state's minimum wage for the first time in eight years — to a whopping \$3.85 an hour on July 1, to \$4.25 in 1990 and to \$4.75 in 1991. After 1991, the base wage would be pegged at 50 percent of the average weekly wage in the state.

Apparently, if we can't win a minor victory at the federal level, we can win a discouraging victory at the state level.

True, the state increase is, at the very least, a start. This gradual increase would prevent an adverse reaction from the business community, which might otherwise be forced to eliminate staff positions in order to accommodate an immediate \$1.40 an hour jump.

However, state Senate Democrats are facing the same battle as their federal counterparts.

A partisan scrap is expected today, as Senate Republicans, who hold a minority of the Senate seats, intend to introduce their own version of a bill that would boost the minimum wage in just two steps — to \$3.85 on July 1 and to \$4.25 next Jan. 1.

What we have here are unfair tactics by the Republicans at both the federal and state levels. Perhaps the Republicans, ever wary of every dollar the Democrats intend to spend, should remember that they're not working for \$3.35 an hour. If they were, they would undoubtedly support a hefty minimum wage increase.

Given a choice, it would be best to hope for the state's proposal to raise the minimum wage (eventually) to \$4.75 an hour. And if this idea fails, a federal increase to \$4.65 also would be acceptable.

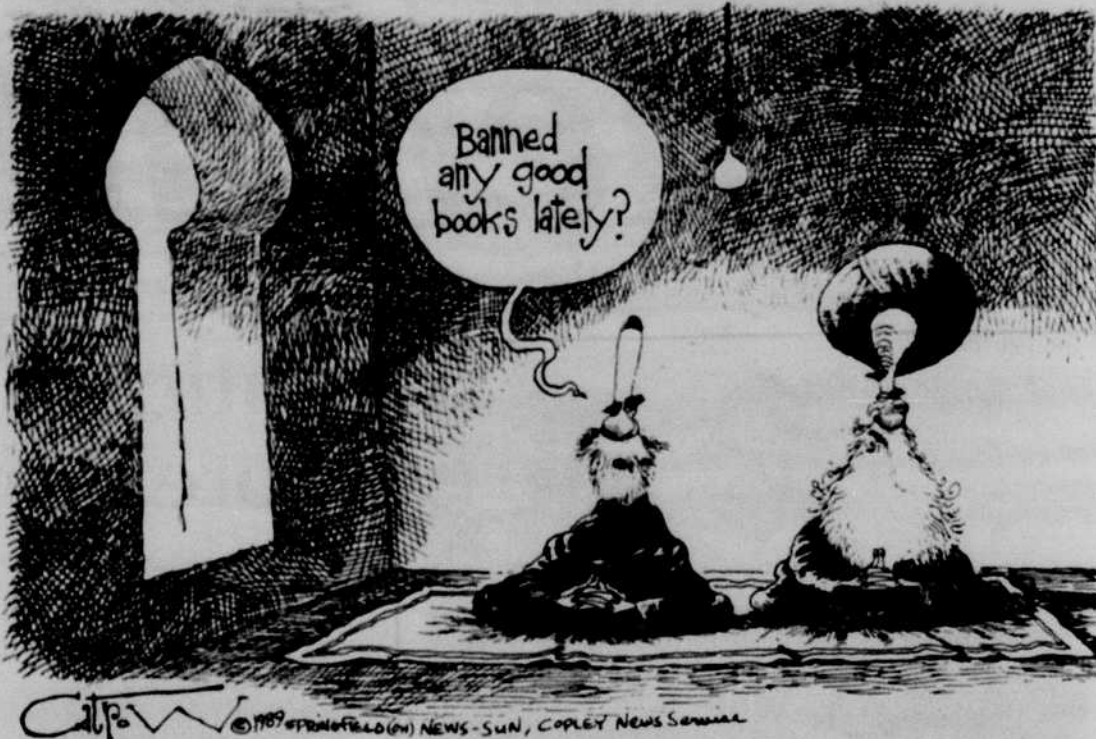
But all we really can do, as the old saying goes, is "hope for the best, and expect the worst." Chances are, the minimum wage will still be at \$3.35 when the year 2000 rolls around.

## 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.

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



## Letters

### Persistence

I for one do not share the optimism of Richard Bray, University alumnus and former Standard Oil vice president, who gave a lecture Thursday night (Feb. 23) sponsored by the Geological Sciences Department, as seen in Friday's Emerald (Feb. 24).

Evidently Bray is not worried about running out of petroleum soon — "As we need more, I believe we'll find it ... the whole name of the game is to keep in there long enough and to be persistent enough to find the big one." The only woes of oil consumption he could identify were economic ones, like our dependence on foreign sources.

I wonder if this (former?) oil profiteer ever thought about other impacts of oil consumption, like, say, pollution? Bray alluded to the oil companies' investment in renewable resources, like solar energy, as if they were a last resort after all fossil fuels have been burned up. Typical. Please let's weigh the enormous costs a little more carefully than that before we get "optimistic" about finding "the big one."

Alan Rutherford  
Architecture

### Sticky keys

Picture this: monkeys from the live-animal research labs writing editorials for the Oregon Daily Emerald! I have this information on good authority from future "Secretary of State" John Tower (ODE editorial, Feb. 27). Evidently, this experiment was started last fall as part of on-going research by members of PETA to prove that animals are at least as intelligent as humans and certainly smell better.

The technique involves showing the apes pictures out of the Register-Guard such as a jet airliner that "sprout(ed) a hole," or a drill rig probing "porous, volcanic ground" in order to drain Crater Lake. The apes are then taken to a meeting chose at random out of the "meetings" section of the Emerald, where they are exposed to large quantities of righteous indignation. Finally, they are

led to typewriters with sticky keys and a few hours later, viola!, an editorial for the school newspaper.

This winter a few of the monkeys enrolled in logic classes at the University, and studied the finer points of ad hominem and straw man arguments in the hopes of improving their skills. The program has been judged an unequivocal success; the entertainment value of the editorials this year is considered to be even better than that of the "Letters" section.

I've heard a rumor that the biology department is jealous of the results and is currently encouraging their blind laboratory mice to attempt offerings for the "Opinion" next quarter.

Dean Livelybrooks  
Physics

### Gospel account

On Feb. 16 I offered David Oaks a chance to dialogue about his letter of that date. He expressed that this was not a priority to him. I offered this chance because it is not my desire to humiliate anyone. It is my desire that each one should understand the truth concerning the gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, since this is a foundation for making those writings any more than philosophy.

The "parallel passage evaluation" shows an inconsistency only when absolute contradictions are present. For example, if Matthew had said, "Two angels appeared at (positive event marker)," and Mark said, "One person appeared; there were not others present at (same event marker)," we would know that one or both of the authors were lying, or were misinformed.

However, this is not the case! We have, instead, one man mentioning that one angel was present, and one noting two. If I said, "Mr. Todd was at the basketball game last night," and someone else came up and said, "There were 12,000 people at the basketball game last night" would that make me a liar? As to the different details that were included, similar reasoning shows that the accounts are quite supportive, rather than contradictory. Write the events down side by side and

see for yourself. I encourage anyone who was convinced that the resurrection is a hoax to re-evaluate using sound reasoning.

Bob Weigel  
Lab technician

### Pulsar

Christopher Blair's article "University professor witnesses birth of nearby pulsar" (ODE, Feb. 15) reports the formation of a massive spinning star estimated to be only about 12 miles in diameter, but with matter so densely packed, 1 teaspoonful, it is calculated, may weigh hundreds of thousands of tons, and the pulsar may contain more matter than our own sun.

Calculations estimate the pulsar is spinning 1,968,429 times per second. This is measured by the rhythmical outflow of sub-atomic neutrinos from the pulsar in a pattern that is extremely accurate.

James Imamura, assistant professor of physics and astronomy at the University, confirms the amazing degree of accuracy of scientific theories resulting from the fortunate discovery of Supernova 1987A, an exploding star and the first visible to the naked eye in 400 years.

"Scientific American" (May, June, July 1987) describes these discoveries. Light from the explosion, estimated to have occurred 170,000 years ago, was first noted by an astronomer at an observatory in Chile in February 1987.

These amazing conformations of scientific theory and endeavor contrast with irrational theist claims and actions of religious tyrants determined to force their unverifiable doctrines on humankind.

Intelligent people must insist that publicly funded libraries carry a fair representation (now absent or deficient) of legitimate atheist argument. "Critiques of God," Peter Angeles, editor, (Prometheus, Buffalo, N.Y.) provides erudite atheist rebuttals by 18 eminent scientists and scholars that demolish irrational theist claims, honor science and advance human understanding.

Bert Tryba  
Eugene

Monday, March 6, 1989