

Yes on Measure 1; set education base

Next week, voters have a chance to improve the overall quality of education in Oregon. We urge them to take that chance.

On May 16, there will be a special election to decide State Measure 1. This measure, if approved, would amend the Oregon Constitution to establish new tax base limits on local school districts. Currently, about a third of Oregon's school districts do not operate their schools within their tax base. These districts must repeatedly ask their voters for additional property tax levies.

Operating in this way is a chaotic — and unfair — means of providing education to the state's children. The annual levies provide students with an education that varies widely from county to county and even from year to year. It seems obvious to us that education should not be a matter of geography or short-range planning.

What Measure 1 would do is set tax bases for all districts for 1989-90. These new bases would take the 1986-87 levels and add a 6 percent annual increase. Schools operating in the "safety net" (those districts working on an older tax base due to the failure of a levy request) for the last two years would get to add 12 percent.

The automatic six percent increases are what opponents of Measure 1 argue against. They claim that it is improper to allow state voters to override the decisions of local voters. This is a legitimate concern, but education is important enough that it is proper for the state to legislate minimum standards, which is what Measure 1 does. Opponents also contend that teacher salaries in Oregon are too already too high, but the trouble the state faces in retaining educators tells the real truth.

For most of Oregon's school districts, especially those in the Willamette Valley, the passage of Measure 1 will make no difference. But districts in smaller rural communities will greatly benefit. The measure will help bring the quality of education in those districts up to the level found in "better-off" districts.

In addition to the tax base increases, Measure 1 contains several other benefits. \$35 million would be marked to lower tax rates in districts with high rates and low per-student spending. \$20 million in additional tax relief would go to those with high property taxes. Another \$35 million would go to the expense of teaching the severely handicapped.

The concerns of those against State Measure 1 simply do not override the benefits to be gained from passage of this bill. Vote "yes" on this measure next Tuesday.



Best intentions lead to animal slaughter

As the debate over animal research rages in the University community, a recent shocking development is likely to add more fuel to the argument that, as a society, we do not treat our fellow creatures right — even those who claim to defend the animals.

Last week it was discovered that the Oregon Humane Society in Portland had improperly slaughtered thousands of animals a year over the last eight years. Apparently, overzealous animal welfare groups were rounding up dogs and cats and euthanizing them.

The animal groups, Animal Aid Inc. and Citizens for Humane Education, trapped animals on the assumption they were strays and made no effort to determine if the animals belonged to pet owners. Angry members of the Humane Society issued the report, which also notes long-time abuses of Society admission, care and feeding procedures.

The Society report also stated the group's executive director Patrick Sweeney and the general manager, Alan Thomas, both knew about the killings, but did nothing to curb them. Both men have been fired.

The impact of the animal kills are horrifying. The report reads in part: "There is no basis for knowing, retrospectively, how many, if any, of these animals were in fact

missing, with owners perhaps frantically looking for their pets." And indeed, after the report's release, The Oregonian (Portland's daily newspaper) was deluged by callers seeking information about the fate of their missing pets.

Why did the animal groups hunt down these animals? They may have had the best intentions. Animal Aid director Phyllis Johanson said most of the animals were "starving in one way or another. They're starving to death, mostly." Animals were also euthanized on the suspicion of disease.

The report clearly puts the blame on these groups for not following through in placing the animals in homes or locating their owners, and for being overanxious in putting the critters to sleep.

"Animals are routinely euthanized because of slight coughs or occasional sneezing without any overt signs of disease," the report read. Some animals were killed for having ear mites.

The Humane Society's reputation as a defender of animals has been clearly damaged, and it will be a long time before Oregonians again afford their public trust to the organization. Hopefully, practice reforms will ensue to fix the damage expediently.

Letters

Athletic support

I am writing in response to the recent incidental fee committee meeting held May 1. For those who don't know the topic of this meeting, it was to decide how much money to allocate to the athletic department.

What I saw in this meeting was disturbing to me. I saw the seven members of the IFC decide what they said to be best for all students at this University. It seemed to me that all but two of the committee members came into the meeting determined not to give the Athletic Department the 10 percent increase in their budget that they desperately need. They need this increase to keep the non-revenue and women's athletic programs going at the standard of excellence they have achieved.

So in essence, what these seven people said is that the students of this University aren't willing to pay an extra

ten dollars a year to keep our athletic programs up to par with the rest of the country. I think it is a crime to let the seven members of the IFC make that decision for all of us. So if this is as disturbing to you as it is to me, let's make a difference, let's let the seven members of the IFC know we are proud of our athletic programs and are willing to pay the extra \$10 a year to fund their programs.

To find out when the next IFC hearing on this subject will be, call the IFC (686-3749) or the Athletic Department (686-4481).

Jon Madarieta
Eugene

Just pity

It was a beautiful day, Monday the first of May, but something was amiss. Alder Street was bustling with hordes of Sigma Alpha Epsilons (SAE's).

They seemed to be drawn to the Delta Gamma sorority like metal flakes to a magnet.

As I arrived at the scene, we saw a pitiful sight. A man, an SAE, was vomiting in the hedge surrounded by his now arriving brothers. In a panic, some were yelling "Don't say a word!" to the more looselipped in the house. We were then informed by an SAE and other bystanders as to what had transpired. Apparently, this particular member had been stripped nude, duct-taped to a mattress, and thrown in the Delta Gamma living room by his dear brothers.

His crime: love. He had decided to give up his house pin to his girlfriend. Gee, thanks for the well wishes, guys. We have no qualms against the Greek system, just pity for those who make a mockery of it.

Joel Hope
Senior
Joel Boyer
Junior

Child care

Students at the University currently fund seven child care sites. They serve children from toddler through preschool only. Many children of parent students fall outside these age boundaries. Even those who are eligible are often forced onto waiting lists because of lack of space in centers. In recognition of these circumstances and the expense associated with child care, student fees fund a subsidy for low income parent students to assist them in paying their child care bills. Even so, parent fees for service provide the majority of revenue for the programs.

From their incidental fees, students provide a subsidy to pay up to 50 percent of 25 hours or half time child care fees at any certified or registered facility. This year \$150,000 has been budgeted and even this amount will not meet the need. If you are a student and have any questions or want to give testimony on your feelings about child care for parent students please come to the ASUO Child Care public hearing today at noon in the EMU Fir Room (by the main desk).

Phil Nebergall
ASUO Child Care Task Force
chairman

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.