

## Education in need of tax levy passage

Edmund Burke once said, "You can never plan the future by the past." This may or may not be true, but the future can be secured in the actions of the present. So it's up to city voters to give overwhelming approval to Eugene's 4J school tax levy tomorrow.

For the past five years, Eugene schools have survived without a new tax base, but the easy sailing of past years is over.

City voters need to realize the great responsibility that faces them in funding education, whether they approve of taxes or not. Although Gov. Neil Goldschmidt (and many of us) would like to shift the burden of school costs away from property taxes, no choice remains now but for the school system to rely on this tax as a major portion of revenue. It's up to voters to see this levy through and maintain the high quality of education for which Eugene is known.

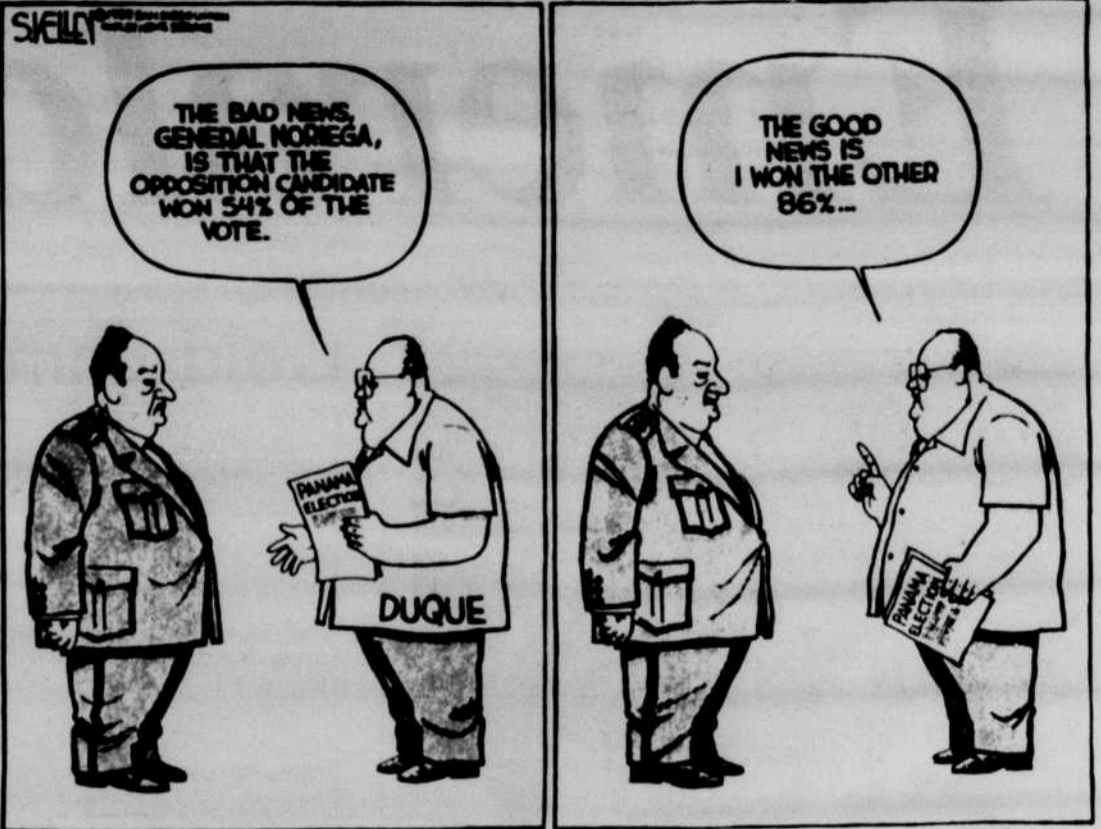
If the tax levy fails, almost \$4 million (the amount of the levy request) will be cut from the existing budget. The results would be daunting and too much stands to be lost.

Supportive services and staff members such as counselors, bus drivers, coaches and cafeteria staff could be cut; English as a Second Language teachers and speech and hearing therapists could be laid off; and our commitment to multi-cultural education and racial equality could be severed. If the previous services are saved, class size would have to increase 20 or 30 percent. This would markedly reduce individual care and attention to students. These are awful choices to have to make.

But these choices, if they can be called that, won't have to be made if voters approve the 4J tax levy and add 46 cents to the present \$17.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value on property.

When the School Board began looking at next school year's budget, it became apparent that an enormous tax increase would be necessary to save education. Rather than go overboard, the board decided to cut 127 staff positions in order to save \$4 million. This brought district spending to a more maintainable level, but a 7 percent increase in tax dollars above the normal 6 percent growth in the tax base is still required. This 7 percent increase is being asked for tomorrow.

Voters who are tired of taxes should use their best judgment and realize the necessity of this levy. Maintaining the high quality of education should take priority over other necessities — for the sake of the future.



## Non-revenue sports deserve IFC funding

Oh the times, they are a changin'. Historically, the University's student body has shown an unflinching commitment to funding non-revenue sports and, specifically, women's athletics. But recently the Incidental Fee Committee voted to deny the Athletic Department a 9.5 percent increase in revenue allocation to non-revenue sports, which is unfortunate.

Though we can understand IFC budget constraints, we believe they have ignored the feelings of students by denying the athletic department what would amount to only an additional \$2.45 a student a term in incidental fees.

This is also a slap in the face to the University on a national level, which is often considered an institution that promotes equality in the athletic arena — regardless of gender.

More often than not, and most certainly in the recent past, students have willingly paid fees to support non-revenue sports. Student support also is evident in the consistently large attendance levels at various athletic events.

Moreover, members of the University's

women's athletic teams have consistently maintained GPAs above a 3.0. And yet, fewer scholarships are available to these women who most deserve them. This seems rather foolish when compared to the almost 100 full-time scholarships available to the University's football team, whose on-field success has ridden in the past few years on the shoulders of just a few star athletes.

The women's athletic teams have more than proven their abilities and their need for finances. It is doubtful that we would see members of the IFC sweeping Mac Court or selling programs at athletic events to keep the IFC in working order, as athletes of non-revenue sports have had to do. The women's athletic teams have proven themselves time and time again. The IFC's decision hardly rewards them for their efforts.

Concerned University students are now circulating a petition to be presented to the IFC voicing support of non-revenue sports. In light of the petition and the uproar and indignation by those of us who support women's athletics, the IFC should reconsider its faulty decision.

## Letters

### Beware agenda

Jon Wollander's letter "Slanted polls" (ODE, April 28), shows the need for improved reading comprehension so people will recognize false arguments typical of such writers.

Writers wanting to advance understanding choose words carefully and fashion their ideas with precision to eliminate ambiguity. Wollander's letter documents his interest in avoiding precision in definition and logic. Teachers must train students to critically analyze writing.

Unhappy with Gallup poll evidence of public support for the 1973 Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision, Wollander consciously fashions invalid words into emotional buttons like: "... which legalized mothers killing their preborn," "... common reasons mothers gave for aborting their child," "... to kill her unborn baby," and "preborn babies."

Wollander exploits emotion, shunning reason. His use of the word "preborn" suggesting

something more than a fetus, recognizes the Supreme Court would not accept and might punish his use of the word "child" in reference to its decision.

Women become "mothers" when they give birth to a child. Pregnant women are pregnant women — not mothers. Even Judaic law recognizes a fertilized egg developing as a fetus in a woman's uterus becomes a "baby" or "child" only when it is separated from the womb, naturally or surgically, at birth.

Christian zealots long engaged in undermining our Constitutional liberties believe the present Reagan Supreme Court offers optimum opportunity to achieve their religious agenda. Let us beware.

Bert Tryba  
Eugene

### Stop graffiti

Unfortunately, some members in the University community are using our free speech right in an extremely perverted manner — graffiti.

I'm not talking about the mindless graffiti in bathroom stalls or classroom desks. These marks represent the bored individual that has no respect for property, but to the ignorant everything is boring. One could expect that from this person, but not the person directed by goals which are quite laudable, goals representing that individual's rights.

Do these individuals think that printing on buildings, sidewalks and other such structures will successfully promote their cause?

I am all for the peace movement, but defacing property is not the way to bring about peace! I am specifically talking about the "U.S. out of El Salvador" graffiti in front of Geringer Annex. To me, this is in itself a disgusting contradiction. This person not only perverts the cause, but also embarrasses those who are active in a positive way.

This is not the only human rights graffiti on campus — "Gay rights," "Think globally, act locally," and "Stop racism" to name a few. Are these individuals so helpless that

they have to sneak around and voice their views destructively, not to mention illegally?

A word to those who feel the need to use graffiti to speak out: Graffiti does not help promote your goals. If anything, it hinders them; it is an incredible eyesore, and finally, it's just not right. If peace is what you want, live peacefully!

Dan Hawkins  
Philosophy

### Choose

To address the eloquent Bert Tryba (ODE, May 4): Course offerings in comparative religion should be made available to students who would choose to select them. The operative verb here is "choose."

Whether or not the material

presented is biased toward the substantiating of Judeo-Christian belief is presumably up to the instructor. If a student disagrees with the perspective, he or she is certainly allowed to either drop the course or express dissatisfaction, to either the individual instructor or the department itself.

Because religions and belief systems of all forms are prominent components of our culture and society, courses examining them should continue to be offered at the university level.

Just as students can select whether or not to register for these classes, they are also free — within our society — to either accept or reject a belief, whether it is based upon faith or hard empirical evidence.

G.S. Parson  
Student

### 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.