

Don't be tough guy on minimum wage

It's a measure of just how long overdue a raise in the nation's minimum wage is when only a week after his "tough-guy" veto of such a bill, President Bush's party leads the next attempt to bring wages in line with the present.

The present \$3.35 an hour minimum wage has been in effect since 1981, and eight years without a raise is a long time. The proposal that was shot down last week would have raised the wage to \$4.55 an hour by 1992, but Bush said he would veto any bill pushing the wage above \$4.25. Not coincidentally, the Republican proposal currently circulating the House would increase the wage to \$4.25.

The other difference between the old minimum wage proposal and the new model is the so-called training wage. Both models include a lower wage for new workers; the Democrat version permitted the wage for 60 days, the Republican version designates four months. Either way, the training wage sounds suspicious to us. We fear that many unscrupulous employers will use it to hire — and then dump — cheap labor for jobs that hardly require "training."

We're also miffed at Bush's veto of the original proposal. Congressional leaders know a minimum wage increase is necessary, but Bush, who's still trying to grow a backbone, has decided that this will be the issue he'll take a stand on. That shows poor political timing on his part; this shouldn't be a partisan issue. Should Bush keep up the chest-pounding routine, we do hope he'll keep his word and approve the new proposal.

Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole has testified that increasing the minimum wage to \$4.55 would lead to a loss of 650,000 jobs, and that the inclusion of a lower training wage would save 170,000 of those jobs. These figures tell us two things: One, by the numbers it would save, the training wage is actually a tool for employers to abuse — nobody hires workers to train if they aren't truly needed.

Second, Dole's numbers also say something about economics as self-fulfilling prophecy. Certainly, any increase in the minimum wage will lead to an increase in prices, and a downturn in employment. But how large a downturn is hard to judge: much depends on how businesses *perceive* the upcoming economic cycle. If Bush keeps up the "tough-guy" act and keeps fighting a raise that is long overdue and just, he might create enough of a panic to make Dole's numbers come true.



America's stable economic base: 1000 points of plight!

Round two may be the last one

Just when you thought it was safe to continue your education, here comes "Jaws II" — the anxiously awaited second round of budget cuts from the University.

And surprise of surprises, this time around it seems as if we're seeing a "kinder, gentler" form of budget trimming, if that is possible.

The University had been asked by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to make a \$3.6 million cut over the 1989-91 biennium to cover faculty salary increases and keep in line with a modest higher education allotment from the Legislature. This round of cuts would total a \$2.2 million reduction; to meet the \$3.6 million level it has been decided that the University will spend part of the increased income the institution expects from increased enrollments to cover debts caused by over-enrollment. That makes sense.

But this round of cuts has something the first round, announced June 1, didn't have. Three academic programs initially targeted for elimination have been granted reprieves. And that's good news for students in those programs.

The counseling psychology master's de-

gree program, gerontology and mathematic statistics will be allowed to continue on — with some trims of course, but not the fatal kind.

Of course, by allowing these programs to survive, cuts have had to be made elsewhere, and they are brutal. About 60 to 70 class sections will be eliminated, meaning there will be fewer courses to choose from in some programs. Enrollment restrictions are being enacted in 11 departments. And as in the first round of cuts, student counseling and advising services will be lessened, as will support for KWAX. Plans to build a new computer lab are still being eliminated.

In his Tuesday statement announcing the second round, President Paul Olum expressed his regret for these deep, deep incisions. And as Olum steps out of office July 1, it does seem extremely sad that a man who has devoted as much care and love into this institution as he has must leave seeing the University in this shape.

Fortunately, in Salem there are rumors that the Legislature will be kind and not require further cuts in the budget. For Olum's sake, and for ours, we hope that occurs.

Letters

False claims

The ODE is in the unfortunate position of having publicized, in PETA's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) display advertisements, false and misleading claims directed against the University, the biology department and even individual members of our community.

Contrary to the implications of the advertisement, the University does not spend state money on biological research. Research funding is money brought into our state from granting agencies, and defrays costs of research including faculty salaries, graduate student support and operating costs.

The labs are obviously not "off-limits" to students and faculty, and no experiments are mutilations. Although the labs are working facilities, not demonstration facilities, tours are often provided for genuinely interested community members of all ages.

While some researchers have received defense department funding, none is directed or advised by the military and all work is public and available to anyone from any nation.

Finally, several outstanding members of our faculty have suffered personal attacks by this and similar organizations. Barbara Gordon-Lickey's work, like that of other investigators, is basic research, and basic research is the foundation of applied science. This is true of biomedical sciences as well as other fields.

The University can and should be proud of its contributions to the State of Oregon — scientific results contributed, students educated, and even funding generated!

Lee Zwanziger
Eugene

Predatory

I never thought of the Department of Public Safety as a predatory animal until last Memorial Day night. In order to pick up two of my friends to take them to the Eugene Greyhound bus terminal, I parked my car in a space on Columbia Street between Hamilton and Bean complexes, left my hazard lights going and quickly ran to their dorm to fetch them and their luggage.

Upon my speedy return, I was met by an of the Depart-

ment of Public Safety (who was not wearing any type of badge or designating uniform), who was in the process of ticketing my auto.

The facts that it was too dark for me to see that I was parked in an area reserved for scooters, that I had left my hazard lights going and that I returned after only a few minutes made no difference to him.

For a Public Safety officer to lurk undercover and ticket the autos of parents and other visitors seems contrary to the department's express purpose of promoting law and order in a fair and reasonable manner.

If Public Safety is so hard up for dollars that it must resort to "night in fog" tactics to obtain its funding, why doesn't it conduct bake sales in front of the Bookstore like other groups on campus do to help fund their activities?

Mark Curnell
Political science

No way

We can't believe it! The University Administration is making the smaller departments on campus pay for the salary increases of the business and journalism departments. These

two departments are getting away free and easy. Is there no fat in their budget? No way!

Why do other departments have to die or shrivel up into nothing in order to fund these two schools' raises? Let's be fair. Let's be smart. Why increase the animosity on campus toward these two schools by making them "special" and giving them favored treatment?

We are greatly disappointed in the University Administra-

tion and in the State of Oregon.

We won't be recommending the University to any of our younger peers because of the falling quality and lack of support offered by the University for departments the University does not view as valuable.

All we can say is: Boy, we're glad to be graduating!

Terri Bassett
Valerie Quade
Leisure studies

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