

Good work done in the 65th Legislature

The 1989 Oregon Legislature has finally closed up shop. After six long months of haggling and promises, arguments and threats, the session is finished and lawmakers can go home.

More importantly, they can go home with justly deserved praises.

We had our worries, but in the end it proved to be a productive session. A few notes on some of the Legislature's accomplishments:

- The biggest score was on setting a plan on extending a minimum level of health insurance for the state's citizens. Nearly all workers in the state will receive some form of insurance by 1994. Impoverished Oregonians will share resources made available through the Medicaid program.

- More good news for the state's less fortunate: The raising of the minimum wage. It will be increased to \$3.85 in September (from \$3.35, where it's been since 1981), and eventually will go up to \$4.75 by 1991. Currently, that will make for the nation's highest minimum wage. Somebody ought to send George Bush a copy of this example of political courage.

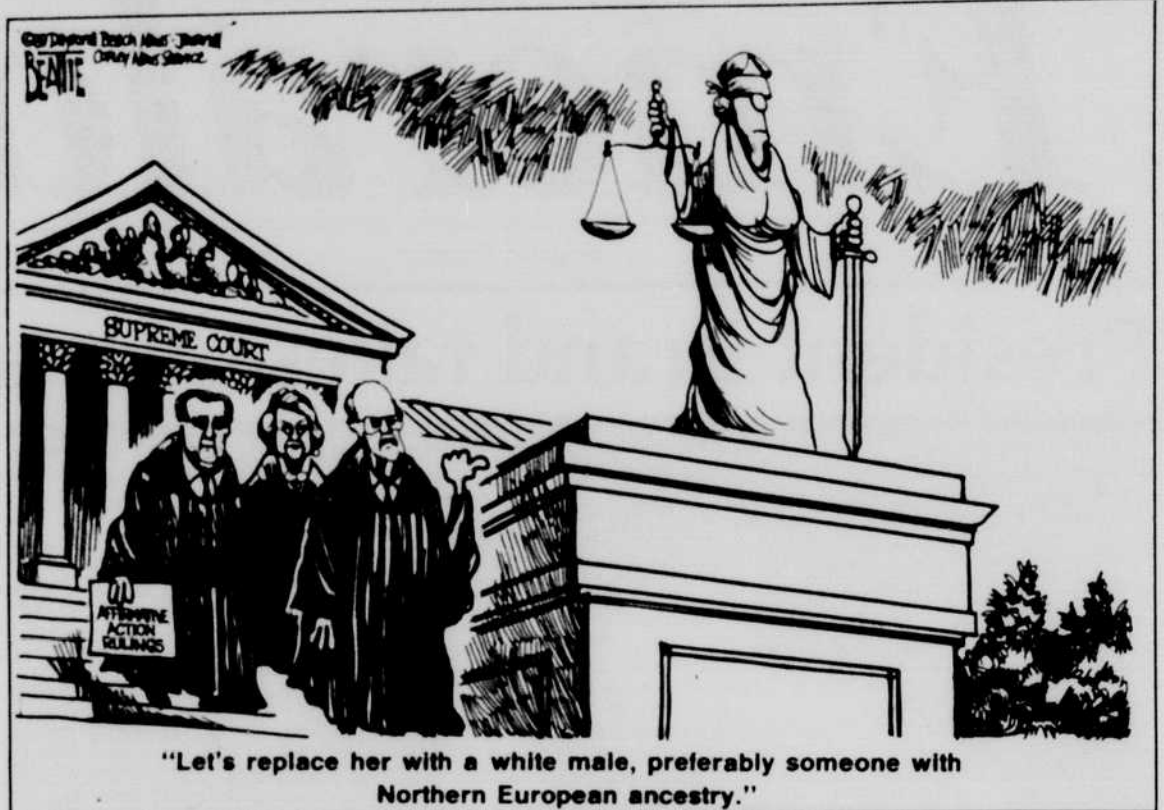
- This year's hot political issue, crime, didn't end up being just an empty list of promises. Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's \$85 million prison construction plan was passed, as well as a number of new sentencing laws.
- After finally deciding to break the spending cap, higher education got away with big cuts, but in more or less workable shape — for now. The cost of education to the state will continue to go up and future sessions will have a harder time dealing with the beast. There was much grumbling in this session, but in the end they did put the money where the need was.

- There were even proposals put forth to deal with the state's non-funding of college athletics. The creation of creative new lotteries to go to athletic funding is a field with much promise.

On the debit side:

- The state failed to make any headway on the issue of field burning. The Interstate 5 fatalities last August during a field burn outside Albany should have been enough of an impetus to get something done here, and there was a very fair proposal bandied about Salem until the grass seed industry knocked it off.

Besides field burning, there will also be school finance reform to deal with in 1991. A special election failed to do anything in this regard, and there is also the matter of property tax relief. But if 1989 is any indication of the next session to come, we have strong hopes.



"Let's replace her with a white male, preferably someone with Northern European ancestry."

Abortion ruling doesn't have to be a loss

Justice Antonin Scalia clearly set the continuing agenda for pro-life, anti-choice activists Monday in his separate opinion in the long-awaited Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services case.

Rather than overturning the 1973 landmark Roe vs. Wade case all at once, Scalia wrote "it appears thus that the mansion of constitutionalized abortion law, constructed overnight in Roe vs. Wade, must be disassembled door-jamb by door-jamb, and never entirely brought down, no matter how wrong it may be."

In its move to empower the states with far-ranging abortion laws, the Supreme Court (or at least the five member conservative majority) is moving to take the once-settled abortion issue back to the state legislatures. Webster began this process; the court's decision to review three more abortion cases next year will continue it.

For the women in this country and the pro-choice majority, the court's decision was a sad defeat. There is no doubt about this. But defeat does not — and should not, in this case — necessarily mean surrender.

The battle now moves to the state con-

gresses, where both sides are already preparing legislation. The court's unpopular decision has sparked the pro-choice movement into rising up again. This is the one good thing to come out of all this.

For many years after Roe, the pro-choice movement was complacent and feeling secure. The movement could not muster the religious fervor of its opposition. Pro-choice activists are paying for their tardiness now, but that does not mean they can't return the country to the freedom granted before Webster. The pro-life movement has promised to make legislators pay if they don't take the movement's line. The pro-choice camp must be similarly prepared to make them accountable.

What seems to be in the future is a patchwork quilt of abortion laws, ranging from draconian measures in our more backward states, to progressive protections in states such as California. This will be an intolerable situation, and work must be started to reverse this. This should begin at home (Oregon must move against the court, and remember its great liberal heritage of freedom and tolerance), and nationally.

Letters

Fund raising

In response to the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) advertisement in the June 2 issue of the *Emerald*: That advertisement reads: "Before you give to the UO we'd like you to know:" and then goes on to list four outrageous activities allegedly condoned by the University. I find it extraordinarily difficult to believe the activities outlined in the advertisement are accurate.

That is not the basis of this letter, however. The University is currently in the midst of a capital campaign which includes the goal of raising \$9.35 million for the expansion and renovation of the Knight Library.

Research libraries, including this one, have a strong tradition of acquiring library materials to stimulate the quest for truth and knowledge. We acquire materials on all sides of sensitive issues facing society. PETA suggests that, no matter how altruistic or constructive the pursuit of other enterprises within the University may be, donors shouldn't give funds to the

University.

I hope most readers understand the necessity and value of private contributions to maintaining a quality University which stimulates free thinking on all sides of issues, and question the wisdom of accepting the advice contained in the advertisement.

Following PETA's suggestion would result in weakened support to all areas of the University, thus depriving students, faculty and citizens of Oregon to information which allows us to reflect and deal with pressing issues in an educated way. I am dismayed PETA has taken this step and endangered the support of all University programs in protest of a single issue.

George W. Shipman
University librarian

Chauvinism

Lee Swanziger's June 22 letter to the editor reacts to a recent advertisement run by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), in which PETA refers to invasive research on animals as mutila-

tion. Swanziger protests that "no experiments are mutilations," revealing the suspension of reason and empathy necessary to the apology for vivisection.

Even if one believes that the non-therapeutic cutting and manipulation of living animals serves some "higher purpose," it cannot be denied that to these animals, such invasions are mutilations, however skillfully executed.

To suggest otherwise is to deem the animals' experience during vivisection utterly unworthy of consideration. Herein lies the ultimate leap of human chauvinism that propels the animal researcher onward.

Lucille R. Kaplan
Attorney

Blacklisted

If, according to Lee Swanziger (*ODE*, June 22), University animal labs are "obviously not 'off-limits' to students and faculty," why have students and community members been continuously refused a chance to tour campus laboratories?

I am talking, specifically,

about several people who have been officially "blacklisted" for their association with animal rights groups, and they will never be allowed a glimpse inside.

If the University administrators and researchers really have nothing to hide, why have they closed the facilities to people

such as Lucy Kaplan, Brigitte Leach and Ann Chynoweth? Surely they don't think anyone casing out the labs for potential raiders would do so publicly, on a guided tour? So, obviously, they must have something to hide

Jill Freidberg
Anthropology

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