

Intentions on track, results fail to work

The catastrophic health care plan proposed by former President Ronald Reagan and passed by Congress last year has been thankfully repealed.

Granted, President Reagan's intentions might have seemed good at the time. The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act was needed to provide some type of health insurance to protect elderly and disabled people from going bankrupt due to huge medical bills. However needed it was, one major flaw was terribly overlooked.

The deductible attached to the plan was something many elderly people could not afford and, thus, was way out of line. The plan called for about 6 percent of the 33 million eligible for Medicare to pay a surcharge tax of up to \$800 for the first year alone. This may seem like a small percentage, but 6 percent is still two million people. Besides, people are people, not percentages.

Many who rely on Medicare to pay their medical bills and Social Security to pay their monthly atrocities definitely cannot afford such a high deductible.

The health care plan was part of the massive deficit-reduction bill that also contains a number of other controversial matters. It would be nice to reduce the deficit, but at the expense of others? No.

Why the executive office and the Congress allowed this bill to even pass in the first place is hard to say. Good intentions, bad results.

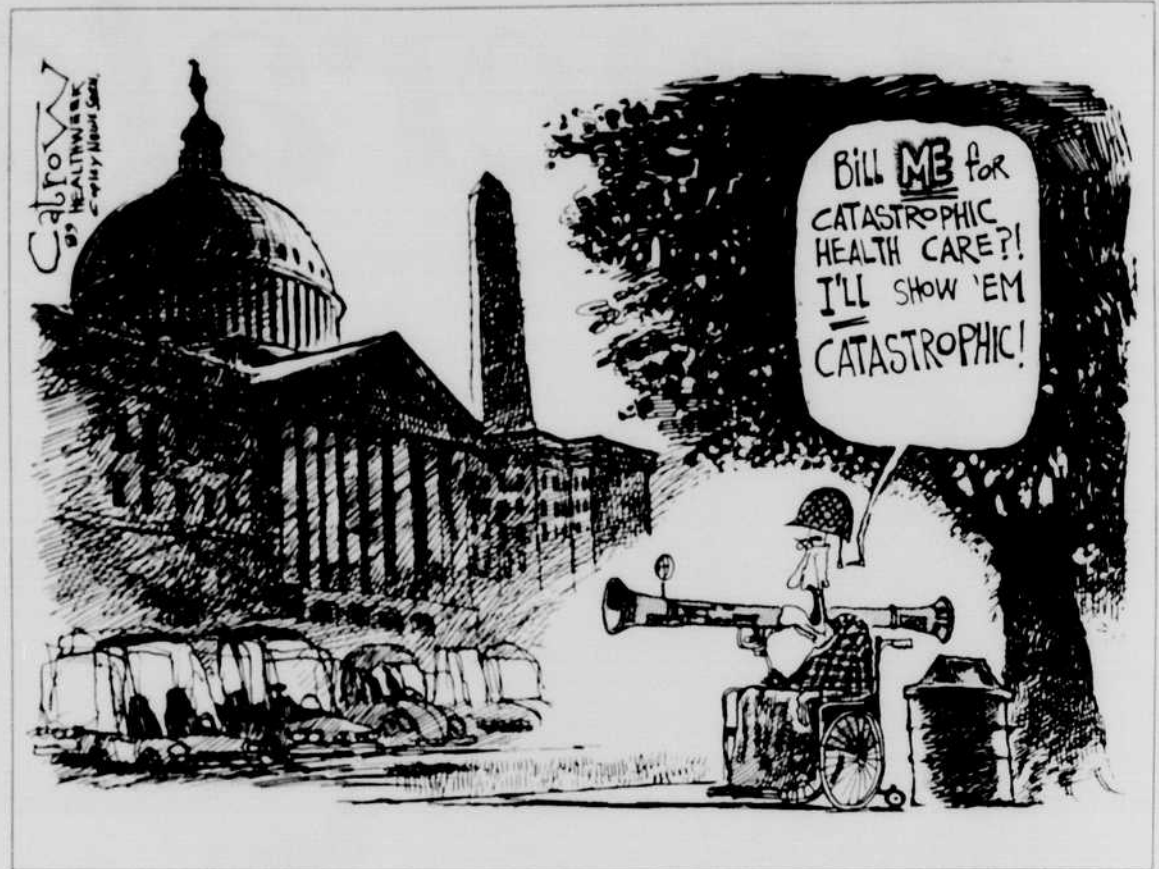
This seems to be an on going pattern in the Oval Office whether it be the Reagan Administration or the Bush regime.

The President seems like he cares about the people and tries to provide something for them, as of course he should. What kind of results occur though? Simply none.

It has been repeated time after time how the United States is the only industrial nation in the world with no national health care plan. It seems like this is something that will be a long time in coming from any administration, be it Republican and Democrat.

We applaud the fact that Congress had the good sense to revoke the old Reagan health care plan. However, the verdict on what will eventually happen with catastrophic health care remains to be seen. Action on the plan will now move from the House to the Senate where repeal seems likely, but who knows what will happen?

Something needs to change to give the people, especially the elderly, a health care plan that will work, and work without huge deductibles attached. Hopefully the answer will come soon.



Airline takeovers produce unfriendly skies

Donald Trump seems to view the world as one big playground, and he resembles the greedy bully who wants to hog all the toys on the lot. It's not enough for Trump to possess, among other things, a yacht, a few casinos, luxury hotels and his very own airline. Now he feels the need to have two airlines.

Some may take the attitude that Trump, like the mean bully, cannot be stopped because he has more power than the rest of us ever dreamed of having. But the consequences of Trump's actions are far more menacing and dangerous than any playground squabble.

Last week Trump, who already owns the Eastern airline shuttle, proposed a \$7.1 billion buyout of the AMR Corporation, which is the parent company of American Airlines. This type of airline takeover hasn't been such a novel concept recently. NWA, the parent company of Northwest Airlines, was bought by investors in June. In addition, UAL, United Airlines' parent, is presently being bought out by management, employees and British Airways.

The resulting debt that airlines face after such transactions is staggering. New owners, such as Trump if he's successful, must use the airline's cash flow to pay back what they borrowed in buying the company. The options for raising more of this cash flow are not pretty for anyone, especially passengers.

Higher ticket prices are a distinct possibility after a takeover. This news is just what fliers don't want to hear, considering the fact that some ticket prices have risen 50 percent in the first eight months of 1989.

Another way to raise revenue would be to lay off workers or to cut maintenance and training costs. With the recent rash of air travel accidents and fatalities, this alternative would be both unwanted and foolish.

In light of the Trump takeover announcement, Rep. Peter DeFazio has introduced a bill to Congress requiring the Secretary of Transportation to approve all airline purchases. This bill is a commendable and much-needed step in the right direction. If some type of action isn't taken against takeovers, more airlines will inevitably start falling into crushing debt.

Letters

Volunteerism

I am writing in response to Logan Dhonau's letter regarding the lack of financial and student support for Project Safe Run and similar organizations (ODE, Oct. 9).

ESCAPE Field Studies is a student-run organization funded by the ASUO and dedicated to helping concerned students like Dhonau to receive credit and experience through placements in the Eugene community, primarily in its public schools and its non-profit agencies.

True, support comes in many forms, and funding is undeniably important. However, ESCAPE is committed to the idea that volunteerism is an invaluable form of support and should not be overlooked in favor of funding.

We at ESCAPE would like to encourage interested students to come and see us at Room M111 in the EMU, or call us at 686-4351. ESCAPE offers practicums at approximately 75 human service organizations and most public schools in the Eugene area.

In today's society, volunteers can breathe life into struggling organizations. Volunteering can be one of the most important and most memorable learning experiences of a student's life. Please keep us in mind.

Angie Bolton
ESCAPE Field Studies

Responsibility

Staff member Bill Smee's Sept. 29 protest of my comparison of Liberals versus Conservatives was not responsive to my main thesis: People should take responsibility for their own individual actions or inactions.

I hold that "Conservatives" are mainly differentiated from "Liberals" by acceptance of that premise. Smee concluded by stating that many reject either label. I can understand why he would reject his "Liberal" label, in part due to its revealed principles and resultant unpopularity, as demonstrated by the most recent Presidential election.

However, Conservatives are content to be associated with

their name and the personal responsibility position with which it is identified.

Quoting a recent *Washington Post* article by William Galston and Elaine Ciulla Kamarch: "Democrats have become the party of individual rights but not individual responsibility, of self-expression but not self-discipline, of sociological explanation but not moral accountability."

My only correction to their statement would be: "Democrats (as seized by the Liberal bloc) have become the party..."

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Recognition

I would like to commend the EMU Board for its decision to approve the placement of a cultural mural in the EMU. The mural, donated by the Chicano-Latino Union (MEChA), represents the cultural expression of a significant portion of the University community. Until this decision, the Chicano-Latino culture had not been recog-

nized artistically anywhere on campus.

The placement of this beautiful mural in the EMU not only fills what has been a lack or recognition of Chicano-Latino culture, but offers all students exposure to the rich culture and history of Latin America and the Chicano legacy.

On behalf of the Latin American Support Committee, I urge the EMU board to place this mural in a prominent position to allow all students to share in its beauty.

Lisa Nelson
LASC

Incentive

Regarding Kirk Rinaldi's letter (ODE, Oct. 9):

I agree we should be attending this university to learn something, not just to acquire good grades. But how can you expect the students to do better than worry about grades when the system is designed to judge us by grades?

We are required to worry

about grades. Sometimes grades are the only incentive to finish a course, especially if it is a course one doesn't like.

Design a system of education that doesn't have to give us grades, and I think you will see students become less concerned with them.

David Nott
Student

Correction

Because of a copy editing mistake, a photo caption on the front page of Wednesday's *Oregon Daily Emerald* contained several errors.

The caption stated that the playing fields adjacent to the Willamette River were threatened by the proposed Riverfront Research Park. That is not the case.

The caption also incorrectly stated that the photo was taken by Eric Evans. Elisa Lichtman is the actual photographer.

The *Emerald* regrets any confusion due to the errors.