

Break spending cap for faculty salaries

During his "State of the State" address in Eugene earlier this month, Gov. Neil Goldschmidt once again brought University faculty salaries to the political forefront.

His proposal to break the spending limit and appropriate \$60 million to upgrade salaries at the state's eight colleges and universities has already ignited a powder keg which will probably detonate during this year's primary and general elections.

The controversy centers around the spending limit, which keeps lawmakers from appropriating all of the state's revenues. In times of recession, the limit keeps the state from deficit spending. But when the economy is in a boom period — such as now — huge surpluses result.

For the 1989 session, Oregon had \$240 million it couldn't spend. By the time legislators meet again in 1991, that surplus could be as much as \$500 million.

By law, legislators can break the spending limit by voting for every item they want to fund with surplus revenue. And every time they do, it results in a major political fight.

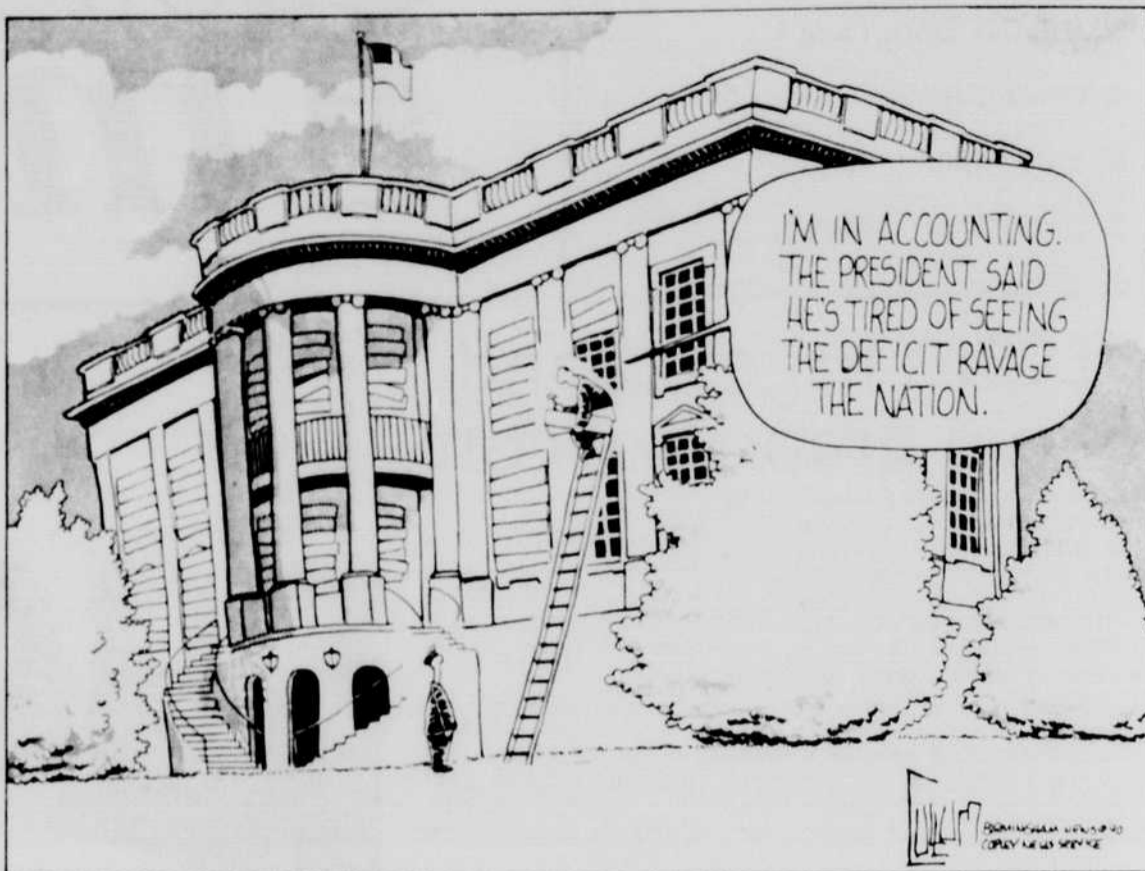
The governor's plan, which would be "above and beyond" the regular higher education budget, is sure to be a major topic during the elections. Not only does it bring faculty salaries into the campaign, but another issue that has been a thorn in the Democratic administration's side: the spending cap.

Last session, the Legislature tried to replace the spending limit. The Democrats were able to push through the Senate a bill which would change how the limit was calculated, but it stalled in the House. There, the Republicans were able to pull enough support from the Democratic caucus and delay a vote on the spending cap until 1991.

Lawmakers need to break the spending limit and appropriate the money for faculty salaries. It's a crisis situation. If Oregon State System of Higher Education professors do not get a raise, they'll start to leave. Losing faculty would be detrimental to the one thing the University cannot afford to lose: its credibility.

Backers of the spending limit say it's not a good idea to spend surplus revenue, because you never know when it might not be there. Generally, the surplus is seen as a "rainy day" fund; to be used in only emergency situations. Well, the condition of faculty salaries is one of those emergencies.

The surplus could be used to fix a lot of the state's ills. It's ludicrous to watch Oregon's higher education fall apart just because of political antics. It's time lawmakers actually backed up words with actions, and better yet, money.



'Taking AIM' was great, thanks are due

It was a short month. Today is already the last day of "Taking AIM," the big AIDS Information Month program sponsored by several University student and administration groups to educate us about the dangers — and dangerous misconceptions — surrounding acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Something that was said often during "Taking AIM," but worth repeating here, is that AIDS is projected to be the number one killer of college students by 1991. There was clearly a need to educate students as to the dimensions of the tragedy they are about to face.

That need was met in grand fashion. "Taking AIM" was, to our minds, a great success. The events and symposiums during the month were interesting and provocative, and deserved to be better attended than they regrettably were. The Art & AIDS show in the EMU was especially fascinating.

Something we especially appreciated was that event organizers and speakers never seemed to lose track of the very human side of AIDS. They never got caught up in the hysteria of numbers that first panicked the general public when AIDS was new. In-

stead, speakers managed to capture what it feels like to suffer from AIDS, what it feels like to lose a friend with AIDS, and what it feels like to live in a society that is not kind to people living with AIDS. Cultural and artistic expressions were used to relate messages about AIDS that were as powerful as the academic lectures and discussions.

The "Taking AIM" month got off to a great, bold start and ended on a good note too. The ASUO Winter Symposium to wrap-up AIM last weekend was simply excellent. Tonight, the final event occurs with a panel and discussion on AIDS/HIV issues for mental health personnel at Eugene Clinic, 1162 Willamette St. from 7 to 9 p.m.

A big round of thanks is deserved by those student and University groups sponsoring "Taking AIM": Student Activities Resource Office, Cultural Forum, ASUO Executive Office, Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Catalyst Films, University Health Center, EMU Craft Center, Co-Safe, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of the President, Foreign Student Organization and the University AIDS Education Task Force in association with the Community AIDS Consortium. You people did an excellent job.

Letters

Only solution

In Caroline Jewer's and Kathy Yonker's letters (*ODE*, Jan. 22), as well as Hon Walker's commentary (*ODE*, Jan. 24), the unfortunate circumstance of an unplanned pregnancy is addressed. To each of the writers, abortion is the only solution. None of them consider adoption a viable choice. Why?

Since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973, 26 million children have been aborted. Only 1 percent to 3 percent of those abortions were performed after cases of rape, incest, birth defects, or threat to the life of the mother. There are better choices available: postponement of gratification until one is ready for the responsibility of parenthood, use of the virtual plethora of birth control available, or adoption.

Contrary to Planned Parenthood's assertions, legalized abortion has not made every child a wanted child. On the contrary, studies have shown that child abuse is more fre-

quent among mothers who previously had an abortion.

The Oregon Pro-Life Coalition's petition would prohibit abortion of convenience. Abortion would still be permitted in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is in jeopardy.

Picture a young woman, single and pregnant, the result of an affair with a married man. Though she was now pregnant, she made a choice to give her baby an opportunity to grow up in a family desiring a child. I am thankful that this woman made a responsible choice. Why? I am that child.

Chris Kelso
History

United Nations

We have entered an era of globalization where nations are looking outward for cooperation — it was on time. Even though some nations are lagging behind, the international community has come to realize the interconnectedness in the world, especially related to en-

vironmental problems, but also in regard to economics and politics.

International problems need international solutions, leading more and more nations to look to the United Nations for answers.

But looking at the UN system, I find more questions than answers. What about funding? The UN's annual budget is about one-third of that which the world spends on defense every day.

With the little funding available, it's amazing how much the UN has accomplished. However, other problems I am concerned with, limiting the UN's effectiveness, are issues of national sovereignty, the veto power of the Big Five, lack of binding international law and enforcement, and a court system being able to try individuals.

So, if the UN shall be able to do all of that which is now expected of it, the problems mentioned above must be faced. This is what we in a newly started organization, Students for United Nations, attempt to

do, and if you are interested in hearing more about what our plans are, please look for us in the Et als section, or call 344-7532.

Par Ingvar Haukeland
International Studies

Appropriate

Bob Weigel's opening line to his letter "Used to be" (*ODE*, Jan. 26) was very appropriate. It read, "once again, a reminder." Yet, his letter was a reminder. It reminded us of a typical point of view which acts to preserve and perpetuate the very attitudes and myths which are detrimental to both women and men.

Fortunately, his argument falls apart on examination of the basic premises on which it relies. His first assumption is that women are naive, at the whim of men, and the law, able to abstain from sex only from "fear of consequences," and unaware of the medical issues associated with abortion.

He asserts that before abor-

tions were legal, women "feared the consequences and thus did not put their bodies out for use by anyone and everyone with the right manipulations." He also believes that legalizing abortions has caused women to "believe that they can allow their bodies to be misused."

His second assumption is that men, on the other hand, are the rational, undeceivable, callous males who care only about sex. Apparently, they will get it at any cost. "Men who really want to manipulate women are pro-abortion."

Finally, he believes that social action follows laws blindly. In this case, women's actions are appropriated into the law set down before them. But aren't laws based on the very transgression of them? Where would the law be without the criminal?

Weigel's letter was merely a reminder and a re-presentation of the stereotypes we must avoid.

Laurie King
Eugene