

'Priorities' doom faculty salary raise

Last Friday, the Oregon State System of Higher Education board gave Chancellor Thomas Bartlett permission to ask the state's Emergency Board for \$10 million to prop up teacher faculty salaries. The word from E-board members is to expect the request to be denied.

The state has \$39 million to allocate to agencies in desperate need of money. The fund is designed to patch up various state budgets until a scheduled legislative session.

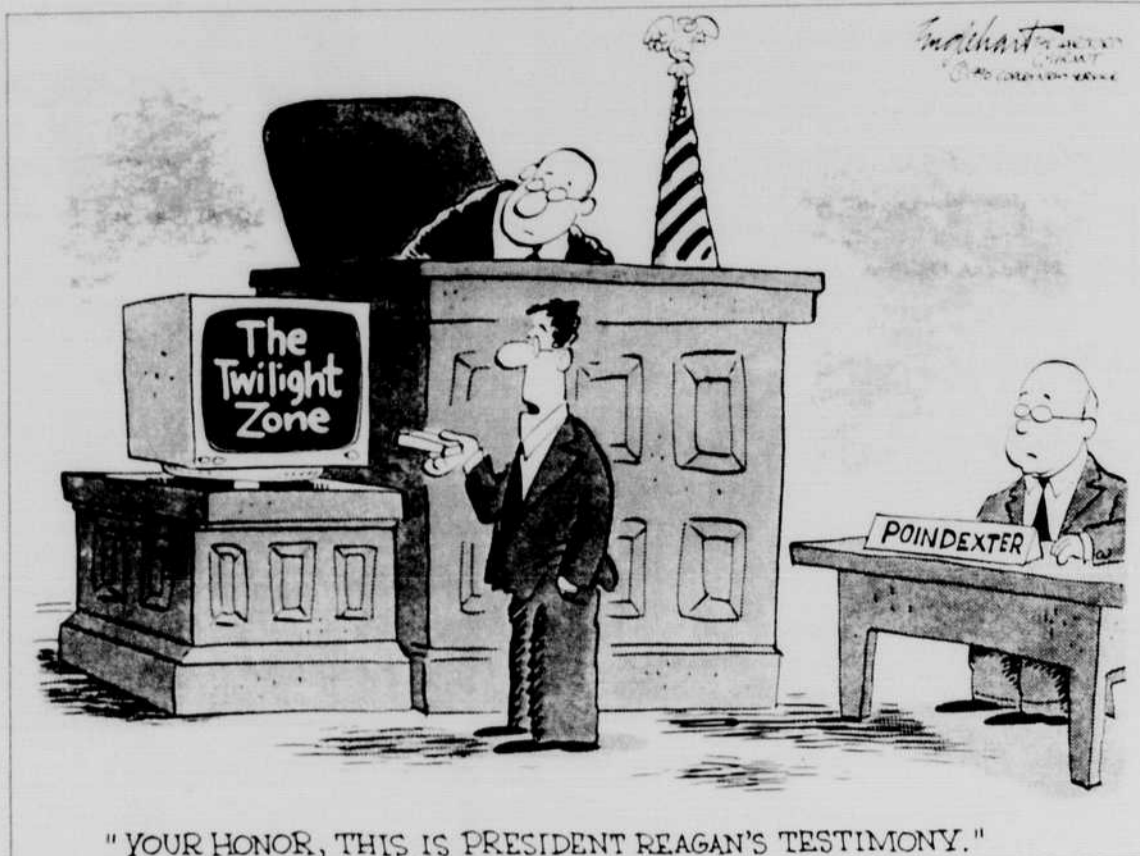
In any type of emergency-funding board, the key word is priorities. Who will get the limited amount of resources? Who is the most needy? In this case, teacher salaries finish third behind the Department of Human Resources and Corrections. Unfortunately, there is no prize for third place.

Lawmakers knew going into the 1989 legislative session that the OSSHE was hopelessly underfunded. But politics, and other perceived "legislative priorities" kept anything from being done. Time ran out, and colleges and universities had to make due with a meager appropriation.

While Medicare and other social programs are deserving of extra funding, lawmakers are going to have to make a choice on their "priorities." What could be more important than allocating money in the future leaders of the state? While students would not directly receive money from the \$10 million request, they would surely benefit from it. Giving professors a much-needed and much-deserved raise would make them more willing to stay in Oregon, rather than looking for more lucrative pastures elsewhere.

It is odd that Bartlett has come under fire from his own backers. Some OSSHE board members and legislators have criticized him for asking for too little. Sen. Larry Hill (D-Springfield) would prefer to see a \$60 million request. Such an attitude is similar to a man, dying of thirst, getting offered a sip from a canteen and turning it down because it's not mineral water. Translation: get what you can before asking for more. A \$10 million request is "reasonable" at this time; \$60 million is not.

If the Emergency Board turns down the Bartlett proposal, there are two options left open for OSSHE. The first is bringing the request up during the special session for worker's compensation, or waiting for the 1991 legislature. Neither is very appealing; worker's compensation will take up most of the special session, and teacher's are hardly going to wait until '91 for raises. Once again, higher education has been sacrificed for "priorities."



"YOUR HONOR, THIS IS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S TESTIMONY."

City leaders should be paid for their job

The idea has been rejected by Eugene city voters six times since 1909, but city councilman Roger Rutan wants to try it again. He's got support from Mayor Jeff Miller and a few other council members, as well.

The idea is paying Eugene's mayor and city council members a part-time salary for their work. Currently, the work on the council is all volunteer, and that's to the city's detriment. The arrangement means that only the well-off, or those with outside business interests, can afford the sacrifice to run for office. It's also a disservice to the people who do toil hard for no reward in the city office.

The responsibilities of mayor or city council member require about 20-30 hours a week in office time. That commitment hurts any chance of earning enough to survive on another job. It also creates a part-time approach to the office. If a public official must spend part of his or her day earning money, that makes him or her less accessible during the day to constituents.

Any change to pay city council members would have to be approved by the city resi-

dents by amending the city charter. The issue has been voted on six times since 1909. The last time it was rejected was in 1974.

A study made two years ago through the Eugene City Manager's office titled "Measures of Excellence" also points out that Eugene lags behind other West Coast cities of similar size in paying public officials. For example, Boise, Idaho and Hayward, Calif., both offer salaries to their mayors and council members. Some smaller communities do as well, such as Bellevue, Wash., and Santa Monica, Calif.

The salary proposed by Miller is about \$12,000 a year for the council members, twice that for the office of mayor. That figure is not unreasonable. Bud Clark, mayor of Portland, a city five times as populous as Eugene, earns more than \$65,000 a year. The proposed salary is about the same as that of a state legislature.

The mayor and council members are responsible for a city budget in excess of \$150 million. Their combined salary of \$108,000 would be one-fifteenth of 1 percent of that budget. With so much responsibility, they clearly deserve payment for their services.

Letters

Not chosen

In response to Eric Eckman's letter of Feb. 16, I have one overwhelming response: Bullshit!

People do not wake up and say, "Gee, I think I'll be gay today." It's not a form of rebellion; it's not something that is chosen. Eckman obviously thinks it is.

What I would like to know is where did he get his information? Did he choose to be gay? Does he have a lot of gay friends? The answer, of course, is no.

But let's assume that homosexuality is a choice. So what? That doesn't give the world carte blanche to treat gay and lesbian persons as second-class citizens.

Eckman states that most spies in the British and American governments tend to be gay. So what's the point? They wouldn't be there if they weren't good at their job, so why discriminate against them?

His information on gay issues

is obviously limited to opinion and hearsay. Combat units with gay soldiers do not have lower morale. Furthermore, as a group, gay persons in the military have excellent track records, and come close to being ideal soldiers.

Eckman, I'll show you my references if you'll show me yours.

It would be nice if people would educate themselves on issues instead of making themselves look silly by writing hateful, biased, narrow-minded and misinformed letters to newspapers.

Michael Peeler
Co-director
Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Avoided

There is a committee at the University responsible for reviewing all proposals for research or education involving the use of animals. It is up to this committee to approve, deny, or call for modification of

each proposal, based on scientific merit, methodology, etc.

This sounds very democratic, but that is unfortunately not the case here.

Our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has a 100 percent approval rate for the last 10 years; included in research they have approved is Dr. Richard Marrocco's past primate research.

It was made blatantly apparent in the Feb. 14 *Emerald* article on Marrocco's new planned research, that even though the IACUC has not (as of Feb. 15) met to decide on this approval, it will be approved.

The first sentence of the article states "Monkeys will return to the University for research purposes," and later says, "the issue will likely turn into a public relations battle once the IACUC ... approves the use of primates."

Perhaps the IACUC already forgot that in Marrocco's past primate research at the University, at least two monkeys died from their brain implants fall-

ing out, thus "exposing the brain to the air." "the majority of the balance of Marrocco's monkeys died unexpectedly," six to eight of the monkeys died from receiving the wrong medication, and a veterinarian was never present following brain implant surgery (Troen trial minutes, 1986).

If the IACUC had been more careful in reviewing Marrocco's proposal last time, maybe such cruelty could have been avoided.

Michelle Balzola
Art history

CIA scum

I want to thank Eric Eckman for his letter (*ODE*, Feb. 16) which I hope showed us all once more how pervasive white male bigotry is in our culture. Unfortunately his letter also contains the tired old phallic need for "a strong defense and a good intelligence gathering organization."

The defense department

aside, I argue that the CIA has a very large role in international covert activities. John Stockwell, a former CIA station chief in Angola, said on this campus last year that the CIA is involved covertly in over 100 countries.

These operations include torture, teaching torture techniques, planning as well as carrying out political assassinations — all with the wonderful backing of the U.S. taxpayers.

Back to Eckman's attack on homosexuals. Why does it matter whether a person is born gay or chooses to be? Is our society so rigid that we cannot accept people as they are? I thought this was the United States of America.

Choice or not, it is their pursuit of happiness which is their constitutional right. This rightly gives them the right to use U.S. law to fight the discrimination of the CIA, and if it gets the scum off campus, so much the better.

Phil Nebergall
Graduate