

## New solution may only be temporary

Pending administrative approval, the ASUO's problems with student health insurance appear to be over, at least for now.

Last year, the ASUO executive and the Student Health Insurance Committee had many concerns about the way the question of student insurance was handled at the University. Participation in the program was voluntary for domestic students, resulting in a low participation. The plan's carrier, The Prudential Co., said it was losing money in the deal and raised deductibles, making the plan even more unattractive to potential policyholders.

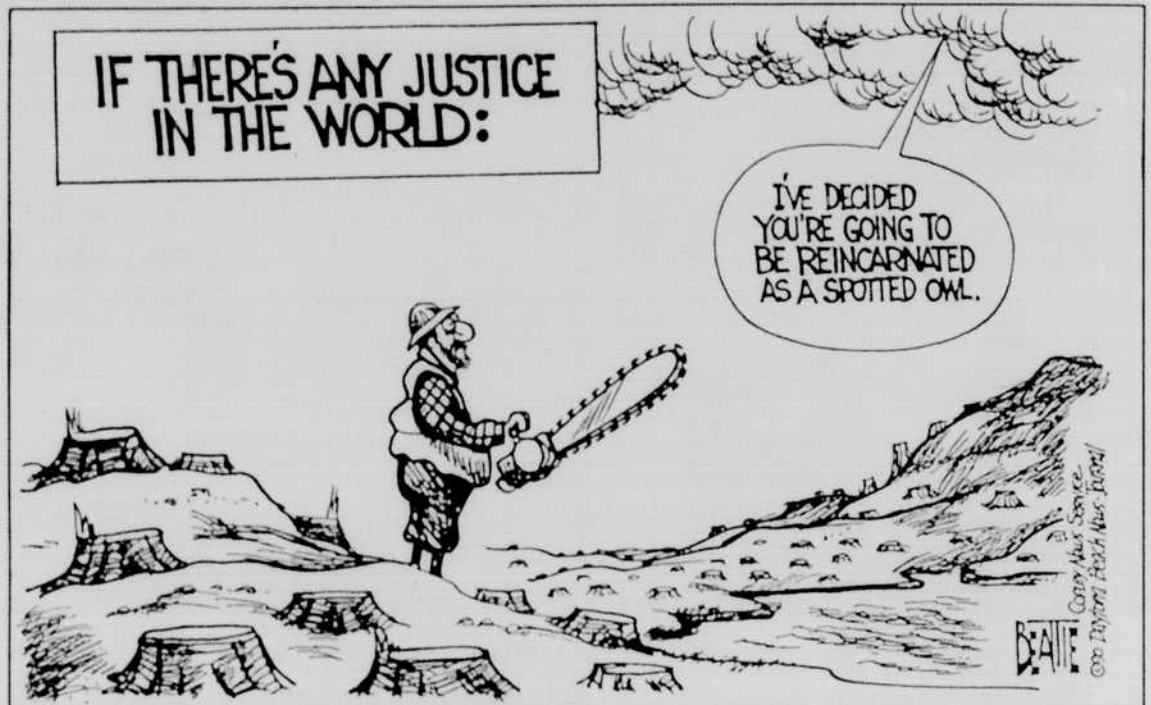
Another problem SHIC saw with the program was that participation was mandatory for international students, something the committee believed was unfair. Their solution to these problems was to recommend mandatory insurance for all students, international and domestic, thereby creating a fair system that would also keep Prudential interested in insuring low-income, "high-risk" students. But the student body overwhelmingly defeated the plan in the April elections, and Prudential announced it was pulling out of the student insurance game altogether as of this summer.

The ASUO, given the short amount of time they've had to find a new insurance plan, have done rather well in their selection. The All-American Life Insurance Co. of Woodland Hills, Calif., will cover domestic students; and for the first time, international students will have a choice between All-American and a tailor-made plan from the Hartford Insurance Co.

While the new domestic plan has a higher premium than its Prudential predecessor, the All-American version provides \$150,000 in coverage, as opposed to the \$20,000 offered by Prudential. The international student plan benefits are even higher — \$250,000 in coverage.

The debate over mandatory insurance will still have to be resolved. SHIC members say most colleges and universities in the United States require their students to have health insurance, and it appears that, inevitably, the University will have to follow suit. Already there are reports the Oregon State System of Higher Education is looking into creating its own insurance plan, which, of course, students would be required to purchase.

However, it is impossible to provide an easy solution to this question because the students at the University — for good reason, we believe — have said they do not want mandatory insurance. It is hoped that SHIC, the administration, and the state board will find a way to insure students who want to be part of a coverage program, and protect the interests of those who in the April elections said they do not.



## Environment loses to economy at summit

With all the debate and ambiguous signals concerning policy toward China, Soviet aid and European-farm subsidies coming from the seven nation summit in Houston this week, one clear signal has been sent by the Bush administration: George Bush is the economy president.

The leaders of the the rest of the world's richest countries including Great Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Canada and Italy decided not to push for specific and concrete steps toward reducing or stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions, which are blamed for global warming, after Bush told them he was opposed to such measures.

Bush is worried that setting limits on the amount of pollutants released would halt growth of the economy and put many citizens out of work. He is trying to link the idea that if the amount of power that industry is allowed to use is limited, then the amount that the economy can grow is also limited.

This attitude stifles any incentive to move away from the status quo. By setting caps on the amount of carbon dioxide allowed to be released into the atmosphere, governments will force industry to filter out more pollutants or perhaps the best solution of all, move away from the use of fossil fuels.

This administration seems to live by the belief that we can destroy and pollute the environment until it comes to a crisis point.

At that time some miracle of science will save us. Bush is betting the planet on the notion that science will be able to repair our only home after the damage has been done. It appears to be a risky plan, but it is the only one Bush has unveiled to date.

There are only so many dead dinosaurs buried under the earth. Fossil fuels will run out some time. Why not put limits on the use of this type of polluting fuel and force industry to start looking for a reasonable, renewable energy source before the current one reaches a crisis point by killing us all or running dry altogether?

Industry's past history has been to use what we need no matter what the future consequence may be. Industry squeezes its resources dry with no concern other than profit.

Because the day when we will hear corporate executives say, "Well, we could make tons of money, but the environmental impact is just too great to proceed" is probably quite a way off, it is time for government to play an important role in making clean power and production techniques profitable.

No change in policy or attitude of an entire society is going to come without hardship. There will be negative economic impacts. But industry and big business will figure out how to make a profit off of these necessary changes.

World leaders need to have the necessary vision to push corporations down a new road.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

## Violence

There is no place in society for beliefs which are so strong that fundamental ethics of humanity are placed on hold in order to achieve their fulfillment. I am referring, of course, to the emotive and inflammatory opinion expressed in the July 3 editorial that violence should not be ruled out as an option for conflict resolution, in particular for the goal of a free (from apartheid) South Africa.

While this goal is unquestionably entirely desirable in terms of the rights of every human being to freedom, I find it completely unacceptable that violence in any form should be even conditionally condoned as per the tone of this editorial.

Warfare is perhaps the social activity which most closely links us to the animal world.

Killing and maiming to get what you want is so blatantly unethical, immoral, and, to the majority of us, unacceptable to human values that it should not under any circumstance be considered as a method of resolving conflict. Threats or displays of physical force with any motive which result in harm or death to individuals can only be supported if we are willing to admit that as a race, the majority of humans are limited by barbaric and animal-like instincts such as greed and power and are unable to overcome these traits via our unique "intelligence" and "compassion."

I realize the "effectiveness" of violence in stifling those who do not agree with our own beliefs, but what kind of attitude is this? I am ashamed to be a member of a race which continues to utilize this method in the wake of so many wars

which inflicted (and still inflict) such carnage, devastation and heartbreak on generations of people. I also realize the obstacles (e.g. violent South African police force) facing proponents of peaceful revolution, but even these factors must not lead us to take up arms in equally despicable brutality and desecration of fellow men.

I don't pretend to have many alternatives to violence in the fight for equal rights apart from total economic sanction and continued education of the world via tours such as Nelson Mandela's; however, I am convinced that violence is not all right under any circumstances, whether by the "good" guys or the "bad." It contradicts the most sacred human right at its most basic level and that which we are all fighting for — the right to live.

**Belinda Beck**  
Physical education

Thursday, July 12, 1990