

## Defense cuts: a step in the right direction

It's defense budget time for Congress again, but they are still unable to do what average American households do — live within their means.

The House Armed Services Committee approved a \$283 billion defense bill on Tuesday that is \$24 billion less than what President Bush asked for. But it's still way too much.

The committee wisely cut all funding for the B-2 stealth bomber. Bush wants the government to pay for 75 of the radar-evading aircraft at the cost of approximately \$865 million per plane — a total cost of almost \$64 billion.

The committee also slashed \$2 billion out of the requested \$4.7 billion Star Wars budget. Because of the thawing of the Cold War, and because many scientists believe the Stars Wars plan will never work anyway, this program *should* be eliminated completely.

The HASC killed all funding for two nuclear missiles — the MX and the Midgetman. Elected representatives are finally realizing the futility of overpriced, never-used weapons.

However, there is still support for some of these programs in the Senate, whose own Armed Services Committee has yet to meet and present its recommendations. While the House cuts are meager compared to the dictates of a sane society, it is a small step in the right direction. The biggest obstacle HASC has to hurdle is to cut 129,000 military personnel. While it must be done, any recommendations that entail job loss must also provide new opportunities for those affected. People of the Northwest know that all too well.

On a scarier note, the full House voted on Tuesday to let the government fall \$322 billion deeper in debt. If the proposal is adopted by the Senate and signed into law, the federal government's deficit will soar to an unfathomable \$3.44 trillion by Sept. 30, 1991.

With Congress ready to go on its August recess, any dealings with budget balancing will wait until September. But there is pressure to deal with the debt extension before Congress' summer vacation or the government may run out of money by Aug. 15.

Defense still consumes an inordinate amount of tax dollars. Congress still cannot balance a budget.

Congress acts like someone with a gold card and an unlimited amount of credit. Eventually bad spending habits lead to bankruptcy.

Perhaps it's time to consider hiring an average American family living within their means to educate our elected representatives about spending only what they earn.



## Forum

### Campus strongly favors more recycling

By Karyn Kaplan

Recently, a questionnaire regarding 1) recycling at the University and 2) use of recycled and unbleached paper, was sent out to faculty, staff and administration. This questionnaire evolved from a group of students from the Survival Center (a student environmental group), ASUO, University Bookstore and supportive faculty and staff members, who are very concerned about the future of recycling at the University.

#### Commentary

The past year has been a challenge for the University in terms of recycling. For the first time, recycling actually became integrated into the University on a measurable level. Pearl Buck Recycling approached the administration to handle all the paper recycling at no cost to the University or to the Physical Plant.

Within months, Jon Davis from Pearl Buck escalated paper recycling to include more than 200 drop sites, mostly within offices and campus buildings. Cardboard and metal bins for recycling newspaper, white and colored paper and computer printout became part of the scenery around campus. At the same time, after many years of recycling cardboard, its market price dropped so low that the hauler ceased this practice.

Thus, cardboard has once again become a major part of the University wastestream. After many months of integrating Pearl Buck's recycling program, people began to want more recycling. I received numerous calls throughout the 1989-90 school year inquiring about expansion into the dorms, Amazon student housing, greek houses and in classrooms and offices. Recycling had caught on at the University

just as it had at Oregon State.

Meanwhile, Pearl Buck was doing all it could, through the dedication of Jon Davis, campus recycler, to sustain itself. As recycling coordinator at the Survival Center, I felt it was critical that a strong foundation in paper recycling be laid before expanding into more materials. Unfortunately, due to low salvage prices, Pearl Buck could no longer sustain its service to the University without some funding. Consequently, Pearl Buck terminated its service at the end of May. For now, the Physical Plant has retained the services of Jon Davis until it can determine how it will continue the program.

Unfortunately, the Physical Plant, which has a limited staff and a tight budget, has not looked toward recycling seriously until now. Pearl Buck was removing as many as 16 tons of paper a month by the end of the school year. That figure does not include all the cardboard that could be recycled and all the paper on campus that does not find its way into a limited availability of bins.

The dorms have begun a pilot program and could be a large source of paper ... and that's just paper. Including glass, tin, plastic and food waste in a recycling program could potentially keep 60 to 75 percent of our garbage out of landfills. If we learn how to conserve, the possibilities are endless and would become economically lucrative for the University. The money saved in landfill and labor costs alone makes this program cost-effective.

In order to assess the situation, a recycling questionnaire was distributed throughout campus and received an overwhelming response, complete with page-long comments supportive of the program. At the present time, a report is being compiled and the findings will

be presented to the University in the near future. Preliminary findings indicate the following consensus opinion:

- Recycling should continue at its present level at a minimum. More paper recycling and increasing the program to include cardboard, plastic, tin, and glass is desirable. Some suggested using BRING to facilitate this process. Establishing centralized locations on campus was suggested.
- Education and promotion was strongly recommended. Respondents want better signs, clear instructions on separation, incentives, a question and answer column in the *Emerald*, education on pre-cycling, recycled paper and awareness. Many agreed that this would make the program a success.
- Use work study students in collection and projects.
- Purchase a shredder for confidential material.
- The University must be dedicated to recycling as much as possible.
- We generate too much junk mail! This is a major complaint, but keep in mind that the printing department responds to customer needs. It is the responsibility of individuals and departments to cut down this overuse. Suggestions generated by respondents: Use *Inside Oregon* to advertise events, use computer mail and limit fliers to one per department.
- Many people have begun using recycled unbleached paper, but a number of people say their department budgets can't afford it. Since this paper must be imported, shipping costs force the price to be higher than virgin paper. But if we create enough of a demand in this country, mills will be build here to accommodate the market and the price will drop. If we conserve our memos and paper use, we'll have more

## Letters

### Stay away

As a citizen (by birth) of the United States, and one who has been around enough years to have seen many fundamental rights we used to take for granted become eroded, I would like to express my opinion on the new University policy of arresting non-students, not for any crimes or misdemeanors, but merely for being "on campus."

I recently received a letter from a friend, a retired teacher, expressing a desire to pay me a visit, and to walk once more around the campus from which she received her degree some 30 years ago.

Perhaps I should tell her not to come — she might get arrested for being a "non-student."

Ruth Wilks  
Eugene

### Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.