

Working together the smart choice

The Governor's Commission on Higher Education recently released a report studying the options for re-vamping the beleaguered Portland State University and the academic atmosphere of the metropolitan area.

The title of the report, "Working Together," is a good indication that higher education for the entire state is beginning to move in the right direction.

The higher education system is designed to educate the citizens of the state. Competition between state schools does not promote that goal; cooperation between these separate institutions does.

It appears the need to bolster PSU will finally drive the state institutions to realize this spirit of cooperation.

The Portland area has many post-secondary education schools, but it does not have the one strong and significant institution that a populous area of that size needs.

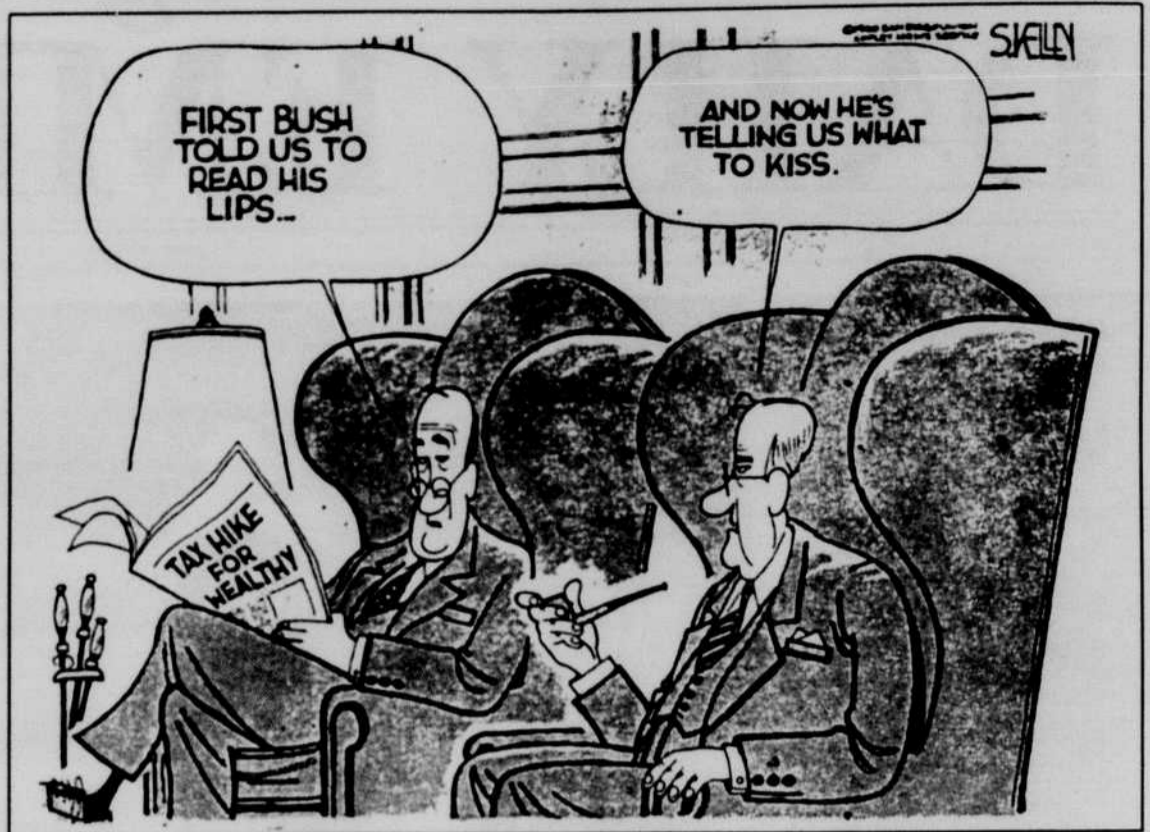
The report calls for a "formal coalition of key academic institutions located in the Metropolitan area." A coalition of forces from PSU, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland Community College, Reed College, the University of Portland, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific University and the Graduate Institute of Science and Technology could create a powerful academic atmosphere for the Portland area.

With help from the University's and Oregon State University's academic resources and expertise, this group of schools would be able to provide programs not now offered in the area. They would also be able to vastly improve the programs that do exist.

Any coalition of schools in the area should include Oregon State and the University. OSU and the University would benefit from the cooperative atmosphere as much as the Portland schools would.

For example, one idea on the table is the creation of a regional research library that could be accessed by all schools. Currently, Portland is one of two metropolitan areas in the nation that does not have such a facility. A comprehensive research library would enhance the academic stature of Portland and the educational abilities of all the institutions participating.

With this new spirit of cooperation — and with a solution to the current higher ed funding problems — Portland could create an academic environment for the north similar to those in Eugene and Corvallis.



First-time homebuyers lose in Congress

A bill providing down payment relief for first-time homebuyers was lost in the recent budget fiasco.

Under the bill's provisions, if potential home purchasers had not owned a house at any time in the last three years, they would be eligible to withdraw up to \$10,000 from an existing tax-deferred IRA account without penalty for early withdrawal.

Another version would have allowed parents and grandparents to contribute up to \$20,000 from their IRA for their children's first home.

However, participants could not buy a house for more than 110 percent of the median price in their market.

This restriction is not very significant because most first-time buyers purchase "starter" homes that are usually way below the median market price of their area.

Any legislation that enables people to buy homes easier is a good bill. The main

point here is the first home.

The bill would not have applied to second homes or vacation homes, although it would have applied to construction of a new home.

People currently renting and thinking about their future could have benefited greatly from this bill. They could have used current IRA money to purchase a home, and used the equity for a future mortgage. It's just like lending money to yourself.

But Congress lost sight of its priorities during budget breakdown week in early October. In their haste to deal with the income tax and capital gains tax, the first-time home buyer relief bills got lost in the shuffle.

The speculation for revival of this legislation is very doubtful, according to congressional staffers. That's not surprising, considering most members of Congress probably own their home, anyway.

LETTERS

Precautions

I followed the *Emerald's* coverage of the Derek Horton trial and the subsequent letters to the editor, and I would like to respond to Kelly Mattern's letter (*ODE*, Oct. 10). Mattern states that if she were to meet Horton now, she would be afraid of him. I think fear is an appropriate response to someone who is even suspected of committing an act of violence against a woman.

And while I approve of a feeling of fear toward Horton, I think women should be aware that other men have committed acts similar to the one Horton was accused of — acts for which they will never go to trial. Women should think twice, as a precaution, about any man, because everyone has the potential of committing a violent act.

I admire this woman for her courage to pursue a trial in a system which causes women to feel responsible for a crime to which they are victims. For example, one of the *Emerald* articles (*ODE*, Oct. 8) stated that the woman was "dancing suggestively" at the party, and that she initiated the sexual activi-

ty. Regardless of her actions, her decision not to have sex must be respected.

Even if a man does not realize that a woman is saying "no," he still has committed rape. Horton said that she "made statements that led me to believe she wanted me to continue..." but no matter what she said, he could have misinterpreted. We all frequently hear what we want to hear, not necessarily what people are actually saying.

Although we cannot say Horton is guilty until he is proven so, we also cannot hold a woman as guilty of a crime to which she may have been a victim.

Jennifer Potter
Student

Yes on 6

The green movement has resulted in action on this campus. Students can further their environmental commitments by passing the Recycling initiative.

In an *Emerald* article opponents have made public safety an issue (*ODE*, Oct. 10). It is not safe to throw away garbage

at our current rate. Even committed environmentalists throw away horrifying amounts of garbage.

Some of the opponents of Measure 6 are Dow Chemical, The Society of Plastics and the Tobacco Institute. Are they against Measure 6 because they are concerned with public safety in Oregon? Supporters of the measure include the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Physicians For Social Responsibility and 250 small businesses. They do have an interest in the public safety of Oregonians.

Opponents have also criticized the costs of Measure 6. Our existing garbage problem is poisoning us and costing millions. Air pollution and groundwater contamination are directly related to garbage disposal and incineration.

This measure will have a major impact on Oregon. This change is exactly what scares some people. The packaging industry wants business as usual. Unfortunately we pay the price of excess non-recyclable packaging. The plastic industry refuses to be responsible for recycling, but they are the only

ones that can complete the cycle.

Oregonians will once again benefit by passing smart, safe and landmark environmental legislation. Recycling business will flourish and taxpayers will save money on landfill space.

The interests of Oregonians and not money-hungry out-of-state special interests must prevail. Don't buy their garbage!

Vote yes on Measure 6.

Crystal Skalak
Eugene

Outta my face

To the men on campus who invade my own and other women's personal space: You who intrude upon our privacy make us feel vulnerable when we shouldn't have to; this makes me angry. I write this in respect to several incidents in which you approach me — especially when I am alone — and speak to me as if I know you intimately, make suggestive cat calls and/or look at me as an object.

When I want to be alone, I go to a place where there are not

many people. I have just as much right as you to spend my time there, without having my privacy and safety threatened.

I make myself look nice for myself, not you. *Unless you are my friend*, you may not approach me and tell me that I look good. Do not make a point of walking close by where I am, or looking at me the way you do. You do not have the right to ask me who I am, where I am going, why I am here, or what am I doing Saturday night.

When I want to talk to someone, I seek out a person I believe I will feel most comfortable with. I will never seek out a person who gives me "meat" looks or otherwise offensive signals, unless for the sole purpose of reporting you to the police.

I do not need you to protect me; I need you to respect me.

Respect my privacy. Respect me. *And get out of my face.*

If you do not understand this, please discuss it with a female friend or write to the *Emerald*.

Enna M. Dole
Student