

Priorities need change

In the wake of the political waves caused by the budget (or lack of one) controversy, ironic episodes are already beginning to occur.

One interesting episode involves moves by the legislators to trim the budget in order to reduce the federal deficit. Congressional committees have recommended cuts in programs from veteran's benefits to student loans.

At the same time the Senate has approved a \$268 billion defense-spending bill. In related moves, an amendment to halt production of the radar-proof B-2 bomber at six planes rather than the 75 wanted by President Bush was defeated 55-40.

Cutting funding for the B-2, which has been attacked as a plane no longer needed since the end of the Cold War, would have knocked \$35 billion from the budget.

Instead, Congress appears more willing to cut benefits to veterans who served the country rather than programs that line the wallets of defense contractors.

Balancing the budget is an important issue that needs to be dealt with. If cuts have to be made to programs such as student loans and veteran's benefits in order to balance the budget, then do it. Everyone will have to play a part to fix an overburdened budget.

But those programs should not be cut when white elephant programs such as the B-2 continue to receive excessive funding.

Call to support clean air

The National Association of State Public Interest Research Groups is urging all concerned citizens to register their concern for the passage of the Clean Air Act before Congress recesses.

The act is scheduled for floor action today. It took the conference nearly 5 months to complete work on 360 pages of the 700 page document. Now they expect to complete the rest in four days.

Even though the legislation is favored by many incumbents looking to please unsatisfied constituents, it could get held up and be lost in the bureaucratic shuffle.

To voice your support for the passage of this sorely needed legislation, contact: House Speaker Thomas Foley (202) 225-8040; Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (202) 224-5556; George Bush (202) 456-7639.



Rents keep rising without control

It comes as no surprise that apartment rents in the Eugene-Springfield area have risen an average of 10 percent in the past year.

According to a survey by a Eugene-based real estate and consulting firm, rents will continue to rise next year, although possibly only as much as 6 percent.

The tight vacancy rate makes Eugene a landlord's market. New apartment complexes being built might ease spiraling rates, but not halt them completely.

Because rent-control is illegal in the Oregon Revised Statutes of the state constitution, landlords can raise rents almost at will, needing only to give 30 days notice before doing so.

With virtually no private land left in the campus area, the University needs to take an active role in building apartments for students. Apartments can be subsidized at cost and students can be responsible for maintenance.

Students are being forced to find housing farther and farther from campus. This increases travel time and costs — two precious commodities.

Students are being priced out of housing. It's a wonder liberal Eugene has not started a referendum to put the issue before the voters. Without it, more and more students may be forced to live in cramped, overcrowded housing. The term "homeless student" may become popular.

Rising tuition and rent costs are far exceeding student income increases. Not enough attention is paid to the vacancy problem because authorities assume that students will find a place to live — even if it's five students in a two-bedroom apartment.

With elections around the corner, candidates need to be asked their views on the housing shortage for students.

Rent control is a viable option for increasing rental rates. Put pressure on your legislators.

LETTERS

Get off my case

Concerning Enna Dole's Letter "Outta my Face" (ODE, Oct. 16): On behalf of all males, please accept our sincerest apologies. Being of the male gender, I fully sympathize with you concerning the abusive treatments that us men continuously inflict upon the pure, virginistic and virtuous women on campus.

Everyone knows that men stand for oppression, slavery and the debasement of women. I apologize!! I apologize for making you an object when I ask you, "What did you get on the test?" I apologize for oppressing you when I ask, "Excuse me, do you know what time it is?" I apologize for breathing your untainted air and for invading your angelic presence.

It is obvious that men look at women *only* as sexual objects. It is appalling to admit that I, nor any of my male friends, have ever looked at a woman and smiled with respect or admiration, for we all know that a man's smile means lust, perversion, domination and the invasion

of women's personal space.

Ronando Long
Student

Wage war

I am writing in response to Nickolas Facaros whose letter (ODE, Oct. 16) suggests that the *Oregon Daily Emerald* fails to comply with minimum wage laws and cites as evidence a job description for an associate editor position.

Facaros uses selective quotes to describe the job as requiring "a minimum" of 80-100 hours per month and paying "about \$300." The description in fact requires a minimum of 20-25 hours per week, a subtle but significant distinction given the fact that we often publish less than a full four weeks during a month. Accordingly, pay of "about \$300 a month, based on a per issue rate" (as stated in the job description) can be correctly interpreted as an approximation.

In fact, actual pay for an associate editor is \$17 per issue and varies from \$68 to \$391 per

month depending on the number of issues published. In a full week with five issues, the editor receives \$85 for 20 hours required to do his or her job. Time worked in excess of 20 hours may involve writing or editing for which additional pay is given on a per-inch or per-page basis. Simple arithmetic will indicate that our pay scale complies with minimum wage requirements.

Judy Riedl
General Manager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Good booze

Because it is Alcohol Awareness Week we're being reminded about the horrors of drunk driving and drunkenness. Certainly these problems are not to be undermined, but in all fairness we must also acknowledge the benefits of ethanol.

For over 2,000 years, wine has been used medicinally, socially and ceremonially. Studies consistently show that a glass or two of wine a day substantially lowers our HDL levels, and generally ameliorates our bodies.

So, while people are trying to convince you that alcohol is a deadly sin, recognize that alcohol in moderation is healthy for many people as well.

Caitlin Twain
French

Disrespectfully

In response to Enna M. Dole's letter (ODE, Oct. 16): Let me tell you about freedom of speech and self-expression of rights.

A man in this world of feminists is only partially to blame for his wanton acts and lewd behavior.

Point one: How come women are used in ads to sell everything from cigarettes to alco-

hol? And I'm not talking about plain looking gals here either.

Point two: Any man who knows women understands that women dress up for each other and not for men. Frankly I could care less what a gal looks like in clothes.

When you apply makeup, get your hair cut or shave your legs, I suppose this is not directed toward male consciousness — of course not.

If I'm not clear or this issue remains in doubt, why don't you ask any of the happy gals how they deal with similar problems before blowing off steam?

R.J. Christiano
Eugene

Letters Policy

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

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.