

Measure 5 offers no tax alternative

Oregon voters dealt the state government a severe blow Tuesday when they passed property tax limiting Measure 5. The measure will cripple the state's income-raising system.

Proponents of the measure say Oregonians are tired of having some of the highest property tax rates in the country, and this vote is a signal that citizens want a change.

It is more probable that this is a signal that voters don't care enough to educate themselves on the issues.

It seems Oregonians got caught up in anti-tax hysteria without investigating the real effects Measure 5 is going to have. This is most likely the result of the 30-second-sound-bite politics that is the rule for today's campaigns. Voters make their decisions from partisan television ads rather than taking the time to research the issues for themselves.

The right way to effect change is to come up with a solution first and then implement that solution as you reform the old system. Oregonians have sent the state into what will be a huge deficit situation, without offering a solution. It would be like shaving your head because you don't like your hairstyle; rather than looking for a style you like.

One solution to the inevitable budget crunch is acceptance of the sales tax that has been defeated several times in the last 12 years.

But there is no guarantee this will happen. And given the anti-tax trend currently in vogue, it is likely that there will be no new taxation method adopted.

Gov. Goldschmidt is going to have to take a strong stance and call the Legislature back into special session to decide how to keep the state and many programs afloat.

One positive aspect is that Oregonians elected Barbara Roberts as governor. If anyone has the motivation and work ethic to tackle the challenge, it is Roberts. However, it is too bad she will have to put all other issues on hold as she battles the budget crisis. A lot of time and money could have been saved if Oregonians would have just hired an accountant for the governor's post rather than going through the campaign process.

The next year is going to be an important one for all of Oregon. Hopefully, the effects of Measure 5 will wake Oregonians up to the fact that they have blackmailed themselves into accepting the long-avoided sales tax.



Students must be active in tax reform

The sign on the door said, "The ASUO executive is closed today due to the passage of Ballot Measure 5."

It would have meant more to close their doors and symbolize the problem of Measure 5 before the elections, but nevertheless, it may be a sign of things to come.

After Tuesday's election, not only is it time for the ASUO to buckle up when they drive their cars, it's also time for them to buckle down and get to work.

We have confidence that the ASUO will get to work lobbying the Legislature. Co-president Kirk Bailey promised to send busloads of students to the capitol in Salem for the legislative session. Until then, students can set up phone banks and call every legislator in the state 100 times a day.

The Oregon Student Lobby should get busy writing letters and lobbying the Legislature to confront the problem immediately and equitably. They must work closely with

community college organizations because there has to be as many college students as property owners.

And it's about time that Gov. Neil "The Oregon Comeback" Goldschmidt called an emergency meeting of the Legislature. Oregon faces bankruptcy, and now is as good a time as any to start looking for an answer. But Goldschmidt believes it's not his problem anymore.

Now it's our problem. Most, if not all, of the legislators at the fairgrounds Tuesday night agreed that solving the budget mess left by Measure 5 is the state's number one priority. So we say, get to work.

We need a fair and progressive way of funding universities. Higher tuition is not the answer. Maybe a sales tax is.

If the ASUO and the OSL can unite students across the state to demand fair treatment for higher education, we can show the state that students aren't going to take it anymore.

LETTERS

No reason

Ron Williams' "non" reasoning is the reasoning of fear. I can only hope that graduation from the University will bring enlightenment; otherwise, all whites, gays, blacks, Jews, women, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Native Americans... had better use your time at the University to prepare yourself for a life of criticism instead of acquiring knowledge to deal with the critical problems that all humanity is facing at this time.

Kent June
Student dependent

Apology needed

The group of students at Stanford University which is referred to as a band is a disgrace to the institution they represent. As a graduate of Stanford, Class of '37, I feel nothing but embarrassment each time they appear at any public function.

Why the university powers that be allow this puerile, juvenile behavior, often insulting to the viewing public, to continue

is something I am unable to comprehend. However, if the school is going to permit this kind of activity, then Stanford also owes an apology to the many whom they offend with every performance, most recently the University of Oregon and residents of Eugene.

Harold Hanzlik, M.D.
Stanford alumnus

Appearing Dead

It is not the Dead the administration seeks to ban, but Deadheads! Whatever happened to "cultural diversity?" What is the difference between racism against African-Americans or Deadheads? They both judge people based on their appearances!

Jackie Strawman
Eugene

Lesson learned

I hope Amy Hope has learned her lesson and everyone takes heed of the warning inherent in her letter. Do not mess with Greeks. To avoid experiences like the one Hope had, just

leave the "reserved" seats alone. That way no one gets hurt.

Fred O. Roellig
Student

Too live crew

I was extremely pleased to see the Ducks' home season end on Saturday not only with a win, but with a thrashing of the security crew by the student body.

It is not a secret that most people at football games despise them. All season they have made a nuisance of themselves. They have been intent on throwing people out of Autzen for minor offenses and have had a belligerent attitude toward all fans, especially students. They seem to cause more trouble than they prevent.

Hopefully, the beating they took Saturday will convince them to relax their policies. They should realize that people come to football games to get rowdy and have a good time, not to get harassed by a bunch of rent-a-cops on a power trip.

The atmosphere at a football game is borderline anarchy and

the harder security tries to crack down, the more people will rebel. It will only get worse next season. When that happens they will have to hire their own security guards.

Mike Simonitch
Student

Poor judgment

On Nov. 3 I had the pleasure of joining my wife, my son and his fiancée at the UO/UCLA homecoming game. Since we are from the state of Washington, we had no ties to either team, but were treated to a spectacular comeback by your Ducks.

Unfortunately, there were some aspects of this experience that left me embarrassed for your university.

While I realize the significance of the game was high, so were many of the students we saw before the game. I'll never understand what is "cool" about public displays of drunkenness.

We also watched the security personnel swarm over some poor fan who touched the foot-

ball after a field goal. This was a grown adult with his wife who was walking up the aisle for a coke when a football came flying through the air at him. He caught it and threw it further into the crowd, similar to a balloon toss.

Before he could turn around, several security personnel militantly grabbed him, treated him like a criminal and promptly escorted him and his wife from the game. The entire area pleaded with the security people to let him stay, but no way.

We all appreciate the need for proper control of the crowd, but this is carrying it too far. Couldn't we have fun, and how much does a football cost, anyway?

Finally, this post-game goal-post thing frightens me. Each year we hear of trampling deaths and injuries in the name of tradition. It seems to boil down to the students vs. security, and people get hurt.

Why not make disposable goalposts and let the tradition go on safely?

Les Anderson
Vancouver, WA