

Packwood's plan isn't good enough

It's just a variation of the same old Oregon political game: Everybody knows there's a problem, but no one can agree what to do about it.

However, in this case, it isn't new tax revenues or school finance. Now it's health care, and Oregon's own Sen. Bob Packwood has thrown in his two bits.

At a Monday Eugene press conference/public forum, Packwood's Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan of 1991 requires businesses to carry health insurance plans for full-time employees and their families.

Close Bob, but not good enough.

Packwood's plan would bring health care to a larger segment of the population, but it ignores the biggest part of the population in need — the unemployed.

Medicare takes care of some of that problem, but its monolithic approach to payment is legendary. Medicare is ill-suited and under-financed to adequately provide for all the people who can claim benefits. So, ultimately, poor people in this country are unable to receive the care they need.

Some citizens and observers at Monday's forum advocated a health care system much like Canada's, which is publicly administered and available to all. This seems the best solution, but it does have some inherent problems.

On a small scale, the Canada plan works great. But the bureaucracy needed to administer the 270 million-plus people in the U.S. would be extraordinary. However, it would eliminate Medicare and other health care systems, so the new plan would not be adding to the tons of red tape, but merely consolidating it.

Packwood is on the right track, but his apparent dismissal of the Canadian system is a mistake. Half-measures and stop-gap efforts are not enough to clean up U.S. health care. Drastic steps need to be taken, and the Canada plan makes the most sense.

Packwood's plan would bring health care to a larger segment of the population, but it ignores the biggest part of the population that needs affordable medicine — the unemployed.



LETTERS

Role playing

In recent issues of both the *Commentator* and the *Emerald*, incorrect information regarding voter turnout has been printed.

Last spring, 14.91 percent of the registered student body voted in the election for ASUO president. Though this certainly is a disappointing percentage, it is substantially higher than that which was printed.

These errors were not only an example of inaccurate journalism, but also of irresponsibility by the publications. Both the *Commentator* and the *Emerald* are influential on this campus. Their influence should be used in a positive way to encourage greater participation in government, rather than to focus on the ever-present voter apathy that plagues the campus, state and country.

I encourage these and other media to acknowledge the role they play in student government and to do what they can to foster increased involvement therein.

John Goodman
ASUO Elections Coordinator
Right?

I am disturbed that the College Republicans can assume JoSonja Watson's past has anything to do with her personal integrity in her present job position. After all, Watson's leadership abilities should not be determined by the past activities of her "personal life."

The sexual harassment charge on Clarence Thomas had absolutely no basis for current job qualifications as Supreme Court justice ... or does it?

And of course it doesn't matter George Bush was supposedly involved with illegal activity as the head of the CIA prior to his administration ... right?

And, of course, David Duke should not be judged on his

past, even though he happened to have been a Grand Wizard of the KKK ... right?

And of course we should not judge William Kennedy Smith's character, even though he had been accused of raping at least three other women as well ... right?

And, of course, it has no bearing whatsoever on the leadership abilities of the members in the House of Representatives that they have bounced thousands of dollars of bad checks ... right?

And after all, we all break the law.

So it's OK ... right?

If anyone does not at all question the leadership abilities of today's politicians, at the capitol or on campus, then please don't ever vote.

Allen James
Eugene

No comment

This is in response to the December issue of the *Oregon Commentator* regarding the recent EMU Board of Directors decision banning use of the EMU facility to recruiters who discriminate.

The *Commentator* states: "How could the ... EMU Board ... come to (their) conclusions ... in light of the evidence that has been recorded in the court system? The answer is that they probably did not bother to research the issue." (OC, pg. 23)

Ironically, it appears to be the *Commentator* who has failed to research the issue. On Feb. 7, 1991, the EMU board revised its Affirmative Action policy in accordance with University rules. On March 28, 1991, following two months of in-depth research on my part, I re-initiated the current "controversy" that culminated in the EMU board ban. Since I did not have the honor of being mentioned, I presume this oversight on their part resulted, also,

from inadequate research.

Regarding how the EMU board came to its conclusions: We simply compared the published DoD policy regarding homosexuality with the published Oregon Administrative Rules concerning affirmative action. The conflict was obvious, and the EMU board voted in favor of upholding the principles upon which our University (and the state of Oregon) subscribes.

That we did not hold the U.S. government above the laws has been obvious to everyone. Although this may have been viewed as a futile effort by some, it was simply our response to a breach of the University's Affirmative Action Guidelines.

Jon Organ
EMU Board

Threeways

From people I've met and things I've seen in the last two years, I am convinced that through cooperation, three things are possible that will give us all a better world.

1) It's possible to build safe, reasonably-priced atomic automobiles and trucks.

2) It's possible to build no toll, no customs freeways in a logical network through the Americas.

3) It's possible to regularize the 5,000-6,000 cognate words in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese into one easy orthography, and by using a very simple, regular grammar structure, give the people of the Americas an easy communication system they can master in 30 days.

If these policies can be understood and implemented, we will all be richer for it, first in the Americas and later, by example of our success, the rest of the world.

Jerry Thorson
Seattle

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