

President presents Bush (league) plan

Dr. Bush has spoken. At a get together in San Diego this weekend, Bush sat back in his rocking chair, crinkled his eyes, thumbed his suspenders and issued forth the following proclamation:

"Drink less, eat right, exercise, don't do drugs or sex."

Thanks, George, but anything else?

"Let's change the behavior that costs society tens of billions ... in lost earnings and productivity, treatment-related programs, accidents and certainly crime."

What?

Translation: The president said only you can prevent skyrocketing health care costs. Meaning: Read his lips, don't get sick.

Some of Bush's advice should be taken. Certainly, trying to improve one's general well-being is a good way to avoid some health problems down the road. Curing a disease before it starts is obviously cheaper and more effective than trying to eradicate it once it hits. (So, maybe the president should put away his pork rinds and chomp down some broccoli.)

But Bush's idea of preventative medicine distorts the meaning of the words. Preventing disease is just a step in establishing good health — it is not an end all. Bush seems to forget that there have been some godlike, healthy people who have fallen off ladders.

Accidents — and other unhealthy things — happen. And all the Bush medicine in the world doesn't change that. The president's desire to shift totally toward preventative medicine completely misses the real problem.

What of the people who get sick through no fault of their own? Well, there's always witch doctors.

Behind Bush's obvious lack of medical expertise lies a more insidious statement. Bush and Co. would have you believe only the poor get sick, that drug-users and people engaging in so-called "high risk" sex are the reasons behind America's health care woes.

Bush's tactic of blaming the downtrodden for the country's ills is an old trick. Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI both tried it and ended up a head shorter. Eventually, the lower class tires of the scapegoat role and creates change.

However, Americans don't need a guillotine. They have the ballot box.

Off with his head.

Preventing disease is just a step in establishing good health — it is not an end all. Bush seems to forget that there have been some godlike, healthy people who have fallen off ladders.



COMMUNITY

Brand: Progress made on D.C. trip

By Myles Brand

On Jan. 22-24, David Hubin, acting executive assistant to the president, and I visited members of Congress and people in the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. Jennifer Bills, ASUO president, was to accompany us; but unfortunately, because of a serious family emergency that developed at the last moment, she was unable to do so.

Our agenda was twofold: First, to help bring about a change in the DOD policy that excludes lesbians, gays and bisexuals from military service, including participation in ROTC; and second, to gain support for direct financial aid for students.

Between Hubin and myself, we met with four senators and seven representatives or members of their staffs, plus several key DOD officials.

With respect to the DOD exclusionary policy, we found that most people listened carefully, and we had some success, although we did not convince everyone. Three U.S. Representatives, including Mike Kopetski and Ron Wyden, both of Oregon, agreed as a direct result of our conversations with them to sign House Resolution 271, which strongly calls for a change in DOD policy.

A fourth representative is seriously considering adding his name to the list. U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio and Les AuCoin, also both of Oregon, are already co-sponsors of this resolution. The reason this is important is it makes clear the legislative intent in the House to change the policy. There is a similar Senate resolution.

Probably our most important meeting was at the Pentagon with Christopher Jehn, assistant secretary of defense for manpower. He is one of the key decisionmakers on this issue. We had a vigorous hour-long debate with him and his chief aide, a Marine colonel.

I argued that the distinguishing feature of the American armed forces, one that is rooted in the Constitution, is that of a citizen's army. In particular, the military officer corps includes many people with a liberal education.

The alternative would be an officer corps that was entirely military-trained, either through the various military academies or Officer Candidate School, with the result that these officers would lack the broadening experiences that a university education provides. (Recall I was arguing the exclusionary DOD policy should be rescinded; I did not go to the Pentagon to argue this country should totally shut down its military.)

When asked what constructive steps I would recommend to begin a change in the policy, I replied that every person should be assessed for his or her fitness to serve on an individual basis, independently of sexual orientation.

Some people, whether homosexual or heterosexual, are not suited to military service; but the reasons to deny access to the military have no more to do with sexual orientation than they have to do with the color of one's skin or one's gender.

For their part, the DOD officials argued that the confined living conditions, especially in combat situations, provided a reason for treating homosexuals differently. I pointed out, in reply, that the military already has rules about sexual harassment and they are sufficient to deal with any untoward situations.

Lesbians, gays and bisexuals who desire to serve in the military can be expected to observe appropriate social norms, just as heterosexuals are expected to do in military mixed-gender situations.

My sense of the matter, after all the arguments were made and countered, is the decision makers in the DOD are resistant because, perhaps, there is an

internal attitudinal problem among military personnel in gaining acceptance for a policy change, and not because of any philosophical reason for continuing this policy.

We did not succeed in changing the assistant secretary's mind, but I do believe we had an impact. In the weeks before we visited with him, he also met with a group of higher education presidents from the Big Ten and a group from the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, including Penn State and MIT.

This constant reinforcement is having a salutary effect. DOD is becoming less strident on this issue; for example, not long ago they would not even engage in discussion of changing the policy.

At this point many people, myself included, believe there will not be an overt policy change before the presidential election; then, sometime after it, there will be a movement to change the policy in stages. Continued discussion and debate with members of Congress and DOD is the best approach to bring about change.

The second issue we discussed with members of Congress was student financial aid. The Higher Education Act is due for reauthorization this spring, and one central issue is the amount of federal funding for student aid and the means of allocating it.

Presently, and oversimplifying somewhat, students apply for federal grants and loans through their colleges and universities. The colleges and universities certify need and matriculation and then students go to a bank to obtain the loans.

The banks take an initiation fee for the loan and then sell the loan for a profit to a national organization. The loans are federally guaranteed, so the banks take no risks. It is good

Turn to BRAND, Page 3

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3158, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Managing Editor	Editor in Chief: Christopher Blair	News Editor	Chris Bounieff
Editorial Editor	Pat Malach	Editorial Editor	Don Peters
Graphics Editor	Cathie Daniels	Sports Editor	Jake Berg
Entertainment Editor	Jeff Paslay	In Touch Editor	Mike Freeman
	Layne Lakelish		
	Night Editor: Christopher Blair		

Associate Editors	Student Government Activities: Daralyn Trappe	Community: Rene DeCar
Higher Education Administration: Carrie Dennett		Features: Lisa Milogian

Reporters: Tammy Bailey, David Charbonneau, Karen Engels, Jayson Jacoby, Rivers Jensen, Gerrit Koeppling, Kirsten Lucas, Hope Neelson, Coleen Pohlig

Copy Editors: Dan Eisler, Karen Engels, Fred Hagen, Paul Halvorson, Shelia Miha, Kathy Sherock

Photographers: Sean Poston, Michael Shindler

Advertising: Jean Bradley, Scott Dana, Leslie Fial, David Gauntlett, Britain Kilburn, Tom Leach, Haddon Riley, Catherine Royce, Dustin Stader, Tera Summitt, Vicki Tobin, Sharon Vaz

Classified: Peggy McGinn, Manager, Kevin Austerlman, Alan Curtis, Sheila Lorenzo

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator, Sarah Clark, Corine Frier, Kristine Granger, Susan Head, Jennifer Huey, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Matt Morin, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anna Stephenson, Jennifer Vialle, Todd Williams

General Manager: Judy Rickel

Advertising Director: Bryan R. Coppidge

Production Manager: Michele Ross

Newsroom: 346-5511

Display Advertising: 346-3712

Business Office: 346-5512

Classified Advertising: 346-4343