

Take Brand's advice, go after Measure 5

Facing brutal budget cuts and skyrocketing tuition, University President Myles Brand is taking his case to students, alumni and University employees.

And his plan is sure to be a pain in the back to local postal service workers.

Not to blow the surprise or anything, but in a few days, you will probably receive a letter from Brand, detailing the debacle of Measure 5. Brand urges letter recipients to write the governor and their state legislators, who should be providing the leadership to get Oregon out of this fiscal mess.

By now, everybody knows what Measure 5 has done to the higher education system: It crippled it, pummeled it, drove it into the ground. Escalating costs for less service — a quick and dirty recipe for disaster.

Brand, in his letter, says the answer is replacement revenue. He's right. Those who urge the state government to trim the fat, so to speak, from the budget have it only partially right. Certainly, streamlining and consolidating is part of reorganizing the Oregon tax system, but Measure 5 struck so deep, there now is not enough money to go around for the frivolous programs Oregonians enjoy.

What frivolous programs? You know, the ones like child services, welfare, health care; not to mention higher education. Oregonians can learn to live without those, right?

Brand says if no replacement revenue is found, University students face an "enormous" tuition increase in September 1993.

That's a word that wasn't used in connection with the latest batch of tuition hikes. If those didn't fall under the "enormous" category, for sure no one attending the University wants to see what does.

Although Brand is doing something about fixing Measure 5's legacy, a letter isn't the complete answer. Yes, getting students, alumni and faculty on your side is a good step, but more needs to be done. Collectively, the letter recipients can create change, but their task will be much easier if Brand is down in the trenches, paving the way.

Our University president has been doing quite a bit to help change the higher education system. Let's hope he continues to do so.

Take Brand's advice. Do what you can to fix the crimes of Measure 5.

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TWENTY-SOME YEARS AGO.

Dear Sirs,
I have belatedly decided to expose myself to the draft, not because I like it or agree with it, but because my country demands it, and I want to keep open my future political options, however obscure they might be.

Sincerely,
Bill Clinton

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1992

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Dear Sirs,
I have belatedly decided to expose myself to the draft, not because I like it or agree with it, but because my country demands it, and I want to keep open my future political options, however obscure they might be.

Sincerely,
Mario Cuomo

I LEAKED IT MYSELF. BUT IT'S MEANINGLESS.

LETTERS

Body control

Sometimes in a debate the basic issues are lost in rhetoric. Especially when the topic is extremely personal or emotional.

Three fundamental aspects of the pro-choice argument are: people have the right to freedom; people should have complete control over their bodies; fetuses are either non-living or non-human entities.

On the first point, no one person can exercise complete freedom without some bad eventually coming. For instance, we don't have complete freedom to discharge firearms wherever we please, for obvious reasons. More generally, curbing such freedoms is a large motivation behind laws.

On the second point, why is complete control over one's body always positive? A counter-example might run: a woman asks her brother for a transfusion (only he matches her type). He agrees, but during the procedure he impulsively changes his mind, to leave on a trip. She dies as a result.

Here, the body is clearly the brother's; he can obviously do with it what he wants. But, bottom line, is this just?

On the third point, clearly the fetus is at least a developing human being. If not, abortion would be unnecessary. Beyond this, choosing a point where something "becomes" human is troubling. The most logical place is at conception. Can we afford to err on this point? If fetuses are human, how can abortion be right?

The women who get abortions are human and should be cared for. Are the fetuses any less so, simply because they are helplessly and hopelessly silent?

Kelly O'Connell
Philosophy

Zeal

A recent article (*Register-Guard*, Feb. 12) on the boycott of businesses who have contributed to the OCA doesn't give enough information to the pub-

lic about John and Phyllis Hiron. They have contributed to other causes, too. This past Christmas, members of our congregation made candles that were sold at the Holiday Market for the benefit of the Lane County AIDS Hospice.

We wanted to contribute to the cause of establishing a full-care hospice in Eugene for people with AIDS. So did John and Phyllis.

When I first met John in December and told him what our congregation was planning, he was exceedingly gracious and eager to help. He supported our efforts by providing much needed tapers below his cost. I'm sure other examples of his charity abound.

He is a true friend of this community and worthy of our support. Would the misguided zeal of people like Carol Berg and Allan Brown be lessened if they could see one of the candles John and Phyllis helped make?

I appeal to students to resist the efforts of those who are trying to publicly shame the Hiron and other business people. People of influence in our community, including the editors of the *Emerald*, should condemn this McCarthy style boycott and the subsequent violence against the Hiron.

Jack Davidson
Pastor, Cascade Presbyterian Church

Lowlights

A small, non-political, ideologically neutral (if possible) request to library borrowers: Please do not write in the books you borrow from our (or any other) library.

Libraries are an astoundingly underrated gift to the mind: free information waiting to be molded into understanding, knowledge and flashes of insight.

Most books I check out are ravaged by other people's notions of what is important on the page: notes, pencil markings, even pen and highlightings. This may be illu-

minating for the original reader, but it is distracting graffiti to the next borrower.

These books belong to all of us. Please, use your pens for note taking, not marginal comments. If you absolutely must mark a section in the text, try a tiny dot with a pencil and then erase your dots when you're done. We are a community of readers, let's have regard for each other and for the privilege of intellectual freedom.

Della Fisher
English

First step

In the plethora of letters on the JoSonja Watson controversy, one point has yet to be mentioned. It has repeatedly been claimed that the poor judgment she showed in the past has no bearing on how she performs in the present.

There would be some validity to this except for one thing, which in my opinion is more important than the fact that she shoplifted a few dollars worth of non-essential items or the fact that she attempted to get a fake ID.

The real problem, to me, lies in her evasion of responsibility for these matters. According to earlier *ODE* articles, she apparently avoided taking care of the shoplifting charge until forced by the judicial system to do so, and still has an open warrant in Washington County for the other charge.

Her resignation is a good first step toward taking responsibility for her choices. If she follows that up by making good on her stated intention to repay the amount she was overpaid for her summer positions, and then takes care of that outstanding warrant, she will have laid the groundwork for rebuilding her character and reputation.

Everyone exercises poor judgment from time to time, but it takes a mature, responsible adult to face up to the consequences on their own volition.

Debra Day
Psychology

Emerald

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