

Recalling 'Babs' won't fix situation

"Give us a dollar to dump Hershel Taylor," organizer of the petition drive to recall Gov. Barbara Roberts. Actually, the quote advocates dumping Roberts, as voiced by Taylor, but it would be better to see the latter go.

The drive, which fortunately failed, will see a second attempt if Taylor has his way, and if he sees the funds. The second drive, labeled "Bye-bye Babs," would employ a direct-mail tactic, sending 200,000 petitions to voters across Oregon.

Taylor, a retired builder living in Myrtle Creek, is convinced Roberts would get the boot if he could get the second chance. The petition gathered 162,257 signatures within the 90-day time period ending last Thursday, some 4,000 short of the 166,928 needed to initiate a recall election.

The possibility exists, because the numbers are close and Taylor claimed he received an additional 1,000 signatures after the deadline's closure. Should the funding come through, a recall is possible with a more concentrated effort made throughout the state.

But we don't think it'll happen. At least we hope it won't.

The major reasons Taylor and petition supporters want to oust Roberts is because of her refusal to exempt timber sales from the Endangered Species Act and her methods of dealing with revenue cutbacks from Measure 5.

Roberts' pro-environment stance against loggers helped rally a significant share of the first petition's financial support, which came from the timber industry.

"Every job in the state is timber-related," Taylor said. This would be a true statement, except for the fact that most jobs in Oregon are not timber related. For those that are, however, all the more reason to protect our resources.

Many timber industry workers still fail to acknowledge the relationship between saving their forests and saving their jobs. And yes, the survival of a woodland goes beyond replanting. Ecosystems, which support and build the web of a wilderness, take many years to build.

If the timber industry is truly interested in saving itself, it must look to far-sighted preservation of its woods and supporting systems, not to myopic tactics.

How hard is that to understand? No trees equal no jobs. Save the wilderness means saving jobs.

Roberts' refusal to bend to the God Squad and its relations should be commended. This is the type of action that will ultimately save Oregon.

As for Measure 5, Roberts deserves more time to work out tax reform alternatives, that is if they actually have the chance to pass the Republican-controlled Oregon House. All of Roberts' reform proposals have been shot down thus far by House Speaker Larry Campbell.

No governing body is flawless, whether it be an individual or the entire system itself. What we can do is work through the tough spots with someone who is willing to work with us. Roberts is still hanging in there, and so must we.



OPINION

ASUO's ad lands out of bounds



Good news for all you student-felons out there! The ASUO is now in the business of providing legal advice. In the May 11 edition of the *Emerald*, your student government paid for a large ad telling all 17,000-plus University students how to react when the FBI comes knocking at their doors.

I know this will come as a great relief to the majority of students on campus, most of whom have spent many sleepless nights concerned they are involved in a federal investigation. They will be glad to know that the ASUO, under the auspice of representing the interests of all University students, has decided this is well-spent student money.

Of course, ASUO constituents who believe the vandals should be prosecuted might be shocked to learn they are paying for legal advice for the protesters. Where is the representation for students who want the vandals to be investigated? Why are these students subsidizing legal advice for people whose actions they fundamentally disagree with?

Did anyone at the ASUO consider this before they decided to use student money representing the interests of a small handful of the University's student population?

Again, we see more concrete proof that the ASUO never will — and probably never will — represent the interests of the majority of students at this school. The actions by ASUO President Jennifer Bills in designating funds to pay for this ad proves once and for all that the ASUO represents its own special interest causes with little regard for students who may disagree with them.

It makes you wonder what

ASUO stands for. It's certainly not the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. How about, "Abandoning the Students of the University of Oregon." Given current activities, the name would more accurately reflect who is (or is not) represented by the ASUO.

So let's stop blaming apathy for low-voter turnouts. Maybe the majority of University students are smart enough to realize the ASUO has nothing to do with them.

The best interests of the majority of students on this campus (especially students on the financial fringe) would have been realistically served if that half-page ad had been used to advertise about how much tuition is going to go up in the next few years because of Measure 5. That's something that will have an effect on thousands of University students — not the dozens involved with the FBI.

And enough of this crap about the FBI trying to harass and persecute students for protesting their beliefs. Good civil-disobedience protests do not involve destroying other people's property and then fading into anonymity. Civil disobedience is standing up to authority and taking responsibility for your actions. By doing that, real protesters are saying, "This issue is important enough to me that I will face the consequences of my dissenting beliefs." It is this personal sacrifice aspect — martyrdom — that gets the attention of fence-sitters.

When uncommitted people see others suffering for a cause, they stop and think that if someone feels so strongly about an issue that they are willing to make sacrifices, maybe there is something to this. It gets people's attention and persuades them.

Carrying out acts of random violence, and then cowardly hiding from the consequences, not only alienates fence-sitters,

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it sends the message that you don't really believe that strongly in your cause.

Mahatma Ghandi, using the principles of civil disobedience, was able to free an entire nation of people without ever having to take someone else's life or damage property.

In the same spirit, the most touching and sincere protest over the acquittal verdict I have heard of is one being carried out by law student George Fields. At the campus rally April 30, Fields vowed not to go through the law school graduation ceremonies he has been working toward for a lifetime.

Fields is protesting entrance into a legal system he views as not representing blacks. Although family members are coming from around the country to watch him graduate, Fields will spend the day at home with his cap and gown stowed away in the closet.

The issue of racism in this country's justice system means so much to Fields that he is willing to sacrifice a great moment he has earned for himself. This takes a lot more strength and courage than an act of anonymous violence.

Unfortunately, a few moments of uncontrolled mob violence will overshadow a legitimate and poignant protest. Now that's something for the alleged Federal Building protesters to think about.

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