

Legislature fiddles while Oregon burns

The Oregon Legislature, a perennial sleeping giant, awoke Wednesday, just long enough to squash Gov. Barbara Roberts' tax plan before lumbering back into seclusion where it can sleep away the remainder of its term.

After a year-and-a-half of work, Roberts was prepared to go to the voters with a tax plan she felt the people would approve. All the Legislature had to do was act as the delivery boy, putting the plan on the ballot, a fitting role considering the amount of work they have put into tax reform over the past decade — none!

Unfortunately for Roberts, her plan and Oregon's future, the Legislature inexplicably decided that tax reform must be approved by them first. Where do these people get off thinking that they should have a role in tax reform? They have ignored the issue for so long, surely they have given up any right to that claim simply by default.

The Oregon Legislature has done nothing more than confirm the fact that it is a monolithic obstacle in the course of good government.

Since the passage of Measure 5, the Legislature has been content to play the role of Emperor Nero, fiddling while Oregon burns. It is not as if it was unaware of Roberts' efforts to put together a reform package, and if legislators had not been asleep for the past year-and-a-half, perhaps they too could have put together a proposal.

Why they suddenly decided to change their doing-nothing approach is unclear. Unless you have the point of view of a five year old. Then it becomes clear.

House Speaker Larry Campbell (R-Eugene) and his friends were upset that Roberts didn't ask them to play too and demanded that she play by their rules or else they would take the ball and go home. She refused, and they went home.

While such juvenile behavior may be acceptable on the playground, it has no place in government. While that may be an inherent flaw with partisan politics, is it asking too much of grown men and women to do the right thing, at least once in a while?

The Oregon Legislature has done nothing more than confirm the fact that it is a monolithic obstacle in the course of good government. It was the Legislature's ineptitude that resulted in disillusioned voters passing Measure 5, and the Legislature will no doubt remain asleep at the wheel as Oregon's future is driven head-first over the Fiscal Canyon Cliffs.



LETTERS

Wise up

Homosexuals are playing a grand "victim" role. Isn't it interesting that they march for "love and justice" but continue to target the OCA with death threats, obscene phone calls, rocks through windows and name calling?

Isn't it interesting that homosexuals keep trying to label the OCA as fascist Nazis when their mainstream publications feature Nazi costumes and attitudes? Eric Pollard, a former member of ACT UP admitted in the Washington Blade homosexual paper that "...our subversive tactics were drawn largely from the voluminous *Mein Kampf* (by Hitler), which some of us studied as a working model."

Isn't it interesting that homosexuals don't like to be called names, but don't mind hurling the name "homophobe" at people with normal sexual orientation?

Isn't it interesting that homosexuals whine about losing jobs

and housing, but in a 1987 10-hour gay rights hearing in Salem, not one homosexual documented (a) loss of job or residence due to homosexual identity?

Isn't it sad that homosexuals complain about "hate-crimes" but endorse sadomasochism, leather activity and pedophilia along with other "unkind" inter-gay violence?

Isn't it interesting that homosexuals deny wanting "special rights" but their platform calls for affirmative action and minority status?

Isn't it interesting that Portland homosexuals demand "rights" while filing injunctions against citizens who practice their legal "right" to use the petition process?

Wise Oregonians will not fall for the "victim" line and will sign the OCA petition. Wise Oregonians know that they themselves will be the "victims" if we fail to arrest the homosexual agenda.

Pat Smith
OCA Research Director

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

Oregon Daily Emerald
P.O. BOX 3197 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.

Editor: Pat Malach
Associate Editors: Tim Neff, Daralyn Trappe
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay
Night Editor: Pat Malach

Darkroom Technician: Todd Williams
Advertising: Shawn Berven, Jane Irola, Gillian Oh, Sarah Qualman, Catherine Royle,
Classified: Peggy McGinn, Manager
Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor
Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland

General Manager Judy Reed
Advertising Director Bryan R. Coppedge
Production Manager Michele Ross

Newsroom 346-5511 Display Advertising 346-3712
Business Office 346-5512 Classified Advertising 346-4343

