

New requirements open up questions

As of Nov. 1, 1993, out-of-state students will be out-of-luck students unless they can prove they are living in Oregon for non-educational purposes.

The state Board of Higher Education voted Nov. 20 to make it more difficult for out-of-state students to acquire residency. Instead of the current standard of requiring students to live in Oregon for a year, students will now have to come to Oregon for reasons other than school.

To its credit, the board moved the proposal's effective date from July 1, 1993 to Nov. 1, 1993, so that all students enrolled before Nov. 1, 1992 would be eligible under the current rules.

But is the new proposal fair overall? As the saying goes, yes and no.

One reason people supported the proposal was that Oregon had lax rules compared to most other states and it needed to catch up. However, Oregon's current rules are actually middle-of-the-road. A random survey of states indicated that Oregon's system of higher education is not the only financially unstable system in the country, and that many such states still make it easy for out-of-state students to acquire residency.

An out-of-state student who wishes to take advantage of state funding does not have that same right to taxpayer support.

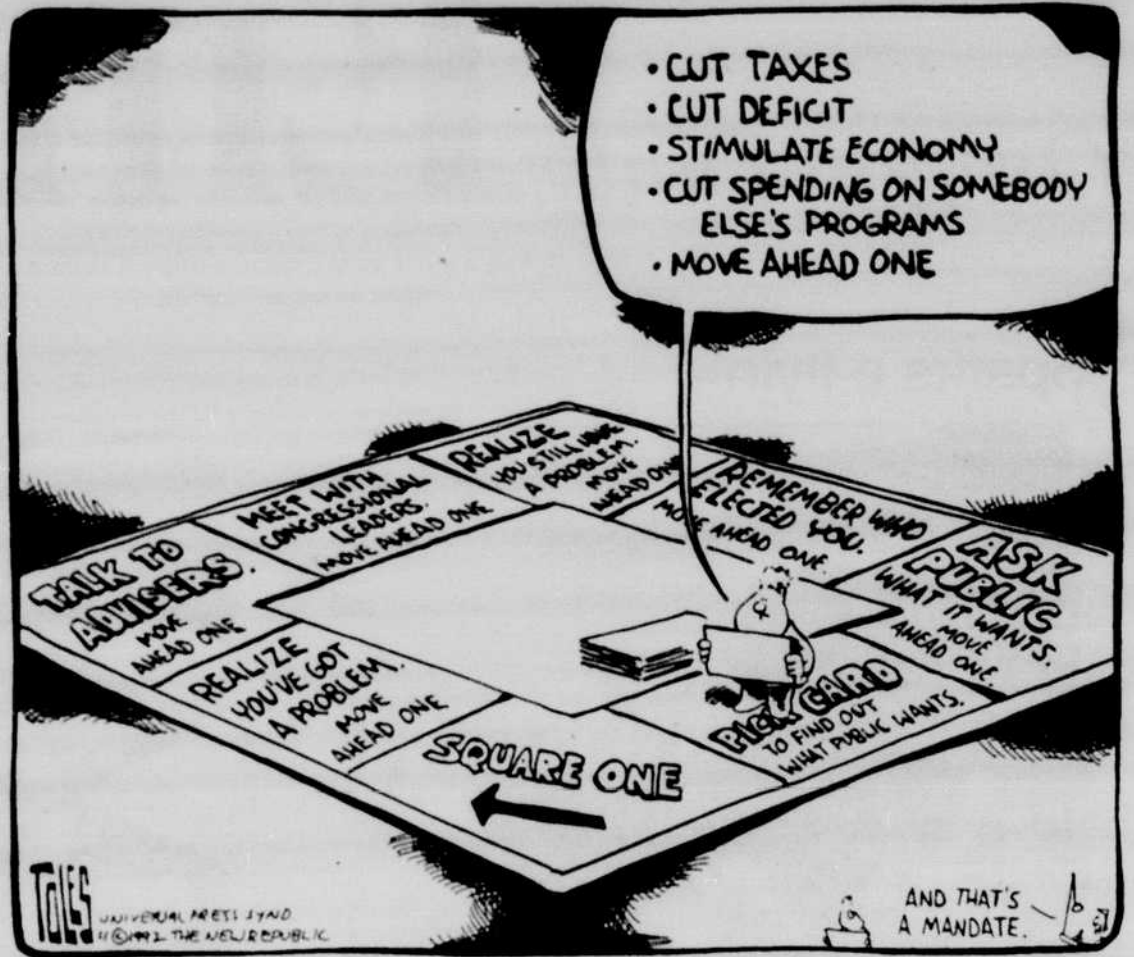
In Illinois, higher education is also facing a budget crunch. But at Southern Illinois University, students need only to live in the state for three months, which they can do while attending school. Other Illinois schools have similarly relaxed standards.

Washington state requires students to live in the area for a year. Educational purposes factor nowhere into the equation.

That is not to say that Oregon has the tightest requirements either. Some states, such as Texas and Kansas, have requirements similar to Oregon's recently passed proposal. Texas requires a student to have gainful employment for 12 months prior to receiving residency. That employment can be achieved while attending school, but employment must be considered the primary reason for living in Texas, not education.

A better reason for the residency requirement is to give longtime Oregon residents their due. A taxpayer who has lived in Oregon for many years deserves access to an affordable education. An out-of-state student who wishes to take advantage of state funding does not have the same right to taxpayer support.

The problem for backers of the proposal is to determine whether a student is coming to Oregon for educational purposes. As Shirley Clark, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said, "There is no formula for establishing intent to live in Oregon." Will a person be a resident if he or she has a full-time job in addition to school? What if that person leases a house? A clearer standard must eventually be set.



LETTERS

Transition OK

The Register-Guard posed the question "Is transition too long" on Nov. 29. I am in agreement with The Register-Guard's final conclusion. An 11-week period has indeed worked well in the past 59 years since the 20th Amendment, the so-called "lame duck" amendment that became part of our Constitution in 1933 and moved inauguration day from March 4 to Jan. 20.

One must take into account the many appointments, such as Cabinet posts, sub-Cabinet posts and ambassadorships the president-elect must appoint. He also must negotiate and plan his lobbying legislative agenda with the new Congress.

Stefan Stent
Eugene

Come out

As a man, a son and a brother, I was disgusted by the behavior of the Phi Kappa Psi members who were present at the (Nov. 23) press conference/protest. Where were they? Why were they not outside to stand up and acknowledge the responsibility that they all share in their brother's atrocious deed?

I am in no way implying that all Phi Psi members are rapists. However, if brotherhood is the basis for the fraternal system, then all of the members should have been outside to acknowledge and accept responsibility for their brothers' actions.

I thought it showed a immense lack of character to have the members peering out of darkened rooms like small children while three women, who cannot even be members of the fraternity, stood outside in the cold and attempted to defend the entire fraternal system.

And although I don't agree with the arguments that the three women presented, I admire the courage they showed while not only facing the woman who was raped, but also a large and very angry group of supporters.

Fortunately for the Phi Psi fraternity, those three women had enough courage to shield the little boys who were hiding in the windows. The fraternity is also very lucky that the woman's family showed more restraint than did their brothers and is only calling for their removal from campus.

Had it been my sister, there may not have physically been a house left at which to hold a press conference.

Ebon Brady
Accounting

Exposed

This letter writer, a political scientist and a student of American foreign policy in the Middle East, has written over the years on the duplicitous practices of the junior senator from Oregon, Bob Packwood. Most recently, I lobbied my fellow Oregonians to cast their ballots against him.

I have studied Packwood's record and campaign tactics during his 24 senatorial years. In one word, he is ruthless and cunning. Packwood's success has been based on two issues: support of causes that attract women voters, and uncritical support for Israel to attract money from the American Jewish supporters of Israel.

Our junior senator has cleverly fanned the flames of women's issues and supported Israel for his own political survival. The recent disclosures of his 20 years of sexual harassment of women speaks for itself.

In the 1992 election, Packwood sent a letter not only to Oregonians, but across the United States to solicit money to continue his service to Israel. In that letter, the full text of which was published in the September issue of Harper's magazine, Packwood, a Unitarian, speaks of himself as a Jew.

In exposing Packwood's odious behavior toward women, The Washington Post did not mention or criticize his campaign letter. This might be due to the Post's aggressive pro-Israeli stance and its reporting

standards. However, Packwood's ambush of women and his use of Jewish religion and people is reprehensible and should be questioned.

We all have to stay vigilant and expose dishonest and cowardly practices in all spheres of life; our political survival requires it.

M. Reza Behnam
Eugene

Rauch speaks

I am writing this letter to state clearly why a protest was held on Nov. 23 against Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

First of all, the protest was not against the individual responsible for my specific acquaintance-rape situation. The individual involved in my case took matters into his own hands immediately following the incident. He acted in a way that was both mature and responsible, and I am satisfied with the outcome of my situation. He is no longer affiliated with Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Nor was the protest against the greek system. I was protesting against the fraternity Phi Kappa Psi where an atmosphere to rape, abuse and harass women is not only condoned, but is promoted by the membership.

Phi Kappa Psi was instructed to hold rape seminars and continued to drag its feet until another woman was almost raped at the fraternity itself. Rather than educating its members, this fraternity would rather cover up incidents of rape and abuse. Had Phi Kappa Psi members and officers changed their behavior and educated themselves, this protest would never have taken place.

Phi Kappa Psi fraternity is still not taking responsibility for the actions of its members. It seems as though the members and officers of Phi Kappa Psi will not listen until they are no longer affiliated with the University.

Niki Rauch
Undeclared

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