

Governor's budget bodes ill for future

Mountain roads typically have special ramps for run-away vehicles, allowing them to slow down before their momentum carries them over a cliff. The state of Oregon, itself about to plunge over the cliffs of fiscal oblivion, could use an emergency off-ramp, preferably one labeled "tax reform."

This past Wednesday, Gov. Barbara Roberts unveiled her proposed budget to the Oregon legislature. And for the first time, the malicious nature of 1990's Ballot Measure 5 was made clear.

Measure 5 supporters told Oregonians the measure would protect funding for public schools, K-12, until 1995. Wrong. Under Robert's proposed budget, school districts will be forced to operate at 90 percent of their current levels.

Perhaps the greatest flaw in Measure 5 is that people don't really know why they voted for it. Some claim it was a mandate for less government. Others claim it was a mandate for tax reform. Yet others claim it was a mandate to equalize school funding.

Unfortunately for Oregon, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives has jumped on the "less government" bandwagon. Never mind that there are no budget cuts possible to offset the revenue lost due to Measure 5.

Those misinformed people who believe cutting government "waste" will offset Measure 5's effects are in for a rude awakening. Getting rid of government, not to mention government waste, will not even begin to offset the effects of Measure 5. We've said it before, and we'll say it again — Oregon needs tax reform. Not budget cuts, not unachievable levels of efficiency, but a new tax structure.

And like it or not, reform will include a sales tax. Get used to the idea — a sales tax will be the ultimate legacy of Measure 5.

At the University, tuition will increase by 7 percent per year, and enrollment will decrease by 7 percent per year. But there is more to the state than just the University.

Economic and community development programs may be cut by 58 percent — not the best method for coming out of a recession. Transportation may be cut 57 percent. At a time when Oregon is preparing for high-speed rail, expanding the Portland light-rail system and attempting to promote alternative modes of transportation, it is heading in the wrong direction.

Oregon's future has never looked bleaker, and if the state is to survive in the 21st century, it is going to have to pay its own way. And the last off-ramp is quickly approaching.

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NOW AND THEN, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT WILL LOSE IT.

LETTERS

Burden

The burden of blame for the crime of rape should not fall upon the shoulders of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Although no one denies a rape involving this house took place, the entire male greek population is breathing a great sigh of relief that its houses have been spared this public accusation and protest.

The reason for this is because crimes against women have occurred throughout the greek system, not just at Phi Kappa Psi. The only difference is someone finally decided to come forward.

And believe it or not, rape is more than a greek problem. It happens everywhere, whether it's on campus or in the community. So to target a single group and unjustly label them does little to create a safe environment. More than anything, it makes efforts to see eye to eye more difficult.

Anger and sadness over this incident is justified. Protesters on Nov. 23 had a right to have their voices heard. Unfortunately, they also felt they had to put themselves against a house that had no desire to contest what it was the protesters are fighting for.

But this got lost in the frenzy, and the fraternity came out looking like rapists. This is not the case. The individual involved with this incident has long since been disaffiliated with the house, and Phi Kappa Psi is taking every measure to prevent this from happening again. I encourage the rest of this campus to do the same. A reactionary stance will only end up hurting you.

Jeff Gamble
Phi Kappa Psi
ASUO

Define freedom

I would like to respond to Stas Stavrianeas, University Hellenic Club, who expressed his objections to the Nov. 16 lecture by Professor Ronald Wixman (ODE, Dec. 3). Being a pre-journalism major, I'm deeply concerned about what freedom of the press really means.

I do not speak Greek or Macedonian. I'm not an expert of Eastern European history. However, as an audience member, I do know what Wixman talked about and what he didn't.

Stavrianeas said Wixman "intentionally abused the truth concerning actions and positions of Greece" with regard to a newly formed country that has not been recognized by the world community. Wixman never mentioned Macedonia or Greece in his lecture.

Although one man handed out a brochure titled, "Macedonia is Greece" before the lecture, Wixman said problems concerning Macedonia would not be part of his talk. Indeed, he didn't discuss that.

However, when the question period began, the same man stood and started giving his own presentation about Macedonia. Unbelievably, Stavrianeas accused Wixman, who is recognized as an open-minded professor and even lectured Friday at the United Nations about Yugoslavia, as being biased.

After the lecture, I wondered what position a journalist should take. I talked with Serbians. I talked with Wixman. I've concluded the view represented by Stavrianeas is Greek right-extremist propaganda and abuses freedom of the press. Is this a legitimate opinion that can be allowed on campus?

And how about the effect of this type of opinion (or accusation) for students who are considering taking Wixman's class?

Shin Yasui
Pre-journalism

Rest in peace

After reading, with some amusement, the Nov. 17 Emerald article describing the anatomy lab, I contained my urge to counter with the real facts of the lab. Considering the recent furor concerning respect for the dead, I can no longer stifle my rebuke.

I am an anatomy lab instructor. At the beginning of the term, students are schooled on respectful treatment of cadavers. Blanch-inducing as the first lesson with a cadaver may be, the majority of my students are fascinated to study the body in such a tangible way. They appreciate the gift endowed by people who donate their bodies via the Oregon Body Donation Program. Likewise, instructors are profoundly aware of this privilege.

However, let's not get carried away. People donate their bodies fully aware of their fate, and this includes the knowledge that they may be cut up and pored over by more than 200

anatomy students a term. This obviously did not disturb them when they were alive and certainly does not disturb them now.

The fact is, unless one is able to replace a "humanistic" viewpoint with a scientific perspective of the subject matter, it is difficult to deal with cadavers at all.

I would like to reassure all offended souls that we maintain a respectful working relationship with cadavers in the anatomy lab as a matter of course. Until you have experienced a term of anatomy, you will never understand just how difficult this may be at times.

Now may we stop dramatizing a non-issue?

Belinda Beck
Exercise/ Movement Sciences

Man's problem

A sad fact of life on college campuses is that one in four women is subjected to rape or attempted rape each year. In light of such a statistic, for a woman on this campus it is safest to assume that any man she encounters — even one from Men Against Rape — is potentially a rapist, and to use caution.

Women are often not safe and frequently must make assumptions about a whole group (men) in order to protect themselves. However, a crucial point of the Men Against Rape ad (ODE, Nov. 23) is people, especially men, need to "make a change."

I am also "enraged," as the men who responded to the ad were, but my rage is toward the problem of rape, the ignorance about rape and the blame placed on rape survivors. Men want to come together and stop an atrocity in our society.

The problem of violence against women, and men, is a man's problem. If men are "enraged" by the concrete sexism and oppression of women that defines rape, they should do something. Read up on rape, take a CARE class, start listening to the voices of women or join with Men Against Rape to fight against the massive problems men are perpetuating.

If men don't like the image of potential rapists we as men must wear, do something to change the awful circumstances that promote that image.

Benjamin Novinger
Psychology
Men Against Rape

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