

## Legislature facing more than budget

Monday marked the opening of the 1993 Legislative Assembly, which promises to be one of the most biting — and pivotal — sessions in memory.

It is no secret the Oregon Legislature will be faced with filling the \$1.3 billion hole in Oregon's 1993-95 general fund budget. In addition, the public has reacted negatively to suggestions of a sales tax, leading many lawmakers to emphasize budget cuts over tax increases.

Exactly how those budget problems will be solved is up in the air. One thing, however, is certain: It will require a strong leader and a great deal of compromise on both sides.

Both the House and the Senate are facing interesting circumstances. The Senate is controlled by Democrats. Yet members have been unable to replace Senate President John Kitzhaber — splitting their votes evenly between Sen. Grattan Kerans of Eugene and Sen. Joyce Cohen of Lake Oswego.

Taking the time to pick the right leader is a wise idea. Given the problems before this Legislature, anybody less than a workaholic will probably not be able to get the job done. But there is also something to be said for firm and immediate decision making. Senate members need to unite behind one person and follow that person's lead. If the Senate cannot agree on a leader, it will be nearly impossible to agree on a budget.

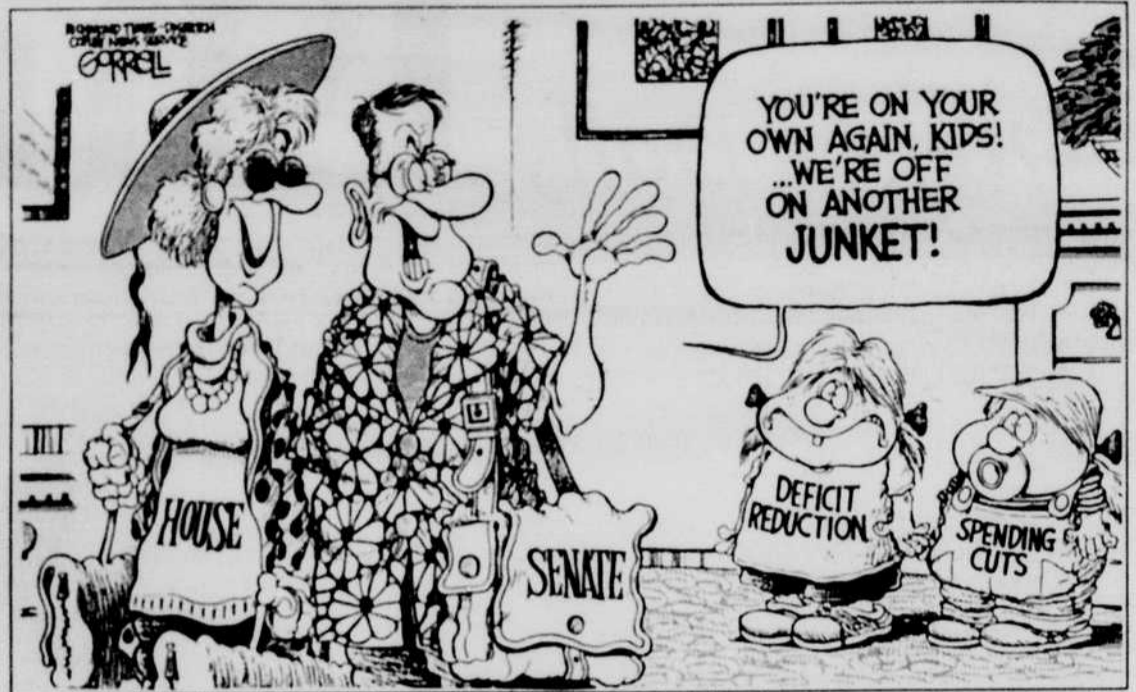
The Legislature also has a sizable freshman class. Of its 90 members, 26 are new. Many lawmakers will not know their way around the system, and some may lack the perspective and experience to act strongly in the state's best interests.

On the positive side, however, this freshman class was not around for last year's pathetic backbiting episode, which ended up killing Barbara Roberts' sales tax proposal before it even got to the voters. New members must learn from the old members' mistakes.

A third factor promising to shake up the session is GOP control of the House. The GOP has shown a fondness for budget cuts rather than tax increases, much to liberal Democrats' dismay. A split may be arising between the two bodies that could last through 1993. In light of Roberts' frustration with the Legislature, which intensifies legislative chaos, the budget may never be completed.

All factions will eventually need to sit down and compromise. As in all politics, there will be extreme positions on both sides. Some may want a sales tax, others may not. Only one thing is certain: What people want is no longer an issue. It is down to what people need.

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## OPINION

# Slipping in a winter wonderland



**Write Angles**  
Hope Neelson

**A**h snow! That wonderful white fluffy stuff. So fun to scoop up, mold into a giant ball and hurl into your friend's face ... or any stranger on a mountain bike for that matter.

Friday's snowfall seemed to change just about every student's plans for the night, as mini-snowball riots erupted block after block around campus.

Determined gangs of students walked miles, trekking through neighborhoods to find and join in the packs of frenzied snowball throwers.

Once established safely behind barricades of unlucky cars, the heavy fire began, with snow balls accompanied by fierce battle cries filling the air.

Anyone foolish enough to venture out on a bike quickly got caught in the cross fire from both warring sides. Even innocent passersby became moving targets, and only the ones yelling "alcohol-bearing" were let through, as if they were a United Nations convoy.

Though fighting was fierce, both sides occasionally called truces in their skirmish and united against a common enemy: the LTD bus.

However, the romance between Oregonians and snow seems to be fleeting.

Students arrived on campus Monday morning to find sidewalks transformed overnight into slabs of ice. The once cotton ball-like snowballs turned into dangerous mini-ice packs. All around me I heard students begin to bitch.

It's interesting. Everybody just loves the snow when they can happily pelt each other with it for a night. But it sticks around for a few days and all of a sudden it's a nuisance.

Being from Colorado, I can't help but notice a few glaring snow faux pas being committed by virgin snow trekkers. There are general dos and don'ts of handling the snow. And it's time to shed some light on the subject.

First of all, driving in the snow is a big thing with Oregonians.

It seems the white stuff appears on the road and magically everyone is terrified, creeping along at 5 mph. Granted, if it's icy out, or if it's dumping snow (as it did Friday night), staying off the road is a good idea.

But if the snow is along the side of the road, driving that slow just isn't necessary.

Along these same lines, it seems the opposite occurs around stop signs. Instead of anticipating the stop sign and slowing down, I've seen car after car accelerate into the stop sign and then at the last minute slam on its brakes. These motorists wonder why they end up in the middle of the intersection when they finally skid to a stop.

Damn those icy roads. They'll get you every time.

And a note to pedestrians in regard to cars. Be alert at all times. Not even for a second should you let your guard down while walking the hazardous streets. You never know when some idiot motorist will slide into your path. When it snows, the motorists have the right of way ... or you get mowed down.

Also, it doesn't hurt to lend a helping hand if you see a car desperately spinning its wheels at a stop sign while standing completely still. The most common sight in Boulder the day after a storm is seeing masses of do-gooders giving cars a little push to help them along their icy way.

Speaking of going along your icy way, what roads are to motorists, sidewalks are to students — a nightmare.

There is nothing so undignified as slipping on an icy sidewalk. One tends to try and catch oneself, causing movement akin to a Broadway show, which attracts the attention of anyone and everyone around you. Indeed, people 100 yards away like to stop and watch the show. Will he make it? Will he

**If you bite it, don't fight it. Just go with the flow. Fall quickly and escape just as fast, with only your companion to notice and gloat.**

catch himself? Usually the answer is no.

Meanwhile, you've only prolonged the agony and attracted an appreciative audience, as the laughter will indicate to you when you sheepishly pick yourself up.

Solution: If you bite it, don't fight it. Just go with the flow. Fall quickly and escape just as fast, with only your companion to notice and gloat.

Which brings me to another tip for companions of slippers. First, never try to catch your falling companion. You'll only create an even bigger scene for everyone to laugh at.

Secondly, never, ever, laugh at your friend who falls. Because just guess who will be next.

A general rule to follow when venturing out is to always watch where you step, and try to avoid the ice. If that means (oh my gosh!) walking OFF the sidewalk, then do it. Because if your thoughts wander for even a second away from your main objective, you will find your ass on the sidewalk so fast you won't know what hit you.

Finally, about the snow in general, try and ENJOY it. Studies have shown that bitching about it does not make it melt any faster. Make a Slurpee or something. Soon the skies will cloud over and the usual torrents of cold rain will wash the snow away.

Then the only thing to slip on will be the mud.

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