

Measure 5 results finally hitting home

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past three years, it should be obvious to the most thickheaded of citizens that Measure 5 was a really dumb idea.

In typical Oregon voter fashion, those wonderful citizens who approved the property-tax slashing, budget-trashing amendment in 1990 were looking at the short term gains — less money out of the pocket. And public school and local services funding? Heck and geewillickers, them thar politicians in Salem will come up with somethin'.

That vision showed not only a kind but a totally unwarranted faith in state government.

Three years later - surprise, surprise, surprise - the state hasn't made up the budgetary shortfalls. Those pesky doomsayers who said such unrealistic things like "schools will close" and "the economy will go under" are now being treated as minor prophets.

Here's just a sampling of local schools and programs nailed by Measure 5 constraints:

Eugene School District, faced with a \$6.9 million budget deficit, slashed 116 jobs - 78 of them teachers. For those of you with children in the district, you can expect your kids to be in larger classes. Bigger classes and fewer instructional aides (another budget casualty) mean less personalized teaching.

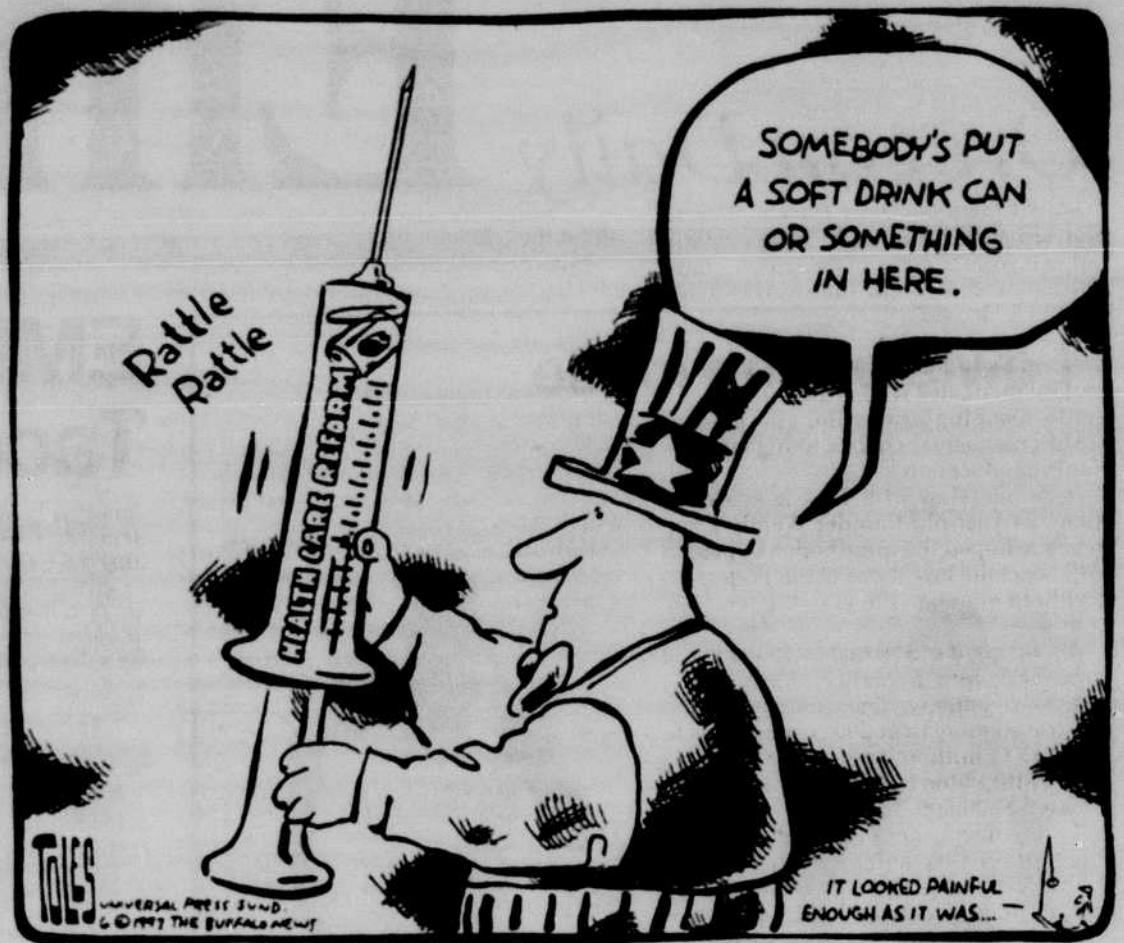
It doesn't take a mental genius to see the schoolchildren are going to suffer. In Eugene, class sizes will go up to 27 per room in the lower grades; even higher in the middle and high schools. Any teacher will tell you the more students in a class, the harder it is to put out information.

Extracurricular activities? Both here and in Springfield, the programs that made school a little more palatable (music, sports, etc.) were among the first things to go. When reading, writing and arithmetic are hard enough to fund, recreation just doesn't fit in the plan.

With the public now finally feeling the pinch of Measure 5, perhaps something can be done. The legislature stonewalled itself into a corner during the 1993 session, coming up with little to improve the precarious budget situation. Elected officials have now had two cracks at fixing the situation: it's up to the general public to take control.

The options are limited. Where a sales tax just three years ago would have been an anathema to Oregon voters, the viability of such a plan has recently gained merit. Would a sales tax - approved by the voters and with iron-clad statutes preventing mucking about by legislators - be such a terrible thing?

It can only be hoped a Measure 5-hardened electorate will make the right decision.



OPINION

Dinosaur Certs and other ramblings



My favorite part of the movie was watching a sleazy lawyer get chomped while sitting on a toilet. Sort of a one-scene State of the Union.

This year's spate of summer flicks brings up important theoretical and social questions.

Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* is one of the biggest hyped movies since *Ishtar* and has been featured on everything from McDonald's glasses to the *Today* show. Action figures and plush toys abound.

Don't get me wrong; I liked the movie. I enjoy senseless mayhem as much as the next socially confused person, but pre-movie hype annoys me.

The whole movie can be summed up in one sentence: People make dinosaurs; high-priced actors ooh and ah; dinosaurs get loose; high-priced actors become human Happy Meals.

Don't let anyone tell you Spielberg doesn't know cinematic symbolism. My favorite part of the movie was watching a sleazy lawyer get chomped while sitting on a toilet. Sort of a one-scene State of the Union.

As an entertainment option, the movie is top notch, but in all the hoopla and commotion, it's easy to forget that Spielberg's latest carries a serious theme:

Scientists just should not recreate dinosaurs. Very, very bad. Given that, from the home

office in Eugene, Oregon, here's the top-10 reasons scientists should just leave the dinosaurs where they are:

10. Research would draw funding away from valuable cow-belches-causing-ozone-depletion study.
9. Lovable Barney character looks like a wussy compared to a raptor.
8. Dino-size breath mint as large as a bulldozer tire.
7. Godzilla vs. T-Rex match on pay-per-view.
6. Big risk of PETA activists becoming hors d'oeuvres.
5. T-Rex would want own star on Hollywood Walk of Fame.
4. Troubled kids sent to "Raptor Summer Camp."
3. New Fox show about young dinosaurs dealing with social problems called *Dino 90210*.
2. Novelty of Flintstones cartoons rendered pointless.

And the number one reason why scientists shouldn't recreate dinosaurs...

1. Three words: big, big doo-doo.

It just isn't worth it folks. Oh sure, there would be some entries in the plus column. A T-Rex watchdog would be a sure-fire deterrent to door-to-door salesmen, and a Milkbone Dino-Biscuit could double as a flota-

tion device during a crisis. But the risks are just too much.

Scientists have more important things to figure out, such as Bill Clinton's family tree (stranger and stranger forks all the time) and the secret of Storm Kennedy's appeal.

While I'm on the subject of summer movies, let's talk about some of the other Hollywood offerings:

Cliffhanger — Rambo on ice.

Last Action Hero — subtitled "Arnie's Search For Even More Money."

Life With Mikey — Michael J. Fox gets upstaged in the cute and cuddly department.

Hot Shots Part Deux — as if the first wasn't bad enough.

Super Mario Brothers — the let's-see-how-gullible-the-American-movie-public-actually-is release of the summer.

It's not that I have gotten more cynical in my old age, though five-plus years at the University would blunt the enthusiasm of Mr. Rogers. Movies are too slick and cultured, featuring high-speed special effects and big pecs.

Where's a classic when you need one, like *Plan 9 From Outer Space*?

Don Peters is a columnist for the Emerald.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, 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

Photo Editor: Anthony Forney

Associate Editors: Ed Carson, Martin Fisher, Scot Clemens

Night Editor: Pat Malach

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising Director: Mark Walter

Advertising: Frelime Bell, Heather Chilson, Jeremy Mason, Van V. O'Bryan II, Angie Windheim, Patrick Wong

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor

Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland

Newsroom 346-5511 Display Advertising 346-3712

Business Office 346-5512 Classified Advertising 346-4343

