

The tax is back; why vote to pass?

Ballot Measure 1 is back in the hands of the courts, as the Oregon Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday. There really does not seem to be much of an issue except the measure must be divided into four parts in order to be acceptable.

The four-part constitutional amendment proposes to establish a five percent sales tax, cut homeowner property taxes, create a spending cap and devote half of all lottery proceeds to schools.

This four-part amendment would throw a great deal of money into the hat for education. If the measure were to go to the polls as a four-part measure, giving the people a choice as where to allocate funds from, then maybe it would have a better chance of passing. Or at least partially passing.

Education is the foundation to the success of any country. It seems we are shooting ourselves in the foot by continually cutting education, especially at the rate we are doing it. Granted the effects of Measure 1 will not be the most beneficial to the business industry here in Oregon, but we have got to generate some kind of income and allocate it to education.

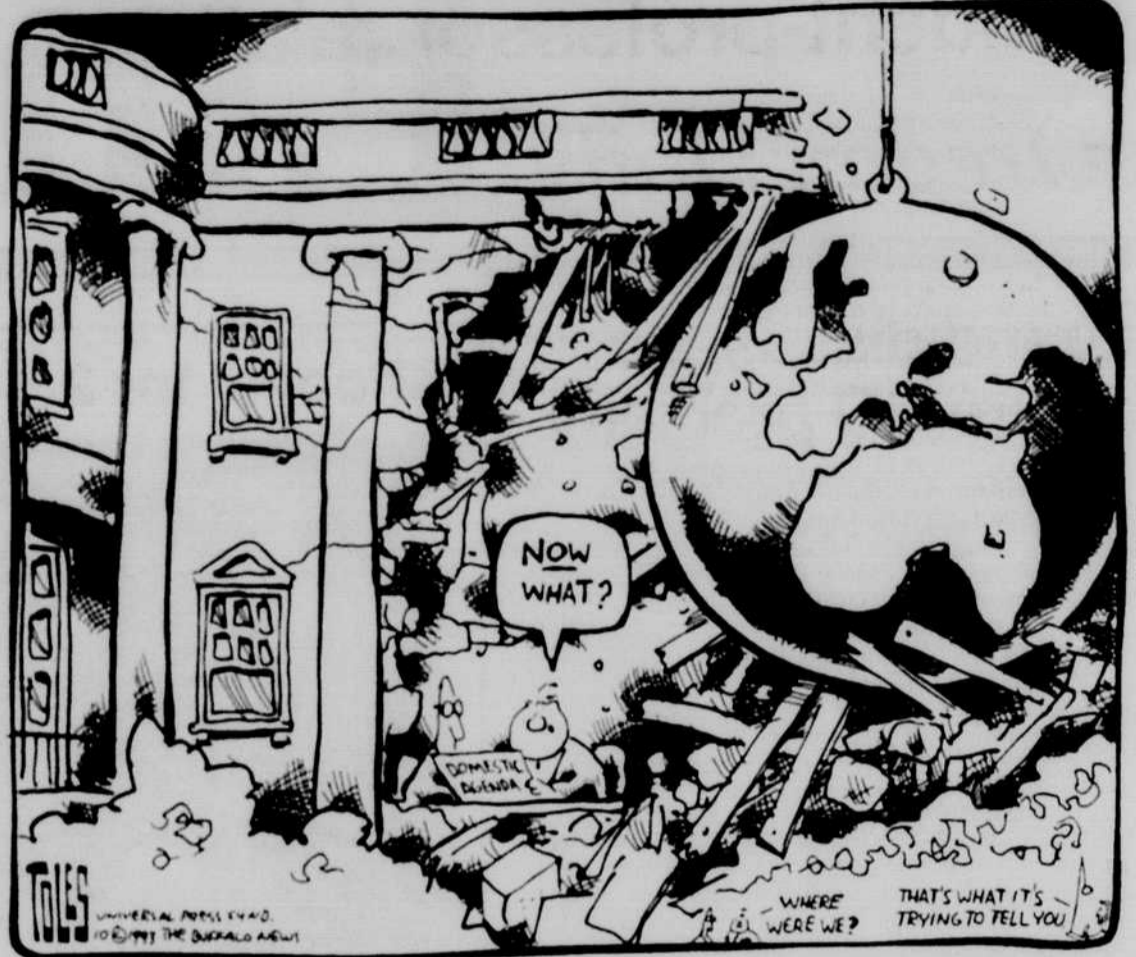
If Ballot Measure 1 were to go to the polls as it is intended, and if it were to pass, then it is estimated that millions of dollars would be lost in business. Out-of-state residents come to Oregon to shop, and they do it regularly and spend a great deal of money. With a sales tax these people would no longer have the incentive to travel to Oregon just to do some shopping.

However, a tradeoff must be made. Is the investment in education worth the money that would be lost by instituting a sales tax? Maybe today it sounds like a great deal of money, but the potential that education has to increase the revenue in this state is impressive. Oregon businesses are either going to lose money from a sales tax or continue to lose money from the adverse effects in education because of cuts that continue to be made in funding education.

Ballot Measure 1 provides funding for grades K-12, as well as community colleges. So the question arises, why should four-year students at the University support such a measure? The University has lost more than \$40 million from the General Fund since 1990's Ballot Measure 5 took effect. This money has been used to fund grades K-12. With the money from Measure 1, the funds for the General Fund would be reestablished, which in turn would provide revenue for four-year schools.

If the current measure makes it to the polls and does not pass, it will be back to the drawing board. But we can only go to the drawing board so many times. There really aren't too many options except a sales tax. It is really not so much a tax as an investment by the people of Oregon for the people of Oregon.

Let's face it — no one wants a sales tax. No one wants to spend that extra 5 percent on something they can't readily see. But education needs a new lifeblood. It needs money to fuel the demand any society has to educate. Nobody wants the sales tax. But education needs adequate funding, and it needs it bad.



LETTERS

Strip clubs

I would like to take the time to clarify some things about a letter to the editor I wrote (*ODE*, Oct. 11) regarding strip clubs. It seems as though I have been misunderstood on the subject.

It seems the point I was trying to make has been overlooked in the letter by Mary E.P. Wiskerchen (*ODE*, Oct. 14). Wiskerchen makes many statements about things I never even mentioned in my letter.

For instance, nowhere did I state that I think the human body (male or female) is anything less than beautiful. In fact, my belief is quite the contrary. Nor did I make any claims that I believed men were exempt from being exploited in the same fashion as women. In fact, I believe that men are exploited in many (not all) of the same ways as women are.

And never did I make such a statement that would render the notion that I somehow believed that as "human animals," we do not have sexual desires that need an outlet. However, as the "human animals" that we are, I would hope, though, that we have enough self-control over our "natural reproductive desires" that such forms of entertainment were not frequented, especially by teenagers.

Perhaps, when men and women are treated equally then, and only then, will I consider having a change of heart. Until then, I fail to see the significance of such establishments for the bettering of women (and men) and our lives.

Robyn K. Hagg
Journalism

Galled Ball

Attention! Are you a factious, segregative group, union or center with an agenda that serves few on this campus? Then you are probably already getting an unfair share of Incidental Fee

Committee funding. It seems the only criterion for receiving funding is if, through a stretch of the imagination, you can place yourself under the banner of diversity. Student group titles sound like the next episode of *Geraldo*.

On the other hand, if you are a group that serves a wide range and a large number of students regardless of color, sexual orientation, religion, etc., and has no political agenda whatsoever, then you can expect to lose some funding. This has been the case with the athletic department and, most recently, the Harry Jerome Weight Center. The idea of trying to make the weight center self-supportive would be great, if not for the inevitability that the money saved just went to another group. No proportional savings to students, just a net increase in incidental fees.

Maybe in the next round of IFC budget hearings there should be some kind of formula in which the number of users equals the importance to the average student, with the amount of funding from student fees then being distributed in direct proportion to that importance.

If the ASUO and the IFC had more power, we would next see pay toilet stalls in all of the campus buildings. Of course, students would first be required to pay for their installation, and then we could all crawl under the doors.

Jeff Ball
Geological Sciences

Amazon crucial

There is the possibility that the University's Amazon Family Housing might be torn down and replaced with units with considerably higher rents. Behind this controversy stands another issue: Who should get the world's preferred jobs? The dominant ideology in the United States holds that those with the greater qualifications should

be correspondingly rewarded. The problems that women and people of color continue to face shows how far the precept of advancement according to ability is from being realized.

Persons with limited financial means also face barriers to their being able to secure the education that is a prerequisite to certain jobs. Amazon family housing exists to help such people get through the University. With students facing rising tuition, scarcer jobs available to help pay expenses while in college, and increased difficulty in repaying student loans, it is important for the University to retain low-rent student housing. One can imagine the lifelong bitterness that might be felt by people who believe that they had the potential to become, say, an architect, but were denied the opportunity solely because they lacked the money.

Milton Takei
Political Science

Anxiety natural

Isn't it a normal reaction to be somewhat nervous when someone "comes out" to you? According to Jodi Mai and Spencer de Mille's commentary (*ODE*, Oct. 19), it's not.

I've had about 10 to 15 people come out to me in the past two years. Even though I am very "queer positive" and I try to understand their quest for sexual identity, I was nervous each and every time someone has said the words, "I'm gay," for the first time.

I understand that Mai and de Mille were trying to make a point about bigotry, but the example they used was a poor one at best. When we are striving for acceptance, I believe it is contradictory to say, "Oh, and by the way, you can't be nervous!" It doesn't seem very fair to tell someone else how they should feel. Just something to think about.

Teryl Pendergrass
Pre-Journalism

Oregon Daily Emerald

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