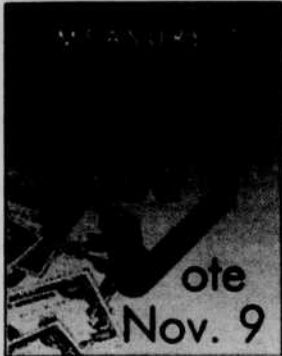


Tax issue has diverse support on both sides



Complex sales tax makes decision hard

By Michael O'Leary
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

ASUO President Eric Bowen has an opinion on Ballot Measure 1 that many students can identify with: "I hate the sales tax, but I hate inadequate funding for schools even more."

"Of course, it's a real paradox. We're being asked to support pro-

gressive programs with a non-progressive tax," Bowen said.

In fact, Measure 1 has proven to be such a complex political question that even Oregon's normally predictable special-interest groups are lining up against one another in some very unusual ways.

"This ballot measure is complex because the issues are so complex," political science Professor Jim Klonoski said. "There's no way to avoid looking at the details if you want to make a good

decision."

Measure 1's unusual combination of progressive and regressive features have led some liberal groups to oppose it even though it's the only plan to improve the funding for Oregon schools.

Liberal state Senator Bill Dwyer, D-Springfield, said Measure 1 is not the tax reform that Oregonians need.

"The ends don't justify the means, and that's what's wrong with government. Let's pay atten-

tion to who is paying the bills," Dwyer said.

Oregon Fair Share, with its 60,000 members making it the largest consumer watchdog group in Oregon, has pushed for replacement revenue since the passage of 1990s Ballot Measure 5. However, the group opposes this tax plan.

"We're ideologically opposed," said Lisa Hartrich, Lane County organizer for Fair Share. "We feel

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State board looking into differential tuition rates

Higher education body examines financing options in case sales tax not passed by voters

By Rivers Janssen
Oregon Daily Emerald

The state Board of Higher Education is looking into the feasibility of charging different tuition rates for each state institution, says the board president.

The board is also discussing whether to charge different rates for certain programs, such as levying a higher tuition for art majors over English majors.

President Janice Wilson said she doesn't expect the board to vote on such a proposal any time soon, and that the board is now only researching the issue for the future. She did say, however, that the issue could come up in the spring when individual schools present their budget requests.

The board is trying to figure out ways to counteract the further 20 percent per year cut in the general fund from 1995-97 if the sales tax ballot measure does not pass Tuesday. If the tax passes, the board would probably ease up on the idea of differential tuition.

Currently, Wilson said, both the University and Southern Oregon State College have implemented differential tuition because those two schools charge higher non-resident tuition than other state institutions.

Differential tuition also exists between the state's universities and colleges — the universities charge \$2,328 for undergraduate tuition for 1993-94 before student fees are added, and colleges charge \$2,178 before fees. In addition, some schools already charge more for certain programs, such as Oregon State University's \$300 resource fee for engineering majors.

Traditionally, however, the state has levied a base tuition for the state schools to follow. The idea was to make public education accessible for as many students as possible by keeping prices the same. And that still is the idea, Wilson said.

"Why do we use public money for education?" she asked, "because having individuals in our society who are able

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Beautify a building



Junction City artist Ann Woodruff Miller works on a mural on the side of a building in downtown Springfield. The two-story mural depicts western and nature scenes and should be ready for the Dec. 3 dedication.

Actions of letter-bomber prompts safety class

"Unibom" strikes again and Oregon invites speaker to educate mail-handlers

By Doreen Johnson
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Somewhere in the United States, someone has spent much of the past 15 years building and sending letter-bombs to many prominent people, including university professors. After almost six years of silence, he struck again this summer.

In June, the actions of this serial terrorist re-established fear for universities across the nation. A man known as "Unibom" (the University bomber) struck again at Yale and the University of California.

Acts such as these prompted the University of Oregon to invite Lt. Gene Hunter of the Oregon State University's Office of Public Safety to speak last Thursday.

Hunter's letter and parcel bomb class is being taught at universities all over the West Coast this year. Hunter said this kind of training is necessary, or else universities are leaving themselves wide open for law suits and accidents, such as Unibom.

During the class, Hunter told the audience of some common characteristics to identify letter bombs. People who handle a lot of mail have to pay attention to every package that passes through their hands and look for these signs.

"It's just like defensive driving," he said.

It is likely that a mail bomb will have one or more of the characteristics. Some of them include suspicious instructions, leakage, wiring poking out, errors in addresses, odd handwriting, odor, too much postage, etc.

Once one of the signs have been recognized, the handler should follow other procedures.

In the case of a university, the handler should immediately contact the public safety office. They should then follow their instructions as to what to do with the package.

Once the package is identified as a bomb, inspectors will try to trace its sender. This can be difficult because there is no profile for this kind of terrorist.

Books instructing how to make bombs can be checked out at any general library. This makes it easier for anyone to make a bomb and limits its composition only to the imagination of the bomber.

Hunter also showed a video to the class explaining how some of the bombs are made, and how the post office goes through the process of finding letter-bombs.

With an average of 535 million pieces of mail a day going through U.S. post offices, identifying the bombs can be extremely hard.

This is why Hunter's class is necessary, and anyone handling mail should be aware.