

## Proposed gas tax bad idea for city

The Eugene City Council wants residents to curb their cars.

Punishing gasoline buyers and dealers through a city gas tax is not a solution.

The council voted 6-2 Tuesday to refer a 2.7-cents-per-gallon gas tax to voters next spring. Money from the tax would pay for a storm water treatment program that's already funded through recent increases in storm water rates.

Council members who support the tax say it will encourage automobile users to find other modes of transportation while decreasing storm water bills, which jumped from \$4.69 to \$7.87 per month for most homes earlier this year. If the tax is approved, these bills would drop to about \$4.50 per month for most residences.

The council's reasoning behind the tax is that motorists who contribute to the storm water run-off problem by driving on city streets will have to pay for the expensive treatment.

However, Mike Sherlock, executive director of the Oregon Gasoline Dealers' Association, said using gas tax money for anything other than street or highway improvements is against Oregon law. It's questionable whether storm water run-off could be classified as road-related.

"We expect to challenge it at the poll," said Sherlock, who represents 2,000 Oregon dealers. "It's just an incredible waste of taxpayer's money because no one expects it to pass."

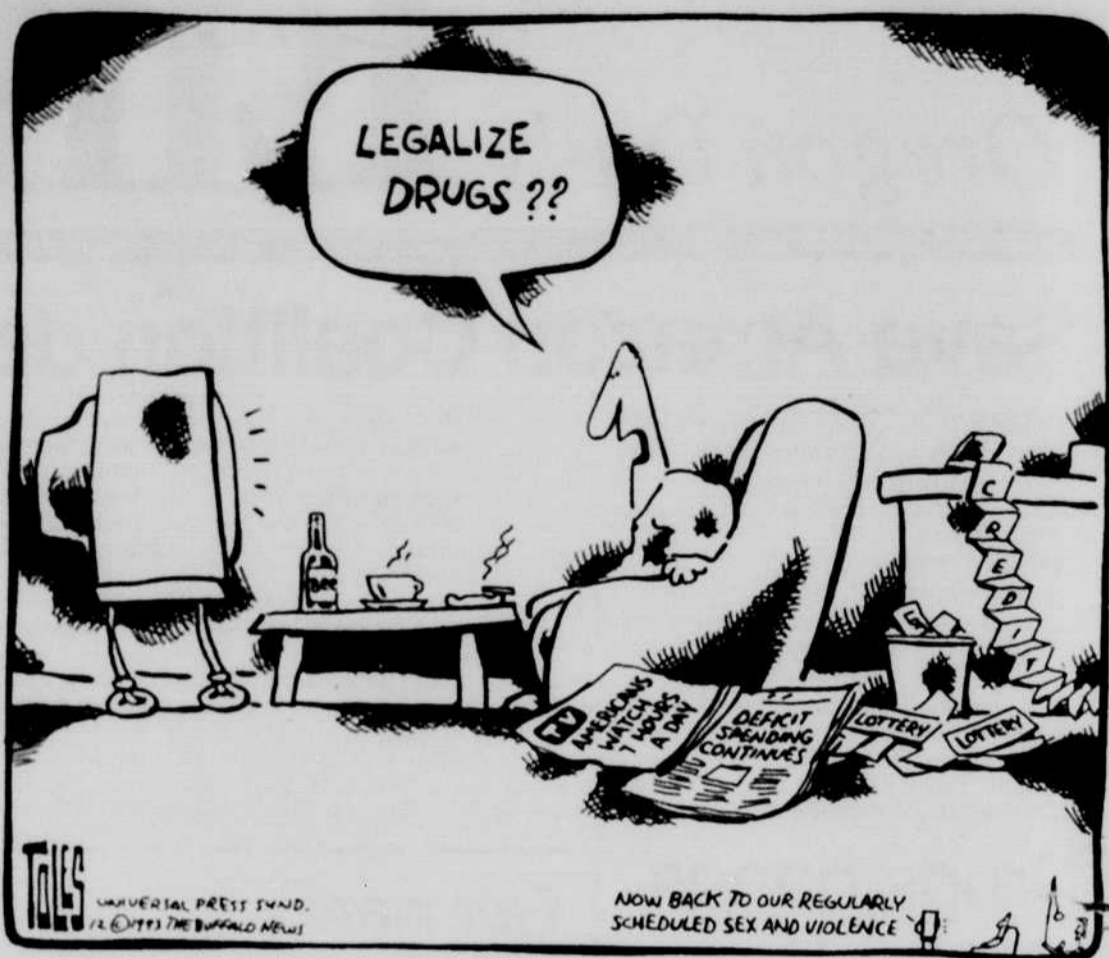
Oregon gas prices are already among the highest in the nation. Gas buyers in Oregon pay 18.4 cents per gallon in federal taxes and 24 cents per gallon in state taxes, according to Sherlock. That puts regular unleaded gas at about \$1.28 per gallon in most areas of the state. When compared with states such as Oklahoma or Wyoming, where gas is closer to \$1 per gallon, Oregon's rates are outrageous.

A citywide gas tax would be a painful setback for local service stations, especially those close to Springfield. Gas buyers would drive outside of city limits to avoid the tax and the local economy would suffer. According to Sherlock, two service stations in Washington County went bankrupt when county officials passed a similar tax there.

Council members discussed forming a regional tax with Springfield to ease the burden on Eugene stations, but two Springfield officials told *The Register-Guard* that such a tax would be illogical.

The city council should listen to its neighbors. A 2.7 cent gas tax would not decrease the amount of automobiles on Eugene streets. City officials must work to accommodate Eugene's growing population or find more effective means of controlling automobile usage. Giving residents incentives for parking their cars, like reserving a car pool lane, would work better than punitive solutions.

Council president Paul Nicholson said putting the tax to a vote — even if it fails — would help open debate on ways to keep cars off the streets. However, spending council time and money for this election is self-defeating.



### LETTERS

#### Art and respect

When I walked by the black curtains in the EMU the first day of school, I wondered what kind of dastardly demented *objects d'art* might be lying in wait for me behind the protective sleeve. Imagine my sensing some humor when I saw what was displayed behind — rude to be sure, but hardly anything shocking. I thought, in that heightened state of awareness that only truth and art can bring, that I had discovered the nested reality that censorship *itself* is a work of art; brilliant and creative in its assertion of barriers and suppression of condoms.

Shock and confusion came later, in the form of Catherine Burke's letter in the *Emerald*. I know I'm way off base as far as the lot of linguists is concerned, but surely I wasn't the only one who saw the twisted, yet relevant and completely *expressive* nature of the very *sign* of the censorship curtains. Burke has misplaced not only her tolerance and sense of humor but her vision of the incredible scope that art can take once we get some perspective on the situation.

I don't know if the curtains were *meant* to be art or censorship... frankly, I could care less. I subjected myself to the sight and I accept the punishment or reward of my own interpretation of it. But for future reference, I would like to point out to all of you *artists* that even if you are called by God itself to express yourself to me, if you impose yourself on me against my will in an attempt to alter my perception of reality, then you cannot seriously see yourself as any less of a cognitive rapist than censors or television preachers. At least you can turn the channel on them. Burke suggests it would be best if my freedom to choose to walk or not to walk through the curtain be revoked; that my freedom should have been denied me by decree of the forces of art.

A tired cliché, and it makes me sound older than I am. But with freedom in society comes responsibility and respect. And, like

human sexual preference, respect and responsibility go both ways — and many more too kinky to mention.

What a work of art we are, the creative, the destructive, the definers of truth. I hope Burke is laughing at herself, as I laugh at myself as I sign this.

Gary Tucker  
Linguistics

#### Skewed voting

"Where will it all lead?" People often ask me about the homosexual agenda. "Where will it all end?"

To learn about the future, it's helpful to study the past.

In 1973, an event foretold the direction of the homosexual movement in America. That's when the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental or sexual disorders.

The homosexual groups that formed in the 1960s correctly understood that they would get nowhere politically if members of their group were classified as "mentally disordered."

Then the homosexuals intimidated psychiatrists across the nation who tried to present evidence of homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Naturally, the task force in 1972 issued its report that homosexuality and bisexuality are normal expressions of human sexuality. In 1973, the APA sent out a letter that was secretly written and funded by the National Gay Task Force. That fact was hidden because those in charge knew it wouldn't get the needed votes if members knew its source.

Only one-fourth of the members of the APA responded. A narrow majority of those — that is, one-eighth — voted yes. So homosexuality came off the list, although later surveys that protected the privacy of doctors showed more than two-thirds still classed it as a disorder.

This political trick has paid off handsomely in swaying public opinion and laws. More than 100 laws now classify homosexuality as equal in status to race, including one in Eugene.

What's next? The APA has changed the definition of pedophilia in its diagnostic manual. Now adults having sex with children is only considered a sickness if it interferes with the adult's work. You can visualize the future for yourself.

Halt the march of this agenda in Oregon and prevent teaching homosexuality in school by voting yes on Ballot Measure 13 in November.

Patty Duncan  
Director, Lane County OCA

#### Choose heaven

According to Darrell Neet's letter "No minority" (*ODE* 8-22), homosexuality is a changeable status unlike gender. Let me point out that with today's technology, gender is more changeable than being homosexual.

Neet says that "thousands" have "left the lifestyle." But if we did a study, we would soon understand that thousands of those thousands have not magically turned heterosexual but are actually choosing to remain celibate. The fear these chosen people have to endure is remarkable. It is no wonder they are closing the closet door behind them.

As for Larry Allwender's letter "Unsafe lifestyles," church and state are legally supposed to be separate. Ballot Measure 13 reads like a passage out of the Bible.

To Darrell and Larry, a few things to ponder: You should both know that someone near and dear to your heart is a homosexual. But, unfortunately, due to your prejudicial beliefs, that person is either destined to live in the closet or without your love and support.

With all this in mind, I do hope you can live a successful, loving life with your loved ones without alienating those who are of your genetic structure. We all choose whether to go to heaven or hell, and I choose heaven because we will all understand equality when we are asked to join hands and walk through the gates of heaven. God bless the children.

Kelly Dath  
Springfield

## 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.

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