

EDITORIAL

Fund-raising drive a win-win situation

The largest private fund-raising effort in the history of the state will kick off tonight at a gala, black-tie dinner — and the University will reap all the profits.

That's a nice thing to hear.

The Oregon Campaign, as the fund-raising effort has been named, represents the best and most ambitious hope for the University in these financially troubled times. Rather than relying exclusively upon the generosity of a strapped state government or upon the resources of a largely cash-poor student body, the Oregon Campaign will bring millions of dollars to the University without taking money away from anyone who really needs it.

Life offers very few win-win situations. But this has the potential to be just that.

The campaign has been going on for two years already. This was the "silent phase," which included donations to the business, law and architecture schools, as well as the College of Arts and Sciences. Although the exact amount raised so far will not be announced until tonight, a University news release indicates that more than 40 percent of the campaign's \$150 million goal has already found its way to University coffers.

But for the remaining four years of the six-year campaign, the University is going public with its requests, asking for donations from alumni, corporations and foundations, faculty and staff members, and anyone else who might be interested in investing in the University and the future of this state.

And that's exactly what donations to the University will be: an investment.

Donations to the University will be used to fund scholarships, endowed professorships, curriculum improvements and research — what campaign leaders are calling the "people" aspects of the University.

What the campaign will provide is a needed boost to the University, which probably could not be achieved in any other way.

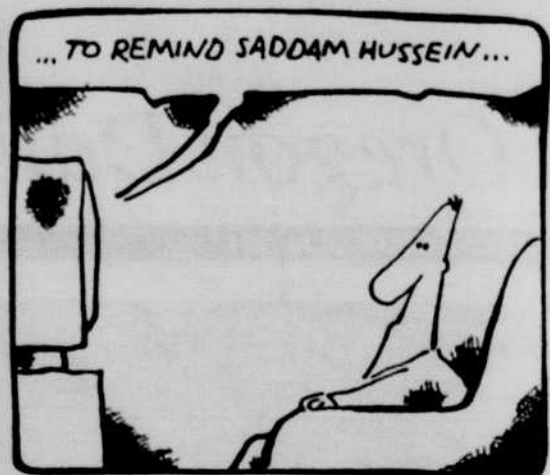
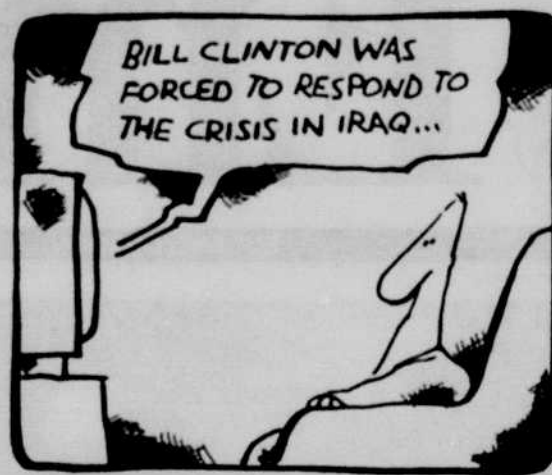
But in order for the campaign to be successful, people will have to give.

Nobody expects most of the 1994 graduates to fork over a big gift; most of them are probably still paying off student loans. But there are a lot of former Ducks who can afford to cough up a little dough for the school that gave them their degrees — especially if those degrees helped them get the jobs they now have.

Business and professional leaders who didn't go to the University should also give serious thought to the possibility of helping the cause. If the University is of a high quality, its graduates will be too. And those graduates will have to work somewhere.

Students today should appreciate the donors who have given to the University already. Those donor contributions have helped make this institution better than it otherwise could've been.

And one day, maybe they can return the favor.



OPINION

Opinions, survey results disagree



BRIAN WOMACK

It seems we're once again using selective reasoning. A survey has come out that doesn't quite match up with some people's politics. So the first thing we do is get loose with the facts and hard on the rhetoric.

This survey on sex in America says we're not as gay as some thought we were.

Back in the 1940s, Alfred C. Kinsey conducted a survey of similar scope and size. He came up with the figure of 10 percent of the population being homosexual, which has worked very nicely into the politics of the left over the last several years and has been repeatedly used, despite some of its questionable data collection techniques.

However, the new finding says a mere 2.8 percent of men and 1.5 percent of women are homosexual or bisexual.

Since these numbers don't match up with some people's politics, there must be something wrong with them.

Enter Paul Van Sickle. Yesterday in the *Emerald*, Paul Van Sickle concluded there must be something wrong with these numbers since they don't match up with Kinsey's and his opinions.

The problem is that he forgot to check the numbers in the Kinsey report.

As one author of the new survey said, Kinsey had problems with using scientifically valid sampling techniques.

What were those problems? Well, for one, 4.7 percent of the homosexuality prevalence rates were taken from male prostitutes. Yes, male prostitutes.

Second, 20-25 percent of the sampling included those from the prison population. You don't have to be Stephen Hawking to figure out that this would definitely skew the data.

With "techniques" like this, it's no wonder the numbers were so high. The columnist then went on to say that same-gender desire attraction and appeal rate at eight percent, which is closer to Kinsey's numbers. So there might be more homosexuals than the survey says, since there's some attraction.

But just because someone might have an attraction to something doesn't mean he or she pursues it.

With this logic, someone might be considered a vegetarian if they're thinking about eating just non-meat products.

Or maybe someone's attracted to the postal carrier. That doesn't necessarily mean she's going to throw away her wedding ring.

Don't get mixed up in the stats like "those who have had same-gender sex since the age of 18" is five and four percent for men and women, respectively. One-night stands do not account for a lifestyle.

No, it simply boils down to the fact that if people identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual, that's what they are.

Other points Van Sickle brings up are interesting. He says, "The overwhelming tide of discriminatory feelings currently circulating against homosexuals would be scary, and might influence survey subjects' responses."

Uh, Paul, did you go to school on Tuesday? National Coming Out Day? Day to make heterosexuals feel guilty for not being homosexual?

Then there were all those parades last summer.

All of these events were brought to bear on the public by extensive press coverage.

The entertainment media holds up "the cause" from print

to film, as in *Philadelphia*. I could go on.

Not exactly an overwhelming tide of discrimination.

Now, before you start screaming, "What about the Oregon Citizens Alliance!" at this column and make others in the room stare, let me say that although the OCA definitely has supporters, in most of the visible parts of our society, the OCA is relegated to the approximate status of Genghis Khan, only without the soft language.

Saying you are gay or lesbian today is saying you're politically correct, and no matter what people say, that's usually fashionable.

Admitting being gay in the 1940s was about as easy as threading a needle with a boa constrictor.

Really, Paul, what is the fascination with making sure as many people as possible are gay?

It probably lies in those politics of yours. You lefty.

As you say, "Overall, I find it disconcerting that this kind of information is going to be used to allocate resources for public services and to decide social policy. People shouldn't be lumped into groups according to their sexual activity, especially if it would affect their access to services."

So if the survey would have said, "49 percent of us are homosexual," it would have been okay?

Then, because there were more than we expected, we should decide social policy based on sexual activity?

If someone is gay or lesbian, they'll get the same protection as everyone else.

Perhaps you're right, Paul. These surveys shouldn't be taken so seriously.

Don't decide to believe the surveys that line up with your opinions.

Brian Womack is a columnist for the *Emerald*.

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