

## Kitzhaber, Smith debate tax

PENDLETON, Ore. (AP) — In the liveliest of this year's gubernatorial debates, Republican Denny Smith on Wednesday night repeatedly accused Democrat John Kitzhaber of wanting to foist a sales tax on Oregonians.

Kitzhaber, who had shrugged off Smith's criticism in earlier debates, mounted a counterattack this time. He called Smith a "demagogue" who is making empty promises to the voters and who did nothing for the state during his 10 years in Congress.

The sales tax became an issue in the campaign last week when Kitzhaber told the editorial board of The Oregonian that he will push to make the tax system fairer in the second half of his term.

"I don't think you can do it without a sales tax, quite frankly," Kitzhaber said in last week's meeting with the newspaper.

Smith seized on the comment Wednesday night, raising the sales tax issue more than a half dozen times at various points during the hour-long debate.

The Republican contender said Kitzhaber's comment to The Oregonian shows that the former state Senate president is enamored of new taxes, including the sales tax.

He said Kitzhaber voted for various income tax increases and for several sales tax proposals during his 14 years in the Legislature.

"John has tried to run away from his record," Smith said.

Oregon voters have said "no" to sales tax proposals nine times since the 1930s, Smith noted.

"Sen. Kitzhaber's continuing support for a sales tax proves he is not listening," Smith said.

Kitzhaber responded that he is not proposing a sales tax and that he was only giving an honest answer to a question about what elements might have to be considered as part of any future overhaul of the state's tax system.

The Democratic contender didn't stop there, however.

"It's time you start being honest yourself," Kitzhaber told Smith.

## Program's core class criticized for difficulty

Robbie Reeves  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Time constraints during the planning of the International College and budgetary cuts are responsible for the various problems that have plagued the program for the last year, according to University officials.

The International College, which is a pilot program, will be phased out, according to an announcement made two weeks ago.

Retention of international students within the program was one of the problems that had to be addressed this year, said George Sheridan, history professor and a member of the International College planning committee.

Sheridan said that one required course, International Perspectives 101, was especially difficult and that it was the major reason many students withdrew from the International College.

The course, specifically designed for and taken by students in the International College, combined politics, economics and international relations. Sheridan said he sat in on the course and described it as "first-rate" but "over the heads of most freshmen."

Many international students had difficulty with the level of English used in the class, he said.

Students who attended the class related similar stories about a heavy workload. "Last year was a huge mess," said Kate Barker, who dropped out of the program earlier this year. "People stressed out a lot."

American students would help their roommates with reading and looking up words, Barker said. She described the assigned reading as difficult.

She also said that students were assigned to write a 15-page essay. "It's really strange to have the whole dorm stressing out at once," said Barker, referring to the communal living environment in the program. "The day before the essay was due, people had signs on their door saying how many pages they had completed."

Tracey Leung, a student in the program, agreed that the classes involve a lot of work. One class this term requires students to read an average of one book a week, Leung said. She also said the classes can be difficult because of the language barrier.

Barker said a group of students asked the administration of the college to act on the concerns of students. No action was taken on the students' request until many dropped out during fall term of

1993.

International Perspectives 101 "didn't seem to meet the needs of international students," according to University Provost John Moseley.

The course was changed this year so it would be more of what Sheridan described as a "light-touch" course on culture, which should be easier for first-year students.

Moseley said that the redesigned course looks very good and that it will meet the needs of both international and domestic students.

One of the problems with the first year of the International College was that the students knew little about the program, Barker said. She said she filled out a short application and wrote an essay to apply for admission to the college. After being admitted, however, she did not receive significant details until January of her freshman year.

Another problem was that some of the international students applying for the program expected more of a residential-oriented program than an academic curriculum, said Sheridan, noting that the International College made it clear to incoming students that the classes would necessitate study.

Although he said he respects the decision to close the International College, Sheridan said that "it was an unfortunate decision that can be justified by financial reasons."

He said the initial year of the International College was not a good year on which to base comparisons. Any suggestion that the International College was closed because of problems with students was a meaningless excuse, he said.

In the first year of the program, Sheridan said, staff members had to put together a pilot program, plan the permanent program, and piece together a staff to run both programs.

The project became "an unbelievable administrative nightmare which revealed how complicated and bureaucratic the University is as an institution," Sheridan said.

The structure of the programs in the International College was planned the previous year, Sheridan said, adding that the plan for last year was developed from scratch, while the International College was still in its planning stages.

Because of the planning last year, "this year is a more meaningful year" for students, Sheridan said.

Moseley emphasized that the first year of the International College was part of a pilot project and that mistakes were expected. "It isn't surprising that we didn't do everything right," he said.

## AMAZON

Continued from Page 1

should act in its clear legal authority to refuse a demolition permit for Amazon housing.

Councilwoman Barbara Keller, whose ward includes the housing site, also lamented the council's decision to not intervene with Amazon.

"There is a tremendous impact on our community when a public housing owner looks to demolish precious low-income units," Keller said. She then proposed an ordinance that would require builders of new housing units to make a portion of those units low-income based.

Councilman Jim Torrey said the Amazon units, as they stand now, present health hazards. "I think the University has made the correct decision," he said.

Tim Laue, also a council member, took the middle road on the issue, saying he did not agree with the University's decision, but did understand it.

"I would just say that the University now provides housing for 24 percent of its students," Laue said, "far more than most other area schools."

Council members Paul Nicholson and Keller

said those dissatisfied with the University's decision should consult the National Historic Control Board. A state historic advisory committee recently agreed to place the complex on the National Registry of Historic Places because of its role in housing World War II veterans attending college on the GI bill.

According to Nicholson, the historic control board can decide whether the University offered the units for sale at reasonable terms before deciding to demolish them and take action to allow, or restrict the University's plan.

Keller said the University's sales terms on Amazon equal "I'll give you Amazon if you'll give me a goose that lays a golden egg."

David Zupan, a member of the Save Amazon Coalition, said the council's decision was "no victory," but that his group was not going to give up yet.

He cited the recent decision by Secretary of State Phil Keisling to audit University Housing. He also listed a new congressional loan program for reconstructing and rehabilitating student housing and the recent national historic designation as victories.

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