

# New law won't solve immigrant problems

The people have spoken. Republicans are in control of Congress, an OCA ballot measure has been defeated once again and California's Proposition 187 has passed.

Proposition 187 will deny education and most health care services to illegal immigrants.

Normally the *Emerald* would refrain from taking a stand on a measure that would not directly affect Oregonians, but the passage of Proposition 187 cannot go without comment.

It is one of those pieces of legislation that, like Oregon's ballot measures 13 and 15, was conceived out of fear. Oregonians recognized early the manipulative tactics used by the authors of ballot measures 13 and 15. Californians did not recognize such tactics. In any case, Californians will have to pay the price for their decision.

For years, Californians have been complaining about gang and crime problems and blaming them on the influx of illegal immigrants. If they thought they had problems then they, as the adage says, "ain't seen nothin' yet." How is disenfranchising these people going to help those problems?

Do Californians honestly think that by passing this proposition all the illegal immigrants will leave the state and return to their homes, or that they will just not try to cross the border at all? Wrong. To most of these people, sleeping on the streets in the United States is better than living in shanty towns in Mexico.

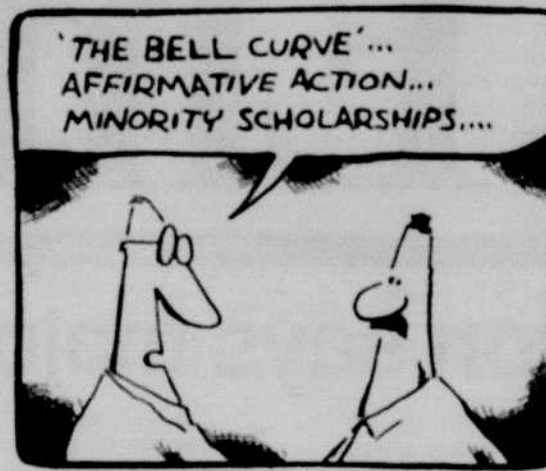
The implications of Proposition 187 will reach far beyond the borders of California, as we at the University saw on Monday with MEChA's march. Proposition 187 will have dire consequences for an entire generation of students, though no one is sure of the legal implications yet. Students on campuses in California and at the University were outraged by the vicious sentiment behind Proposition 187.

It is one thing to have consequences for adults who willingly cross the border illegally, but it is quite another to so severely punish children who were brought here by their parents. These individuals have committed no crime; they were just not fortunate enough to be born in the United States.

The most despicable part of this debate is that candidates used the fear and hatred that made Proposition 187 possible to divide the electorate along racial lines. Both Michael Huffington and Pete Wilson used Californians' anger and fear to fuel their campaigns. In Wilson's case, it worked wonders. In Huffington's case, it was the wrong issue because he once employed an illegal immigrant.

We know that the United States cannot be responsible for the health and welfare of the entire world, but there has to be a more humane way to deal with a situation that we as a nation have brought on ourselves. For so many years we have given the impression that we would be the world's protector. We cannot turn to these students and say, "You don't qualify for the American dream because you weren't born here."

If immigration is to be stopped or slowed, let it be at the borders now, and not in the hospitals and schools.



COMMENTARY

# Football is more than a game

By Kathrin Maurer

The ground is soft and muddy; puddles are everywhere. Dirt sticks to the shoes and makes walking hard on this November morning. The wind conveys fragments of music, and the monotone rhythm of drums is audible. Cars shine splendid in the sun, and the smell of gas is mixed with the odor of fried meat. Men and women are sitting around barbecues and waiting. They are partaking in the Saturday afternoon ritual.

Where are we? Still in Eugene, in the middle of the Autzen Stadium parking lot. And what is going on? Well, the key word is "tailgating." No, tailgating is not that weird party gag where you have to dance with an orange between you and your partner. Nor does it have anything to do with driving rules in this context.

"It is ... it is," says Matt Kalley, University student and regular "tailgater," as he searches for words. "It is a kind of party and ... above all it is incredibly American." He squints in the sun. "We are supposed to win, and then we will be in Pasadena to take part at the Rose Bowl," he mumbles as he stuffs some chips in his mouth.

What should we win? Oh yeah, of course, the game. The gigantic football game between the Ducks and the Arizona Sun Devils. But anyone who really thinks that the match itself is the most important part of the holy Saturday procedure has fooled himself deeply.

The whole setting has to be right. And this begins with details: Chicken salad vs. potato salad, an ordinary light beer vs. a glass of Californian wine, Veggieburgers vs. hamburgers — all that is not just a question of chronology. This is cult. A cult around an important part of American life: football.

Unlike German soccer rituals, Americans emphasize the whole environment of the game, from the pregame party to halftime to postgame. It is the event of the

day and includes picnics, family and friends. They do more than just watch the game. From a foreign point of view, this is very different.

"The most important part of tailgating is that you come in the right mood," Matt explains. Today he has a lot of time for that. Kickoff is in two hours.

Cheerleaders dance and their white skirts whirl through the air. They move so perfectly and in such harmony that you are not sure if they are real. "That scene could also be a movie scene," said Sam Wah, a student from Korea. "Sometimes this country tends to appear like a movie, even outside the theater."

Meanwhile, it is 1 p.m. and time to enter the stadium. It is sold out. People are everywhere, standing and sitting on wooden seats, yelling and waving their yellow pom-poms in the air. A metallic voice quacks through the loudspeakers and introduces the team. Finally the starting whistle rings out: the players start running and beating each other.

"American football is really a tough sport," said Annette Motz, a German exchange student who attended her first football game on Saturday. "It is really funny that they actually play on that field that looks like a ruler. In comparison to soccer, football is much more brutal."

But those are the rules and the qualities of the game. The tradition follows the motto "with the people, by the people and for the people" from a well-known piece of American literature.

The first two quarters are over, and the intermission begins. In front of the portable restrooms outside the stadium, fans wait in a long line. Kathy Simon, who is patiently waiting, confesses her passion for football. "Football means being out in the air and having a lot of fun with my friends. I love that."

Next to the restrooms, Nell Kluth distributes some football stickers. Yellow bows protrude from her green-colored hair. Her wrinkled face looks cheerful. Jumping around in green jogging pants, she beats the drum for the Ducks.

"We grew up with that," she explains. "Football is part of our lives."

She has been an active member of the Daisy Ducks, a booster organization, for a long time. When she was little, she and her elder brothers were enthusiastic football fans and players. She cannot imagine giving up her passion.

The intermission has been over for a little while. The barbecue places are empty. From the inside of the stadium the roaring begins again. The Ducks are leading. An old man picks up some beer cans from the ground.

Neon boards show ads for the next game, and the blimp in the sky recommends the best pizza place in town for after the game.

As said, it is incredibly American.

*Kathrin Maurer is an international student hailing from Germany.*

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Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the commentary is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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