

EDITORIAL

Defeat of measure a public warning

School funding in Oregon has always been a sticky proposition. Now that Ballot Measure 15 has failed by a 2 to 1 ratio, the electorate is anxiously waiting to see what elixir the 1995 Legislature will apply to the state's ailing school system, higher education included.

Ballot Measure 15 guaranteed public schools and community colleges their current revenue plus adjustments for enrollment and inflation. It would have boosted school funding by \$315 million per year through 1997, to about \$5.6 billion. The increased school revenues would have come from cuts to other state programs, notably higher education.

The defeat of the measure wasn't so much a "no" for schools, but a resounding statement from the electorate that other important programs — public safety and social services among them — deserve proper funding, too.

Proponents counted on a strong sympathy vote for education and students, and they used divisive tactics that pitted university students against high schools students, teachers against parents and primary education against higher education. Luckily for Oregon, the strategy backfired.

Voters should be commended for seeing through the cheesy commercials that implied widespread illiteracy looming on the horizon for the state's youth if the measure failed. Likewise, voters sent a message that higher education is an equally valuable, necessary component for the future success of Oregon.

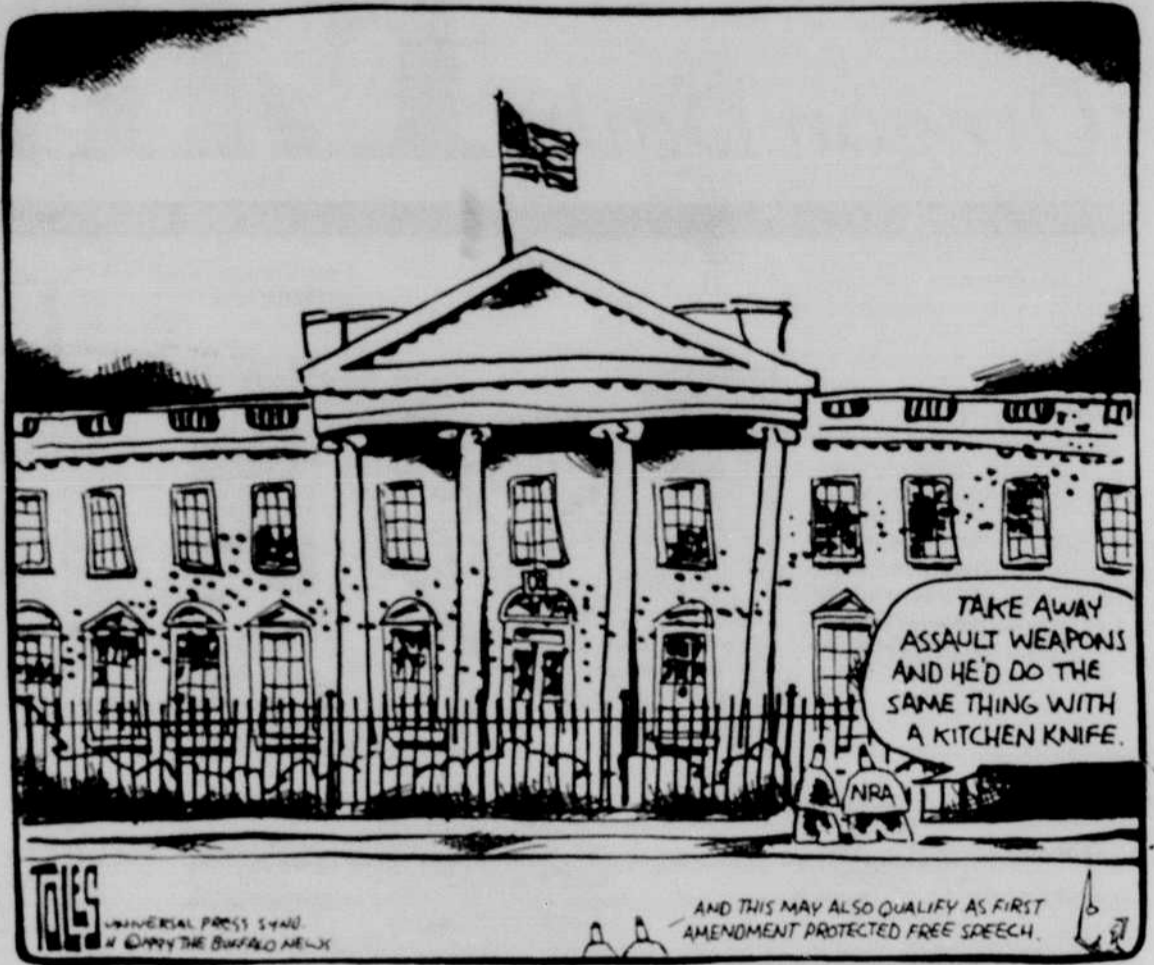
Along with a Pandora's box of other initiatives, Ballot Measure 15 is a shot across the 1995 Legislature's bow. Lawmakers narrowly dodged a bullet that would have damaged all state institutions.

But the electorate must continue to press state government to create a stable funding base for all levels of education. School funding should be the top priority of legislators when they meet in Salem in January, meaning they should come prepared to downsize other programs. But it is better that the legislators do the cutting instead of a selfish and destructive ballot measure.

Unfortunately, there will be complications for school advocates in the form of Ballot Measures 11 and 17, both of which passed. These require mandatory prison sentences and full-time jobs for prisoners. Projections to fund new prison construction and create industries for prisoners to work in will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Striking a balance between voter mandate and educational necessity will pose a tough dilemma for lawmakers.

Even without the passage of Ballot Measure 15, public schools will probably get more money. Governor-elect John Kitzhaber has proposed giving schools an additional \$190 million in the 1995-97 biennium. And the new Republican-controlled senate has indicated that yes indeed, a school funding increase to the tune of about \$200 million is a definite possibility.

The next legislative session will be one of the most important for Oregon's future. Without strong schools — at all levels — that future looks dark and foreboding.



LETTERS

Humanitarians

Regarding the letter written by Manda E. Bednarczyk (ODE Nov. 9), I am sorry to hear that you are disappointed with the members of Delta Upsilon at the home football games. We are just big fans at heart and are thrilled to death that Rich Brooks has led the team to (possibly) greatness this year.

As for our "snotty girlfriends," I am sorry they were rude to you and your group. Being so close to us, they understand that we have sat (or stood) in those seats since our chapter was re-installed at the University in 1986. It is too bad that things got a little territorial. But what really is too bad is that you can write a letter condemning the DUs.

Unfortunately, we are a recognizable group because of the fact that we are a fraternity. I would like to let you know, on the contrary, that we don't take roll call at the five-yard line. The games aren't chapter-sponsored events.

I would like to tell you, however, that a lot of events are chapter-sponsored. I'm not going to blow the collective DU horn by listing everything we do. But on the Saturday mornings, when there are no home football games, and when you are the one who is hung over and too lazy to get out of bed, we are out collecting or shopping for food for the homeless because the greeks have decided to close their kitchens and donate the money to a children's hospital.

I am amazed that, on such a politically correct campus, so many charity events are shunned. Yet when "the DUs' snotty girlfriends save seats," people treat that as an opportunity to advertise a fraternity in a negative way. A simple thank you would be fine next time.

Oh, and by the way, to the Oregon Daily Emerald — You may as well name us Delta Hoopsilon because we love bas-

ketball even more.

Ryan Kahn
Delta Upsilon

Racist agendas

Proposition 187 is not just a California problem. Its passing in California is also a win for the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Anti-gay measures are just a facade to hide the OCA's and others' future agendas.

This country was built by the labor of illegal immigrants. This land was stolen by the culturally greedy. Illegal immigration began in 1492. We forget that some of our old institutions that stand today in California were funded by rip-off scams pulled on minorities and the poor. Much of the industrial revolution would not have taken place if it weren't for the exploitation of illegal immigrant labor.

Leland Stanford's Central Pacific Railroad work force was 90 percent Chinese. They were the founders of Stanford University. These illegal immigrants (due to naturalization laws based on race) were taxed by a racist system. They paid 50 percent of the state revenues (because of a tax based on race) to found the University of California.

Proposition 187 will be used to exploit and deport those who take the unwanted jobs in our society. California does not want the illegal immigrants but will use them. Justice will come when those who hire become the ones who fear.

As for the Oregon Daily Emerald and its former Commentator reporter, we are not surprised that our cause would be misrepresented.

Proposition 187 is an issue that affects all of us. It denies our country's image and negates the struggles of our ancestors. Demonstrators were not in the road to stop traffic; they were there to stop injustice. 187 is the code for murder in the California justice system.

Kevin KJ Chang
Psychology

Shocking facts

What happens when someone in the University community is considered to be "over the edge," in other words "crazy"?

Though University students, faculty and workers' money is poured into health insurance, what that money buys from the "mental health system" is seldom critically examined. It's time.

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, at noon, across from the University Bookstore, a protest will break the silence. Survivors of psychiatric abuses and mental health workers will uncover atrocities in Sacred Heart General Hospital's psychiatric system. Students who are potentially future "human service workers" are especially invited.

Our group, Support Coalition, obtained the medical examiner's report on another death in Lane County's mental health system. Darrell Wilson was coercively given seven powerful psychiatric drugs in the last 24 hours of his life and was kept in solitary confinement for no good reason, during much of his 12-day stay. This situation is reminiscent of the death of a University graduate student, Jung Sook Jang, four years ago. Sacred Heart has changed very little.

The most common reason University students enter Sacred Heart's one-story psychiatric unit, the "Johnson Unit," facing East 13th Avenue, is a diagnosis of "depression." Many of Sacred Heart's psychiatrists consider electroshock therapy the "most effective" procedure for depression when drugs don't work. After seven years of monitoring them, Sacred Heart refuses to inform accurately people of electroshock's hazards or to offer alternatives.

There are better ways to help. A way to start is by breaking the silence Tuesday at noon. Please be there.

David Oaks
Co-Coordinator of
Support Coalition

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