

Hatfield opinions display courage

Senate Republicans are united in support of a balanced budget amendment. That is, almost united. One Republican is holding out against the tide to pass the constitutional amendment.

Sen. Mark Hatfield is standing alone again.

Hatfield, the senior Republican senator from Oregon, announced recently that he will oppose the balanced budget amendment — the only Republican in the Senate to do so.

While some in the Senate try to persuade Hatfield to vote for the amendment, in part to show ideological unity among Republicans, Hatfield stubbornly refuses to change his mind — or his vote, when he believes that he is right.

It wouldn't be the first time. Whether it was calling for an end to the Vietnam War or opposing capital punishment, Hatfield has demonstrated that he has the guts to stand up for what he believes in when he needs to.

Hatfield is a Republican, a title that he has run for office under for the decades that he has served Oregon as governor and senator. However, party titles rarely seem to matter to him. While other senators are striving to show a united partisan front on hot political topics, Hatfield is more concerned about the issues and how they will affect Oregonians. Opposition to the balanced budget amendment is but Hatfield's latest example of independent thinking.

One shouldn't be too surprised. Oregon is an independent state. Widely regarded as having a pioneering streak, Oregon deserves to be represented by citizens who think as independently as the people of the state. In Sen. Hatfield, Oregon has that leader.

No one can say that Hatfield doesn't have strong opinions — or question whether he will defend them if challenged. Year after year, Hatfield shows that he thinks independently and that his thoughts aren't shaped by party leaders in Washington, rather by his beliefs and conscience.

In a time when politicians are towing the party line more often than not, the nation needs more senators like Hatfield. With the Republican majority in both houses of Congress, Hatfield helps to bring a different perspective to his colleagues that a Democratic senator could not. Republicans, as well as Oregonians, listen to Hatfield.

Whether the balanced budget amendment passes or not, it is certain that many arms will be twisted in order to obtain the necessary votes for passage. But don't be surprised when Hatfield casts the sole Republican "no" vote in opposition to the amendment and goes against the majority of his party.

He wouldn't have it any other way. For that matter, neither would Oregon.



LETTERS

Whoa Womack

Sentence structure challenges. Passive voice intrudes. Interpreting government reports strain his analytic and writing skills. A gaggle of undocumented "facts" complicate the matter. Brian finds himself wallowing in his own ignorance! Yet, the *Emerald* sees fit to print his opinion. What hidden agenda could be behind publishing another poorly thought out and written article! An undisguised fund raising effort for K-12 education? Or another public humiliation of undergraduate thinking?

Natalie Shifrin
Eugene

Pennies

I am writing in response to the opinion article which ran in the *Emerald* Thursday, Feb. 9. It was nice to see positive statements such as "groups like OSPIRG accomplish good deeds and act to make the state a better place to live," though it came at the end of a malicious attack.

The main theme of the article appeared to be that OSPIRG is good, it is important to have, but it receives too much money. How can a price be put on environmental and community good? Making the nation, state and the local community a better place to live doesn't come without costs.

OSPIRG may rank third in total student fee expenditures, but that is only because the students of the University of Oregon voted to give OSPIRG its current amount of funding. Compared to the amount of money I pay for tuition, OSPIRG gets pennies out of me. I bet you have \$2.75 in your pocket right now. Is that really a lot of money?

Sharon S. Bottoms
OSPIRG

both inaccurate and offensive.

Valentine's Day used to be called Saint Valentine's Day. It celebrates the martyrdom of at least three saints, as recognized by the Catholic Church. Accordingly, the adjective "pagan" is not appropriate, as the Catholic Church is not polytheistic.

The Church recognizes Feb. 14 as the date on which the saints sacrificed their lives for their religious beliefs. These saints promoted forgiveness and love among people, not for a "pagan love fest." In addition, miracles have been attributed to St. Valentine, Bishop of Terni. Around A.D. 300, the peninsula of Jumièges had become overrun with rats. The people invoked St. Valentine and the saint drove the whole of the vermin into the river Seine. Obviously, the recognition given to the saints does not focus on amorous relations.

The present day custom of showing affections on St. Valentine's Day has its origins in the Middle Ages. It was recognized that halfway through the second month of the year, birds begin to pair. Hence, Chaucer's "Parliament of Fowles" reads: "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's day, Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." This type of symbolism led to the tradition of St. Valentine's Day as we now know it.

The recognition of the martyrdom of the saints is coincidental to the time when birds begin to pair. The day was never a "pagan love fest."

Gayle, I hope this letter has reduced your ignorance of Catholic tradition. Also, I am sorry that you have a strong anti-Valentine sentiment. I enjoy this special day.

Jeff Milanowski
Business
Administration

Recycle paper

Did you know that you never need to buy another piece of paper again? Not for a long time anyway and certainly not while you're at this University. This is because any student can go to any recycling bin next to any copy machine and find it full of paper with only one side used. One would be an idiot to let this valuable resource go off to be recycled before it was fully

used.

When a new term rolls around and you're thinking to yourself, "I need new notebooks," simply go to one of these recycling bins, take out 50 or so pages with one clean side, throw a few staples in the corner and you have a new notebook. Also, one can use these papers to turn in all written homework assignments, including term papers. All my professors have been very congenial about this and some have even thanked me. I encourage all professors to encourage their students to do this as well.

Why kick down your dollars to enormous timber corporations, which contribute to the use of dioxins that pollute air and water, contribute to oil consumption and contribute to changing more of our forests into waste when you can get all the paper you need for the rest of the year within a 100 yard radius of where you are right now?

You're right, there's no good reason why not, so do it.

Jason Clark
Undeclared

Lose Link

Economic conditions being what they are, the University is always looking for ways to cut money. Good job, U of O — keeping tuition down is something I'm very much in favor of. However, one easy and obvious way to save money is being overlooked.

Every month, to the mailbox of every dorm resident, comes a brand new copy of *Link: The College Magazine*. Why? I don't know. I never ordered it, wouldn't order it and would gladly spit on anyone who would willingly pay its \$3 cover price. I don't know anyone who reads their copy and if some people read it behind close doors, I don't much care about that, either. If those people aren't getting enough counter-culture propaganda just by being here at U of O, I'm sorry for them, but I'm not going to pay for their stupid magazine.

So come on, administration, ditch *Link*. Save the postal workers headaches, your students junk mail and everybody money.

Jesse Lawler
Biology

Oregon Daily Emerald

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