

Rubber stamp?

In regards to your April 28 editorial, "Budgets rejected by Senate politics," there are several facts and some logic that apparently need to be set straight.

Let's begin with the Hawaii Club, which was not given \$300 not because of a Programs Finance Committee rule, but because of Senate Resolution 95.2.000. That resolution does not apply to the Hawaii Club because it had its goal statement approved by the Senate before resolution 95.2.000 was enacted and the basic prohibition against *ex post facto* application of rules forbids the PFC, or the Senate, from applying that resolution to any program that had its goal statement approved prior to the resolution's enactment.

It has nothing to do with the Hawaii Club's long history on campus. Had its goal statement been approved after the resolution was approved, the club would have received \$300 and that would be that.

Then there's OSPIRG. Earlier this term the Senate and several members of OSPIRG worked very hard to bring OSPIRG up to the same level of on-campus accountability that every other ASUO program is subject to. Unfortunately, the PFC's allocation of a lump sum to OSPIRG completely obliterated that work, making it totally meaningless.

Then there is the minor (in the eyes of the *Emerald*) fact that the PFC didn't blink when the Executive Director of OSPIRG refused to disclose, following a direct question, to whom and in what amounts more than \$90,000 in student fees were being paid in salaries.

Then there is the line-item

veto question. The purpose of the line-item veto is to allow the Senate to avoid the very dilemma that now exists and that the *Emerald* has railed against.

With the line-item veto, the Senate will not have to hold up the entire ASUO budget because of problems with individual programs. So, the *Emerald* doesn't think the entire budget should be held up, yet it doesn't support the line-item veto.

The only possible explanation is that the *Emerald* believes the Senate should be a rubber stamp, never-minding the fact that ultimate responsibility for every line item within the budget lies on the collective head of the Senate, not the finance committees.

Martin Fisher
ASUO Student Senate
President

Gutted

Are you aware that the Endangered Species Act is being gutted right under your nose?

The Oregon State Legislature recently passed the "takings bill." The "takings bill" is designed to subject the ESA to a cost-benefit analysis. By doing such, funding for the ESA would be drained and species left unprotected. Currently, many species still are waiting to be listed, so recovery plans can be implemented.

To me, the value of the ESA is obvious. However, my advocacy began when I became aware of the medicinal value of plants and animals. Nearly one-quarter of our medicine cabinet is derived from nature. Foxglove plants provide digitalis to heart patients. However, while it grows quite abundant-

ly, the Pacific Yew tree is disappearing from our own backyard.

The Pacific Yew tree contains toxin which has proved to be effective in fighting breast and ovarian cancer. Without the protection of the ESA, cures for AIDS, cancer and such may disappear without our knowing.

I'm a pre-health science major, I have a family member battling cancer and I see the danger in subjecting environmental legislation to a cost-benefit analysis.

I believe I'm not alone in my anger with the Oregon State Legislature, so that's why I encourage everyone to write Gov. Kitzhaber to urge him to veto the "takings bill." If you would like more details, stop by the OSPIRG office in suite 1 of the EMU.

Michelle Jurjavic
Undeclared

Saved

Students in Oregon's colleges and universities have been given a much needed reprieve thanks to Gov. John Kitzhaber. This stay of execution comes in the form of a veto threat to the K-12 budget. At last, someone has been listening.

If things would have continued down the path they were headed, the Legislature would have created a budget emphasizing K-12 education to the detriment of other state programs, especially higher education. Their record-setting \$3.5 billion K-12 proposal includes \$100 million in extra funding to expedite the equalization process.

While equalization is important, it should not be accelerated at the expense of students in higher education. Students would have seen no reduction in the planned tuition and fee

increase of 8 percent for both years of the biennium, our faculty would not be able to anticipate any improvement in their pay and eligible students on the Oregon Health Plan would have been removed.

Students should write to their legislators and urge them to put the state's financial house in order in a way that is prudent and fair. There is plenty of money available to fund important services for all Oregonians without raising taxes. Ask your lawmakers to oppose the \$75 million cut to the state colleges and universities, the 8 percent tuition and fee increases, the removal of students from the Oregon Health Plan and demand that they not pit the needs of students, the poor and striking state workers against each other.

The Governor did the right thing.

Robert Nosse
Executive Director,
Oregon Student Lobby

Peace Day

Most letters to the *Emerald* deal with issues that were addressed within its pages. This letter is about an event that wasn't covered.

On Saturday, April 29 the

Committee for World Peace hosted its second annual World Peace Day at the EMU. The event, which ran from 12-7 p.m., was a great success for the speakers, students and community members who participated.

Many issues were covered in panel discussions, films and a slide show, including indigenous people's rights, peace and conflict in eastern Europe, the role of the U.N., Australia's Aborigines and the political and social situation in Tibet. There were also information booths present for those who wanted more information on how to help or give donations to many human rights groups.

The Committee for World Peace was honored to have speakers of the highest caliber participate in World Peace Day, including many professors from our University and other distinguished speakers from throughout Oregon.

If students are interested in the issues mentioned above, they are welcome to attend one of our general interest meetings on Mondays at 6 p.m. in Cedar C at the EMU. I, as a member of the Committee for World Peace, would like to thank everyone who came to and spoke at World Peace Day, making it the success it was.

Logan Moore
International Studies

LETTERS & COMMENTARY POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes letters and commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community.

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.



Millions of people who have never heard of Eugene know our **runners**. They tighten their shoelaces with visions of Salazar, Slaney and Pre racing in their heads. And then they run, covering ground like the land was meant for nothing else.



The legacy of Eugene is more than world-class runners. The legacy of **Eugene** is world-class running.

The first Nike Store opened in Eugene 27 years ago.

We know what running was.

We know what running can be.

{ The Nike Store, 5th Street Public Market. }

Take I-5 to City Center exit across Ferry Street Bridge to 6th Street exit. Store hours Mon-Sun 10-6. (503) 342-5155.