

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Suite 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 Email: editor@dailyemerald.com
 Online Edition:
 www.dailyemerald.com

COMMENTARY

Editor in Chief:
 Michael J. Kleckner
 Managing Editor:
 Jessica Richelderfer
 Editorial Editor:
 Pat Payne

Friday, January 10, 2003

Editorial

Bush's tax plan? Like, totally gag me with a spoon

On Tuesday, President Bush announced his plan to bring the economy back up to speed. As expected, his proposal cuts taxes, including abolishing all taxes on corporate stock dividends. In all, the cost of the plan is a staggering \$670 billion over 10 years. It sounds like an ill-timed attack of '80s nostalgia.

We have a major problem with this plan. It is very much the same supply-side Reaganomics we've seen for more than two decades. For the past 20 years, Republicans have championed this style of economic policy on the theory that it will "float all boats" by freeing up more money for businessmen to create jobs and stimulate the economy. The problem is, that only works if you go on the assumption that the economy is predicated on the idea of making a little bit of profit.

Instead, as anyone who has taken elementary economics knows, the object of business is to maximize the possible profit, less any operating costs. Business owners and the wealthy aren't likely to start paying workers more or providing job security because they get a giant tax gift from Bush.

Think of it this way: Is Target going to hire a whole bunch more people to run the cash registers now that their investors have more money to invest? No. Target's job is to bring in more profit with fewer workers, actually. But instead, if the Bush plan gave lower- and middle-income workers an additional \$1,000 or \$1,500, they would likely go buy more consumable goods, which would increase business at Target, and would likely make the company hire more workers.

These realities show the Bush plan to be either inadvertently or purposefully widening the gap between the wealthy business owner and the common worker, who will not find a boosted economy if the plan is adopted. The gap in the plan is wide. According to the Brookings Institute and Urban Institute, Americans earning a million dollars or more would save \$27,000 a year. Those earning \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year would save \$84.

While we enjoy that electroclash music sounds like new wave, and we appreciate the humor of "Square Pegs," Bush's old-school, "voodoo economics" recovery plan is one thing that should have been left in the '80s. It is not going to work any better today than it did back then.

Editorial policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com.

Correction

The mug shot for the story "Meet the PFC," (ODE, Jan. 9), misspelled ASUO Programs Finance Committee member Alyce Chong's name. The Emerald regrets the error.



Peter Utsey Emerald

Disrespect, leather and the KKK

This is it: After March 24, I am officially out of here. So without further ado, here is the final batch of assorted morons for the Baka Awards.

First up is the "Shooting Themselves in the Head" award for the best display of verbal ineptitude leading to a political suicide. This time, I couldn't decide on just one, so from both sides of the aisle, we have Trent Lott for the Republicans and the sons of Paul Wellstone for the Democrats.

Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., died tragically in a plane crash in late October, 10 days before the midterm elections. Quite naturally, the campaign went looking for a suitable replacement, and picked former Vice President Walter Mondale. So far, so good. They also, about a week later, held a memorial service for the late senator.

However, instead of a low-key non-political service that could have been a quiet remembrance of Wellstone and his accomplishments, the service became a rally. Republicans who came to pay their respects were excoriated from the stage, and his sons led the crowd in a boisterous chant of "We will win! We will win!"

News reports later gave at least some of

the credit for Norm Coleman's (R-Minn) win against Mondale to voters' disgust at the overtly political tone of the memorial. Congratulations. All they had to do was wait one day to start the usual sniping. One day... sigh...

Of course, where it took an arena full of people to politically do in Fritz Mondale, Trent Lott, R-Miss., committed inadvertent political hara-kiri all by his lonesome. How, you ask? He praised the 1948 run of Strom Thurmond on C-SPAN. Thurmond ran on the "Dixiecrat" platform, which was opposed to the civil rights policies of then-President Harry Truman. In simpler language, he praised, in our more PC times, a man who ran on a platform not too far removed from the Ku Klux Klan. Oh yeah. That's the way to make friends and influence people. Influenced him all the way out of the Senate Majority Leader's position, and out of any real leadership in the Republican Party.

Perhaps other politicians will take these two cases of self-immolation as an object lesson that just because you can say something, it doesn't mean you should. Naaaaaaah — then I'd be mostly out of a job!

There's only one clear choice for the "Too Much Information" Award, which this year is a gold statuette in the shape of the club we're going to use if anyone brings this story up again. Around Thanksgiving, The Washington Post published a story about one of our illustrious weapons inspectors in Iraq. It could have been interesting if the

story had anything to do with his job. But nooooo. Apparently, it's just so important for the world to know that weapons specialist Dr. Jack McGeorge is, along with his other credentials (a wealth of knowledge of biochem weapons and long experience with the Secret Service), a visiting faculty member at the S&M Web site "Leather University," where he teaches a 500-level course in using ropes and knives in foreplay. The TV networks dutifully spread it all over the airwaves the next morning, playing up the angle as much as possible.

This brings up three points:

1) Eeeeeeeew. I don't like to pry into anyone's private life, but come on ... that's not sex, it's a mugging. All of you reading out there: Do you feel aroused when someone presses cold steel in your face? For anyone who answered "yes," you can find help on pages 569-570 of the Yellow Pages, under "psychologists."

2) TV news has hit a new low. The man is überqualified to be on the team. Letting his affiliation with his alma mistress out of the bag only serves to titillate. Is it sweeps century already?

3) Eeeeeeeew again.

Whoever of the three parties named would like to claim the award, just take it. And please, if you guys at the Post hear of Saddam's foot fetish, keep it to yourself, OK?

Contact the editorial editor at patpayne@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Pat Payne
 The return of
 Captain Sensible

Letters to the editor

University not truly diverse

While the Oregon Daily Emerald deserves much credit for honest reporting on the Michael Savage/KUGN controversy, the paper, like The Register-Guard, has not reported what actually took place at the so-called public meeting when the panel was confronted with the fact that diversity does not exist on the University campus when it comes to skin color.

In 1990, the percentage of persons whose ancestors hail from Africa on campus was a mere 1.5

percent of the student population. Today, it's down to 1.4 percent. It seems to me that a college with more than 20,000 enrolled students and fewer than 280 black students on campus does not represent diversity. The folks raising all hell about Michael Savage all have white skin, so what's going on here? More liberal lying? I think so.

If the University were truly a diverse university, as it claims all the time, then there would only be two blacks on the football team, right? My bias lies with the Savage Nation, in that Savage tells the truth, while campus professors and activists lie, and lie all the time when it comes to the question of "diversity." The last

time I looked the word up it meant "varied," which certainly does not apply to the University.

This is not the first time the kettle has called the pot black, but it should be the last, given the horrible record the University holds when it comes to black enrollment.

Thomas Martin
 Noti

Measure 28 needs student voters

I am writing this letter in regard to Oregon's Jan. 28 special election because this election directly pertains to the tuition of all University students. Many students do not seem to realize that if Measure 28 fails, signif-

icant tuition hikes will occur.

The Oregon Legislature, faced with severe budget problems, has created Measure 28 as a solution — a temporary income tax that, if implemented, will raise revenue for the state. However, if Measure 28 fails, revenue will have to be saved through the slashing of various programs, including the Oregon University System.

The budget cuts will then be passed on to students in the form of raised tuition. Each University student will be required to pay an extra \$10 per credit per term. For a student taking 16 credits per term, this is a tuition increase of \$480 per year. Many students cannot handle this financial burden. If

Measure 28 fails, it is expected that 166 students will not be able to return to the University.

As students, it is important to vote for the passage of Measure 28, both to protect our tuition and to let legislators know that we are capable of standing up for our interests as students. To remain a strong voice in Oregon, students need to make their opinions heard through a high voter turnout.

For these reasons, I urge all University students to take the time to vote "yes" on Measure 28.

Janelle Uhlenkott
 sophomore
 political science