

communiqué'

State loses big bucks balancing budget

The anxiety attacks have depleted, and now it's just getting plain boring.

On Monday, the Oregon House of Representatives approved a one-time 3.9 percent tax surcharge to take care of \$39 million of

the state deficit, and voted to remove \$44 million for the state's property tax relief program. Plus a one-year, 3-cent-per-back tax on cigarettes.

Does that mean it's finally over, and the community colleges will soon know how much of a cut each institution will have to take? No, it

doesn't. All the House's approval means is that the House approved the package.

Remember way back, what seemed like months and months ago, when Gov. Atiyeh's plan was defeated, and the House took over the question of what to do about the state's deficit? That long period is the same length of time that the House had been debating on what to do about the hole in the budget.

Well, that could mean that we are only two-thirds the way through the waiting period, since the House has to have the Senate's approval on what they just approved.

And in the mean time, it's costing the state government close to \$8,000 a day to keep the debate going. So far it's been five weeks. That means, so far it has cost about \$200 thousand

to decide who and where the money should come from to make up the state's deficit. Now that makes a lot of sense.

And if you want to believe what Senate President Fred Heard said about his cohorts, "The plan that passed the House will not pass the Senate," it may be almost too true that the waiting period on a final budget decision is only two-thirds the way over.

Holidays see rotating dates

Holidays are special times for everyone. Children look forward to a day out of school and adults enjoy a day away from work. Yet how many of you have ever given a thought about the government chang-

landed in the New World on October 12, 1492. WRONG. If that was the correct date, why then would we observe it on the preceding Monday? Or is it just that government officials feel they have the right to rewrite the history of mankind?

Why not recognize Christ's birthday on December 20, then we can have a longer holiday between Christmas and New Year's Day? No. Better yet,

change it from Christmas day to the Chinese New Year, January 25. That would give everyone a one-month holiday!

The birthdate of the United States as a new, free nation has stayed the same, yet the birthdate of a man who helped make it all possible is changed. Now I ask you, does that sound fair?

My policy is all-or-nothing. If changing official holidays is actually what the bureaucrats want, I feel I should put in my two cents worth.

After that long of a holiday, can you imagine all the mail you would receive on January 26?

By Duane Hiersche

ing many holidays for the convenience of having three-day weekends?

I am referring to holidays such as George Washington's birthday and Columbus Day.

Washington's traditional birthday is February 22, yet it is officially celebrated February 15, one week before his true birthday.

I would bet that our Founding Father would turn over in his grave if he found out that the government he helped blue print, changed his very own birthdate just to let them have a three day holiday.

History also teaches us that Christopher Columbus



Readers write

The Print ignores duty

To the Editor:

I, Greg Betts, a law enforcement student, do now accuse **The Print** of dereliction of duty. I base my charge on

the fact that I collect **The Print**, and of 14 issues published, I have nine.

I get **The Print** at Clairmont Hall, which has been short changed by **The Print** four of five times. I wish **The**

Print would handle all its duties as well as it produces the papers.

Yours truly,
Greg Betts

Do you have an interest? Concern? Problem? Complaint? Want to vent steam? Warn the world? Raise some hell? Inform the public? Care about social problems? Political kibbutzing? Foreign affairs? Local issues? Then let people know! Write a letter to...

*The Print
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...or call us at ext. 309, 310. All letters must be signed, and preferably typed.

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