

Social programs should be last to the slaughter

By Dave Holmes

Editor-In-Chief

Let's say, by the hand of some unsmiling fate, that an ordinary person such as you or I got to be President of the United States.

Don't ask how, just be the President. And the first thing that your all-knowing aide tells you is that you have to cut the budget. "What?" you say in dismay, "Are we eating too much? Is Air Force One not fuel efficient enough?" Your aide tells you that he's talking about the Federal Budget. You know, spending and stuff like that.

You're at a loss. After all, you're new on this job. All you have to go by is what your predecessors have done. The last man at the helm was...uh...an actor, but his name doesn't come readily to mind. What was he thinking about while being informed by his top aides?

Mr. Reagan (you knew it all along, right?) had a set of priorities, which are usually good to have a set of. Anyway, Reagan thought that it was a good idea to be "strong". So, he decided to try and cut back on anything that wasn't a weapon.

"A dam isn't a weapon," he reasoned. And he was right. So Mr. Reagan tried to sell the Bonneville Power Administration, and all of it's complexities, to the private sector. The only man who had the nerve (and the eight billion dollars) was Ted Turner, but he was only interested in huge television corporations.

Selling things, reasoned Mr. Reagan, was not the way to go. So he decided that those awful welfare programs had to be gotten rid of. After all, those college kids on federal financial aid just spent all of that money on buying records and beer and hot tubs.

And what about those old people on Social Security? Hey, they just blew it all on food and heat. And so what if it really was their money, money they had paid into the program for more than a few years? They'd never miss it anyway.

And, oh, it had almost slipped his mind, those weak-kneed vagrants that called themselves "The Unemployed." They can get work. There are plenty of jobs. Like McDonalds. If they put in an honest 22 hour

day over the grill they'd make plenty of money. That means he could do away with foodstamps, federally-funded relief programs, and all sorts of welfare programs.

But before your predecessor could get the ball rolling (that was one of his problems) and allot less to you and more to dispassionate weaponry, his term was up. Even though he had the nuclear capability to blow the earth out of orbit 7 or 8 times, he just couldn't resist a few more toys. But this is about you, not your predecessor.

So what are you going to do? Your aide is waiting for a reply, your press secretary is begging you for an "official word," and the people, the folks who you are ultimately accountable to, are waiting, too. The concerned ones have written you letters. Others lobby in congress. And remember, Mr. President, you have ALL of them, not just the rich and militaristic ones, to think about. I think if you keep that in mind, cutting the budget won't be too hard of a task.

News



Beginning of winter term marks return of students to College campus.

Photo by Dan Wheeler

Contract conflicts

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'grievance money,' Baker said, "Well, yes. I suppose so. It seemed to be a reasonable compromise."

Jacobs denied any wrongdoing and said that he did what he felt was necessary to get the most he could out of the money he had to work with.

Kyllo, who questioned Levin's behavior in terms of procedure, said, "I do not believe Breck did that (misrepresented the school). He was misinterpreted, maybe, but he wasn't fraudulent. Also, it was never our intention to cancel him (Levin)."

Kyllo said that Baker and himself were looking into the matter further, and that action, if any is to be taken, will come from Dean of Student Services Jim Roberts. Kyllo also said that the confusion with Levin had resulted in some positive things. Request For Payment policies and the current contract set-up are being reviewed to keep future contract negotiations as trouble-free as possible. Future contracts will also be reviewed and/or negotiated by more than one person.

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Two ASG senators axed due to GPA

By Dave Holmes

Editor-In-Chief

Associated Student Government President Daniel Hiltz maintained his 'by-the-book' policy of government by announcing the dismissal of two ASG senators and the probation of three other ASG members for violation of academic requirements in a Jan. 9 meeting.

Sen. James Hardy and Sen. Shannon Roberts were released from their duties by a review committee after they were found to have not met the ASG Constitution's requirement of six completed

credit hours and/or a 2.0 grade point average. ASG Vice President Shawn Watterburg, Sen. Stefanie Weaver, and Sen. Pattie Groombridge were placed on probation by the review committee which consisted of Hiltz, Director of Student Activities Deborah Baker, Counselor Vince Fitzgerald, and two unnamed ASG senators.

ASG Advisor Paul Kyllo said that Roberts was going to resign since she was planning to transfer to Lewis and Clark College in Portland, but he called Hardy's removal "a tragedy.

"He received the full award for his (participation)," Kyllo said of Hardy. "He was released for solely academic reasons." Kyllo said that Hardy had been experiencing a number of personal problems in the last month and was unable to maintain his usual academic standard.

Hardy had appealed to the review committee, but was turned down.

The officers on probation remain so for the rest of the school year. They may not appeal for probationary status again this year, and according to the constitution, will be

removed from office for any further violation of the academic standards.

"We went by the By-Laws," said Hiltz of the committee's actions. Hiltz, who campaigned on a 'government-above-the-table' platform last year, was visibly distressed by the committee's decision, but said that it had to be done.

Kyllo, in reflection, said that there wasn't one ASG activity this year that he could remember that Hardy was not involved in. "Jim was exemplary," Kyllo said, "a senator's senator."

