

Opinion

Daily Evergreen

A taxing problem

A state income tax would not necessarily be included in a revision of the state's tax structure, according to Gov. Dixie Lee Ray.

"I think that as we continue month by month, it becomes more and more clear that there is not much support for an income tax, either a flat rate or graduated," Ray said recently.

It is debatable if the voters of the state would reject an income tax, given the right conditions. The voters continually scream for tax reform. This scream turned to action last November when voters approved an initiative to remove the sales tax from most foods.

In addition to this approval, Ray said her administration, through a task force, is looking at a tax proposal that would not include an income tax, but would make the tax structure less regressive than it is now.

Tax reform in this state is long overdue. Those least able to pay often carry the heaviest tax burden. A graduate income tax would not hit the poor as hard as the present system does.

This state's tax structure has been dubbed the most regressive in the nation by the Wall Street Journal. Regressiveness is a measure of the relationship between taxation and a person's ability to pay. The more regressive a tax is the more difficult it is for a person to pay the tax.

While the state's tax structure is regressive there is not much that can be done about it short of an amendment to the state's constitution. The constitution, as interpreted by the state Supreme Court, limits income taxes to a flat rate of 1 percent of a person's income.

Ray says she, like former Gov. Daniel J. Evans, supports an income tax. But the way she has been talking, this is not evident.

Granted, the governor's task force should look at changing the tax structure. But the constitution should also be looked at with the idea of amending it to allow for a non-regressive income tax.

—D.A.E.



"This could be trouble — get those desks into a circle...!"

Your views

'Victims'

On behalf of those students possessing the amazing ability to effectively sort through these bombardments of political propaganda and pleas to our deepest emotions regarding the "endorsement victims," permit me to direct a few brief statements to Greg Clevon and any other sympathizers feeling "wronged" by the "Almighty Evergreen."

The candidate interviews were entirely optional, participation by each and every prospective ASWSU member was by their own choice. Obviously all of them grabbed for that "pot of gold" knowing full well that the endorsement would go to only a small percentage. It's sour grapes they're tasting now—they have only themselves to attack, no one forces them to do it. The Evergreen gave one week's notice before the interviews were held...why wasn't the principle of it questioned before the results came out?

If a candidate had turned down the invitation to participate, it would have been stated as such, totally personal preference on the part of the individual.

Greg Clevon also mentioned that the Evergreen, as a student funded paper, does not have the authority to endorse candidates. Greg, did you miss the large headline above the endorsement which said Opinion? Not in any way, shape or form did the Evergreen attempt to imply that the endorsements were the voice of the entire student body (though a student poll may prove to be enlightening. Maybe it should be included on the upcoming ballot). In the issue preceding and the one including the endorsements, it stated clearly that the views were an attempt to promote students to question the candidates on their own, not an attempt to sway the masses. Does Greg actually believe the student population to be so feeble-brained as to follow blindly behind every whiff of smoke we detect floating in the air? The eight-member Evergreen committee voting on the endorsements are just our everyday

students, no more straight or kinky than any of the rest of us and would be the first to admit their possibilities of being human in judgement. They had no idea that anyone would gaze so starry-eyed toward the guidance of the Lord Evergreen Staff for divine truism as Clevon has apparently implied.

Clevon also stated the difficulty in finding students willing to give their time to ASWSU, which is true in all cases except the presidential vice presidential ticket, the precise point of this controversy. The president and vice president receive \$2,500 each for their term in office. Granted, they work for their pay, but I hardly consider receiving \$2,500 as a donation of their time.

I did find one redeeming factor in Clevon's article and more so in the article by Gosciewski and Eckel. A denunciation of candidates is completely unfounded. I'm sure the Evergreen Staff is well aware of this gross error and have no intention of repeating it in the future.

Gosciewski and Eckel did benefit from the interviews however, as did the other candidates, through intensive preparation and justification of their platforms. The need to familiarize themselves with current and past political issues as well as presenting their platform in precise terms made it possible for them to understand their own strength and weaknesses for the ongoing campaign.

Lastly, I am brought to near-auseousness by the mere suggestion that persons attending this university have no more semblance of intellect than to gulp down all the obviously biased information fed to us by the candidates, professors, administration, state government and even good ol' Peanut Jimmy like it were "Drink and Drown" night at Rico's...rephrased for Greg and those who also had such little faith in the student mentality as to fear a sway to terrorise beliefs following Qadhafi's visit.

Allow us who harbor a meager brain or two upon our shoulders to make our own assessment and please spare us your "guiding light in the paths of demons."

we no longer wear triangular underwear

Thank you,
Joann Shjeflo

Alienated

I'm surprised there has not been a single riposte to some of the alienating quotations of the Student Christian Organization now appearing in the Evergreen.

The Student Christian Organization's quotation from Corinthians in the March 8 issue of the Evergreen prompts my response. The Bible is a great piece of literature and unfortunately has also been greatly misused at times in the past 2,000 years. Although I am not a Christian, I feel a great deal of reverence to many of the precepts of the Bible. An excised statement can be misleading. I feel that this is an abuse of the Bible since it encompasses more than hell-fire and brimstone.

The Christian faith has many positive things to offer. I wish the Student Christian Organization would not detract from that by employing proselyting statements like, "Do not be deceived; neither fornicators...nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, shall inherit the kingdom of God." Statements such as these do not do much for the Christian cause.

Bruce C. Crist

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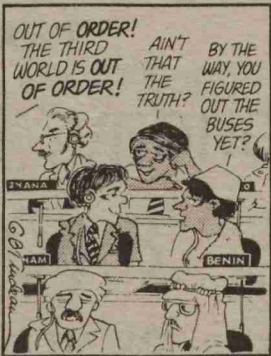
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DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



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