

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gov. Doyle's tax, budget pledge deceptive

Jim Doyle lied when he told us he had balanced the budget all through his campaign. What he did, we now find out is he borrowed money from the transportation and other funds to the tune of the \$2.2 billion. The same amount we are in deficit. How do you think Mr. Tax Freeze, budget balancer will solve this? He will solve it by raising taxes on smokers, many who are poor. He will do it by cutting state aid to cities therefore forcing property taxes up.

The Dems waited until after the election to let the public know that license and plate fees would have to go up. Mr. Ethical now wants the public to know he backs ethics reform. What a joke! He would not know ethics if they slapped him in the face (a \$60 fine for a \$180 box seat at the Packer game, his ties to ethanol producers, the selling of the Kewaunee nuclear power plant, sweetheart deals for travel agencies, some of his staff in jail).

I am waiting patiently to see how the newly-canonized Mr. Hintz will vote on the tax and fee increases. Will he vote against them or will he play his air guitar while the taxpayers of Oshkosh get burned? I guess in the end Gov. Doyle will continue to fool the fools who voted for him twice.

Garth Seiler
Oshkosh

UW-Fox made strong case for new facility

There are a few points about the UW-Fox Valley Communication Arts Center I feel bear addressing yet again. These "issues" have been raised and addressed for 30-plus years and are being raised yet again by some. It's surprising.

Some would like Calumet County to support the campus infrastructure. A newspaper article from 1987 raised exactly the same issue. The perception is there are many more Calumet County students than in the past. Fact: The increase since 1987 is just 1 percent! Maybe Calumet County should contribute, but why have supervisors not addressed it? Chang-

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ing the funding mechanism is not the business of the university, it's county. And why does it come up only now?

Suggesting "out of county" tuition won't help Winnebago County - all tuition revenue goes to the state. None comes back for the physical plant.

Everyone's concerned about tax burden, but in this case taxes due to debt service will not go up. Even if all capital projects submitted to the executive are approved, the tax rate will drop. This information was provided by the county finance director.

Myth: UW-Fox can use other facilities. Fact: The auditorium is used 81 percent of the academic year - 170 events per year on average, not including summer. Other venues were contacted. They are unavailable when needed just for performances, and performances represent a small fraction of auditorium use. Additionally, the cost for rental would be a county expense.

The campus has made the case, answered the questions. It's hard to believe there's more that could be done, unless someone just thinks the campus should go away. There would be 1,700 pretty angry students and families if that were to happen, not to mention the loss of additional educated citizens for northeast Wisconsin. That would include my daughter and me, both alums of UW-Fox.

Juli McGuire
Appleton

More troops will only escalate violence in Iraq

More troops to Iraq? George Bush simply does not get it. The last time he added troops in Iraq attacks spiraled up. His solution to the current chaos, add 21,500 additional troops. Bush's only strategy is

to send more of our bravest men and women into an open-ended war. Top military analysts agree that 20,000 troops are insufficient and will not make a difference. Bush is doing too little too late. Not surprisingly, he is finding ways to make his biggest mistake even bigger. Two times before Bush has added troops to Iraq to curve the violence, and two times before it has failed, it will fail again.

Bush disregarded the bipartisan Iraq Study Group saying he would "take it into consideration." Bush's stay-the-course policy has failed repeatedly and now, finally, after over 3,000 of America's best have lost their lives, politicians on both sides of the aisle are realizing how stupid of an act invading Iraq was.

In his speech to the nation last Wednesday, Bush used Karl Rove-style fear mongering, "if we pull out now it will be a safe haven for terrorists to plot attacks on U.S. soil like September 11." No significant link was ever found between Iraq and al-Qaida prior to America's invasion.

The American people have lost patience with Bush and his moronic policies, and they have every right to. American troops have been fighting in Iraq longer than World War Two. It is far past time our troops come home, and that Iraq take responsibility for its own future. Bush's escalation plan is opposed by top military leaders, the Iraq Study Group, foreign policy experts, and above all, the majority of American people. Our troops and their families have served America courageously and sacrificed enough, they deserve better, it is time to get out of Iraq.

Kyle Ruedinger
Oshkosh

Snow plows dump on residential sidewalk

Here is a copy of an e-mail I sent to the City Manager, and the Director of Public Works. I sent, almost, the exact same message after the last time we had a plowable snow, in December.

Sirs:

Why do I have to complain about the plows plowing snow

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onto our sidewalks, on Oshkosh Avenue, every storm, and every year? As I have said before they don't do it in the business district, why then do they do it in a residential district? Like I said the last time we either need a new Street Superintendent, or a new Director of Public Works.

Denis Kaufmann
Oshkosh

Kagen needs treatment for foot in mouth

Just returned from a pleasant holiday in Arizona to find that our new representative in Washington (Dr. Millionaire) has stuck his foot in his mouth a few times. Fortunately although he is allergic to leather he is an allergist and can self-treat!

Fritz Rhyner
Oshkosh

Hintz attentive to school district issues

I was at the Oshkosh School District Board Meeting on January 10, 2007, as the meeting went on past midnight I turned to see who was still in the room and to my surprise I saw our State Representative Gordon Hintz. Now I have attended a majority of the school board meetings for the last 9 years and I never remember seeing one of our elected officials sit in the audience at a board meeting, unless they