Barbara Dudley to Lecture RAPS on the Free Trade Debate
March 10th 2004 at 3:00—Vanport Room, SMSU
(Note the Lecture is Wednesday—not Thursday)

Richard Brinkman

Before discussing the substance of Dudley’s lecture, as well as giving a brief overview of her CV, I wish to first offer a commentary on the lecture by Tom Potiowsky, which was presented for the RAPS membership on January 29th in the Vanport Room. I will then relate Potiowsky’s lecture to Dudley’s.

Potiowsky divided his presentation into two parts, one of which related to the state of the American economy writ large and the other half to the state of the state of Oregon’s economy. As is to be expected, the State Economist of the State of Oregon provided reams of statistics for empirical support for his economic forecasts. Tom offered a view of cautious but warranted optimism for a gradual upturn for both the U.S. economy as well as that of the state of Oregon in the coming years ahead. Number crunching in areas of rates of unemployment, private investment, mortgage rates, and on, indicates that we are beginning to see an economic recovery. And certainly the defeat of measure 30 has not made Tom’s forecasting chores on the side of optimism any easier. Also, complicating Oregon’s internal economic and revenue problems and its role in international trade, is the significant structural transformation that has taken place in the state’s movement from forestry products to high-tech and manufacturing.

Tom noted a basic conundrum faced by the state in trying to meet the need for increased revenue: if we increase taxes, we slow economic growth, but if we reduce public spending, this would also hold back economic growth. True enough. Tom of course, given his position, could not interject an advocacy position on either one side or the other but rather remained neutral. But from my point of view, not therefore necessarily Tom’s, it appears to me that an increase in taxes to promote higher levels of revenue need not always be assumed to hold back economic growth. Increased revenue, derived from increased taxes, might also be used wisely to build up our infrastructure, and especially in education. This is not only out of a concern for the well-being of our youth, for humane reasons, but for the economic future of Oregon and see Dudley page 2
America, as well. Given that modern technology is predicated on the advance of science and useful knowledge, to compete globally there is a need to continuously upgrade our educational estate. And that, obviously, is not being done.

To argue that the richest country in the world cannot afford to fund public education adequately is oxymoronic. That students at PSU have had to endure frequent increases in tuition to cover the costs of their education, and must incur a level of indebtedness to the magnitude of $20-25,000 is contrary to the meaning of public education. What makes the whole situation even more egregious is that with our current MNC policy of outsourcing, students now face an economy characterized, both nationally and at the state level, by jobless economic growth. What does this mean for faculty and students? Faculty are being frustrated by giving their very hearts and souls in their effort to provide students with requisite knowledge and skills but to no avail. Where are those concomitant jobs? In the past, corporate leaders argued that our educational sector was not turning out skilled and qualified workers sufficient for their needs. Now that this is being accomplished and remarkably well, where are those jobs to be found commensurate with the students newly acquired skills. That $60,000 dollar job, previously “made in America” is now being outsourced abroad, at a reduced rate of $6,000, to foreign nationals. Consequently, the race is no longer directed simply to the bottom but is now being directed to a skilled workforce nurtured abroad and at the expense of a dedicated and patriotic American labor force now giving their very all in the Iraqi War.

In an excellent article appearing in *Oregon's Future*, Vol. IV, Spring 2003, Tom raised the question whether or not Oregon benefits from globalization, a question to which he basically answered in the affirmative. However, a problem facing Oregon and the United States today, is felt by many to be jobs, jobs, jobs—where have all those flowers gone. Enter Barbara Dudley and the free trade debate. It should be noted that Dudley edited and contributed to that issue of *Oregon’s Future*, an excellent issue, one that addressed both sides of the globalization and trade debate and one that should be and has been widely read. Members of RAPS are fortunate in having someone so erudite and socially responsible and sensitive to lecture on the trade debate. I will cover Dudley’s CV more extensively during the introduction to her lecture. Briefly, Professor Dudley currently teaches political science at the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State. She was formally President and Executive Director of the National Lawyers Guild and the Executive Director of Greenpeace USA, and on and on.

We are approaching one of the most important and momentous elections in U.S. history. I certainly have my points of view on trade policy, so do Potiowsky and Dudley, as do the individual members of RAPS. It behooves the membership of RAPS to attend the lecture and participate in the debate on the crucial issue of trade policy. We have a great nation, and the way to make it better is for the populace to become more knowledgeable and educated on the pressing issues of our times. As faculty and staff dedicated to the advancement of education and knowledge, how can we argue with that? In behalf of Maxine Thomas, the current president of RAPS, and the RAPS Board, I welcome your attendance at the upcoming lecture by Professor Barbara Dudley. I hope to see you there!
**RAPS ACTIVITIES**

**March meeting of the Bridge Group:**

The March meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Colin and Pat Dunkeld, 7610 SW Miner Way, Portland (close to SW 78th and SW Canyon Drive).

Members who were at the February meeting at Willamette View, please note that we will not hold the March meeting at Willamette View as originally planned.

It is important to know how many are coming. Please call Colin and Pat at 503 292 0838 or e-mail at colindun@easystreet.com to confirm, for an update, and for directions if needed.

The group is always open to new members.

**RAPS Book Club**

Mary Gordon Brannan

The March book for the RAPS Book Club is *Daughter of Persia* by Sattarch Farman Farmaian, It has been described as “a captivating and enlightening memoir. . . Farman Farmaian weaves her personal story into the larger fabric of Iranian history. . . [and] offers a lesson about the value of personal freedom and what happens to a nation when its people are denied the right to direct their own destiny. This is a book Americans should read” (*Plain Dealer*, Cleveland). The March Book Club gathering will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 at LaRay Barna’s home. Call LaRay at 503-768-4160 or e-mail at barnal@pdx.edu for directions and to RSVP.

The April book is *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. It “is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shootout in which three men are killed. The only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson’s godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting—and defying—the expected. This book, which looks like a good read, has recently been on the Best Sellers List even though it was published in 1993. The April gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20 at 1:30 at Mary Brannan’s home. Call Mary at 503-239-1077 or e-mail at brannanmg@comcast.net for directions and to RSVP.

**Solution to Last month’s Brain Teaser:**

Turn on switch 1 for several minutes. Turn it off and turn on switch 2. Enter the room. The light for switch 1 will be unlit and hot. The light for switch 2 will be on. The light for switch 3 will be unlit and cold.

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**RAPS Hikers**

Seven RAPS members participated in the February 14th hike. We made an easy hike on the paved Westside Greenway path from Willamette Park to the Riverplace area and back again. We passed many waterfowl including several Canada Geese, several private moorages of pleasure craft, the construction site of the new OHSU tram and industrial sites. The highlight was lunch at the Newport Bay Restaurant.

Hikes for the next three months were planned. On Saturday March 13th, we will meet at the Forestry Center steps at 9:30 am and hike the Wildwood Trail down to the Japanese Gardens. Time will be spent in the gardens before returning to the Forestry Center. There will be an admission fee to the Japanese Gardens. Bring a sack lunch. Estimated distance is about 6 miles. Larry Sawyer will coordinate the hike. He can be reached at 503-646-8782 or psu23312@pdx.edu. Please notify him if you plan to hike. We do not want to leave anyone behind.

On Friday April 16th, we will hike in Kelley Point Park. Marge Terdal will coordinate the hike. Kelley Point is at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. The distance will be short, but the views will be great. More details next month.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? Is RAPS accomplishing its mission to “promote continued collegiality and communication among retired personnel and provide a vehicle for them to remain in contact with each other and support the goals and endeavors of their University”?

WE NEED/WANT FEEDBACK! What will it take to get members to drop us a note saying what you like, what you don’t like, compliments, criticism and/or suggestions? Now that the bridge, hiking and book groups seem to be meeting at regularly scheduled times, the speakers have been diverse and interesting and the potlucks have been fun and delicious, what else would you like to see our organization do? Do you have suggestions?

What a great time to start a LETTERS TO THE EDITOR column! Please take a few moments to (anonymously or not) write a note with your thoughts. They may be e-mailed to raps@pdx.edu or sent to: RAPS, Portland State University, Simon Benson House, Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

Maxine Thomas

Volunteer Judges Needed!
The 21st Annual Intel Northwest Science Expo is seeking judges for our State Championship Science Fair on April 2nd at PSU. Middle- and High-School students from all over Oregon and Southwest Washington will be bringing 500 projects, ranging from Behavioral and Social Sciences to Mathematics, Computer Science, and Zoology. Behavioral and Medicine and Health judges are especially needed. These kids have worked hard and appreciate being recognized by experts in their field. Judging is fun. Many of our judges return year after year because they enjoy it so much.

If you are available to judge for our fair, you can register for NWSE fairs at www.nwse.org. Click on the Register Here button on the left. All the details on times, qualifications, locations, etc. are found on the website.

Most judges are needed from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. Judges are provided with a continental breakfast and lunch.

No More Hooter?
I have received some complaints about the name of our newsletter. We all like the picture of the owl that our colleague, Leonard Kimbrell, designed to look like the late Groucho Marx. Those who chose the name and the logo, however, were unaware of a chain of restaurants named Hooters that feature a logo of an owl rather like ours and waitresses in skimpy outfits and that the name has, shall we say, an anatomical significance. Now that Hooters is going to open a branch in Portland, the suggestiveness of the name becomes more apparent. I also had one complaint that the name Hooter suggests an unintelligent noise, inappropriate for the retired faculty and staff of a university.

At the January meeting of the RAPS Board, it was decided that we should probably change the name. We therefore invite all RAPS members to submit their recommendations for a new name. We can be whimsical because we all have an excellent sense of humor or sober as befits our dignity, and we invite your comments on that choice as well. Suggestions and comments should be sent to Troy Monserrat-Gonzales, our office manager care of RAPS (Campus Mail) or raps@pdx.edu. The winning entry will be rewarded with a gift certificate at the PSU bookstore.

John Cooper, editor