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PORTUGAL

Facing a recession that has not been this severe since the 1970s, Portugal is instituting a significant tax increase in an attempt to decrease the country's debt. One of the new stipulations will be the income tax raising from 9.8 percent to 11.8 percent. Various concerns are stewing.

SYRIA

Syria has issued multiple attacks on Turkey, killing dozens of people, and wounding more than double that, with mortar attacks and suicide bombings in Aleppo. Turkey has now begun retaliation.

HONG KONG, CHINA

At least 25 people were killed in a collision of two ferries near Lamma Island. The sunken ferry instigated a search and rescue mission that is still in progress.

PARIS, FRANCE

- Dozens of women protested topless under the Louvre in Paris. The activists were making a statement in opposition to the recent rape of a Tunisian woman who was charged by police with indecency and told she dressed too provocatively, thus implying that "she was asking for it (sexual assault)."

PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.

Judge Simpson of the Commonwealth court struck down the Pennsylvania Voter ID laws that inhibited an estimated 1 million Pennsylvanians from voting. The judge was asked to rule based on voters' ability to acquire the necessary identification in time for Election Day. The answer was a clear and direct "No."

Have a heart? Wales does

BY JOSH BALLARD
STAFF WRITER

Sixty-seven.

That is the total number of people, according to the BBC, who donated organs and tissues to those who were in need in Wales last year.

The number of people in Wales on the current organ-donation waiting list is 300.

A bill proposed by the Welsh government intends to address this issue.

According to the bill, available to the public via the BBC website, a "person is deemed to have given his or her consent in relation to the activity (organ donation)" with few exceptions listed.

This means that, unless a person explicitly states that they do not want to be an organ donor, or has delegated someone close to them to decide on their behalf, they are considered by law to be a viable and consenting donor.

"People will be given the chance either to opt in formally and agree to become a donor when they become adults at 18 or opt out by placing their name on a register," reports the Guardian. "However, those over the age of 18 who do neither will be deemed to have made a positive decision to donate organs and tissue for transplantation."

The Welsh government and supporters of the bill predict that it will "increase organs available for donation by as much as a quarter," according to the BBC.

Meanwhile, a number of groups, particularly Welsh religious organizations, oppose the bill. Bishops of the Church in Wales, though not

opposed to organ donation, consider it a gift that should be "freely given, not assumed."

When BBC took an opinion poll, they found that 63 percent of those surveyed were in favor of the bill and only 31 percent were against.

This change in the organ donation law in Wales raises questions about the U.S.'s own statistics in respect to organ donation. The current system in the U.S. assumes that persons do not want to donate organs unless they specifically state it or formally register.

The United Network for Organ Sharing reports that the total number of candidates on the donation waiting list is 115,880 while the number of transplants that took place between January and June 2012 was a mere 13,963.

According to Carolina Donor Services, a North Carolina-based organ donor resource, the number of those waiting in North Carolina as of Sept. 25 is 3,558.

"Every 10 minutes a new name is added to the waiting list," the CDS site reports. "Sadly, an average of 18 people die each day while waiting for a transplant."

Helen Rice, director of student health at Guilford, feels the main issue with U.S. organ donation numbers is the need for education.

"I think more organ donor education is needed at a younger age so people will understand the how, when and why it takes place," Rice said in an email interview.

Legislators hope that the Welsh law will go into effect sometime in 2015. Perhaps then the numbers released from Wales will cause other countries, including the U.S., to reconsider their own organ donor laws.

Hillary Clinton may run for office in 2016

BY BRYAN DOOLEY
SENIOR WRITER

In the heat of this election season, speculation is raging about whether Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will run for the office of president of the United States again in 2016. Some members of the campus community weighed in on the idea.

"I think Hillary Clinton will run for President," said Ken Gilmore, associate professor of political science. "But I think she will take the next two years testing the waters and recuperating from an exhausting 20 years of public service — as First Lady, Senator, and Secretary of State."

If Clinton decides to run, many say it will enliven the Democratic Party.

"If she does run, the base will certainly be energized," said senior Dwight Price, a College Democrats student representative. "She was expected to win the Democratic nomination in 2008."

Although she did not win the nomination, she came close.

"She came within a hair's breadth of winning the nomination in 2008," said Gilmore. "Don't forget her years in the Senate. She is beyond qualified for the office."

Robert Duncan, visiting assistant professor of political science, agrees with Gilmore's sentiments. He also points out the significance of the U.S. possibly electing a female president.

"It's about damn time society in the U.S. took the blinders off and saw people for who they are and what they contribute to

the country," Duncan said. "There are still women being marginalized and put down in the world. I think it's time for the U.S. to carry the flag and set the model."

If Clinton does run, she will have to contend with the often cited invisible barrier that prevents women from advancing in politics and the workplace, also referred to as the "glass ceiling."

According to Maria Rosales, associate professor of political science, women are often stereotyped as being more nurturing and compassionate.

"Although women are over 50 percent of the population, only 17 percent of congress is female," Rosales said. "It is improving for women. More people are voting for women than ever before, but the stereotypes remain."

Duncan expands on this point.

"The good old boys who have been there forever resent women in positions of power," Duncan said. "For example: the Republicans' restrictions on women's access to healthcare ... (like) telling women if they should get pregnant, they should not have an abortion."

Duncan continued, "That mindset has to be broken. This illustrates the glass ceiling, the male chauvinistic attitude towards women, as subservient, lesser humans. That really frosts my pumpkin."

Clinton just might be the right person to shatter the glass ceiling, according to Price.

"I think it would be great for her to run," Price said. "She has advocated for universal healthcare coverage, the rights of women, the LGBTQ community, and religious freedom."