

# opinion

## New tuition, fees betray students

When the financial going gets tough for higher education, it's tough luck for students, according to members of the State Board of Higher Education.

The extra fees nailed on to a higher-than-mandated tuition increase by board members were coupled with a pat-on-the-head statement that essentially said, "gee whiz, this really hurts us more than it does you."

Sorry, students are old enough not to fall for that line.

After fighting in the trenches with administrators for higher education funding with lobbying,

### ours

rallies and letters, students are surprised to see their allies turn and dip into student rations to supplement the legislative dollars.

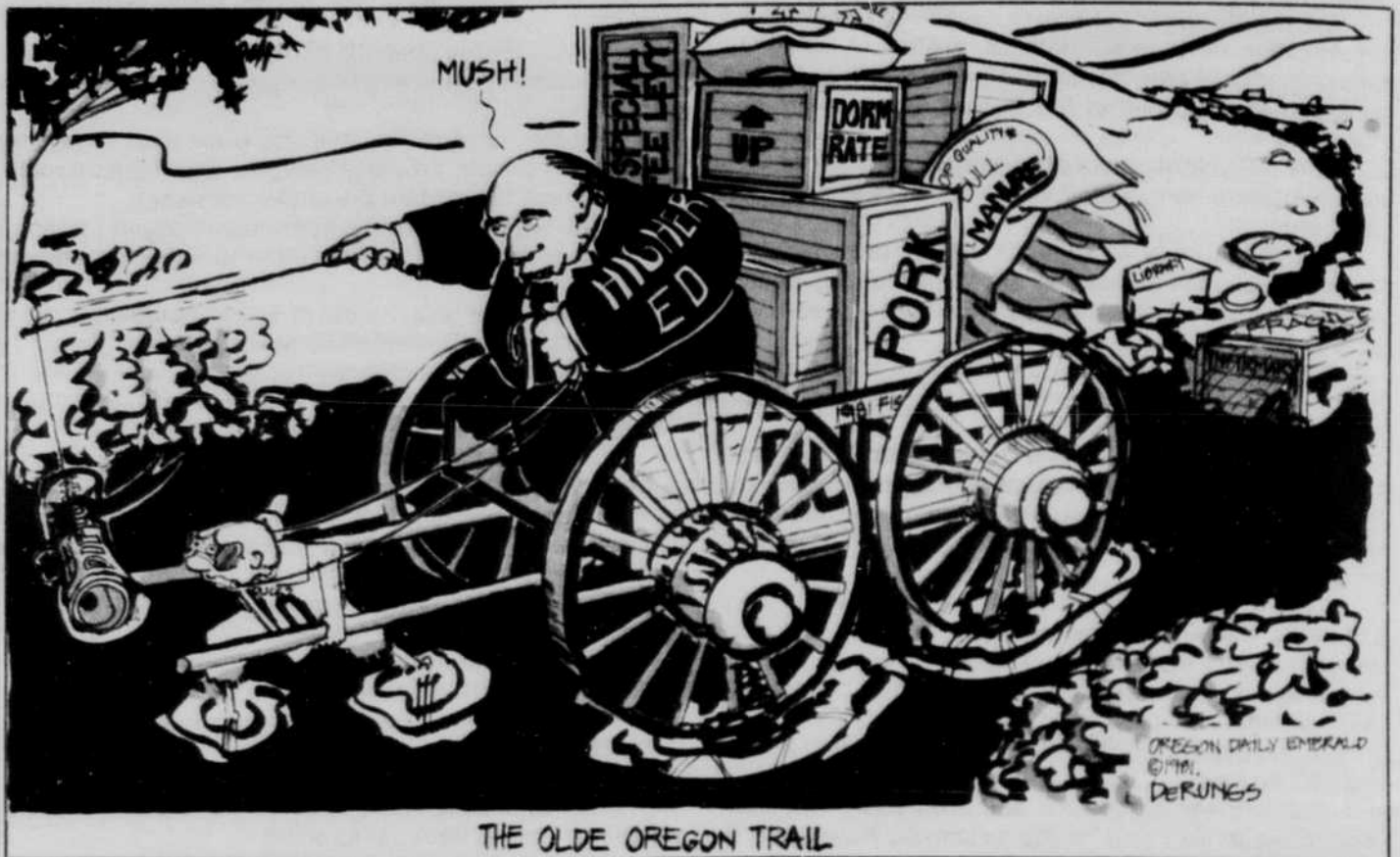
Yes, students realize the Legislature underfunded higher education. Yes, they know the board is trying to delay program cuts. But they still feel betrayed.

With financial aid cuts, a bleak job market and tuition and fee increases students are suffering more financially than the state system. And they face another 19 percent — or more — tuition increase next year. And maybe a few more fees.

But state system's deathly nickle and dime isn't only of monetary concern — the board's actions reflect a disturbing attitude toward students.

It began last winter when board member Edith Green said students could easily pay a bit extra for tuition — all they had to do was buy a few less John Lennon albums. This was a couple days after Lennon's death.

It ended last week with a 19 percent tuition increase, a 100 percent increase in the general deposit, a 100 percent increase in the late registration fee, a 33 percent increase in the law study resource fee, a 25 percent increase in the admission fee and a 100 percent increase for non-



academic use of the library's on-line reference services.

The building fee is still \$12.50 per term and the health service fee is the same due to the closure of the student infirmary. The only fee that decreased — the incidental fee — was the one directly managed by students.

In effect, the board is saying that when they need a few extra dollars, they can legally pick students' pockets: Oops, we're a few million short. No prob, tack on a student fee, raise tuition, limit enrollment. And, oh yes, issue a statement about how we're concerned about our actions.

When the state system chancellor warned university administrators against charging for items that should be covered in tuition, he was saying, do as I say, not as I do.

In the same meeting, the board approved pay raises for institution presidents and the chancellor and his staff. The chancellor and the Oregon Health Sciences Center president are two of the highest paid state employees. Concern over the financial viability of the state system reaches for student wallets but stops short of administrators' paychecks.

But the apparent lack of student concern is just as appalling as the board's actions. The ASUO lobbied hard for higher education during the legislative session, but no one from the ASUO was at the Portland board meeting.

University Pres. Paul Olum said the Legislature has left the state system slowly bleeding. In turn, that's what the state system has done to students.

### yours

#### Just no room

The series of events occurring between University Christian Properties on the one hand, and Clergy and Laity Concerned on the other, has been most unfor-

fortunate for all concerned. It is very misleading and disturbing because Campus Interfaith Ministry, the residents of the Koinonia Center owned by UCP, has long been supportive of social justice issues in general, of concern about a return to registration and the draft in particular, and of CORD and CALC as they have

pursued these issues. Both CORD and CALC, with CIM support and UCP agreement, have had liberal use of office space, facilities and equipment, and secretarial services of the UCP-owned Koinonia Center for a long time; CALC's rent has been heavily subsidized by the other ministries in the building and UCP, and CORD has paid no rent or fees for its usage. Our secretaries have been most generous in assisting CALC and CORD staff, on a completely volunteer basis. We have done this because of our conviction that CALC and CORD are dealing with issues very important for the campus, and we basically stand with them in raising these issues even though as a campus ministry staff we may disagree with them on style or on conclusions in particular cases.

Therefore, the request to ask CALC and CORD to relocate elsewhere was not a result of political philosophy, but rather of building use philosophy, priorities and space. Simply stated, the request of another campus ministry (the United Methodist ministry housed in the Wesley Center) for space in Koinonia due to financial difficulties, had to take precedence over the continuation of office use by such adjunct groups as CALC and CORD. The timing and manner of giving notice were very unfortunate, as were the reported responses of CORD and CALC printed in this and other newspapers. However, the reasons for the request to these groups to relocate were based on the priorities of building and space usage, not political considerations. In addition, CALC has for some time wrestled with the need for more office space than is available in Koinonia.

CIM continues to be supportive of the issues raised by CALC and CORD, regardless of where these groups may relocate; we are very much concerned that this recent series of unfortunate events not distract from these serious issues of world hunger, worldwide military escalation and the crying need for a just and lasting peace.

The Campus Interfaith Ministry staff  
Thursday, August 13, 1981

### theirs

