

## Elementary cuts; they're only logical

We live in a state with one of the best funded elementary and secondary school systems, with one of the most stringent set of requirements for elementary and secondary teachers and with duplicate programs to obtain these certificates.

Within the Oregon state system of higher education, prospective elementary school teachers can obtain a certificate here, or at Eastern Oregon State College, Portland State University, Oregon State University, Southern Oregon State College and Western Oregon State College. They could also obtain a certificate at Lewis and Clark, Concordia, Linfield and Pacific Lutheran colleges.

We live in a state with overextended and underfunded higher education, a state that has been plagued with revenue shortfalls. The next shortfall — estimated at \$150 million — probably will come in September.

In this period of budget cuts and tacit pressure from the Legislature to reassess the worth of every program of the state system, there is no more room for discretionary cuts. The next step has to be closing departments, schools or even an entire college. The logical cuts are programs that are duplicated by almost every other institution in the state — elementary education.

This proposal seems all the more realistic in the face of declining enrollment next year at all the major state institutions of higher education and the decline in elementary and secondary school students which has been occurring over the last 10 years.

This idea obviously has occurred to someone. For instance Pres. Gerald Leinwand of Western Oregon State College is leaving in September over rumors that the Legislature wanted his school shut down. WOSC has traditionally been a teacher's college. It now has seven departments, all duplicated within the state system.

Perhaps a cost benefit analysis would show closing one of these certification places is unfeasible. Perhaps the baby boom, predicted to enter school in the 1990's, requires that all these opportunities for certification remain intact. Perhaps not.

Is there still a need for teacher training in every corner of the state?

## Selective Service squeezes students

As the U.S. Selective Service System puts the squeeze on the few good men who refused to register for a potential draft, students — especially poor students — are getting caught in the middle.

Turning one crank of the vise is the Internal Revenue Service which recently began using tax records to mail warnings to non-registrants. It also has threatened to furnish their addresses to the draft board.

Now university financial aid officers are being asked to twist the other crank. A federal law that would require financial aid applicants to furnish proof of draft registration already has passed the Senate and will be debated in Congress soon.

If the law passes, an 18-year-old undergraduate who comes from a poor family and wants to continue his education would be punished if — for whatever reason — he objects to serving in the military. Although his chances of being criminally prosecuted are slim, financial aid ineligibility would block him and thousands of non-registrants from getting a college degree.

This represents an about-face from the once-prevalent attitude that education is more important than armed military service.

Out of school, with no college education, facing the worst unemployment situation in decades, a young man still must bear up under increasing pressure to join the military. Navy and Army ads that promise jobs and useful skills are the most obvious pressure. Increasing numbers of full tuition scholarships offered by ROTC tempt more and more freshman into the military because it is the only way they can finance their education.

These are clever games played by the Selective Service and the military. We urge university administrators to join the growing movement to resist them.



'MENACHEM SENT ME.'

## letters

### Swim safety

As a whitewater boating enthusiast and a volunteer with the Lane County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue unit, I was appalled at the cavalier attitude displayed in the June 21 Emerald article on swimming holes.

In particular, I am concerned with your enthusiastically endorsing the footbridge rapids area on the Willamette River for swimming without informing your readers of the extreme hazards that are present there.

The river bottom has numerous disconformities that can trap and hold feet and legs. The bottom is littered with bicycles and other debris that have been thrown off the bridge. Boats and rafts coming downstream are often left with little choice but to run over "devil-may-care" tubers and swimmers whom they can't see until it's too late to maneuver.

Many of the boaters using this section of the river are inexperienced and little skilled in controlling their craft. In addition, there are often people jumping and hanging off the bridge and tether surfing off the river bank.

The combination of these hazards creates a moderately to extremely dangerous situation for swimmers, especially those

swimmers inexperienced in whitewater and ill informed of the risks.

A canoeist drowned in the footbridge rapids last summer. There have been numerous near drownings, head and neck injuries, broken limbs and assorted lesser first aid problems at that site.

I don't mean to seem alarmist or namby pamby about this matter. However, new initiates to the sport should be aware that there are inherent dangers. The activity is particularly hazardous when done without a life jacket, footwear and proper technique, (sitting position, feet downstream).

Death by drowning could put a serious hitch in anyone's summer plans. As responsible journalists, you owe it to your readers to inform them of the hazards when you're promoting a recreational activity or particular site.

Please, in the future do a better job of it.

**Bruce Ronning  
Eugene**

### Coupon probe

The July 8th edition of the Emerald published an article on page 3 headlined, "ASUO's connection with coupons probed." The article dragged

the name of Windfall Advertising (the publisher of a coupon book for University students) over the coals.

It contained many erroneous and damaging statements wrongly implicating Windfall Advertising in illegal activity.

The incident mentioned in the article involved a contract between a local chiropractic clinic and Cooperative Services of Lansing, Mich., (also a supposed coupon book publisher) who used the name of ASUO on their contracts without ASUO's knowledge.

Cooperative Services also falsely told advertisers ASUO was handling distribution of said coupon books.

The article implied that Windfall Advertising had a part in this wrong doing when, in fact, they did not, as a retraction will state in the Tuesday, July 13 edition of the Emerald.

However, I'm sure the retraction will not dwell on the incompetent reporting of the Emerald staff, especially that of Steve Hooks, the author of the article.

Newspaper articles such as this that confuse facts give the print media a bad name, and are certainly blemishes that question the integrity of the Emerald, not legitimate businesses like Windfall Advertising.

**Al Grossman  
Windfall Advertising**

## oregon daily emerald

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