

# opinion

## Tuition increases, enrollment declines

This fall's 9-percent enrollment decline brings several questions to mind.

Among others: How much state money will the University lose? What will happen to the four outreach programs slated for possible closure this summer by Pres. Olum?

A 9-percent drop in enrollment — should the preliminary figures bear out — means over 1,300 less students will attend the University this year.

What's stopping those students from signing up? The admissions office and state systems people are rationalizing the 9-percent decline to 939 fewer Oregon high school graduates in 1982 and the increase in admissions standards from a grade point average of 2.5 to 2.75 last year.

But let's face it. High tuition kept students from enrolling. The 26 percent increase in tuition from last year (see chart on page one), coupled with the inability of many students to find work last summer has priced college education out of their dreams — at least for awhile.

Other students found work at considerably lower wages or less hours than in previous years. Financial aid, especially on the federal level, has decreased eligibility for many students.

Whether it was a high school graduate whose parents decided they can't afford what the University charges, or a University junior who had to cut his schooling short, many eligible students have simply been financially denied a University education.

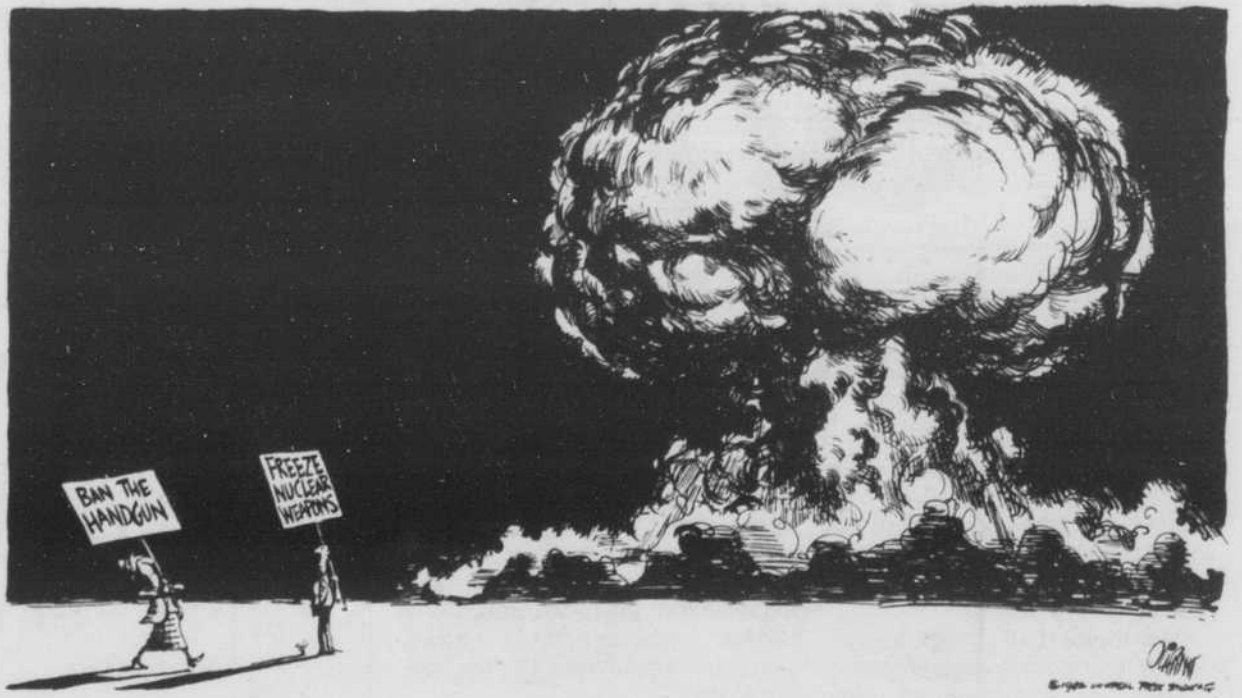
It would be wonderful if declining enrollment meant such things as fewer students per class and more space in the library. A wonderful campus life of less students, more faculty attention to undergraduates and a personal ambience about the institution is a nice fantasy.

The reality is that more students are in each classrooms. There are less professors, less course offerings and everyone is working with a smaller budget.

Nine percent enrollment decline means 9 percent fewer students can afford higher education even with their parents financial help.

As State Sen. Ed Fadeley remarked, the tuition increases are making the Oregon state institutions of higher education beyond the means of the lower middle class and therefore increasingly elitist. The University is the highest priced public university in the Western United States for in-state residents.

It is not particularly the end of the baby boom or tough admission requirements that keep students from enrolling. It's 9 percent less students who can afford an education.



# letters

## Slanderous

I was outraged by the article written by Harry Esteve regarding the "ugly appendage;" known to other citizens as Springfield. I am surprised the Emerald would allow such a biased and slanderous story to print.

Admittedly, Springfield's downtown area could appropriately be called an eye sore, but Springfield as a whole is certainly better than the "dismal," "dying city" that Esteve has pictured.

Certainly Eugene is not without its eye sores. If Mr. Esteve gets off on "peeling paint" and "unkept yards" have him check the neighboring streets to the University campus, which houses hold mostly students. I suppose Mr. Esteve would feel that slovenliness on the part of students is excusable but not so for the poor, for, of course, they are poor by choice.

As for Springfield's "greasy spoons," they offer good food at a reasonable price, which is a good alternative to some of Eugene's finer restaurants which offer mostly oak and plush carpeting. Have Mr. Esteve try Tim and Tilda's, which is a very good deli on Main Street. They, admittedly, have even eaten at Larry & Kathy's "greasy spoon."

Well, I could comment on every paragraph Mr. Esteve has written, but why bother. I'm just a quiet, unpretentious person, living in my modest, little home, feeling grateful that I have a job and my only excitement in life is watching the drunks roll out of

the Lost Dutchman at 2 a.m. on a Friday night.

Sharon Ransdell  
Springfield

## Affront

As a resident of Springfield for over nineteen years, as a graduate of the University, and as mayor of the city of Springfield, I take great exception to your article, "Springfield — The 'Other' City." The generalities you draw in your article may make good copy but are grossly inaccurate. The article is an affront to every citizen of Springfield.

More than 40,000 citizens choose to make their home in Springfield. They do so for many different reasons, most of which add up to the fact that they like living in Springfield. No, we are not like Eugene — nor is Eugene just like Portland. Each city has a combination of good and not so good attributes. None is perfect and each is continually striving to improve. To call us "an ugly appendage desecrating the east end of a hallowed city" only shows that you have a very narrow perspective of what really makes a community a place in which people choose to live.

I hope in the future you will do a better job of understanding and reporting regarding Springfield. I do not ask you or anyone else to ignore our faults, only that they are balanced with the assets which give all of us a reason to call Springfield our home and to be proud of it.

John Lively  
Springfield

## Monument

It always amazes me that the same generation of young people that have revived interest in the history of cities can also be ignorant of history when writing about it.

Harry Esteve's article in the Emerald of Sept. 20 exemplifies this ignorance in his comments about "someone" who built a monument to Springfield — the horse.

This equestrian object, which has been standing at the entrance of the city since the late 1950's, was designed and constructed as a thesis project by a graduate student in sculpture from the University of Oregon. After convincing the local Junior Chamber of Commerce of the artistic merit of the piece by use of a very well executed model, this student proceeded to erect what you now see sculpted from concrete.

I think most of our citizens would agree that it is, in fact, a "faceless, featureless rider awkwardly straddling an ill-proportioned horse" and would also agree that that's not what they bought in approving the sculptor's model.

The sculpture, therefore, does not stand as "testament to the flawed, depressed, and dying city it guards," but a monument to the gullibility of our community in believing that they should expect quality from the products of certain graduate programs of your University.

Don Lutes  
Springfield

# letters

## Kuh-WAX

There has recently been some discussion as to the correct pronunciation of the letters KWAX. When I first came here I heard only "KAY-wax," suggesting the material from which phonograph records used to be made. More recently, I have also heard "kwak" suggesting the web-footed mascot. It has occurred to me that a third alternative is also possible, assuming the pronunciation "kuh-wak."

This would suggest an allusion to the famous Croaking Chorus from "The Frogs," a play by Aristophanes. The

words are not real Greek, but an attempt to simulate the sounds made by students in the days when one of the prime functions of a university was to provide them with a classical education; the Modern Major-General in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" cites it as being among his store of knowledge. Because the line "Brekekekax, koax koax" has the same rhythm as "Right in the neck, the neck, the neck," it was also used as football cheer. Perhaps the radio station is simply trying to recall the university to its classical heritage.

Lawrence Crumb  
Library

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The letters must be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication is dependent upon the space available.