

Opinion

Irrelevant debate

All this talk about access versus quality is irrelevant. Access is access and quality is quality. When legislators and educators debate the two, they are disguising their aims to reduce funding.

It goes without saying that everyone should have access to public education as long as they meet academic requirements. The question is, how do we maintain the ability of everyone to pay for an education?

The Legislature is not improving quality when it raises the proportion students must pay for college, they are, in effect, denying access to a group of students — the poorer ones.

Ironically, the administration's move to upgrade the academic quality of students by raising admissions standards also may reduce the quality of the University. Currently, funding of the University is based substantially on Full-Time Equivalency hours — the theoretical number of warm bodies in desks. Until this form of funding is abolished or at least modified, pressure to recruit high-achievers competes with pressure to collect tuition and state funding.

One difference between a prestigious private school and any other institution of higher education is the academic ability of the students upon entrance. Another difference is the amount of grants, scholarships, and endowments to underwrite the cost of tuition for students.

This is a state school without large endowments. The University may increasingly rely on the Foundation to come up with money, but the bulk of funding must come from tuition and the Legislature.

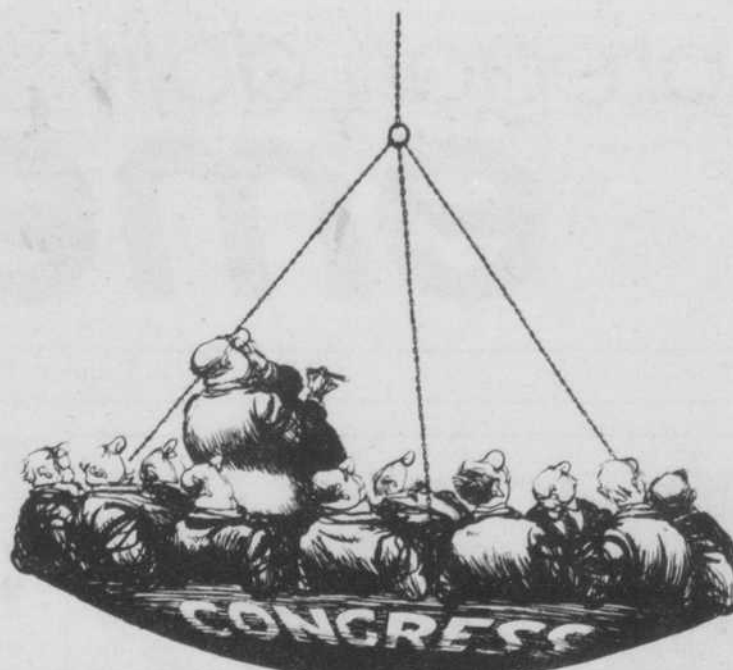
The future of the University really depends on our friends in higher ed persuading Oregonians that this state requires an educated populace. It depends on the taxpayers willingness to keep the state system financially accessible to most Oregonians.

Debates about access hurt the University's ability to show this institution as a vital organ for the whole state, rich or poor, business or labor, undergraduate or graduate.

This is particularly crucial in light of the restraints on federal aid to college students.

This state needs to realize that higher education is an investment that will pay off and that it is their investment for their children — not for an elite group from out of state or the "upper crust" of the Willamette Valley.

Higher education may wade out the depression, but eventually Oregonians must realize that higher education requires consistent support for a quality institution.



'ALL BALANCED AT THIS END, MR. PRESIDENT. HOW'S EVERYTHING AT YOUR END?'

letters

Human life

In an attempt to justify abortion some claim human life doesn't exist until delivery. Such a stand obviously ignores many facts.

For instance, nobody can claim a developing child isn't a living being, can they? If not human then what is it?

As for it existing as a mere extension of the mother's body — such as an organ — this is totally false. Unlike an organ, the baby has a unique genetic makeup which is quite different than the mother. It also has its own organs, circulatory system, and muscular system. Not human? Undeserving of protection under the law?

Lets consider another fact. Soon after conception the child develops its own functioning heart. Soon after this, the brain develops its own functioning — brain waves are quite detectable. The child perceives changes in the environment (including pain) as well and responds to them.

Abortion isn't just another operation — it's the taking of human life and should be judged as such. Lets put an end to such cruelty and support those who are trying to pass legislation against abortion.

*Rebecca Barnhurst
psychology*

Repudiate

Now that the dust has settled and Vic Atieyh can spend his time figuring out how to deal with the overwhelming democratic majority in Salem, two strong impressions seem worthy of sharing.

First, we students proved once again how worthless we are as a political force. In spite

of considerable efforts by both the ASUO and the fraternities (and while I applaud the efforts of the latter, I do wish it didn't take so long for them to outgrow the upper-middle class Republican paranoia of their parents), students in great numbers displayed their short-sightedness in not repudiating an incumbent governor who had the worst record of any governor in the nation in supporting, or not supporting, higher education (a freshman this year will spend about \$2000 to \$3000 more for an education, in tuition, than someone graduating this year...thanks Vic).

Once again, some 10,000 of us simply opted out of the process that is draining us-or Daddy.

Second, I spent considerable time and energy putting up lawn signs for two candidates and was appalled by how many of the signs were destroyed or removed. In my more foolish younger days I risked my life "for my country", and I like to think that earned me the right to support the candidate of my choice. That candidate might be a socialist, but I still feel righteous enough to wave a flag behind that socialist.

I think back to the Debbie Howlett column critical of Oregon high school students who were intolerant of the RCYB — as guests on our campus. I become incensed at the excesses of the aggressively ignorant, in all probability encouraged, if not actively aided, by a reactionary administration in Washington who will certainly approve of the goals, if not the methods (publicity) of these budding brown-shirts.

I am not sure who scares me more, this best and brightest of

the future generation, whom we excuse with lame homilies about "students traditionally not voting"; or the intolerant neanderthals who are too cowardly to confront me personally with their criticism, but will do their uprootings while sulking in the night.

*Michael Morrow
graduate*

Entitled

I'm writing this letter in response to Cort Fernald's column. It appears that Fernald believes that only a select few can listen to The Clash, Oingo Boingo, and other new wave bands, and that members of fraternities are not entitled to such a privilege. It so happens that I like those groups, and I'm also a pledge at a fraternity.

For the past three years, I've worked as a disc jockey at a small radio station in Portland, KBPS, and during that time have played many unknown new wave groups. Additionally, we were the first, and probably the only, station to play Billy Rancher and the Unreal Gods, the city's most popular band.

I believe that the freedom of musical choice is given to everyone. Someone should not have to choose their music by whether they have the right to listen to whatever type of music appeals to them, contrary to Fernald's opinion.

I think it's a shame that the Emerald has to have such a narrow minded writer as Fernald, because most of the paper is very good.

By the way, I wonder if groups like the MC5 and Martha and the Muffins will ever last as long and become as famous as "those boring-old-farts the Who?"

Lloyd Athearn

letters

No bias

It is with sympathy and understanding that I write this reply to your "White egos" article, Mr. Blair. I am, like yourself, concerned with racial discrimination whether it be biased or unbiased. Blatant prejudice is ugly and benefits no one.

However, it is imperative that before one attacks a discriminatory remark, either verbal or written, one must recognize such. Unfortunately, Mr. Blair, you do not.

"Whites average a score of 925 (SAT scores) while blacks

averaged a score of 694." The preceding statement is strictly of a factual and informative nature. There is no malicious intent, no bias, no stereotype. Ms. Howlett was simply stating a fact. It is not as you so erroneously labeled it, a "flagrantly discriminatory statement".

How do you know Ms. Howlett wasn't writing out of concern for the obvious imbalance in the scores?

Mr. Blair, you are at the University of Oregon. This institution of learning is meant to proffer information for many, not to hide it from a few.

*David Nebel
sophomore, English*

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