

letters

Make the case

The distribution of resources among institutions of higher education concerns all of us at the University. Pres. Paul Olum and Dean Derrick Bell have done a good job of articulating the case for concentrating support in institutions of high quality rather than diluting quality by attempting to give equal support to all institutions.

As we pursue this issue, we must be careful to pick our arena and make our case in ways that maximize our chances of success. There is no question that arguments for building and maintaining programs of the highest educational quality would lead to the conclusion that one or two institutions should be given more support than others, and that such support should be concentrated at institutions (like the University and Oregon State) which already have high quality programs. These decisions are appropriately made by the State Board on grounds of educational quality.

It would be unfortunate if such decisions were based on political considerations, and if they were made by the Legislature. In a political battle that pits the strength of the Eugene legislative delegation (all of which have been strong supporters of the University) against the Portland delegation (which tend to support PSU), the University is not likely to win. Unfortunately, legislators tend to identify with their own geographical area. The Portland area has the largest delegation in the legislature representing

the largest number of voters in the state. In a strictly political battle, the strength of this delegation would be hard to overcome.

Funding for higher education is a legislative responsibility. I have been a strong advocate for increased funding and have taken the sometimes unpopular position that the legislature should be willing to raise revenue to pay for a quality system. I also believe that funding should be concentrated where it will produce the best results and support Olum and Bell's efforts to secure support for the University. However, I believe that it would not help that effort to make the distribution of funds a legislative issue. We need to choose the strategies and battlegrounds that give us the best chance of winning.

Carl Hosticka
associate professor,
state representative

What's best?

This letter is in regard to a quote attributed to Rep. Jim Weaver, and reported by the *Emerald* Monday, Jan. 9. Weaver was quoted as saying that, although he believes Pres. Ronald Reagan is wrong, he is a "good American and is trying to do what's best."

I am angered by Weaver's statement, and by his reinforcement of the popular vision of the misguided, but benevolent nature of the president. Reagan's ignorance, if ignorance it is, of global problems such as the lack of intelligent non-violent conflict resolution



tactics, long-range, industrially-caused environmental changes and human rights abuses, can perhaps be understood to be the failings of a feeble mind. However, the present administration's aggressive policies of attempting to reverse affirmative action, denying women's rights, and absolving the government from its primary obligation of securing the public welfare are not simply misguided benevolence.

We need to recognize that these actions are not those of a "good American." These actions are a systematic and visionary attempt to institutionalize greed and instigate unassailable security for a rich, white and male minority.

Weaver's statement gives the impression of absolving the president and his administration from being accountable to the effects of their actions.

I, for one, will hold Reagan responsible for his policies, and

I will not equate the suffering perpetuated by his actions with a manufactured image of kindness.

Guy Burton
international studies

Thanks, but...

My thanks to the *Emerald* for the Jan. 11 story "David and Goliath." It successfully communicated some of the problems faced by the University rugby team.

I would, however, like to offer one correction: I am not the coach, but team president. This limits my contributions to off-field administrative tasks and logistics. On the field, I'm but one of 30 players.

Our winning fall season, and anticipated success in the spring, can be attributed to the coaching efforts of Paul McCarthy and Alex Mohr.

Tim Love
president, rugby team

letters policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Comment" is an *Emerald* opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Comment" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

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