

Keep extra tuition money where it helps students

The University and Western Oregon State College have been punished for their successful enrollment campaigns by a State Board of Higher Education move that takes almost \$1 million of tuition money from the two schools.

On Dec. 14, the board voted unanimously to take \$900,000 of \$1.6 million in surplus tuition revenue from the University and WOSC to pay hefty legal expenses incurred in three recent lawsuits.

The schools generated the money when their enrollment surpassed early projections used in the budget process. All \$1.6 million they generated should stay with the schools not only because they earned it but because they will need it to pay the costs of educating the extra students.

The University enrolled 824 students above its projection of 12,759 for the 1984-85 academic year, and University President Paul Olum has said the school could use another \$700,000 or \$800,000 to make classes available to students.

But instead of returning the tuition surplus to the schools that earned it, the board has taken it for its own purposes, saying it would be unfair to force all the state's eight colleges and universities to cut costs in order to raise the needed money. What board members haven't admitted is that they have forced only two schools — WOSC and the University — to bear the brunt of these legal costs.

Board members say they're simply putting surplus revenue to good use; we say they're punishing two schools that happened to do a good job recruiting new students. After the board deducts its \$900,000 from the tuition surplus, it will return only \$700,000 to the schools — \$588,000 to the University and \$112,000 to WOSC.

There is no easy way out of a \$1 million-plus debt, but if the board needed to take money from the individual institutions, it should have tapped all eight schools in the state instead of just two. This solution wouldn't be completely fair to the schools, either, but at least everyone would bear equal shares of the burden.

An even better solution would be to turn to the state's Legislative Emergency Board, which allocates money to cover extraordinary unexpected costs. Bill Lemman, vice chancellor for administration, has argued that a request for emergency funds would have been refused, but Ed Fadeley, who co-chairs the emergency board, disagrees.

A step in this direction might have at least shown us that the board wanted to avoid using student money. As it stands, all we know is that the board members took the easiest way out of a tough situation. Of the three alternatives — spreading the cost out over all eight schools, approaching the emergency board, and using the tuition surplus — the solution the board chose is the most unfair.

The board's decision appears even more unethical because the \$900,000 — which should be used to help students and faculty — is paying for the board's defense in cases against students and faculty. These include the Penk case, the landmark sex-discrimination lawsuit brought against the board by female faculty, and the lawsuit filed by students seeking divestment of South Africa-related stocks from the board's investment portfolio.

We expect the students who spoke out during these cases to speak out now, but all students need to fight this mismanagement of student money. Contact the Oregon Student Lobby at 686-3724, Olum at 686-3036, or Chancellor Bud Davis at 686-5794. Let them know that students should have more power over the use of their fees and that the board should have to account for every tuition dollar spent.



letters

Generalizations

My Commentary article, ["Racists March To Own Doom," ODE, 12/3] aroused the anger of a student feeling that I have abused him and the other white South Africans who have resisted the racist apartheid state. I am quite aware of this resistance, and in my article all generalizations about white South Africans have adjectives like "most" and "many." So Tony Morris' protest is a bit surprising.

That said, it should be emphasized that generalizations about white South Africans — as a people — still stand. The effective opposition from whites is important. But, the apartheid state draws its strength and tenacity from the cohesiveness of its white citizenry — including that of its "liberal" loyal opposition. As you well know, it is not only fear of consequences which drives flocks of young liberals into complying with compulsive military service. "It is, after all, our duty."

It is true that white Americans quite often "stand as if in supreme judgment of all white South Africans." I was not doing so: White Americans are not the ones to be doing the judging. My article was a political, anti-racist statement directed against some lies and distortions about black South Africans that are — due to racism here — ready to be

believed by too many people. Mr. Morris, I did not condemn all white South Africans. No doubt, many people do castigate you personally. But leave the defensiveness to those of your people who, with so much to hide from, have such great need of it.

Ken Summers
Eugene

No protection

The Forest Service was the protector and conservator of our national forests, but that era seems to be long past; why else is there a controversy over the Hardesty-Mt. June wilderness area?

I would expect the Forest Service to be most concerned about protecting the old-growth habitat of northern spotted owls and bald eagles, both endangered species; about protecting the City of Cottage Grove's watershed; about protecting fragile, steep but fairly productive soils; and about managing the forest for the many Oregonians who seek wilderness solitude in Hardesty.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. Lowell District Ranger Ron Humphrey states that Hardesty-Mt. June offers "best logging, good soil, rain, a very productive area with low elevation" versus "a popular hiking area" (ODE, 11/26) making the controversy one of timber vs. recreation.

So the Forest Service solution is a consensus team to carve up 4 percent of the Lowell District between timber and other concerns like the environment. Why not include the entire Lowell District or Willamette National Forest, instead of only an 8,700 acre wilderness area?

Also, the Forest Service's timber sale administrator Pat Hutchins says that the trees in this area are not old-growth since a fire in 1840 "puts the age of the trees at 140 years" (ODE, 11/26). Is old growth merely old trees of economic value or is it an ecosystem with many values? Perhaps the Hardesty-Mt. June controversy is a problem of the Forest Service not seeing the forest for the trees.

Brett A. Fisher
Survival Center

Gun control...

The over-used cliché, "If guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns" really does convey a truthful prophecy should gun control be attempted. If you were a burglar, rapist or robber, would you be more or less likely to commit your crime if you knew that the homeowner/rape victim/liquor store owner was legally prohibited from owning a gun? Let's not forget the definition of "outlaw" — someone who does not abide by society's rules. An outlaw is someone who will have a gun anyway — even if they are illegal.

It always disturbs me to hear gun control enthusiasts mention Japan or Sweden (where gun control is in effect) as having virtually non-existent numbers of gun-related deaths in comparison to the United States. The fact is that Japan and Sweden never attempted gun control on the level that is being proposed now in this country. They imposed gun restriction from the earliest days of their respective nations. It's a little late for that here, kids.

No one sees more gun-related deaths first-hand than peace officers. Why do so many of them openly oppose gun control? Because they know it would only make a bad situation worse. Don't tell me Mike Feher wouldn't have found an equally destructive way of venting his hostility if he somehow couldn't get his hands on a gun.

Drunk drivers kill people too. But I hardly think the best way to solve that problem is to take cars away from people who don't drive drunk.

Mark Bernheimer
Jr., Telecommunications

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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.

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