

## Eachus says higher education needs support to regain status

By Shawn Wirtz  
Of the Emerald

The public sector should concentrate on what it does best, which is providing education, said Ron Eachus, Democratic candidate to State House District 39.

Oregon had one of the better higher education systems in the country before the recession hit in the early 1980s, Eachus said. "Right now, we're really just in the process of trying to restore ourselves to the level we once were. It's catch-up," he said.

As assistant majority leader in the last session of the state Legislature, Eachus voted against the governor's tuition increase request, he said. "Tuition at Oregon's universities is one of the highest on the West Coast," he said. "We need to support higher education more so that we don't have such a great burden on tuition requirements."

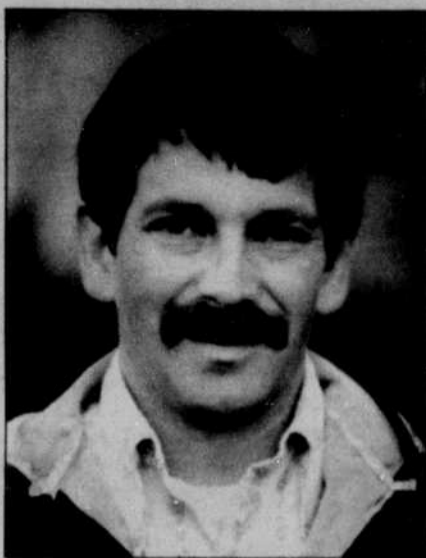
Eachus would support State System of Higher Education Chancellor William Davis' proposal to waive tuition for Oregon's top high school graduates, he said. Eachus also supports increasing faculty salaries, funding the Centers for Excellence and the new science building, he said.

While the legislature has been able to hold tuition down, "the economy hasn't been able to provide the job market that students need to either supplement the assistance they get or if they're not getting assistance," Eachus said.

One way to improve the economy is to establish a "long-term stabilization fund," Eachus said. "For too long we've been working on quick fixes," he said. As an example, the governor's budget in the last session "was essentially blackmailing the people into voting for the sales tax," he said.

A stabilization fund would "give some assurance that we're not going to have large fluctuations in our tax structure over short periods of time," he said. Additionally, the legislature wouldn't have to adopt temporary user fees or increase income taxes to balance the budget, he said.

Eachus supports divestment of state and university funds from South



Ron Eachus

Africa and voted in favor of a divestment bill in the last session.

The insurance commissioner's office needs to have the authority to approve rate increases and compel insurance companies to open their books, Eachus said. "They're charging exorbitant prices that can't be justified on the basis of risk," he said.

Eachus accused the insurance liability industry of creating a crisis "to get what they've always wanted, which is limiting the awards." However, "we do need to look at the judicial system and see if there are ways to discourage the frivolous lawsuits," he said.

Eachus said he would not support caps on liability awards.

Eachus opposes nuclear power but not Ballot Measure 14, which would require the Trojan nuclear power plant to shut down until it could deposit its wastes in a federally licensed repository, he said.

"We need to require it to do more to correct internal safety problems," but the increase in electricity rates if Trojan shuts down isn't worth the price, Eachus said.

Eachus served as editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald for the 1968-1969 school year and as ASUO student body president in 1970-1971.

## Reed stresses school relief

By Dennis Fernandes  
Of the Emerald

Education is the "number one top priority," said Clint Reed, Republican candidate for State House District 39.

Reed, a local account executive, is running against the incumbent, Democrat Ron Eachus.

Reed proposes increasing state support for public education (grades K-12) by 50 percent or more by using \$200 million in windfall from the new tax plan and funneling it directly to education instead of property tax relief.

He claims that property taxes currently finance up to 70 percent of public education funds. By increasing state support, that taxpayer burden would be relieved considerably.

"I believe we can get property tax relief and stabilize school funding at the same time," Reed said.

Reed thinks another way to lower educational costs is to consolidate some school districts. "Most were districts created around the turn of the century, and those decisions were based on communication and transportation problems that don't exist anymore," he said.

Although he said he is not opposed to ballot measures 11 and 12, they are simply "a tax shift to someone else."

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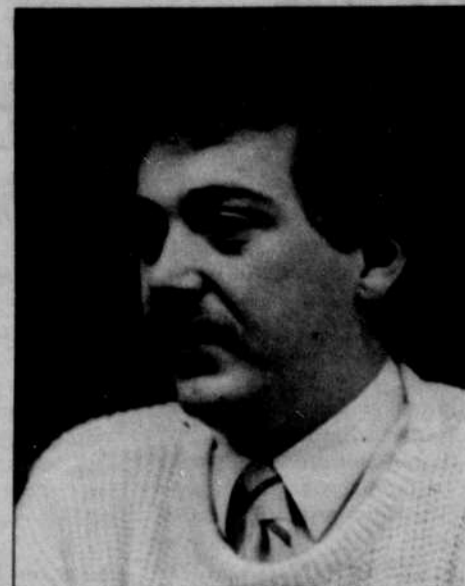
— Clint Reed

"I don't think that would be beneficial to Oregon right now," said Reed. "Once again, a top priority is to get schools off the property tax burden as much as possible."

Reed says he cannot support Measure 14 for economic reasons. "Whether we close (Trojan nuclear power plant) or not, those wastes aren't going anywhere until we find a storage place," he said.

One of Reed's biggest concerns is the insurance liability crisis because availability of insurance coverage to Oregon families and businesses is "really shrinking."

"Small businesses have had huge payment increases while their coverage has



Clint Reed

actually gone down. I talked to a guy the other day whose payments went from \$750 a year to \$750 a month," he said.

"It is starting to affect the average consumer in liability insurance rates for auto and home. There are people too rich to get a welfare care card but too poor to pay their own insurance."

Reed does not believe this is a "big insurance corporate scam," but that lowering health care costs would assure access to insurance for everyone in Oregon.

The issues surrounding Measure 5 have been blown out of proportion, and Reed likens the situation to alcohol prohibition in the 1920s and 30s. "I am concerned about the state of Oregon coming out and making marijuana use socially acceptable," he said.

As for divestment of state funds from South Africa, Reed thinks "the writing's on the wall, Oregon is going to divest."

But Reed added, "I don't think it's going to accomplish anything political over there. It's just a drop in the bucket."

Reed has served as a legislative intern to Rep. Mary Burrows and administrative assistant to Commissioner Archie Weinstein, in addition to serving on various statewide boards and commissions under former Gov. Bob Straub and Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

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3:30 PM  
AT  
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