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# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Proposed aid program brings mixed reaction from state aid officials

By Carolyn Lamberson  
Of the Emerald

Education Secretary William Bennett said Wednesday he was sending letters to 3,331 U.S. universities and colleges inviting them to take part in an experimental financial aid program.

Bennett has proposed a new type of student loan, called an income-contingent loan, that would be based on the assumption that once an indebted student graduates, he or she looks only at high-level/high-paying positions in order to handle repayment of the debts.

Under the new loan program, students would begin repayment nine months after graduation, paying \$20 to \$50 a month for the next two years, Bennett said.

After that the borrower's income is taken into account, and monthly payments would continue, never exceeding 15 percent of the adjusted

gross income.

While the government would continue to guarantee the loans, it would not subsidize the interest as it does with the Guaranteed Student Loan program, Bennett said. By having students repay the full interest amounts, the government is urging colleges to control costs, he said.

The program will be tested for a five-year period at 10 campuses across the nation before a final decision is made, Bennett said.

John Anderson, director of financial aid at Portland State University, is not sure at this point if the program will be a success.

"It is an experimental program. We really won't know how successful it will be for some time; at least until students who borrow under the program begin to repay their loans," he said.

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## Failure to send newsletter results in GTFF grievance

By Stan Nelson  
Of the Emerald

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation formally filed grievance against the University Nov. 12 for its campus mail service's refusal to distribute its October GTFF newsletter, said Scott Kerlin, GTFF business agent.

The newsletter, which contained endorsements from the GTFF membership, violated Oregon Revised Statute law and Oregon election board rules prohibiting public employees from influencing the outcome of an election, said W. N. "Mac" McLaughlin, University director of business affairs.

Employees of the campus mailroom would have influenced the outcome of the election if they had distributed the GTFF newsletter, he said.

McLaughlin contacted the Oregon attorney general and the secretary of state's office for their opinion on the newsletter, and as a result of the discussions, campus mail refused to send the newsletter, he said.

Endorsements in the form of meeting minutes are no exception to the law, he

added.

The newsletter represents action being taken at the meeting and is not an actual endorsement, Kerlin said.

GTFF representatives argue that denying the federation access to campus mail is a violation of its collective bargaining agreement with the University. The agreement states the union shall have the right to communicate at all times with its members of the bargaining unit without interference from University or departmental administrators, provided those actions do not interfere with the normal teaching, research or administrative duties of GTFFs.

In addition, Kerlin said he believes the decision not to distribute the GTFF newsletters violated Oregon labor practices.

"We have a responsibility to deliver the mail and follow the rules that go along with it," McLaughlin said.

"We are not advocating an issue. Those (graduate teaching fellows) that

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Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Shelly Ausmus (with rolling pin) and Angie Skaggs learn how to roll cinnamon rolls in an employee training session at new VRC store Cinnabon, a chain restaurant based out of Seattle.

### Downtown merchants say

## Shopping center renovation won't hurt downtown trade

By Jolayne Houtz  
Of the Emerald

The just-completed \$6 million renovation of Valley River Center could increase sales at the mall by as much as 8 percent next year, but a Eugene downtown official said he doesn't believe the expansion will hurt downtown's business.

"The common misconception is that downtown and Valley River compete with each other," said Russ Brink, downtown manager. "Comparing the two doesn't address their differences."

While the shopping center attracts people regionwide and offers a broad range of medium-priced merchandise, downtown shops offer specialty shops and cultural events that set it apart from Valley River Center, Brink said.

"Downtown retail just isn't going to be the full-service regional marketplace that a shopping center is," he said.

While downtown merchants aren't worried about the long-term effects of the nine-month renovation, they are concerned about the amount of money the mall is spending on advertising before

the busiest shopping time of the year, Brink said.

Some downtown business owners expect Valley River Center's ad campaign to hurt them, but they say it won't put them out of business.

"Valley River Center is a place you enjoy going to or you don't go at all," said David Goertzen, owner of Goertzen's Gifts and China downtown. "If you go downtown, you will continue to shop downtown."

"(Valley River Center) could spend as much on advertising as is spent on the military budget, and it wouldn't make much difference," Goertzen said.

Downtown shoppers generally are in the low- to middle-income range and are looking for a specific item at a bargain price, he said, while the mall attracts people who simply want to spend money.

Some downtown merchants also are increasing their advertising budgets and promoting their stores through giveaways and sales, said Bill Sweet.

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Cesar Chavez

## UFW president Chavez to visit Eugene

By Stephen Maher  
Of the Emerald

Cesar Chavez is on the road again. Chavez, president of United Farm Workers of America, is touring 24 cities to drum up support for a new UFW boycott of California table grapes. He will stop in Eugene on Monday, his first official appearance in the city in more than 12 years.

"It's been successful in the past, and that's why we're going back to it," said Terry Vasquez, a UFW staff member. "In both cases the boycotts resulted in contracts."

"Pressure on growers is necessary for justice for farm workers. And it worked

before," said Marion Malcolm, a coordinator for Clergy and Laity Concerned. "In terms of making a push for visibility, Chavez is going to make a difference."

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The present-day boycott is designed to pressure growers to test for toxic residue on grapes and make the results public, to ban the use of five pesticides in grape vineyards and to pressure growers to bargain in good faith.

According to the UFW, the pesticides that California farm workers are exposed

to are life threatening.

"They can be really devastating," Vasquez said. "Often the first signs are nausea, dizziness, difficulty in breathing. But after a time, the level of toxicity from the exposure to the pesticide can be fatal."

The five chemicals the UFW is trying to get banned are methyl bromide, malathion, dinoseb, captan and phosdrin.

The Environmental Protection Agency banned dinoseb Oct. 8 because of birth defects and sterility. But the chemical remains on the UFW list because of past

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