

OSL should support merit scholarships

Amongst Neil Goldshmidt's budget proposals is a plan for a \$1 million merit-based scholarship program, designed to keep Oregon's top scholars in the state. The Oregon Student Lobby, which lobbies on behalf of students in the Legislature, will ask the Legislature to put the money into the need-based aid program instead.

The OSL's position is short-sighted and ignores the importance that Goldshmidt correctly attributes to the value top scholars bring to the state and to state universities.

Oregon loses too many of its top students not just to church-affiliated schools or schools with programs not available in Oregon, as the OSL claims, but to private "name" schools as well.

The merit-based scholarships may be particularly good incentive now, as many students facing the rising costs of attending private institutions — to which most outstanding students go — are turning to state institutions instead. Oregon merit-based scholarships would increase the advantage Oregon schools have in competing for these students.

Since the scholarships are indeed an investment in the quality of Oregon college students, it is reasonable for this tax money to support students attending private institutions in Oregon. Not only do the students stay in the state, but so does the money.

The merit-based aid program is less than 5 percent of the Oregon Scholarship Commission's budget, and comes in addition to increases in need-based aid. This amount seems a reasonable compromise between the goals of providing aid and retaining good students.

The state will never have enough money to meet the needs of all the students seeking financial aid. The state is committed to making it financially possible students to attend college, but the state should also commit itself to excellence in both the educational opportunities it provides and in the type of students who stay in the state.

The merit-based aid proposal is an excellent idea — one of the many for which Goldshmidt was elected. Although many details of the program are unresolved and the final verdict on the program cannot come until Oregon has had time to try it, the program deserves the support of OSL and the Legislature.

Court ruling protects pregnant working women

The Supreme Court Tuesday upheld a California law protecting the jobs of women who are unable to work during their pregnancies. The decision comes as a victory for the maternal rights of women in the workplace.

The California law requires that employers grant women physically unable to work because of pregnancy up to four months' leave, even if the employer does not offer similar leave benefits for other disabled employees.

The court held that federal legislation does not mean that pregnant workers must be treated the same as other workers — meaning no worse and no better — but insisted that Congress intended to "provide relief for working women and to end discrimination against pregnant workers."

The court's decision is another step in protecting the place of working mothers, and preventing discrimination against a growing segment of the work force.



Letters

No parking

This letter is addressed to all students, faculty and commuters who use (or used to use) the 15th Avenue and Agate Street parking lot.

As you have already, or will soon discover, Lot 34 will be closed as of Jan. 16.

The University graciously gave us less than 24 hours notice to find a new location to park our vehicles. After contacting the Public Safety Office, I was informed that there were no provisions made for additional parking areas, and that we were on our own in finding a home for our cars while on campus.

Speaking for myself, I only drive my car when absolutely necessary in order to avoid the frustration of an already critical shortage of parking areas in Eugene. I'm sure others are in the same situation.

I am not contesting the construction of the museum, but I am bewildered and outraged that no new space was made available for the cars of Lot 34.

I am demanding a refund for my parking permit now that

parking on campus is futile.

In addition to all of our everyday pressures, we must now deal with the hassle of commuting to a parking spot as well as to the University itself.

Perhaps if our cars were simply left where they are... but far be it for me to inconvenience the wise and gentle Planning Committee in any way.

Scott Janzen
Freshman

Crime pays

Many people were not aware that last week was designated as Organized Crime Week, and others wondered why organized crime should have been celebrated at all.

Well, most so-called organized crime is not really crime at all. Real crime consists only in those activities that violate the rights or liberties of others, such as rape, burglary, forgery, assault and the like. But virtually none of those real criminal activities are perpetrated by organized crime.

Most organized "crime" is nothing more than business activity that provides pleasure and entertainment in the form of sex, drugs, gambling and high-interest loans to people who desire those things and who pay for them of their own free will.

In recognition of the contributions that organized "crime" has made to our liberty and pursuit of happiness, we should all have given special thanks on Jan. 16, the 68th anniversary of the creation of organized crime in America, to the men and women of organized crime who worked so hard and take such great risks to provide us all with the opportunities to make the free choices that our moralistic, puritanical government has tried so hard to forbid.

Richard Sharvy
Eugene

Generalization

If Brian Frary and Charlie Richards (ODE, Jan. 8) insist on advising Professor Rousseve to do his homework, perhaps they should do their research a lot more thoroughly.

Instead Frary and Richards offer us only useless sweeping generalizations in their attack on Rousseve.

First of all, just because the Bible mentions the existence of some ancient Middle Eastern sites that have been confirmed by archaeology does not make it necessarily "... the key to the past," but merely another source of documentary evidence of which there are many.

To be truly "... the key to the past," the Bible would have to cover much more ground than the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean. I do not believe that such archaeological sites as Stonehenge, Teotihuacan and Hallstat are even mentioned in the Bible.

Secondly, if science was really your forte, as you claim, you would know that "punctuated equilibrium" does not disclaim (or for that matter even weaken) the overall theory of evolution, it merely challenges the original Darwinian theory that evolutionary changes happen gradually through time, and sets forth an alternative hypothesis that species evolve relatively quickly — in the time scale of geology — during periods of environmental stress.

Furthermore, both of you should realize that evolution is not just the progression from lower to higher forms of life, but a process of genetics and natural selection that enables a species to adapt to its environment. There is no implication, in the scientific community, that the second law of thermodynamics is contradicted by this process.

Steve McCormick
Anthropology

Friday, January 16, 1987

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff

Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Wayne Lottinville
Classified Advertising: Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial: 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business: 686-3712
Classified Advertising: 686-4343
Production: 686-4381
Circulation: 686-5511

Editor: Michelle Brance
Managing Editor: Lucinda Dillon
News Editor: Michael Rivers
Spectrum Editor: Curtis Condon
Spectrum Assistant Editor: Stephen Maher
Editorial Page Editor: James Young
Editorial Page Assistant Editor: Michael Drummond
Sports Editor: Capi Lynn
Photo Editor: Michael Wilhelm
Graphic Design Editor: Lorraine Rath
Night Editor: Jolayne Houtz

Associate Editors

Community: Jolayne Houtz
Politics: Shawn Wirtz
Higher Education / Administration: Chris Norred
University Affairs: Stan Nelson
Student Government: Sarah Kitchen
Student Activities: Tonnie Dakin
General Assignment: Dennis Fernandes

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, John McBarron.

Photographers: Sheryl Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, James Marks, Dan Wheeler, Michael Wilhelm.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, X. Kang Xie.