

Editorial

Davis' resignation could bring benefits

Oregon State System of Higher Education Chancellor William "Bud" Davis' forced resignation appears to be an extension of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's crusade to revamp the Oregon State System of Higher Education — a crusade that began indirectly with University President Paul Olum's forced retirement.

There is, however, a crucial difference between the Olum issue and Davis' resignation: in the Olum affair, Goldschmidt claimed he should not intervene into the board's affairs; in Davis' resignation, Goldschmidt intervened directly, though tactfully.

Selecting, hiring, firing and retiring state system chancellors technically falls under the jurisdiction of the state board. Therefore, by intervening in Davis' resignation, Goldschmidt has contradicted his higher education policy.

Davis, a liaison between higher education, the legislature, the governor and other constituencies, is being penalized for performing perhaps too effectively. And Davis' resignation is indeed tied to his effectiveness — because the benefits of his work have come at the expense of stepping on the toes of some of his constituents.

During times of financial trouble for the university system, for example, Davis dealt successfully with the legislature to acquire more money to expand higher education's operating budget and to increase faculty salaries. But such success is apparently costly, and Davis is now experiencing the repercussions of his actions.

For example, fulfilling his obligation to the state board in the retirement of Olum cost Davis a vote of no confidence from the University Senate and Assembly, which may have contributed to his decline.

If Goldschmidt is trying to change the direction of higher education, the relevant questions become: In which direction will he lead it and what will his agenda be for the future of higher education in Oregon?

Perhaps a new chancellor will enhance the public's view of the state board and perhaps a new chancellor will also bring a new cohesion to the relations between Oregon's educational institutions, the Legislature, the governor and subsequently the public.

Madison High School must work for all students

U.S. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett last week proposed that American schools should impose tougher academic standards on high school students in the form of an ideal curriculum existing in the hypothetical Madison High School.

Specifically, Bennett prescribed students should take four mandatory years of English, three years of science, math and social science, and two years of foreign language and physical education.

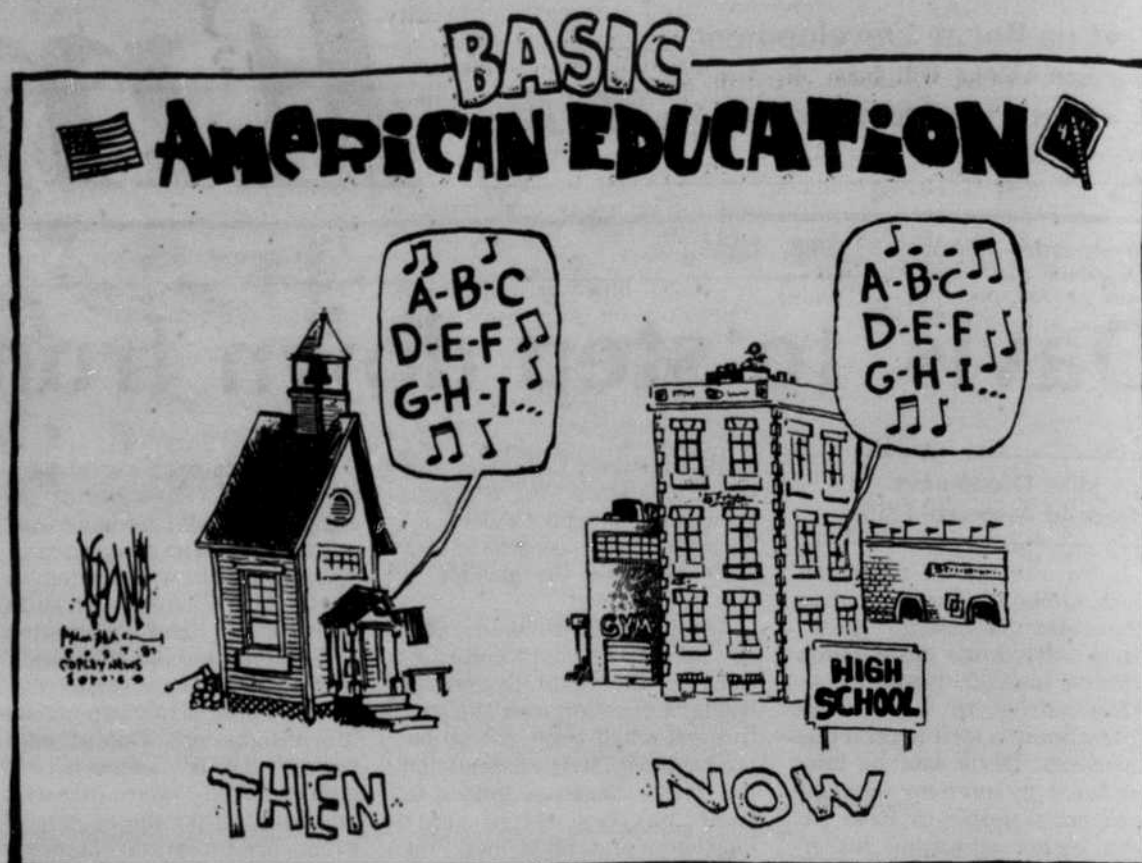
Although Bennett's vision probably would enhance the education of high school students across America, the curriculum ultimately would require increased funding at the local level.

Taxpayers, especially here in Oregon, are apprehensive about spending more money on education. But considering the long-term benefits of the proposed program, Bennett's prescription deserves a long, hard look from both taxpayers and educators.

However, Bennett's vision of high school education is not without fault: the curriculum, if implemented, may be too difficult for some high school students, especially those who arrive at high school ill-prepared because of a less-than-adequate elementary education.

Although Bennett said "this curriculum is for all students, not for an imaginary class of teenage wizards," he did not propose how to rectify such educational problems as student drop out.

Along with additional economic and instructional assistance, additional counseling resources and back-up programs also must be implemented to ensure that America's high school students and Bennett's Madison High School model succeeds.



Letters

Allegations

Mike Drummond's article on CARP was an obvious but unsuccessful attempt at objectivity (ODE, Nov. 18). I was given a (very rare) chance in the interview to respond to some of the allegations against CARP made by our opponents, but I was not satisfied with the way my responses were printed.

I also was disappointed to learn that the University's ASUO Programs Coordinator, Mike Siström, responded with bigoted comments. "I don't personally agree with them," he says (what specifically?). "...and I don't think anybody personally likes having them around."

Yet hundreds of students have thanked us in the past year for our programs. Add to that the professors who took part in the recent Forum on Values in Higher Education, the people of Guatemala whom we helped to build a school this summer, 7,000 students who attended our recent convention in West Berlin, and the poor in Seattle for whom we are gathering food and clothing this year.

I've never met Siström, and he has never attended any of our programs. He, like so many

others, is a victim of the media, afraid of that with which he is not acquainted. And Drummond's sensationalistic article does not alleviate anyone's fears. Once again, the ignorance upon which bigotry thrives is perpetuated.

Peter Reiner
University CARP
Activities Coordinator

Religious right

I wish to thank the Emerald for printing the editorial entitled "Indian ceremony a religious right" (ODE, Dec. 11).

I completely support Alfred Smith. I support his right to practice his native religion. I agree that peyote is an intrinsic element of many Native American ceremonies.

Peyote is sacred; it is not a drug in the same sense that Euro-American society usually thinks of drugs. I support Mr. Smith's right to use the sacred peyote during his religious activities.

I support Mr. Smith's right to keep his job as drug counselor because (again) peyote used in Native American tradition is not drug abuse.

Peyote is very carefully, very

sacredly administered. I believe Mr. Smith should be given his job back promptly. Being denied his job under these conditions is religious discrimination.

I support Mr. Smith as a Native American. I support him as a member of the Klamath Native Nation. It is a shame that Euro-America neither understands nor appreciates the Native Nations of this country.

Euro-America can learn invaluable aspects of life in its entirety if we would only embrace the Native American person's right to live their religion — their way of life.

Remember the first amendment? Religious freedom!

Nan Cohen
Eugene

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

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