

Editorial

Ceiling on admissions okay — for now

In an attempt to stabilize ever-increasing enrollment, the University will begin reviewing the applications of qualified enrollees and admitting only those deemed worthy.

The need for selective admission is recognizable, but we hope the new policy will be used delicately and discarded after it is no longer needed. In a state school that should be open to all, there are several drawbacks to selective admission:

- Many private schools use selective admission as a way to somehow 'better' their school by seeking a certain kind of student body. This 'weeding out' actually chokes academic gardens by robbing campuses of diversity, interest and appeal. The University should not become an elite or soulless place.

- Selective admission policies are usually based on student performances in high school. These indicators are not necessarily the best way to predict the success of a new student's college career.

- Finally, admission ceilings are a way of treating the symptom and not the cause. The University's problem is not a surplus of students, it is a lack of funds. With its present resources, the University is unable to fully accomplish its mission as a state school. A higher commitment to education from the legislature needs to be made.

For now, enough opportunities exist elsewhere in the state's educational system for a student to earn a University degree. If a student cannot begin at the University because of the admissions ceiling, he or she can study at one of the other state or community schools and transfer here later.

But these opportunities do not negate the drawbacks of selective admission, nor will these opportunities be around forever. As the University's real problem (lack of legislative commitment) spreads to other public institutions, we might find similar exclusionary admission policies in all the state colleges. That would be to the considerable detriment of the students, the schools, and society as a whole.

Gift stores get ready with only 179 shopping days left

Although the weather may not show it, you can see it in the wide grins lighting up children's faces and by the frantic rush of shoppers crowding malls across the land. That season is upon us again; that most magical time of year is near. Yes, it's true — Christmas is but six months away.

We can tell that the holiday season is upon us, because in card stores and gift shops downtown and at Valley River Center, merchants have already started putting out ornaments and displays featuring reindeer, snow and that fat jolly old elf, Santa Claus. And by the way, 1989 calendars are also available. It's never too early to get a jump on the Christmas rush!

Crabby, cynical scrooges would no doubt jump upon this summertime start as another sick display of commercialism ruining a sanctified, precious holiday. These people should have their egg nog spiked.

It's said that the true spirit of Christmas is giving, not receiving. These vendors are not really profiteers cashing in on a holy celebration that is still half a year away. They are giving. They have given us a hope for goodwill towards man that lasts all year. They have given children an excuse to behave, reminding them that Santa is watching.

And most of all, they have given us a tremendous headache. Merry Christmas.



Letters

Embarrassment

I graduated from the University of Oregon in 1982, with a master's degree in theater. I am now a professor of theater at Chapman College in Orange, Calif.

I have recently learned of the experiments being conducted at the federally funded laboratories on the University campus. It is quite apparent that the so-called research taking place is blatantly and mercilessly cruel to the 20,000 animals under experimentation.

It is a contradiction to allow these experiments to continue, while claiming to employ professors that give students a higher education.

As an alumni of the University, and as a working professional, I ask that Dr. Barbara Gordon-Lickey's and Richard Marrocco's experiments be stopped immediately, and that Greg Stickrod be dismissed. These experiments and the people who conduct them are an embarrassment to anyone associated with this University.

Michael Nehring
Professor

Fair solution

Regarding the recent fracas concerning Project Safetide, I submit that any University program which draws its funding from all students while denying its services to some students on the basis of race, creed, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation or group affiliation is by definition discriminatory. This

is true no matter how necessary or laudable that program may otherwise be.

It would seem, however, that there is a feasible solution to this dilemma which would appease most factions involved while avoiding the discrimination issue.

A sizable group of students has recently indicated that it would favor free bus service for students. Indeed, many universities the size of the University have long had student-supported, school-run shuttle bus services available to all their students.

I suggest instituting the incidental fee increase proposed by LTD, and using the money to establish a student transportation fund (rather than throwing it at an off-campus company with financial troubles).

This fund would then be evenly divided between two shuttle bus services: one for women only, to replace Safetide, the other providing a comparable service available to men only.

For the ultimate in equity, a yearly survey could be taken of rider usage on both shuttles, and that with the greater usage would receive a proportionally greater slice of the fund for the subsequent year.

If anyone is seriously interested in this idea, I can provide further information from my experience with such programs at other schools.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

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.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Gone awry

It seems the call to ban animal research has gone awry. Where are the deeply embedded values and beliefs to guide the protesters' cries? Where have the protesters exemplified the kind of strong principles which guided the protests of the past?

Where are the proclamations of the need to deny self, loved ones and society of the medical advances derived from animal research?

Where is the explanation of the selective conference of rights to cute, furry animals, instead of mice, frogs, moths and fruitflies?

If animals are never to be sacrificed for the benefit of humans, how can eating meat and eggs be rationalized?

What have the protesters done to achieve their goals: vandalism, abduction of lab animals unequipped to deal with a western Oregon environment (only to release them alongside highways to die), harassment in the labs and at the homes of neuroscientists. Even the Emerald has joined in publishing threatening personal attacks on Dr. Gordon-Lickey of no journalistic value whatsoever.

Animal research at the University is directed toward valid goals, performed by skilled neuroscientists, uses full anesthesia in any surgeries and has its research proposals carefully scrutinized by the National Institute of Health.

It is quite possible that some restructuring may be appropriate, such as broadening the IACUC to include a wider range of perspectives. However, hypocrites, using personal attacks and harassment as tools for social change hardly represents a legitimate call for us to reconsider what we as a society feel to be right and wrong.

Mitch Brinks
Biology

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