

Graduating in four years is just a dream for many

They are a dying breed. Evidence shows that this species is heading toward extinction at a rapid pace, and we can't do much to stop their demise.

How many students do you know are going to get out of college—with a degree—in four years? Probably not many. According to a study done by the registrar's office, only 20 percent of University students are graduating in four years' time.

On top of that, the study shows that at least every other student enrolled will leave school without a degree, either by dropping out or taking time off with plans to return.

University President Myles Brand is reportedly worried about this recent information, and he wants to find a way to improve the statistics. But he may be fighting a losing battle, in our opinion.

Nationwide, the data concerning graduation rates is just as grim as it is here. A recent report showed that only 15 percent of students at four year colleges really get out in four years. Reasons given for the delay include having to drop out temporarily to earn more money for school, accepting internships that delay graduation, and taking time out to study abroad.

Other students, of course, simply drop out, and the University has no way to keep track of what has happened to them.

To deal with the drop-out problem at the University, Brand has established a task force to look into long-range planning for undergraduate education. The group would examine the way academic advising is structured to determine where problems may arise concerning the failure to graduate.

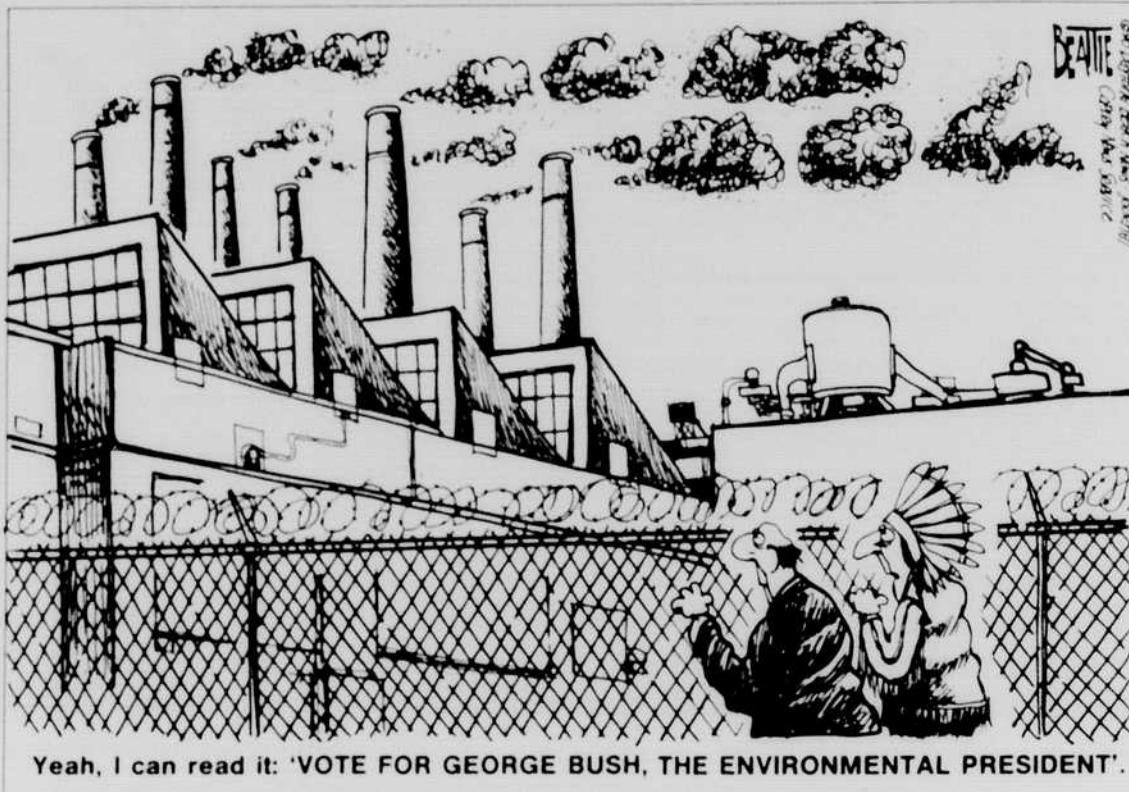
Such a task force will probably be helpful in some ways, such as to figure out at what point most students bail out. But a task force isn't going to improve the mass rate of extinction for four-year graduates.

When four-year colleges and universities were established, parents played a much larger role in paying for higher education for their children. The majority of students didn't try to hold a part-time job while in school, mainly because they didn't have to.

In addition, opportunities to study abroad or to obtain an internship weren't as accessible to students. Nowadays, students who participate in an exchange program greatly increase their chance for lucrative careers. And it's almost imperative that students obtain an internship before they move out into the real world.

With college costs skyrocketing and family incomes straggling farther and farther behind those costs, there is no mystery to why students take longer to graduate. In many cases, taking a while to get a degree is simply a matter of survival in the world of academia.

So we shouldn't fret too much about the mass extinction of four-year graduates. They just aren't compatible with society anymore.



Yeah, I can read it: 'VOTE FOR GEORGE BUSH, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESIDENT'.

New majority leader deserving of post

On Monday, the chaotic mess that the state Democratic caucus had straightened out a little bit when Rep. Carl Hosticka (D-Eugene) was named as the new House majority leader.

Hosticka takes over from David Dix (D-Eugene), who stepped down last week after suffering through months of public criticism resulting from campaign finance rule violations and a subsequent fine from the Secretary of State office. Dix has since said he will seek reelection to his House seat.

The furor raised by the controversy has severely hurt the Democrats, who face a major political fight for control of the House during November elections. Currently, the Democrats hold a slim 32-28 majority, but political experts have said the campaign finance issue might tip the scales in favor of the Republicans.

After Dix's resignation, the Democrats needed a strong leader to take control of the caucus and reform the party. They selected Hosticka.

In Hosticka, the Democrats are getting a majority leader fully capable of doing the job. This year, he will be running for a fifth term in the Legislature, and he has proved himself in the past as being a major player on the House floor.

The House Democrats chose Hosticka over Rep. Bruce Hugo (D-Scappoose) — another capable lawmaker. For two sessions, he has been chairman of the House Revenue and School Finance committee, which is the main tax-writing body in the House. He has been a leader to revamp the state tax system, and shift the burden of government finance from the state's poor and middle class.

Eugene residents are very familiar with Hosticka and his record. Not only does he represent the area, but he is also a University professor in the Planning, Public Policy and Management department. Though he will have to give up some of his teaching responsibilities to take the majority leader spot, he is going to a position from which he can better help the University and the entire state higher education system.

Hosticka's legislative record on school finance is well-documented. He has constantly sought a way to help support education, and put more government funds in public school coffers. He is committed to reforming the Oregon education system. He has been a friend to the University.

The new majority leader faces a daunting task in rebuilding the House Democratic caucus. If anybody can get the job done, however, it is Carl Hosticka.

Editorial

Flaunt

In response to Eric Eckman's letter (ODE, Feb. 28), obviously you don't know when to give up. Why don't you just put it back in your pants? Just what the planet needs, another self-proclaimed authority on who deserves basic civil rights.

Please, not even one more debate on the mental health of queers, not one more excuse to abuse, deny equality in the free market, no more studies and surveys supporting queer-bashing in the military, and please, please, don't tell me that I have to be hetero to pass through the pearly gates.

Eckman, I happen to be a self-determining lesbian; that means I don't need to determine who I love or how I love; that means I do it with women and that has nothing to do with you, the military, the ROTC, the U. your god, or the Supreme Court.

It also means that you have to share the planet with me and a

lot of other queers because we aren't going away. Finally, please stop flaunting your homophobia and put it back in the bedroom where it belongs.

Laurel Sharp
Co-director
Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Proposal

I don't know if I should be amused or disgusted by the recent exchange of cheap and venomous epithets by partisans on both sides of the abortion debate. Be that as it may, however, I would like to propose a compromise of sorts.

Recently we've had a colossal barrage on the subject of when a fetus becomes a person. The pro-life faction considers this to be at conception. That may be, but if killing a four-cell microorganism is tantamount to infanticide ... well, it's not quite watertight.

Then we have the pro-choice

faction. They prefer to fix the date of humanization at when the infant is no longer dependent on the mother. However, following that argument to its logical extreme, abortions would be legitimate six or eight months after birth at weaning time. In fact, many college students are still dependent on their mothers.

So my proposal is that abortions be permitted and financed up through the commencement of brain waves from the fetus. Clearly what does not think (to give Descartes a little twist) will not know it doesn't exist until it in fact doesn't.

Think about it. It might not be your ideal solution, but it's a damn sight better than sitting around screaming "pro-oppression Nazi pigs" and "orally defunct murder buffs" at one another. Some of us are getting rather weary of people crying Abortion! and letting slip the Wars of Dogma.

Finn John
English/political science

Prostitution

I feel no disappointment at Rohr's decision not to build in Eugene, despite the contention of Springfield mayor Morrisette and others, who argue that the loss represents one more "failure" to our community. In a recent letter to the *Register-Guard*, he questions whether "we will ever learn," adding that "Eugene can have its nuclear-free zone ... Springfield is open for business!"

I have spent years administering economic development projects for regional and local governments, and have always questioned their willingness to "prostitute" themselves to attract new business. Companies are offered a myriad of financial incentives to relocate, including the construction of infrastructures and tax subsidies, yet are not required to provide any sense of permanence or responsibility to the community if they should choose to trans-

fer at a later date (which many will do when promised greater incentives and anticipated profits by a competing government.)

Rather than allocate scarce public funds to attract any industry which makes an unsubstantiated promise of jobs, let us recognize the strengths of the Eugene-Springfield area, and emphasize these to successfully attract compatible employers. This is a "place" where the population professes a strong sense of ecological concern and environmental awareness, respects and enjoys the outdoors, and is actively involved in their neighborhoods and community.

Personally, Morrisette sounds like another prostitute willing to sell himself to whomever offers the most money — fortunately, the citizens of this community have higher values.

Greg Ringer
Geography

Wednesday, March 7, 1990