

Split tuition boost eases pain of hike

In this state, higher education tuition price hikes are becoming something like a trip to the dentist: they're painful, they're necessary — and we see them annually now.

Chancellor Thomas Bartlett requested another tuition increase last week, and it's a doozy — just less than 10 percent for in-state residents (about \$60 a term) and 12 percent for out-of-state students.

Bartlett and the State System of Higher Education say a tuition increase is needed for the usual reasons. University programs need extra funds and faculties need larger salaries to keep the quality level of higher education in this state at an acceptable level.

And given the lack of funding from the state Legislature and the diminishing quality of programs here on campus (just ask rhetoric/communications students how their department is doing), we're inclined to side with Bartlett. Until the Legislature takes up the education banner, there is no way around another tuition hike.

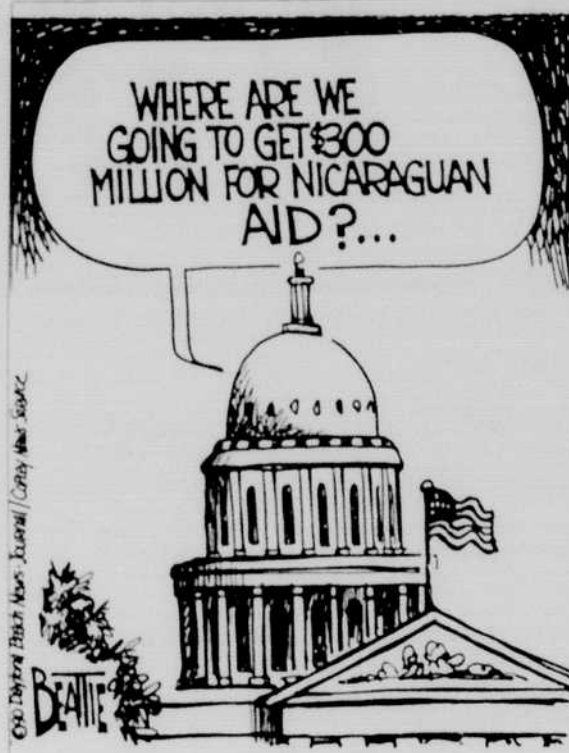
As far as tuition increases go, this year's model does have one positive feature. The tuition of students attending the state's three universities will be higher now than the tuition of students going to the state's lesser colleges. Tuitions at the state's five other colleges will increase only 8.25 percent.

This is a first. Previously, there was no difference in the amount a student paid to attend school in Eugene or Monmouth, despite the difference in what the University and Western Oregon State offer.

The tuition paid by each student went into a general fund and was distributed between the universities and colleges. This arrangement was unfair to University students, because during tuition hikes, less money would come back to the University than the students had paid in. The other money would go to Ashland, Monmouth or La Grande. Efforts to improve the quality of education here were dampened by students having to prop up programs elsewhere.

This will no longer happen under the new differentiated tuition system. Students going to school here will get their proper respect. For the first time, the extra money generated by University students will stay here. And because it's a sizable increase, the University will get a sizable sum — about \$400,000.

We should note, despite our tentative approval of this increase, that tuition hikes cannot become annual events. Tuition increases price some students out of an education, an occurrence that is antithetical to the mission of a state education system. Continued lobbying of the Legislature to redress the state's higher education crisis is a must.



Trial marks premature end to scandal

John Poindexter, Reagan's national security adviser, was convicted last week of misleading Congress, obstructing congressional inquiries and lying to lawmakers, but nobody cares.

After a few more front-page headlines, Poindexter's story will be relegated to the back of newspapers and finally disappear altogether. In a few months, after the appeals process is exhausted and sentences — if any — are pronounced, the whole Iran-Contra scandal will sink beneath the surface of American consciousness with scarcely a ripple.

Investigators and prosecutors have not completely unravelled the tangle of high-level deceptions and associations, but they and the American public have tired of lengthy and complicated trials. Our lack of interest is only natural. After all, Poindexter, North and other Iran-Contra figures were tried for events that began almost 10 years ago. Now we're in a new decade, we have a new president and we no more want to hear about Iran-Contra than we want to hear about Valley girls or break-dancing.

Officials implicated in Iran-Contra have benefited from Americans' short political at-

tention span. The fall of the Berlin Wall and ensuing events in Eastern Europe have seized our interest. On the national front George Bush's staunch anti-broccoli policy and the antics of Donald Trump dominate headlines, and somehow the misdeeds of Poindexter, North and possibly Ronald Reagan seem distant and irrelevant.

Reagan's exact role in the scandal will probably never be known. Despite the fact that Poindexter's convictions would appear to dispute Reagan's assertion that his officials did nothing illegal, no opportunity to further question the former president's actions will likely present itself. Efforts to subpoena Reagan's diaries were unsuccessful and his videotaped testimony was unenlightening, to say the least.

The final image of Reagan and the Iran-Contra scandal will be his videotaped testimony from Poindexter's trial, in which he blithely asserted he remembered nothing about any sale of arms to Iran or covert support of the Nicaraguan Contras.

Reagan said he couldn't recall anything about Iran-Contra. That's OK; Americans can't recall anything about it either.

Letters

Guilty

Nicole Bourcier (*ODE*, April 5) accuses Coalition For Animals and Animal Research members of ignoring "the pain and suffering of some of their fellow creatures." She is as guilty as anyone of these crimes.

Let me give you a terribly concrete example. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy was first described in 1861. For the next 125 years, physicians and parents stood by in anguish watching children die with no hope of therapy or treatment. Because this is a genetic disease, no animal model was available without certain identification of the defective gene. And for 125 years, no progress was made in stopping this childhood killer.

Late in 1986, a team of researchers at Harvard identified the gene whose defect causes DMD. Now, a mere three years later, the first clinical trials of a potential therapy are beginning. While this therapy is not a cure, it represents the first

hope that these children and their families have for reprieve from certain, terrible death.

The difference between 1986 and today is the availability of animal models. The hope for tomorrow depends on using those models. Yet a DMD researcher told me in December that the possibility of anti-vivisectionist harassment kept her from using the best model (a dog who has the same genetic disease) in her research.

Every year that a cure for DMD is delayed, 500 children are crippled, and another 500 paralyzed, and another 500 die. Research could save these children, and the hundreds of thousands of others who suffer from other uncured diseases. Why are these "creatures" exempt from Bourcier's concern?

Pamela Daener
Academic Affairs

Accomplished

In 1971, students at the University created the Oregon Student Public Interest and Re-

search Group as a vehicle to affect public policy. Today, OSPIRG is a statewide, student-directed organization with chapters at the University, Portland State University, and Lewis and Clark College.

The students on these campuses share a variety of concerns which range from environmental preservation to consumer protection to hunger relief. OSPIRG enables these students to turn their concern into positive action by conducting statewide research, publishing landmark reports, and passing laws that effect the quality of life in Oregon.

Our statewide accomplishments include the Renter's Handbook, the Toxic Use Reduction Act, the Federal Clean Air Act, the Hunger Cleanup, and an annual Toy Safety report which has resulted in the national recall of two dangerous toys.

In addition to learning more about the issues that affect us as citizens, students at the University are given the opportunity to learn valuable leadership skills through frequent

trainings and internships on campus and in the state Legislature. Therefore, OSPIRG not only gives us a vehicle for political action, but provides us with an important educational service.

Because OSPIRG is funded and controlled by students, it makes itself directly accountable to the students by going to the ballot every two years. Students deserve the opportunity to make the choice to support organization like OSPIRG, whose primary purpose is to give students a voice on broad public policy issues that affect us as citizens.

Dalene Lovie
Chapter Chair
OSPIRG

Food

The United States government should send an armed convoy into Ethiopia, carrying tons of food. Go in with the cargo of goods to strategic villages and have volunteers state and distribute the food. U.S. tanks and helicopters could save lives.

We could take every precaution to be neutral and express that our only motive is to help the sick and the weak. Perhaps we could get food in and get out without firing a shot.

Pete Fena
Graduate

Letters Policy

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The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.