

## Rise in tuition costs will limit University

Tuition at the University continues to rise while education officials express their concern, but once again students are going to pay for the increasing costs of attending college.

Students will pay 10 percent more for tuition in 1990-91 than they did in 1989-90. And if Oregon Higher Education Chancellor Thomas Bartlett has his way, tuition will also rise both years in the 1991-93 biennium.

Students should pay their fair share, but they are currently doing so. It was just a little more than 30 years ago that attending a college or university was an elitist endeavor. Back then a high school degree was considered necessary for a decent job, and college was for those who were going into specific, complex occupations — and it was for those who could afford it.

However, technology evolved at an incredible rate throughout the 1960s-80s, and a high school diploma is simply not enough for a decent job anymore. So, to keep up with the demand of an ever-evolving job market, higher education had to become more accessible for students who in the past could not afford it, even if they had the qualifications.

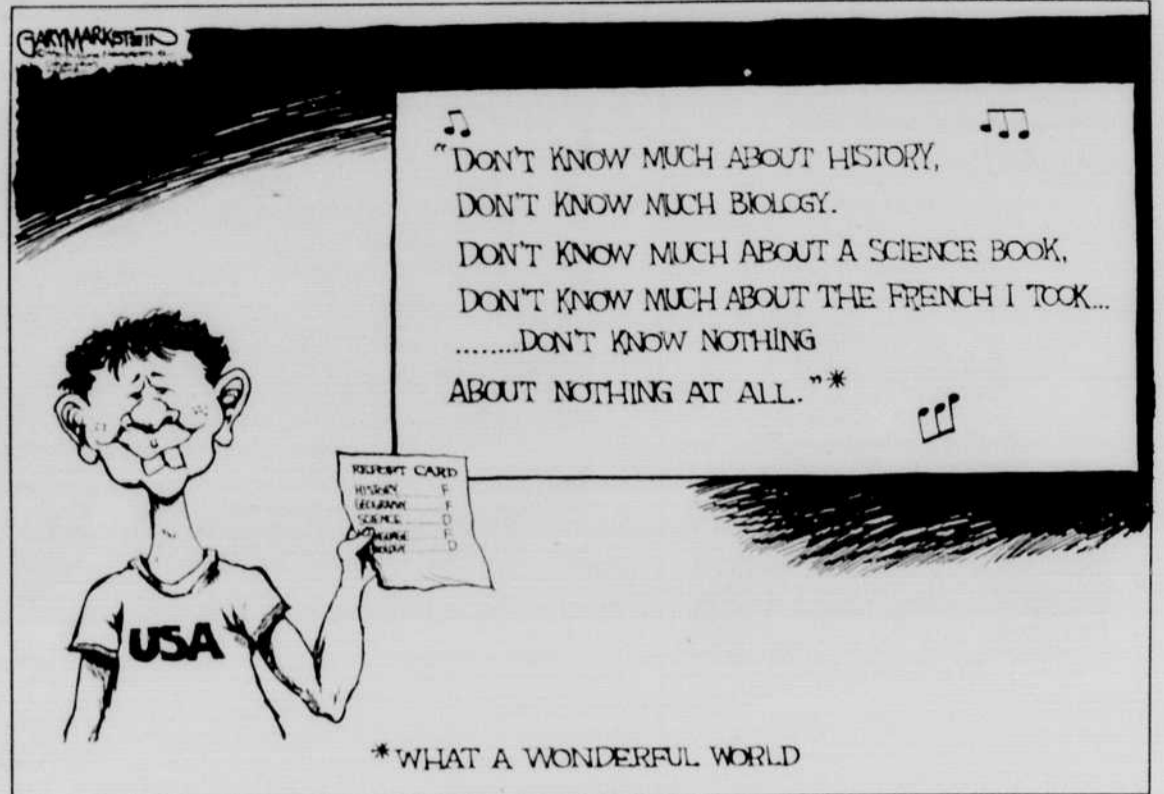
Financial aid programs, such as Pell Grants, were borne to enable needy students to attend college. These programs helped millions of students attend school in the 1960s and 70s who before would not have been able to. But school costs today are rising while financial aid programs are either lagging or being cut completely. The rise of tuition fees at the University, especially if it becomes a yearly occurrence, threatens the mission of a public university. If higher education is available only to those who can afford, it will once again behoove a homogeneous population — rich white males.

Oregon's legislature has been passing the buck on this issue for years now. More general fund money must be allocated for state colleges and universities to keep tuition costs at a minimum. A public university is for everyone.

Attempts at sales taxes and lotteries haven't been the answer for higher education funding in the past, and are not the likely solution for the future. And while Chancellor Bartlett would like to see the State Emergency Board allocate \$10 million for increased faculty salaries, the professors will need students to teach.

Since more money is needed to ensure the quality of instructors at the University, tuition fees must be kept at a minimum to ensure that students have the means and the time to spend on their education.

Elections are coming up. Vote for candidates that support higher education.



## CSD and lawmakers to blame for abuse

The admission by the Children's Services Division that staff members let a 14-year-old boy remain in the custody of a convicted child molester is shocking.

Not only did the CSD staff members know that the man, Richard Smith, was a child molester, but contrary to their rules they let the boy remain in the man's custody for five months after their discovery. The boy had to run away before CSD even took action on the situation.

Initially the mistake was not CSD's fault. The agency usually does an extensive background check on all potential foster parents. Unfortunately state law does not allow CSD to check police records from other states.

But last November, when a CSD caseworker learned of Smith's background, the fault shifted to CSD. Although the caseworker received hard evidence that Smith was indeed a convicted child molester, the boy continued to remain with Smith for five months.

It appears that more than one CSD staff member knew of the situation. Perhaps they thought Smith was fully reformed and decided to leave the boy with him, because after all, the boy was "hard to place."

Or perhaps they thought if they told someone about the situation or tried to re-

cate the boy they would be reprimanded.

Whatever the reasons for leaving the boy with Smith, they cannot be good enough. There is no excuse for that kind of irresponsible mismanagement of a young child's life.

New laws should be enacted to prevent this kind of situation from ever happening again. CSD should have the right to search all police and FBI records concerning a potential foster parent. There is a well established national computer link-up, that allows the police and government agencies to obtain police records on individuals from all over the country.

This intensive system should be made available to agencies that really need it, such as CSD, so that caseworkers will be able to make knowledgeable decisions based on complete information.

It is frightening that until now, the consequences of this law have never been noticed. Who knows how many other children are living with previously convicted child molesters or murderers?

CSD employees who are to blame for this situation should be severely reprimanded if not removed from their positions and the legislature should ensure that the laws are changed so that situations like this will not happen again.

## Forum

# Media overlooked real purpose of Bush demonstration

By Steven Hultberg

The news media demonstrated that it is incapable of reporting anything in a substantive way. The shallow, superficial reporting of the demonstration at the Bush \$1,000 a plate breakfast is but one example. The focus of almost every report, save that of National Public Radio, was on the burning of flags, fireworks and the tossing of eggs at participants of the breakfast. Although these events did take place, they were by no means endorsed by every demonstrator, nor were they the only messages that people were attempting to get across.

Not one report discussed peoples' demand for an answer from the president concerning the Richard Brenneke "October Surprise" perjury case.

Brenneke was found innocent because the government could not prove former CIA director William Casey or Reagan/Bush official Donald Gregg were not at a meeting in Paris with Brenneke and Iranian officials concerning the U.S. hostages prior to the 1980 election. Although Brenneke's innocence is not a de facto admission of guilt for the Reagan/Bush administration, it does raise serious questions. For instance, why could the government not place the whereabouts of two top officials that weekend? Why did Donald Gregg produce a picture of himself, supposedly of him that weekend in the United States, which later proved to be from another time, and not the weekend in question? It was this type of question that demonstrators wanted an answer for. It was also the type of question that the media

chose to ignore.

The media chose to ignore demonstrators' demands for answers concerning the Oliver North diaries. The publication of these diaries raises even more questions about how much Bush knew, and when he knew about the Iran-Contra dealings. What exactly did Bush and North talk about prior to North's testimony to Congress, and right after? Bush has chosen to ignore these questions, and so has the media.

### Commentary

People wanted to know why we are building bases in Peru and who exactly we are "fighting" against. What will our military do when they are inevitably fired upon? Will a fire-fight in some rural valley in Peru provoke the same type of

response that the death of a serviceman in Panama did? People wanted to know if we are going to be fighting a war on drugs in Peru, or are we going to ignore the failure Vietnam and try to eradicate another insurgent group. The line between the two is quite a fine one, one that people in Portland wanted clarification on, and one that the media chose to ignore.

People asked President Bush how close he was to Noriega, and why, after the Justice Department declared Noriega to be a drug-running criminal, did North and the White House attempt to enact a "five-point plan" to spruce up the General's image? What did Bush know of this five-point plan?

Demonstrators wanted to know why the White House continued to support the Afghan rebels well after it came to

their attention that the rebels were massively involved in the drug trade.

Women wanted to know why George Bush thinks he has the right to intervene in their most personal decisions.

While flag-burnings and egg-tossing are great for headlines and front-page photographs, this superficial reporting seriously detracts from the issue at hand. Without an explanation of why people were demonstrating, and what they were demanding, the public is, at best, left wondering why, but more likely left with the impression that the demonstration was a bunch of radicals burning flags for no reason. There were reasons, but the media, in an attempt to package the news in 30-second news spots, chose to ignore them.

Steven Hultberg lives in Eugene.