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WE YOUR VOLVO

Students should be concerned

By Christopher Blair

Ordinarily, a Back-to-the-Books issue introduction might speak of happy, college-like things: football games, fall fashion or how wonderful it is to attend the University of Ore-

Don't get me wrong - going to school here is a wonderful and rewarding experience. The football team should win many games. Fall fashions are going to be ... well ... fashionable this year, which means everyone will probably wear clothes.

But students should have a lot more on their minds this term. Depending on their major, they may or may not get the classes they need to graduate in fewer than, say, 10 years. When a student does land that class he or she needs, it may be in a crowded lecture hall where the only seating is in an aisle.

Are we paying less for this

same? No. Tuition went up again this year. Resident students will pay \$61 a term more than they paid last year; nonresidents, \$227

Oregon's higher education system is underfunded. Classes. or entire fields of study (American studies, sign language courses, etc.) have been eliminated because of budget cuts. Faculty salaries at this school are in the lower 20 percent in the nation, making it difficult to attract quality professors and keep the ones we have.

For the past decade, education has taken a back seat in the minds of many Oregonians. Some lawmakers in the state have worried more about building prisons than sending our youth to school and, in turn, maybe keeping them out of jail

You can't cheat an honest man," is an old saying that applies very well in this situation. Swindlers get their money from buck, an easy way to get ahead

Likewise, the federal and state governments are taking services and money away from students who figure they can go to school, get their degrees. and get out without having to do any work outside the class

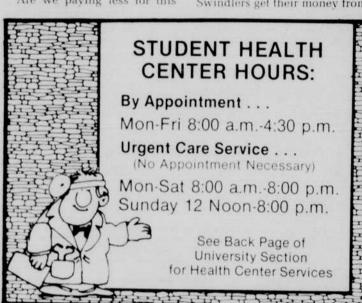
How many students are registered to vote? How many actually take the time (15 minutes tops) to vote when the time comes? It will be harder for the state Legislature to raise our tuition and cut our budgets if they know we actually give a damn, and can vote them out of

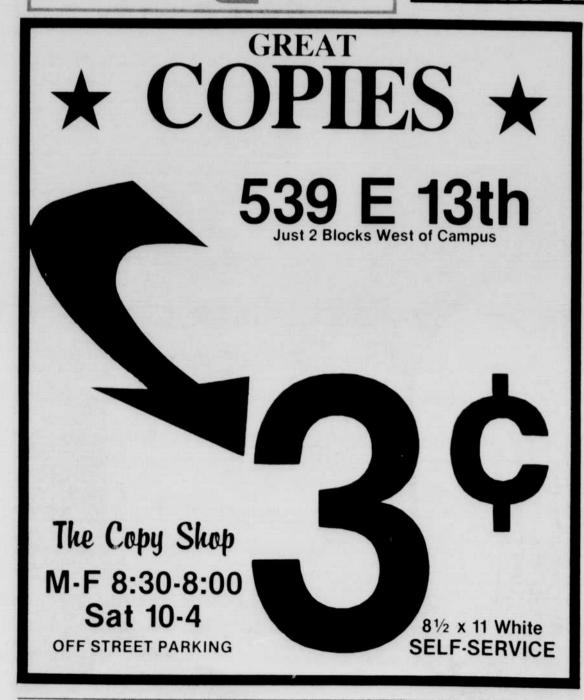
People figure the students aren't going to complain about higher tuition, and that they don't vote anyway," said state Rep. David Dix (D-Eugene), in a recent Emerald interview. "Raising tuition is a short-term solution, and its driving people away from school."

Voting isn't the only thing a student can do to make the funding problem get better The ASUO is staffed by dedicated students who have taken time from their own busy schedules to sit on committees and educate students and community members about the sad situation higher ed is in right now. Students who are interested in learning more about funding and the higher education system can visit the ASUO office in EMU Suite 4, or call the office at 346-3724.

Well, back to parties and football games and falling leaves. Here's a glimpse at what's inside this section, dedicated to affairs and offerings of the University

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