

## EDITORIAL

### Need-based financial aid should be priority

Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos wants to link federal student financial aid to students' academic achievement and institutions' retention record.

Financial aid is awarded to students based on financial need. This is the way financial aid programs were originally set up and the way they should remain.

Awarding financial aid based on performance contradicts the original intent of the program. A secondary education used to be for those who could afford it.

But thanks to Pell Grants, state need grants, TRIO programs and Perkins/Stafford Loans, students normally destined for a life of menial jobs have a chance to tackle the world.

Financial aid should be need-based. It is for students who cannot afford college without the help. The U.S. does not need a widening education gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Financial aid is supposed to be the great equalizer. People from poor backgrounds are at a disadvantage because most colleges are in "nicer" areas, away from their neighborhood.

A new environment is scary enough, but if needy students have the added pressure of performing at unattainable levels to continue receiving aid, it perpetuates failure.

Scholarships are available for those with high grade point averages. Many go un-awarded each year because no one knows they are there. The Education Department should promote these scholarships.

The Education Department has to concentrate on education — and not worry about playing police officer.

Students entering college right out of high school have an advantage over students who return to college after a few years of the real world. Sometimes it takes a couple of years to get acclimated to college life — and good grades.

More grant programs are needed. Many students are having to rely on Stafford or Perkins Loans to make it through college. Since a degree in four years is becoming less a reality for many students, it is common for students to have five or six years of loans facing them after graduating — if they graduate.

Tying financial aid to a college's retention rate would also be wrong. It bases aid on quantitative measures instead of qualitative ones. The Education Department should track the amount of students finding work in the areas in which they received degrees.

Financial aid grant programs are the best investments the government can make. Loan programs involve banks, regulations, and ensure students of receiving hundreds of "account payable" notices even before they leave school. We don't need it.



### Brand's incentive idea should get approval

In Myles Brand's first state of the University address for the new school year he made some important announcements that should please both faculty and students.

Brand spoke of teaching and motivation for teachers here at the University. In light of the University's low national ranking for the payment of instructors, Brand has offered them an incentive deal.

The current Ersted and Burlington Northern teaching awards are offered once per year to instructors who are deemed to possess high quality teaching skills. Two teachers per year receive the Ersted awards. The Burlington Northern awards are offered to newer faculty who are determined to possess quality teaching talents.

Recipients of the awards currently receive one-time monetary awards of \$2,000. Brand said in his speech he would recommend these \$2,000 awards be added to the base salaries of the instructors who receive them. In fairness to past winners he suggested they have the amounts they received added to their base salaries as well. Of course, Brand said this would not occur until funding permitted it.

Rather than having these awards be one-time payoffs for quality instruction, they would be permanent additions to the recipients' salaries. They would also be independent of any other pay raises.

In a time when students are faced with crowded class rooms and limited classes offerings it is nice to see that Brand wants to take steps to ensure that faculty members are motivated.

All too often teachers are taken for granted. Faculty who have devoted their lives to the instruction of others should be reminded that it is appreciated when they care enough to do the best job that they can.

Brand's suggested award extensions would do that. The University does have its budget problems. Instructors are faced with larger class sizes than they would like, and are probably not paid what they could make elsewhere. But Brand's idea would be one way to let them know that quality and devoted educators are still appreciated.

Hopefully The Faculty Advisory Council and the Deans will approve Brand's good idea.

## LETTERS

### Reggae

I read your newspaper article (ODE, Sept. 17) about KRMA. In it James January said he would like to see a reggae show which is "not being dealt with" locally. My name is "Junior" and I have been host of "Air Jamaica," a reggae show on KLCC, on Fridays from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. for the last 12 years.

Please let January and your readers know about my show. I would be willing to help and share my knowledge of the music, island and religion with January. I welcome more reggae on the air waves and so do my listeners.

Junior  
KLCC

### Threat

Tuesday's front page story in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* quotes Right to Life coalition spokeswoman Gayle Atteberry,

defending Ballot Measure 10, as realizing: "not all homes are ideal." (I agree), however she continues, "family involvement in the long run is helpful to the teen-ager." Clearly, not all parents are supportive, so potentially subjecting a human being to physical or emotional abuse is not helpful in either the long or short term.

Atteberry continues: "You can legislate communication in the family, it can be done very easily." Anyone who would make such a statement is far more of a threat to society than any atrocity they wish to abolish.

Legislation is not the definitive cure-all for civil matters. For example, domestic violence is both illegal and rampant. Domestic violence, like teen-age pregnancy is due in part to ignorance; legislation is not the answer!

Ballot Measure 10 is presented as a step toward improving family interactions, yet close

inspection reveals an attempt to legislate family standards.

If family standards are to be dictated by the state, whose family should be the model? Does the answer lie in the standards set forth by the pro-life factions, or should society require that parents teach their children not to accept pious opinions without question, as did mine?

Obviously these matters that should be decided in one's own home — free from the unwarranted intrusion of those who seek to inflict their personal values in a private arena.

Russell S. Barnett III  
Political science

### Ugly Ducks

For more than 40 years I have enjoyed the sound of the referee's whistle on a crisp fall afternoon to begin a football game — until Saturday Sept. 29 at Autzen Stadium.

There I lost the feeling of fun I had enjoyed! Not due to the play on the football field, but because of the display of ill manners, intolerance and an unusual amount of vulgar behavior on the part of those in green and yellow.

As a former student and "quacker backer" I was dismayed. Yes BYU is Latter Day Saints church sponsored, and yes, some of their team members do go on missions, but they are American citizens too and deserve our respect, as do their "faithful followers."

Saturday, I witnessed an ugly display of bigotry, name calling, lie telling and other behavior that would cause the origi-

nal Oregon Duck to return to the Millrace and swim off into the sunset, ashamed to associate himself with current "Duck" fans.

Come on University supporters, let's get out of the Dark Ages. After all, football is a game and not a format for abusing those who may believe differently than you.

If Catholic sponsored Notre Dame and Southern Methodist University knew of the intolerance shown by Duck fans they would, no doubt, reject the offer of any athletic contest at Autzen Stadium.

Dale Z. Kirby  
Salem

### LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily 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.