

FORUM

Act quickly to avert Measure 5 cuts

By Traci Manning

With the passage of Ballot Measure 5, many agencies throughout the state are left wondering what is going to happen. The higher education system is no exception.

Commentary

The only thing that is obvious is that the money allocated to the state system schools is going to be cut; how much will be cut, how long it will be before the money is replaced, how the money will be replaced and from where the cuts will come are all unanswered questions.

However, because these decisions have not been made, we students have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. As University President Myles Brand noted in his address to the University Assembly, all options are being entertained as possibilities.

Among these options, some will be better for students and others will be worse. The words "significant tuition in-

crease" have been used as frequently as have ideas for program elimination, lay-offs, etc.

There are two primary things to consider. First, the University will have less money starting July 1, 1991. Therefore cuts and/or new ways to generate revenue must be decided upon soon.

Second, students have the opportunity now to help make these decisions. Students, in fact, can be a critical element in this process because as students, we have information that the governor, legislators and administration don't have — we know how these actions will affect us.

The ASUO and the Oregon Student Lobby have already begun the process of organizing students to voice our needs. There are things that students at the University can do.

A tuition increase of significant proportions is being very seriously considered. Letters and commentaries as to how this will affect you personally are very persuasive.

Priorities will need to be set

as to what is the most important when it comes time to make cuts or raise tuition. We need to determine what the priorities of students are and to be certain that they are heard. For this we need student input.

In many cases there will be opportunities for students to speak directly to the decision makers and to be at meetings where these issues are discussed. As students, we need to demonstrate our determination to be heard in this matter and force decision makers to realize they have no choice but to hear us.

Information is available in the ASUO office concerning the above activities. Come to the ASUO office at Suite 4 in the EMU or call at 346-3724.

During this brief period of uncertainty, we students need to move quickly to organize. We need student input in this process. If you have any concerns or opinions you would like to have heard please step forward.

Traci Manning is the ASUO state affairs coordinator.

LETTERS

Williams is right

As furor grows over the banning of the Grateful Dead, we are once again being inundated with protests from the ill-informed and those who want them to stay that way. The University banned appearances by the band because of complaints that it appeared to condone drug use by allowing the band to use University (Athletic Department) facilities from people who make it possible for those facilities to exist. Opponents of this move keep quoting Eugene Police statements after last year's event about how little trouble there was with the crowd.

I fail to see what this has to do with the reasons stated by the University for banning the Dead. Everyone seems to be forgetting that this lack of "trouble" included about forty arrests for drug-related offenses. It seems to me that there was plenty of basis for the complaints.

I am also surprised by the failure of the *Emerald* to men-

tion all of the facts in their recent articles about the situation. Of course, what can you expect from a paper that urges a vote for David Dix solely on his pro-choice position and his ability to pork-barrel, not on his inability to handle funds for his party or his own campaign without breaking the law.

Matthew W. Drby
Accounting

Dead statistics

The recent decision to sideline the Grateful Dead from Autzen Stadium next summer reeks of a powerful blend of hypocrisy and ignorance. How can we expect youth to take the "drug problem" seriously with such glaring, officially sanctioned contradictions?

Figures from a 1988 research study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse credit our society's two most harmful drugs for a total of 471,000 deaths annually in the United States. These

two drugs are used heavily in a shameless and irresponsible manner during most events at Autzen; their chemical names are ethanol and nicotine.

The one notable exception happens to be Dead concerts, where the major drug category in evidence — marijuana and other, stronger hallucinogens — accounts for a total of 75 deaths annually, according to a NIDA study.

Can it be that those who run the show have once again been caught in an embarrassing lie? Is it possible that the cancellation of this rock and roll group has more to do with outright prejudice and bigotry concerning a relatively small subculture's chosen styles of dress, behavior and consciousness alterants? It seems to be fashionable these days to persecute gentle, ecologically-aware people who prefer the comparatively quite harmless — yet wrong — social sacraments. Just ask Dave Frohnmayer!

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The party-goers were enjoying themselves
immensely — unaware that, across the street
in the shadows, a killer waited.

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