

Students respond to Measure 5

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

As University administrators consider tuition hikes and program cuts in the wake of Measure 5's passage, students appear to be waiting for tangible effects of the tax limitation measure before taking action.

"I've had people come up and tell me they won't be able to go to school" if tuition costs are significantly increased, said ASUO Affairs Coordinator Traci Manning.

"But there's also a lack of awareness ... People have heard about it, but they don't know what it means."

In an address to the University Assembly on Nov. 7, University President Myles Brand said "significantly increased tuition" is among the ideas being discussed as possible short-term remedies to make up for the funds lost to the property tax-limiting meas-



Traci Manning

ure. University officials say they expect the University to lose as much as \$30 million in the next two years unless another source of funding is provided.

The prospect of hefty tuition hikes as early as next year is unsettling, said Chris-

sy Ho, an English/Japanese double major in her second year at the University.

"It's kind of got me upset," she said. "I pay out-of-state tuition, and it's going to go up."

Ho, who said she wants to teach elementary school after she graduates and completes a teacher certification program, also cited concerns about Measure 5's effect on her intended career field if alternate funding is not found or is inadequate.

If school districts are still financially strapped from Measure 5 by the time Ho graduates, teaching jobs are likely to be scarce, she said. And even if she manages to get a job, tight budgets will probably mean large class sizes and little money for teaching materials.

For many students, however, the impact of Measure 5 has yet to sink in, and others

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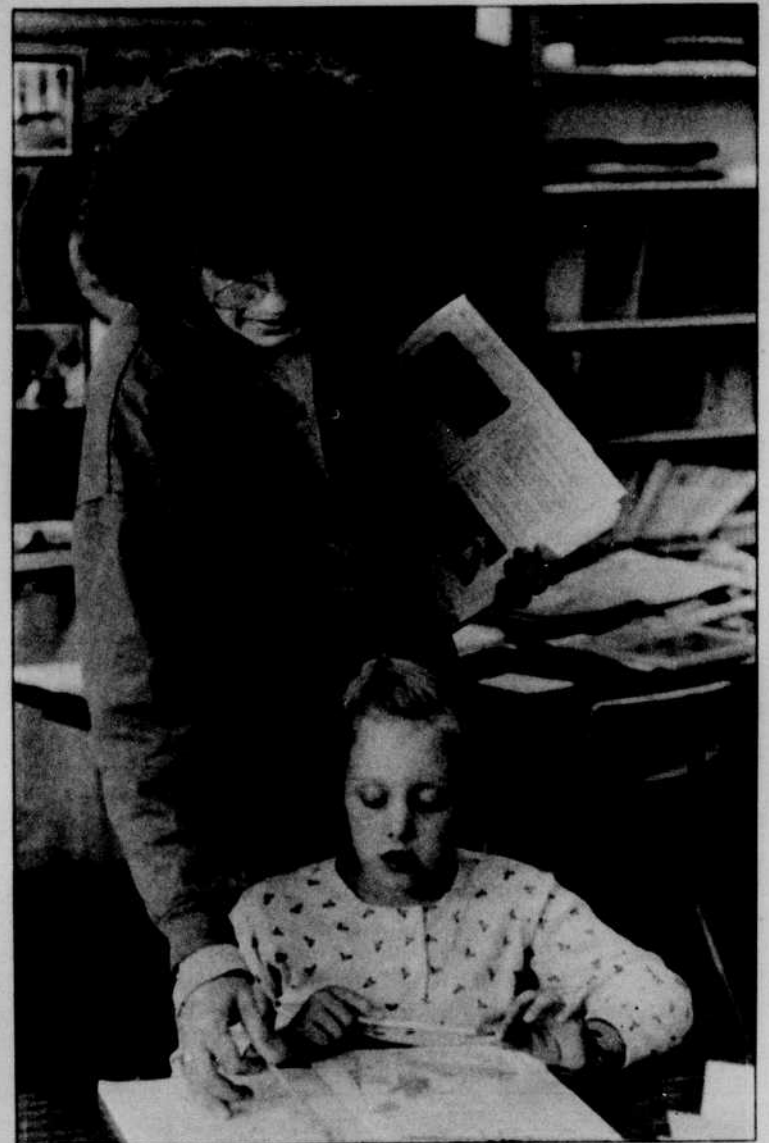


Photo by Sean Poston

The future funding of Eugene School District elementary classes like this one is under speculation now that Measure 5 has passed.

School district officials fear funding decrease

By Don Peters
Emerald Associate Editor

The elections may be over, but the furor remains — and the consequences loom.

Ballot Measure 5, the property tax-reducing initiative, has sent legislators, school officials and local lawmakers scrambling for new sources of revenue. And as far as schools and local governments go, there haven't been many ideas.

"We haven't done anything yet," said Gary Long, director of finances and support services for the Eugene School District. "We're trying to figure out what should be done."

Measure 5 will dramatically alter the current school finance system. Proponents say it will "force the hand" of next year's Legislature to come up with new revenue sources. Opponents claim it will seriously damage the state's economic future, especially in the face of an impending recession.

"We're pursuing whatever revenue sources we can," said Tom Guardino, financial analyst for the City of Eugene. "But right now, we have no specific alternatives."

Both the Eugene School District and city officials are in the planning stages for replacing lost property tax revenue. No firm decisions have been made, but with Measure 5 not scheduled to come into effect until July 1991 (not long before the date property tax statements are sent out), there is a little breathing space.

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