

Non-state students unfairly wronged

What does it mean to live in Oregon?

It means residing in the state year round, being registered to vote, having a permanent job and paying taxes to the state.

For a University student, there are good reasons to be a resident. Residents receive a 62- to 65-percent tuition subsidy from the state, 70 percent for graduate students.

But if a new proposal before the State Board of Higher Education passes later this month, these factors will be meaningless. The proposal says all out-of-state students with more than seven credit hours would be enrolled for "primarily educational purposes." Essentially, many full-time Oregon residents will not be eligible for in-state tuition.

The OSBHE should realize the unfairness of changing the requirements. As it is now, out-of-state students must live in Oregon for a year before they can apply for residency. Only 32 percent of students were rejected last year.

Granted, higher education in Oregon is in a budget crunch. The property tax relief measure of 1990 has created a fiscal hole that desperately needs filling.

But the new policy is too strict. A person who legally becomes a resident in every way — who pays taxes, votes and is a citizen of the community — is a resident. If a person chooses only to live in a community for four or five years, that is his or her choice. But that person will be a resident year-round for those years.

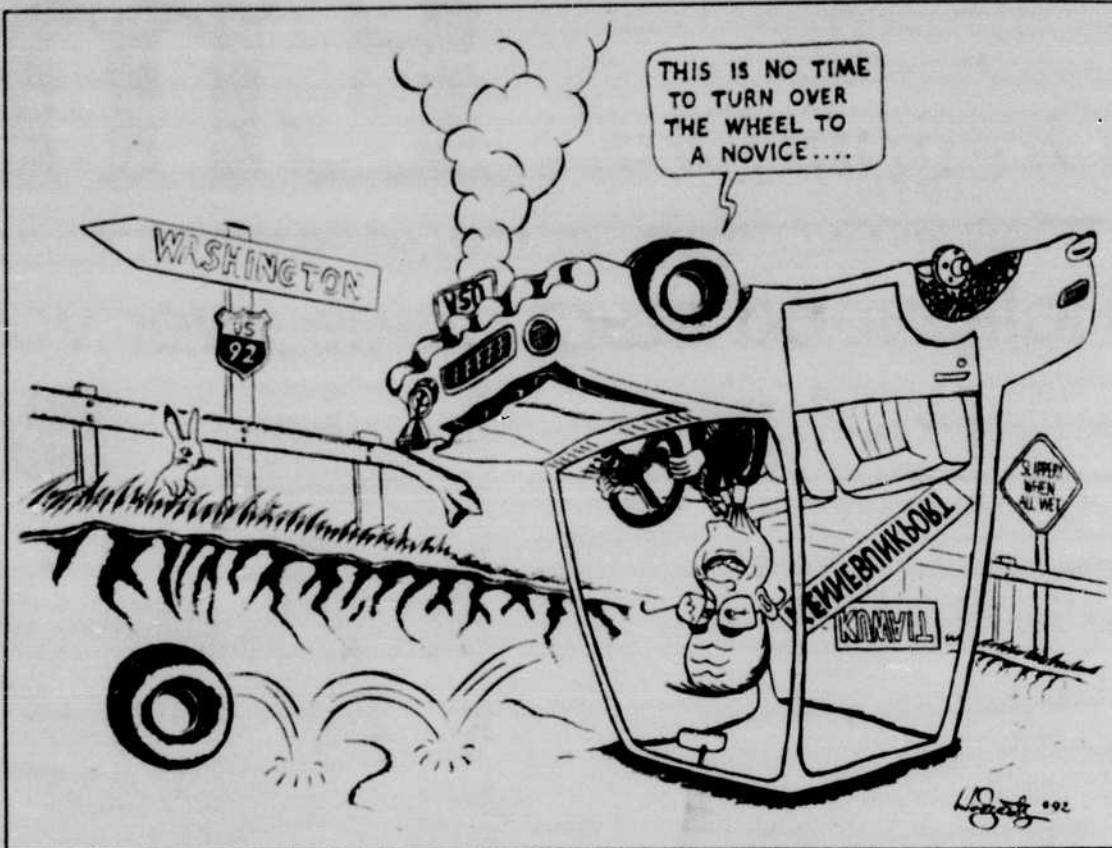
The OSBHE assumes that out-of-state students will leave Oregon after graduation. With the job market as bad as it is, all graduates — including in-state students — are going to go wherever they can find work. That could be in or out of state. Out-of-state students should not be unfairly singled out for this.

In addition, what will the state do when out-of-state students choose to live in Oregon permanently? No one can determine whether people will live in a state the rest of their lives.

Out-of-state students are important to higher education in Oregon. The University's reputation won't improve if the only people who attend are in-state students. Intelligent people from around the country should be encouraged to attend, not discouraged.

Another complicating factor is that the rules would be effective July 1993. Thus people who moved to Oregon in September could not establish residency because they would not have the chance to live here a full year. If the State Board of Higher Education does adopt this proposal, it should at the very least make the rule effective January 1994, giving new students the year necessary to qualify for residency.

Yes, higher education in Oregon is in desperate need of money. And yes, solutions are needed. But the state should not sacrifice fairness for financial gain. If it does, it risks alienating thousands of out-of-state students who would otherwise consider Oregon.



LETTERS

Get involved

For those of you who were moved by the editorial about the "Emergency Housing Summit" (ODE, Oct. 12) and the article on the same topic, the time to get involved is now. More than 3 million Americans, including 2,000 Lane County residents are homeless, 33 percent of which are families. It is estimated that another 19 million people will face the prospect of homelessness in the next 15 years. This is compounding problems caused by lack of affordable housing, unemployment, underemployment and a number of other factors. Over the last years, OSPIRG's Hunger and Homelessness group has raised thousands of dollars for local and National groups committed to solving this problem. We have also collected tons of food and put in volunteer hours at shelters and soup kitchens. If you would like to empower yourself, and effect some real change, call OSPIRG at 346-4377 or attend our general interest meeting Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room.

Jim Treloar
Chapter Chairman, OSPIRG

promises. But the ability to know one's potential and one's limits, then to deliver on one's commitments, that gains my respect. Dobson has earned my respect. In these challenging times, I am confident his wisdom and levelheadedness will be a valuable asset to the Eugene City Council.

Please join me in voting to put Dobson to work for our future.

Ron Schlittler
Pre-journalism

Holland

On Nov. 3, Lane County voters will have the opportunity to elect a highly qualified woman to the district judge bench — Lauren S. Holland. Holland has the knowledge of the law, the experience and the integrity our judges must have.

She won the Lane County Bar Association's performance poll — a clear vote of confidence of the lawyers and judges in Lane County in her experience and qualifications to be district judge. In addition, she is the first woman who is not a judge to win the Lane County bar poll.

She is a partner in her own law firm. For the past nine years, she has taught at the University of Oregon Law School.

Holland's experience, her judicial temperament and her community involvement make her without a doubt the best candidate for Lane County District Judge. I urge you to join me in voting for Holland for judge on Nov. 3.

John Poulson
Students for Lauren Holland

Seeds of hate

The "Verboten" art exhibit, currently on display in the EMU, has succeeded in evoking passion in this viewer's heart. I am simultaneously amazed and repulsed.

I find it an ironic display after having just read Myles Brand's Sept. 28 Faculty/Staff letter in which he discusses political activity at the University. Brand reminds us that it is

"against the law for University employees to advocate particular candidates or particular ballot measures through activities carried out ... during University time (including class time) or with the use of University support staff, equipment, supplies or other facilities." As I ponder the guidelines, I wonder what clever wording would be used to explain the manner in which the Verbotenites are exempt. Perhaps no "University employees" were in any way involved in the display?

As for my aforementioned repulsion, I mostly thank the artist Randie for that. Her crucifixion piece, otherwise dubbed the "Pater Pater Bush," left me with a most hurtful feeling inside. As I gazed up at the figure, tied to the cross with heavy purple twine (or was it lavender?), I felt a personal sense of alienation. As a Christian I felt spiritually violated. And it was all happening in a place where the honoring of diversity is alleged to be a paramount concern.

I acknowledge how essential the element of free expression is to many artists. Likewise, I am free to avert my eyes. But I can't help but wonder if that particular crucifixion plant grew from seeds of hate.

Star Holmberg
Substance Abuse Program

Do unto others

If you want to teach your children that homosexuals are despicable and dangerous, you have the right to do that. You also have the right to teach them that Unitarians are witches and the Pope is the Antichrist. I wasn't brought up that way.

The way I was brought up was to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. I was also taught to love my neighbor and to judge not, that I be not judged.

That's why I'm voting no on Measure 9.

Ann Tattersall
Graduate

Dobson

There are qualities I look for in a candidate running for public office. These include the ability to think and speak clearly, to have a compassionate, broadly informed point of view, and to be able to help find common ground on complex issues. I look for a candidate who can hear the voices of those too often overlooked and work to build community for all. Eben Dobson is running for City Council in Ward 3. Dobson has earned my vote because I believe he embodies these qualities.

While working with Dobson in my role as University campus coordinator for No on 9 activities, I have found him to be a man who follows through when he says he will do something. To me, that is a critical quality for a candidate to have.

Anyone can make visionary

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