

## Higher education needs saving grace

Secondary education has been given a temporary reprieve in Oregon.

The Senate voted Tuesday to reject the school funding bill that passed only last week in the House. The bill would have cut school spending by over 10 percent, leading to a catastrophic series of layoffs and cuts in public schools.

The Senate should be applauded for its action. Although cuts still have to be made from the state budget, it's refreshing to see a few senators are actually concerned for the future of the state — the children. That doesn't mean the Senate won't reverse its decision in the next few weeks, but at least it is aware of the importance of education.

However, where does that leave the University system? The House and Senate have dropped the ax on higher education repeatedly as a result of Measure 5. Despite heavy lobbying, the University continues to face huge cuts, resulting in less jobs and services. And unfortunately, saving the secondary schools' budget may mean even deeper cuts in the higher education budget, a prospect nobody should look forward to.

The bottom line is that the Oregon Legislature responds to the most powerful lobby. In this case, the Oregon Education Association was able to take advantage of strong Senate backbiting between Senate Democrats and President Bill Bradbury. The OEA convinced senators that public schools — which their kids could very well attend — should be protected from voters' bad decision making. Higher education has no such lobbying power.

Naturally public schools are easier to defend. Children aren't of voting age and shouldn't be penalized for their parents' misguided judgments. But the Legislature needs to put the same standards on higher education. Even though college students pay their own way through school, it doesn't mean they should be denied the opportunity for affordable education.

Essentially, the Senate responded to one lobbying effort while ignoring another. Ultimately, all forms of education need to be protected, whether it comes from other spending cuts or increased taxes.

## One more time

Excerpt from ODE, March 1, 1993.  
 "'Baby-face' Watts Preferred  
 By Brunette Oregon Alumna"

Last week-end was a great one for James Kaighin Watts, bashful Oregon forward. A certain brunette, an alumna of the University of Oregon, preferred "Baby-face" Watts over all other members of the squad. And the whole team is complaining.

"Honestly, I just love women, but they won't have much to do with me," he said in an interview yesterday. "I like teas but I never get invitations." His teammates believe that his luck must be changing. ... And remember, girls, training season is just about over.



## LETTERS

### Thank the IFC

MEChA would like to thank the Incidental Fee Committee for increasing our 1993-94 budget. We received the increase because of the increased services and responsibilities our student union has taken on in the past couple of years.

MEChA (the University Chicano student union) has been the only Oregon chapter for 24 years. This year, it helped establish two other MEChAs in Oregon, at Portland State University and at Oregon State University. MEChA's membership has doubled in the past couple of years. MEChA has more requests than ever from the campus and community to provide mentoring and educational services.

Again, MEChA would like to thank the IFC for valuing our program.

Sven Orozco  
 MEChA historian director

### To the masses

Just this once — Give a Damn — and do something about it. Right now, find that one thing, whatever size it may be — the itching annoyance, or the steel splinter wedged deep under a thumbnail — and fix it. Change it. Make something just a little bit better. The world will be a nicer place to live. So just this once — Give a Damn and do something about it.

John L. Poppin  
 English

### Not KKKristian

This is my second letter in regard to David Oaks' claims about Christianity and his concept of "KKKristianity" (ODE, Feb. 19 and March 4). Oaks misinterpreted my letter (ODE, Feb. 26). Allow me to clarify.

I did not accuse him of lumping together all Christians; I simply cautioned him not to, because harsh generalizations tend to hurt people.

I did accuse of him of being intolerant toward Christianity. I believe this needs no clarification.

I did not intend to give the impression that Oaks is, "Out of touch with God." What I meant

was that there is not enough God going around the state of Oregon because so many people refuse to pay attention to him.

I did claim that Oaks' thoughts are occupied by bitterness and hate. I won't retract that; I think it's a valid assessment.

Oaks has made no apparent distinction between "true Christians" and "pretend Christians." In fact, he left a definite impression that all Christians fit his definition of a "KKKristian." I resent that.

I'm very sorry I didn't address his "test question" on Native American spirituality. Being a Christian, I look to Jesus for my answer. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Is Oaks prepared to call Jesus a bigot? I hope not — Jesus is a pretty great guy.

Count me as one more white male American raised as a middle-class Lutheran who says "NO!" to any war and "YES!" to Christ.

Tony Gunderson  
 National Student Exchange

### Can't get in

Recently, a representative of our organization attempted to make an appointment to see House Speaker Larry Campbell or his assistant about legislative issues that are of concern to all the citizens of Oregon. Much to our disappointment, we were told that neither Campbell nor his legislative assistant would be available to see Oregonians from outside the Speaker's home district.

Few will disagree that the position of House Speaker is a very powerful one. Indeed, Campbell's individual control over the legislative process will make its mark in each legislative district of this state. As Speaker of the House for the Oregon Leg-

islative Assembly, he has a de facto duty to a constituency much larger than that of his home district — one which encompasses the entire state. He has a duty to hear the words of those who will be affected by his decision.

We hope Campbell will reconsider his refusal to meet with Oregonians who live outside of District 43.

Larry Williams  
 Secretary/Treasurer, GTFF

### Scholarship

In a time when the news media reports cuts in school financing, it is refreshing to report that the University Mothers Scholarship Committee is again making scholarships available. Since 1929, the University Mothers organization has always had as its focus assisting students. This year, they have voted to increase the amount of money awarded.

The Mothers Scholarships include: the \$1,500 Golda Wickham Award; the Teresa Kelly Janes \$500; the George Cherry Speech Award of \$400; the Opal and Robert D. Clark award of \$750 and seven additional \$750 scholarships awarded to undergraduates currently attending the University.

Choices will be made from those applicants who have a GPA of 3.0 or above, have school service or community volunteer experience and with a financial need. The application forms will be available at the Student Affairs Office, the various Deans' offices and living organizations.

Those interested students should watch the Personals in the Classified section of the *Emerald* after spring vacation for specific details.

Alice Dugan  
 University Mothers  
 Scholarships

## LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style

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