

Fiscal fallout makes credit cap sensible

Students have a responsibility to the taxpayers of Oregon: Get a diploma and get out.

The state Board of Higher Education reviewed a plan Friday to put a cap on undergraduate credit hours. The University would charge students out-of-state tuition if they exceed 48 credit hours beyond their particular degree requirements. Good idea. The board also doesn't want to make exceptions for victims of unfortunate circumstances. Not so good.

It's a smart policy for one simple reason: 1990's Ballot Measure 5 wrecked the state's budget, and thus the University can no longer afford to fund superfluous student desires.

Taxpayers currently pay for two-thirds of every in-state student's education. As unfair as it sounds, the school needs to be realistic. If students are taking advantage of a subsidized education for courses beyond what they need, they should pay for it. Naysayers will claim that a broad education encompasses as many different courses as possible. And it does. But the state simply can't afford it anymore.

In addition, the sooner a student leaves school, the sooner taxpayers' money can go toward an incoming student. This is especially relevant given that state officials expect 40 percent more high school graduates in Oregon during the next 10 years. Gov. Barbara Roberts has discussed a University enrollment cap, meaning unless turnover among students is high, extra high school graduates will have to go elsewhere. College students need to realize that by hogging credits, they are keeping others out.

The problem with the policy is its hard-lined stance against appeals. The policy should be aimed at so-called "professional" students, people who take classes for a living because they don't want to face the real world. They change majors every so often, take meaningless electives and generally goof off, siphoning money from the University in the process.

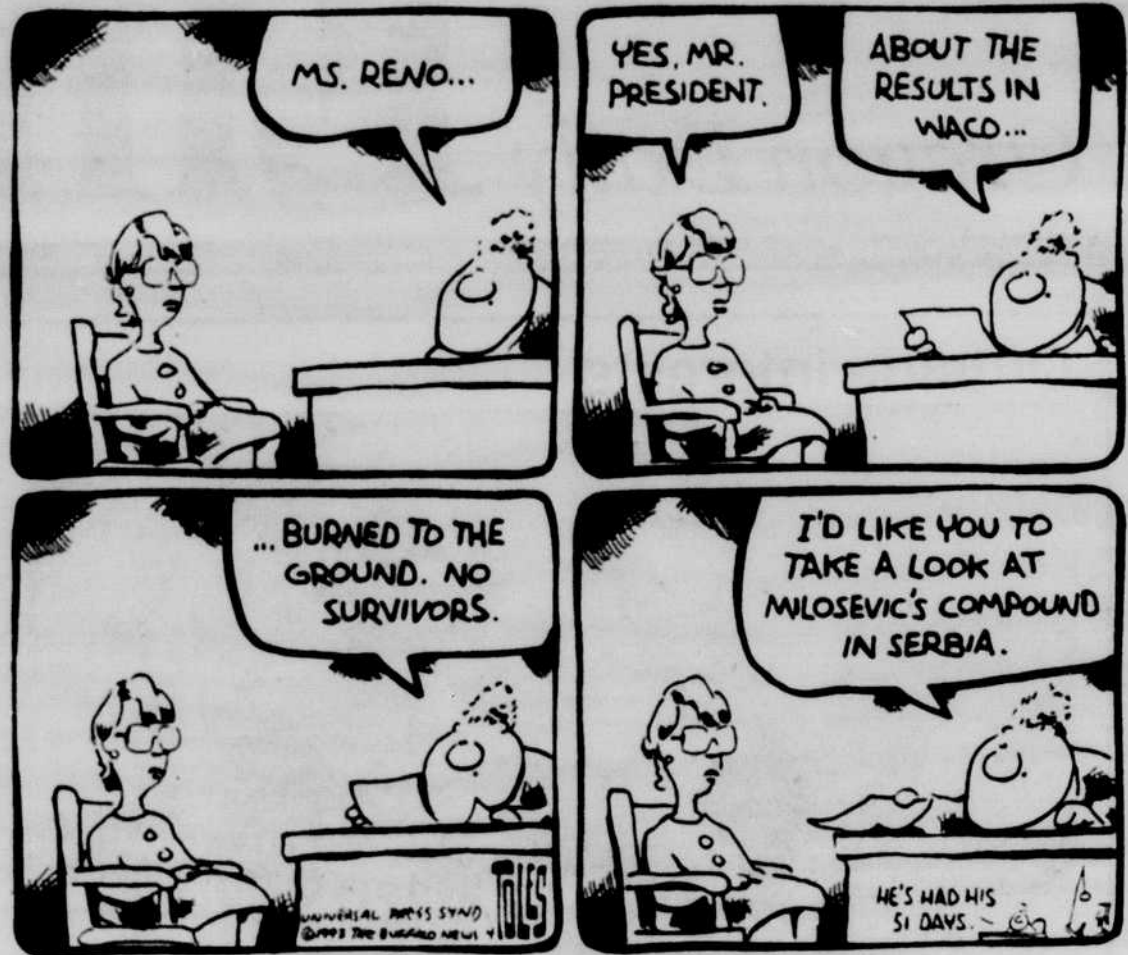
The victims of the policy are those who are trying to get the most out of their education. For them, there should be exceptions.

First, it should affect only students starting their freshman year in fall 1994. Current students haven't had the chance to factor this twist into their schedules.

Second, students returning to school for a second degree should be exempt. If a person chooses to attack a tough, yet ambitiously structured, schedule, he or she should have that option.

Third, exceptions should be made for students who pick a field of study early on but discover in the second or third year of the program that it is torturous. If it looks as though students will go 48 hours over, perhaps the University could allow them to alter their emphasis before the start of their junior or senior year. But only once.

And last, transfer students who have loaded up on credits at a previous institution deserve special consideration.



LETTERS

Happy OCA

You want to know how you can make the Oregon Citizens Alliance happy? Vote yes on University Measure 9 today.

Let's face it, you want to vote yes on nine so you can "show those OCA clowns what it feels like to be persecuted." The road to hell is paved by just such good intentions. You can't use an evil means to attain a desired end and still be able to look yourself in the face in the morning.

And you know what? The OCA supporters probably felt the same way you do. They voted yes on Oregon Ballot Measure 9 to get the thrill of feeling that they, as the majority, must be right.

Can't you just see the headlines in the next issue of the *OCA Times*? "University Bigots Attack True Believers." Do you want to give them the satisfaction of knowing that they riled you? Do you want to help persuade those who hate the University that by voting yes on future OCA measures they can annoy us uppity students?

If you vote yes on nine because of the self-righteous satisfaction you receive, take a long hard look in the mirror. The hand that pulls that lever and the hand of the OCA are more similar than you think.

Vote yes on nine and support the OCA.

Erik Hysong
Political Science

No on 9 again

Oregon Ballot Measure 9 "declares homosexuality to be wrong, abnormal, ... and perverse." University Measure 9: "Shall the ASUO issue a public statement declaring that the Oregon Citizens Alliance is wrong, abnormal, and perverse."

We coordinated two campus groups (Republicans No on 9

and Associated Collegians to Oppose Nine) formed to defeat the state's Measure 9. So you'd expect us to lead the fight for the University Measure 9, right? Wrong.

In 1992 we said no on nine to the Oregon measure. Today, in April of 1993, we must say no on nine to the ASUO measure.

Our most important argument to vote no on nine was that the voters should not use the force of government to validate their personal likes and dislikes.

The OCA wants Oregon to declare a class of people (homosexuals) to be, by definition, wrong. The ASUO wants University voters to declare a class of people (OCA members), as by definition, wrong. We say that it's always wrong to use an initiative to define any group of people as wrong.

Every individual has a right to believe what he or she wants to believe. Should we punish OCA supporters for their beliefs by calling them "abnormal"? After all, we're normal, so they must be abnormal, right? Wrong.

So vote no on nine today. Let's prove that we're better than the OCA; when we make a mistake, we correct it and turn it into a positive signal.

Vote no on nine. Again.

Jeff Osanka
Republicans No on 9
Ron Schiltler
ACT-ON

Lyons for IFC

Today is your last day to vote, and just a reminder, I still need those of you who voted last week to do it again.

Contrary to popular belief, the Incidental Fee Committee elections are not over. I hope y'all will have a couple of minutes today to stop by a booth and vote.

Thanks to all those who sacrificed time voting before. You're the ones who will determine

next year's government. If you do indeed vote today, keep me in mind again for the IFC. My vision is to make the IFC organized, responsible and finding an equitable solution when appropriating money. Have a good day!

Joey Lyons
IFC Candidate, Two-Year Seat

Not apathetic

We, members of the Student Senate, are writing in response to Martin Fisher's opinion on April 19. Although we realize that the column was written tongue-in-cheek, Fisher's categorization of all student government as "insipid" is grossly inaccurate.

Moreover, his assumption that the Student Senate is an unimportant body is representative of the disappointingly high level of apathy on campus.

Students should care. The Student Senate here at the University holds unprecedented power with regards to University policy that affects students. The Student Senate is not just an "illustrious body," it votes on motions and resolutions that have an impact on our education.

Recently we approved the multicultural curriculum that expands the race and gender requirement. Also, we have worked hard to get the attention focused on the repercussions of 1990's Ballot Measure 5 and contributed to voter registration drives. Currently we are debating an anti-stalking amendment and voted to recommend gender equity in collegiate athletics.

These decisions affect all students, and therefore the Student Senate can be a tool for change within the University system. Even though apathy is not a crime, we would like people to care because apathy only hurts those who are apathetic.

Dennis Bolt
Student Senate

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 1155 EUGENE OREGON 97402

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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