

# Everyone on campus facing new challenges

Ask the President



**MYLES BRAND**  
University President

*Question to University President Myles Brand: What are the key issues facing the University in the 1993-94 academic year?*

Individually, the key issues facing students focus on such typical concerns as writing a good term paper or passing the midterm, paying the bills for books, tuition and housing, saving time to attend a concert, game or party, or make new friends and nurture old friendships. Collectively, students and all members of the campus community face new challenges this year as the University changes itself because of new financial realities.

Reduced state funding means two things to students. First, tuition will increase. Second, higher education will, in turn, require the University to make major changes in its undergraduate program. By next year, resident student tuition will have increased almost 60 percent since

the inception of 1990's Ballot Measure 5. If the next phase of Measure 5 takes place, tuition will again rise substantially, surely double-digit, during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

We won't be able to halt these tuition increases, though we may be able to slow them down. To do so, we need to help this state develop a tax system to provide stable funding for higher education and all other publicly funded services. The only opportunity we have in the near future to affect the state's tax situation is today's sales tax referendum, known as Measure 1. All students registered to vote should seriously examine the pros and cons of this ballot measure and make sure they vote today.

Higher tuition is the impetus for the rapid changes in undergraduate education today's students will experience over the course of their college careers. Faculty and administrators realize that, with both residents and non-residents paying more each year, we must provide students with full value for those precious tuition dollars, and the University must ensure that students can graduate in four years.

The first and most visible change students will experience is the effect of significant efforts already launched by the faculty to simplify the curriculum requirements. At the last University Senate meeting, faculty and students voted unanimous-

ly to eliminate cluster requirements.

The faculty is also working hard on broad reforms aimed at improving the quality of the academic program for each student. For example, under proposals that faculty committees are now studying, freshmen and sophomores would get more small-class experiences; juniors and seniors would have more opportunities to work directly with faculty on research projects.

Things will be different. Students can help themselves and the University successfully weather these challenging times by keeping an open mind to proposals for change, by participating willingly and constructively with the faculty in finding ways to improve the academic program and by being tolerant of temporary inconveniences as improvements are implemented.

Although many issues will attract our attention this year — such as underage drinking during greek rush, multicultural curriculum revision work by the Assembly committee, and building replacement units at Amazon family housing — we can't afford to lose sight of the most fundamental issue. We need to work together to make sure that changes brought by reduced state funding and higher tuition will make the undergraduate program at the University better.

"Ask the President" will be a

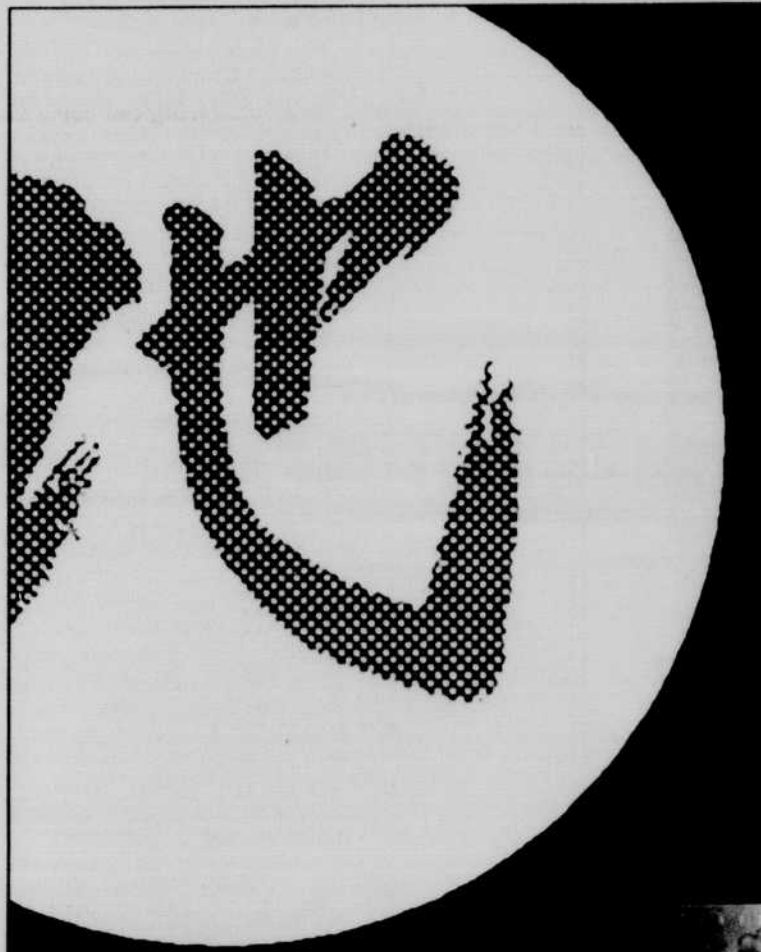
regular feature in the Emerald in which University President Myles Brand answers a question posed by the Emerald.

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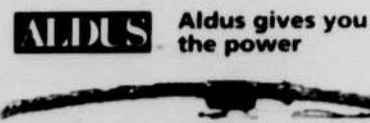


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