

## K-12 aid package will hurt colleges

As has often been the case recently, the cost of education may well be on the way up — again.

The Oregon House passed a \$3.55 billion package to help pay for kindergarten through 12th-grade education Tuesday. While giving more money to K-12 education might seem laudable, higher education may suffer from the move.

It seems that the Legislature is giving younger students more money to prepare them for a college education that will be of poorer quality. Giving more money to K-12 education looks good on paper, but it will be disastrous in practice.

The Legislature helps subsidize education costs for resident students. If legislators are not able to fully fund higher education, the remainder of the money will have to come from somewhere. More specifically, students will pay higher tuition.

Students will only pay so much for an Oregon education. At some point, budget cuts will raise tuition to a level that will send students out of state for their education.

While Oregon has been a relatively affordable place for Oregonians to attend classes, repeated increases in tuition will cause students to leave Eugene — and Oregon — to go somewhere cheaper.

Giving more money to K-12 is not necessarily a bad idea. Oregon schools have definitely suffered since Measure 5, a property-tax limitation measure, passed in 1990.

However, all students — from kindergartners to doctoral candidates — have been affected by the cuts. To help students in a limited number of schools at the expense of others is foolish and shortsighted.

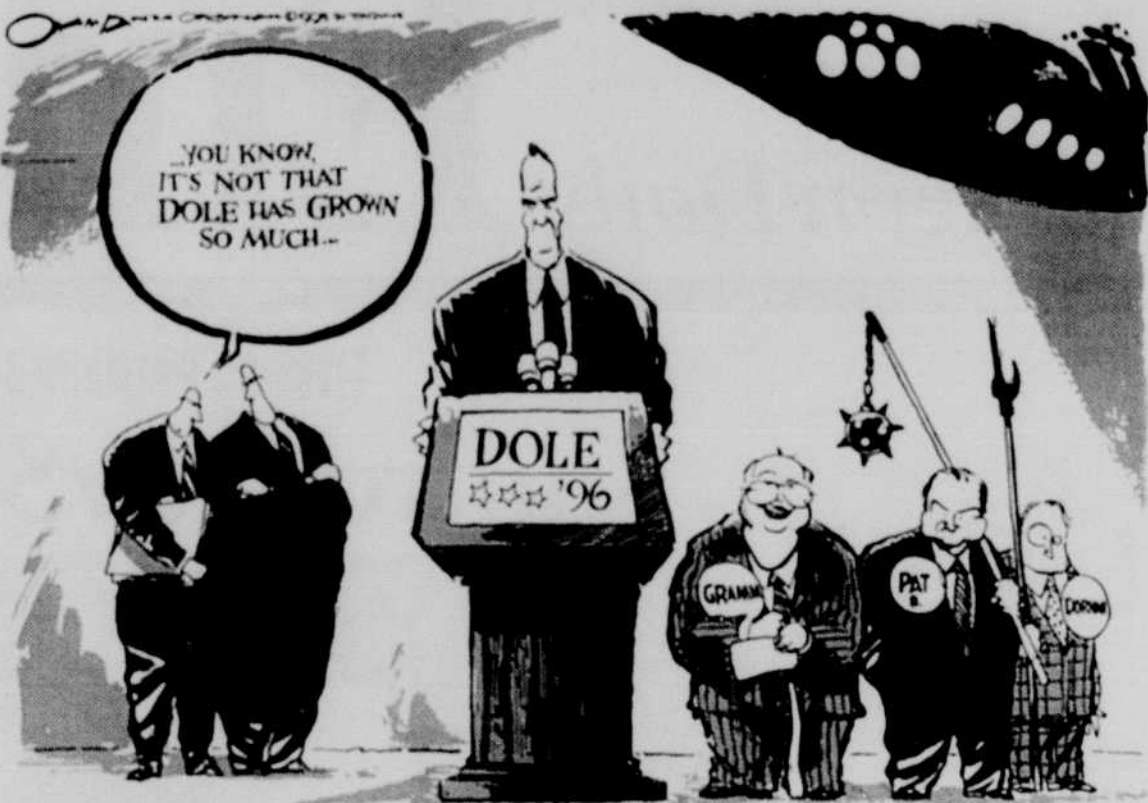
K-12 education is important and should be funded to the fullest extent possible. However, in the tight budget times that have become a common reality in Oregon, available funds should be spread around as evenly as possible.

While the House has already passed the K-12 budget, it will consider the higher education budget in the next two weeks. Now, more than ever, legislators must recognize the importance of higher education.

And now more than ever students must act on the alarming possibility of drastic cuts to the system and call their legislators and House representatives. They must urge legislators to add back funds to the suffering system.

K-12 education is crucial to a person's well-being and future, but it is not the end of his or her learning. Higher education is another step in the process of lifelong learning and cutting it will not only hurt college students, but Oregon as a whole.

It's unwise to favor one facet of the educational system over another. Funding K-12 education might make young children winners in the short run, but with less money going to higher education and the resulting deterioration of state universities, all Oregonians will lose.



### LETTERS

#### Shaved

That blithering idiot, Brian Womack, never fails to offend me. The moral state of our great nation is crumbling, he states (*ODE*, April 4), because we do not adhere to his religious principles. Unlike the bygone days, people today take illegal drugs, abandon the traditional family structure (i.e. deadbeat dads) and neglect their duty to their country. Those of you who read the news know who I am talking about — Newt Gingrich. He has confessed to being a pot-smoking, draft-dodging deadbeat dad. Who does Mr. Womack blame for our collective moral dilemma? Non-Republicans, of course.

If you are reading this, Mr. Womack, you strategically shaved monkey, you had better realize that most other people disagree with you. This is not due to "moral relativism." To the contrary, it is due to firm beliefs on what is right and wrong. All, except for a handful of right-to-lifers, would agree that killing someone is wrong. Most Americans believe that abortion should be kept safe and legal. Morality is present in America but exists in a manner which right-wing radicals cannot grasp.

My advice, Mr. Womack, is to stop beating people over the head with your Bible and read it, you cretin.

Philbert Paluch  
Biology

#### Truly sad

I am writing in regard to the University radio station, KWVA's (88.1 FM) decision to reduce its only bilingual (Spanish-English) and bicultural radio station by one hour. I am curious to know what the reasons were that necessitated such an action. As a student and a concerned member of the community, I find it frustrating and even angering that José Luis Balderas, Andres Barajas, Toney Castillo and the other radio personalities that comprise the show would be axed so easily. This show attempted to fill a void in an area in the mass media that has been ignored for far too long.

Instead of facilitating and catering to the growing Latino community in the Eugene area, the KWVA administration has decid-

ed to take on the role of a bureaucratic ogre. As it was, the show was only allotted a mere three hours on Sunday's from 2 to 5 p.m. However, in that short period of time the show was always filled with a variety of programming that ranged from political talk radio that affects the Latino community to banda, salsa, old school rap and classic oldies music. It has a little bit of entertainment for everybody. It was (and is to a smaller extent) an outlet where local Latino owned businesses could advertise their products or events if they chose to do so. KWVA should expand the show's hour, not cut them, but I have a sad feeling that that will not happen. People would probably say to a person like me, "Be happy with what you have, be content with the scraps we leave you." I say B.S., enough with being apathetic and submissive.

In an era that is becoming less and less tolerant and more conservative, it does not surprise me in the least that these measures have been taken. It only goes to show how certain segments of society can only see what is immediately in front of them — much like a horse with blinders on. They have absolutely no peripheral vision to see the greater picture. That is truly sad.

Javier Cervantes  
Journalism/Political Science

#### Go, Joe!

Way to go, Joe! By stripping the bark off the ASUO executive campaigns (*ODE*, April 14), columnist Joe Harwood exposes the elections for what they are — a microcosm of real-world politics, where empty and unrealistic promises abound. Reading some of the candidates' positions, I found myself harking back to elementary school, when student council "candidates" promised kids chocolate bars and more recess time in return for votes. Keep it up, Joe. It's about time

Shasta Willson  
Physics

### LETTERS POLICY

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

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

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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