

OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

▶ SOUND OFF
In light of the recent bombings, have your perceptions of safety in America changed? Let us know.

EDITORIAL

Higher education budget proposal in need of support

■ OUR OPINION:
Students need to voice their support of the proposal to increase state funding for higher education

Students have been given an opportunity to tighten the reigns on rising tuition by writing or calling state legislators to inform them of the importance of funding Oregon's universities and colleges.

The state Board of Higher Education has proposed a budget for the 1997-99 biennium that would freeze tuition and increase faculty salaries. The plan, approved by the board July 19, seeks a 7 percent increase in funding from the state.

However, this is just a proposal. Gov. John Kitzhaber still needs to review the request and decide how it fits into his state budget plan. From there, the legislature will hash it out and vote in June of 1997.

It is crucial that the governor and legislators understand the importance of this 7 percent funding increase. This proposal provides legis-

lators the perfect opportunity to help rebuild higher education in Oregon after it was severely weakened by Ballot Measure 5.

Since the passage of the property tax-limitation law in 1990, Oregon universities and colleges have had to eliminate key programs, drastically increase tuition, recruit more out-of-state students and freeze or reduce budgets in almost all departments within the system.

Resident tuition has risen 66 percent, non-resident tuition rose 88 percent. Overall, 90 programs were cut from the eight higher education institutions in Oregon.

Some educators estimate a 40 percent increase in the student population by the year 2000, based on the number of students currently enrolled in the state's public school system. In order to accommodate the projected enrollment and maintain high-quality education, the state is going to have to make a decision to support higher education by increasing its funding.

Students, faculty and administrators play an enormous role in informing these decision-makers that they need to give more financial support to higher education. If nobody lets them know ahead of time how important their support is, we have no one to blame but ourselves when they decide to spend the money elsewhere.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.

VOICES

"Would you write your legislator about the state Board of Higher Education's proposed budget?"



"Obviously if it affects student, yes, I would definitely write a letter. I think they directly influence the action of politicians."

Matthew H.C. Otten Sr., Biology



"I don't know if they would care about my opinion because I am from out of state, but I think it's really important in any state to keep education affordable."

Katianne Fulcher Sr., Secondary education in social studies and Spanish

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVE

In November 1990, Oregonians passed a property tax-limitation law with Ballot Measure 5.

In 1991-93, the implementation of phase one of Ballot Measure 5 resulted in a revenue loss of \$152 million for state universities and colleges.

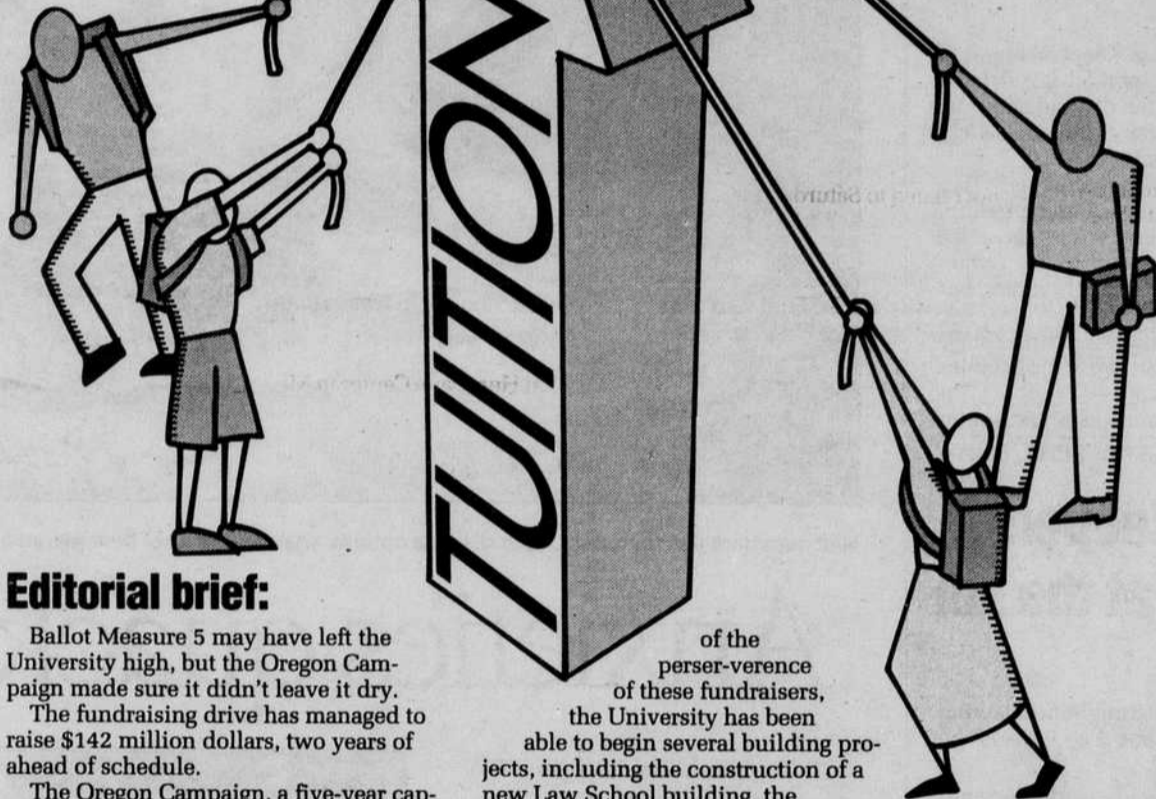
In 1993-95, The second phase of Measure 5 created another revenue loss.

In 1995-97, the third phase of Measure 5 found schools continuing their search for more cost-effective measures to deal with the loss in state funding.

During these times, only 37 percent of the schools' budgets came from state support.

For the 1997-99 biennium, the state Board of Higher Education has proposed a 7 percent increase in funds from the state.

Source: Oregon Daily Emerald archives



Editorial brief:

Ballot Measure 5 may have left the University high, but the Oregon Campaign made sure it didn't leave it dry.

The fundraising drive has managed to raise \$142 million dollars, two years of ahead of schedule.

The Oregon Campaign, a five-year capital campaign, kicked off in December 1993 with a goal of raising \$150 million for the University. In May 1996, halfway through the timeline, more than 90 percent of the goal had been raised. Because

of the perseverance of these fundraisers, the University has been able to begin several building projects, including the construction of a new Law School building, the remodeling of the School of Journalism and Communication's Allen Hall and the construction of the new athletic indoor practice facility. We applaud their efforts.

CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

LETTERS

Bottle bill makes sense

This is in response to your article on Tuesday, July 9, about the initiative to expand the bottle bill. Many people would probably agree that if a business pollutes the environment, the business responsible should pay for cleaning it up. Unfortunately, businesses often pass on these costs of doing business onto the public. A prime example is the treatment of containers. Many businesses manufacture and sell products in containers, but take little responsibility for the disposal of this packaging. These businesses would prefer that the consumers be responsible for the disposal of the packaging.

Thus, in the article, Sue McGwire, owner of the Alder Street Market says that we should set up recycling centers. Obviously this puts the main responsibility for recycling onto the customer. This has been the strategy of businesses opposed to bottle bills. McGwire also complains that the stores get nothing for

taking back the bottles and Scotten suggests steps should be taken to help out the market owners. Manufacturers, distributors and retailers of products in containers profit from the sale of their products and they should be responsible for the reuse or recycling of the containers. Businesses should take responsibility because a lot of their packaging pollutes the environment in the form of litter or adding to landfill costs. Why should the public pay these costs? The bottle bill places responsibility on the manufacturer, distributor and retailer, and it works. Recycling rates are three times as high for packaging covered by the bottle bill. Consumers still have some of the responsibility, to return the container to the store (rinsed out, if possible). And when consumers return containers to the stores, they often buy more products at those stores.

Although this is not in the expanded bottle bill, I would further suggest that businesses ought to be required to take

back all their packaging. This would have benefits beyond increasing recycling rates. If businesses had to take back all their packaging, maybe they would design packaging that would be reusable or recycled easier, or maybe they would eliminate excess packaging. The bottle bill expansion makes sense for Oregon, it makes businesses responsible for their packaging, and I encourage everyone to support it.

Edward Winter Eugene

CORRECTION

The July 23 ODE article, "Tuition freeze may be in future" lists the average faculty salary, adjusted for a 6 percent increase, at \$64,500. According to the UO budget office, that figure relates to full professors. The true overall average salary for UO professors—full, associate and assistant—is currently \$51,600. Adjusted for a 6 percent increase, that average would rise to about \$54,700. The Emerald regrets this error.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

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. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board; signed columns represent the opinion of the columnist. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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