

THIS WEEK
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OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

SOUND OFF
 Did last night's presidential debate change the way you feel about a particular candidate?

Frohnmayer talks, we talk back

During his State of the University Address on Oct. 2, President Dave Frohnmayer urged faculty and staff to improve the "quality" of their work amid budget cuts, enormous enrollment increases and fundamental change on all levels of the University. The newly-inducted president had plenty of ideas and plans for his employees to tackle. But did he give enough direction and practical steps for them to fully accomplish these goals?

ON RANKINGS

FROHNMAYER: "Our educational capabilities have been recognized this year in a variety of rankings ... our overall academic reputation rose to 55th in the nation out of all universities ... according to *U.S. News & World Report*."

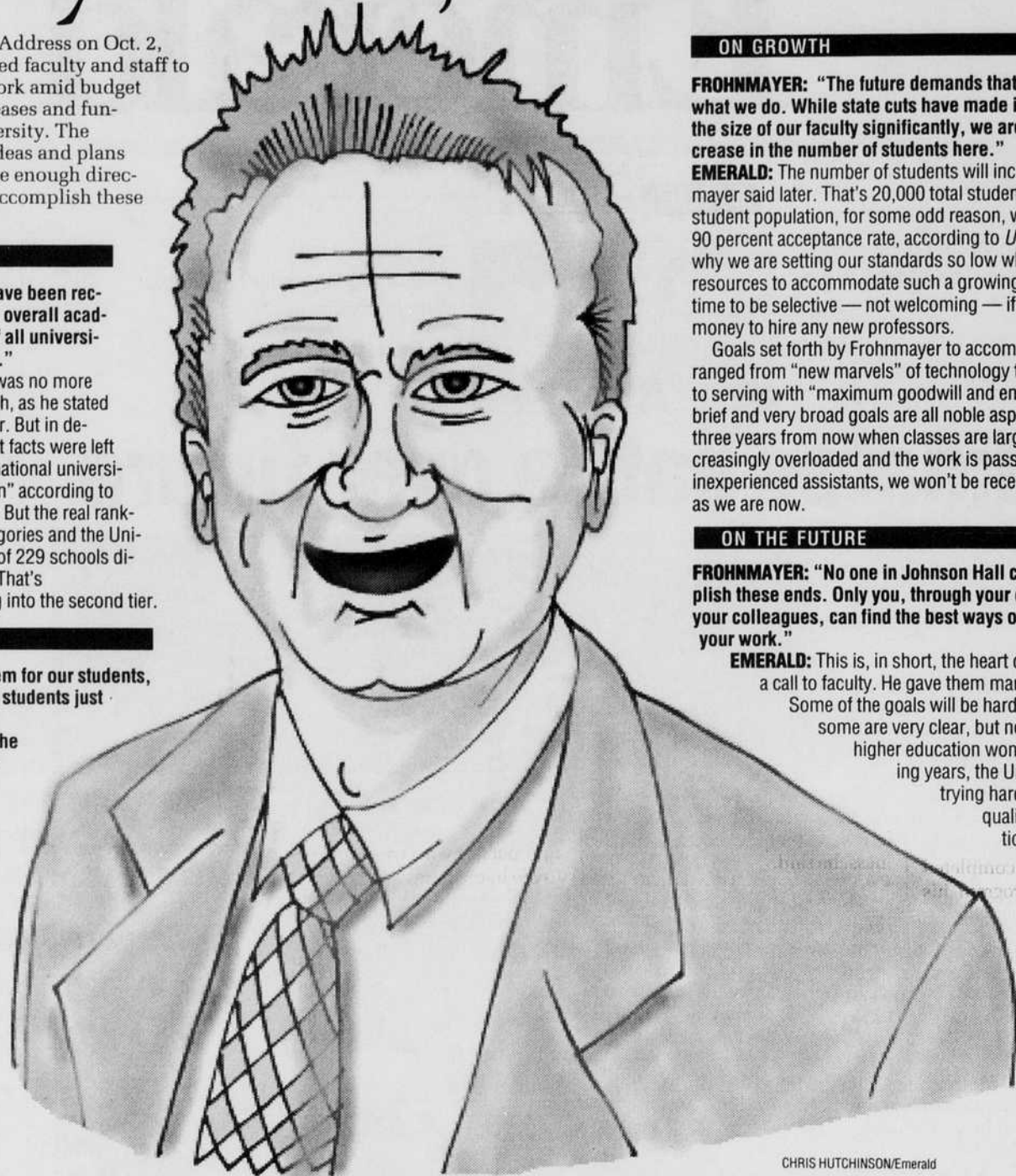
EMERALD: The saying "accentuate the positive" was no more true than in the beginning of Frohnmayer's speech, as he stated all the great things about the University's last year. But in describing our academic prowess, all-too-important facts were left out. Indeed, *U.S. News* did rank us 55th among national universities in the single category of "academic reputation" according to polls of University presidents across the country. But the real rankings were judged by a combination of seven categories and the University didn't come out too well — as usual. Out of 229 schools divided into four levels, we ranked in the third tier. That's second-to-last. Even Oregon State beat us, falling into the second tier.

ON TUITION

FROHNMAYER: "High tuition is a serious problem for our students, their families ... [it] has shut the door on many students just when we should force it open."

"It is our duty, as faculty and staff, to repay the sacrifice of their investment with superb teaching, responsive support, and an open and accepting campus atmosphere."

EMERALD: Frohnmayer has admitted the rising tuition problem isn't going away. Students will continue to pay more and more. But don't worry, we all have "superb teaching," "responsive support" and an open campus atmosphere to look forward to for \$11,000 a year. What do these things mean? Frohnmayer didn't seem to give any adequate specifics as to how faculty will achieve these goals. To his credit, however, Frohnmayer can't do much for his staff except provide an environment where they will do their best work. He is more busy as an "external" president, he says, and he does a good job at it. We just hope the job will continue to get done at home as well.



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

ON GROWTH

FROHNMAYER: "The future demands that we become better at what we do. While state cuts have made it impossible to increase the size of our faculty significantly, we are going to face an increase in the number of students here."

EMERALD: The number of students will increase 12 percent, Frohnmayer said later. That's 20,000 total students. In the next few years student population, for some odd reason, will grow incredibly. With a 90 percent acceptance rate, according to *U.S. News*, one wonders why we are setting our standards so low when we just don't have the resources to accommodate such a growing student body. This is the time to be selective — not welcoming — if we don't even have the money to hire any new professors.

Goals set forth by Frohnmayer to accommodate the new students ranged from "new marvels" of technology to new teaching methods to serving with "maximum goodwill and energy." While these very brief and very broad goals are all noble aspirations, the fact is that three years from now when classes are larger and professors are increasingly overloaded and the work is passed on more and more to inexperienced assistants, we won't be receiving as good an education as we are now.

ON THE FUTURE

FROHNMAYER: "No one in Johnson Hall can tell you how to accomplish these ends. Only you, through your own creativity, and that of your colleagues, can find the best ways of improving the quality of your work."

EMERALD: This is, in short, the heart of Frohnmayer's speech — a call to faculty. He gave them many goals for the future.

Some of the goals will be hard to understand or execute, some are very clear, but none are easy. Even if our higher education won't be quite as high in coming years, the University will no doubt be trying hard to preserve as much quality as possible. The question lies in whether it will

succeed. Frohnmayer's vision is a gallant one, but not one he can see to fruition himself. It's all in the hands of the faculty: They know where they need to go. But do they know how to get there?

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.

LETTERS

Staff says hello

In a week, the Student Orientation staff will be in touch by phone to inquire about you new students and your life at UO. Fall "O" Up is our project name, and we are excited about having another chance to say hello and offer our help after having met many of you at IntroDUCkion or during New Student Orientation Week.

Not only do we have the answers to any questions you might have, but we are also ready to share success tips and give you the latest scoop on campus events and activities. Also, should you need or want information from other campus departments and resources, we can ease your search by giving you the right referral.

It is our goal to help all new students have a successful transition to life here at the University. We'll be calling from Oct. 6 through Nov. 1 and look forward to listening to your comments and answering your questions.

We'll be in touch!

Lenore Pointer
 Fall "O" Up Student Director

Night rides available

Project Saferide is a rape-prevention organization on the University of Oregon campus. We are striving to create a safer campus atmosphere by ensuring that no

woman is forced to walk alone during the night. To reach this goal, we offer free shuttle service to female staff, students and faculty between the hours of 6 p.m. and 12 a.m. On Friday and Saturday nights we operate until 2 a.m. If you need a ride, please call us at 346-4239.

Our organization would like to stress that we are concerned with the safety of all students on campus, regardless of sex. However, as we are primarily a rape prevention organization, we are only able to accommodate female riders. This policy is in accordance with Saferide's ASUO by-laws.

In alignment with our desire to increase safety awareness on campus, we would like to mention transportation alternatives to Saferide. The Designated Driver Shuttle (DDS) is designed to transport all University students from licensed drinking establishments — including restaurants that serve alcohol — to their homes. DDS operates Thursday through Sunday from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. their number is 346-0621. Another option for both men and women is the Office of Public Safety, which can be reached at their non-emergency number, 346-5444. They are available for night-time rides in the campus area.

Project Saferide is always looking for female and male volunteers. Our volunteers participate in bake sales, gassing cars and

help with various fundraisers and events. We also need female volunteers to drive during operational hours.

Patricia Drew
Carrie Whipple
 Co-Directors, Project Saferide

Fox for House

I would like to express my opinion about a person running for House District 41. Norman Fox is a person of high integrity. Norman Fox is not a professional politician. Norman Fox is very involved in education and says education is his "priority one". Norman Fox is also concerned about crime. While the rest of the nation is seeing a decline in crime, our area is seeing an increase. I feel Fox will bring fresh ideas on improving our community and I encourage everyone to vote for Norman Fox.

Arline Link
 Springfield

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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