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# PERSPECTIVES

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## Recognize donors for what they give

*Alumni and corporations should be admired for helping the University provide needed services*

**A**nd on the eighth day, after resting on the seventh and missing football, God flipped on the television with the Universal remote.

Hoping to find a good game, God surfed the channels with the flick of an Almighty thumb. Momentary images of Sally Struthers and David Hasselhoff sped by before God paused at a commercial. This 30-second spot showed colleges around the United States that needed money to educate their students.

To help out, God invented the saying, "Tis better to give than to receive." God thought people would donate money to schools because they actually believed in the saying. God saw that this was good and evening fell — the eighth day.

Enter day nine. Today, True, it's the ninth day of January, not the omnipotent calendar, but what have we done with the Almighty's day eight? Well, sure enough, gracious people have made donations to higher education. The University of Oregon is one of those lucky colleges.

Donors have given money. They have given buildings, property, books, art and everything imaginable to this institution. In turn, the University has given us an education that we may someday be able to give back to our society.

Lately, however, corporate donors have come under criticism for doing exactly what the University needs them to do — donate. Phil Knight, in particular, has been scrutinized by students and others who feel campus is becoming the University of Nike.

But what about silent contributors? What about the hundreds of individuals who collectively do more for University funding than corporations ever could? Is there public outcry over this campus turning into the University of Bob Jones? No.

This University has become what it is today partly because of donations from individuals. The very education we are getting right now would not be realized without the help of hundreds of people who believe in the message of that imaginary eighth day.

We go to football games at Autzen Stadium without any thought of the people who made that afternoon possible. The stadium itself was construct-

ed in part because of private funds from Thomas Autzen. For those of you not into football, Mr. Autzen also made contributions to the Museum of Art, Robert D. Clark Honors College, Knight Library, biology department and the Earl A. Chiles Business Center.

When Autzen was taken off life support the day after Thanksgiving, a man who had previously breathed so much life into this University was left gasping for air. After he died the next day, Autzen and his accomplishments received only a sidebar in the Oregon Daily Emerald and a small blurb in the Register-Guard.

Autzen lived and contributed as anonymously as he died. But the contributions of Autzen and others like him are far from insignificant.

According to one estimate from the Office of Financial Aid, nearly \$3 million to \$3.5 million for financial aid comes from private funds. While that is only 4 to 5 percent of the total financial aid budget, there is no question that without the patronage of individuals and corporations alike, many students could not attend the University.

Even if everyone could attend, where would students go during Dead Week without a library that was partially built and renovated through private funds? How could University administrators ever hope to improve campus without some help from private and corporate contributors?

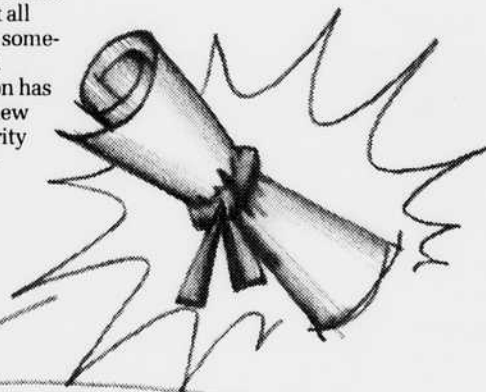
Recent cuts in higher education sure aren't going to solve those problems. If this university is to succeed, expand

and go headfirst into the 21st century, it needs the assistance of individuals and corporations alike.

Tom Autzen, Phil Knight and hundreds of their fellow alumni contribute to the University. Publicity is inevitable for some donors, but their actions are no less noble. What it all boils down to is people giving something back to their alma mater.

If your New Year's resolution has already been broken, make a new one. Try to appreciate the charity of those who want you to succeed. After all, that's the only thing donors really want.

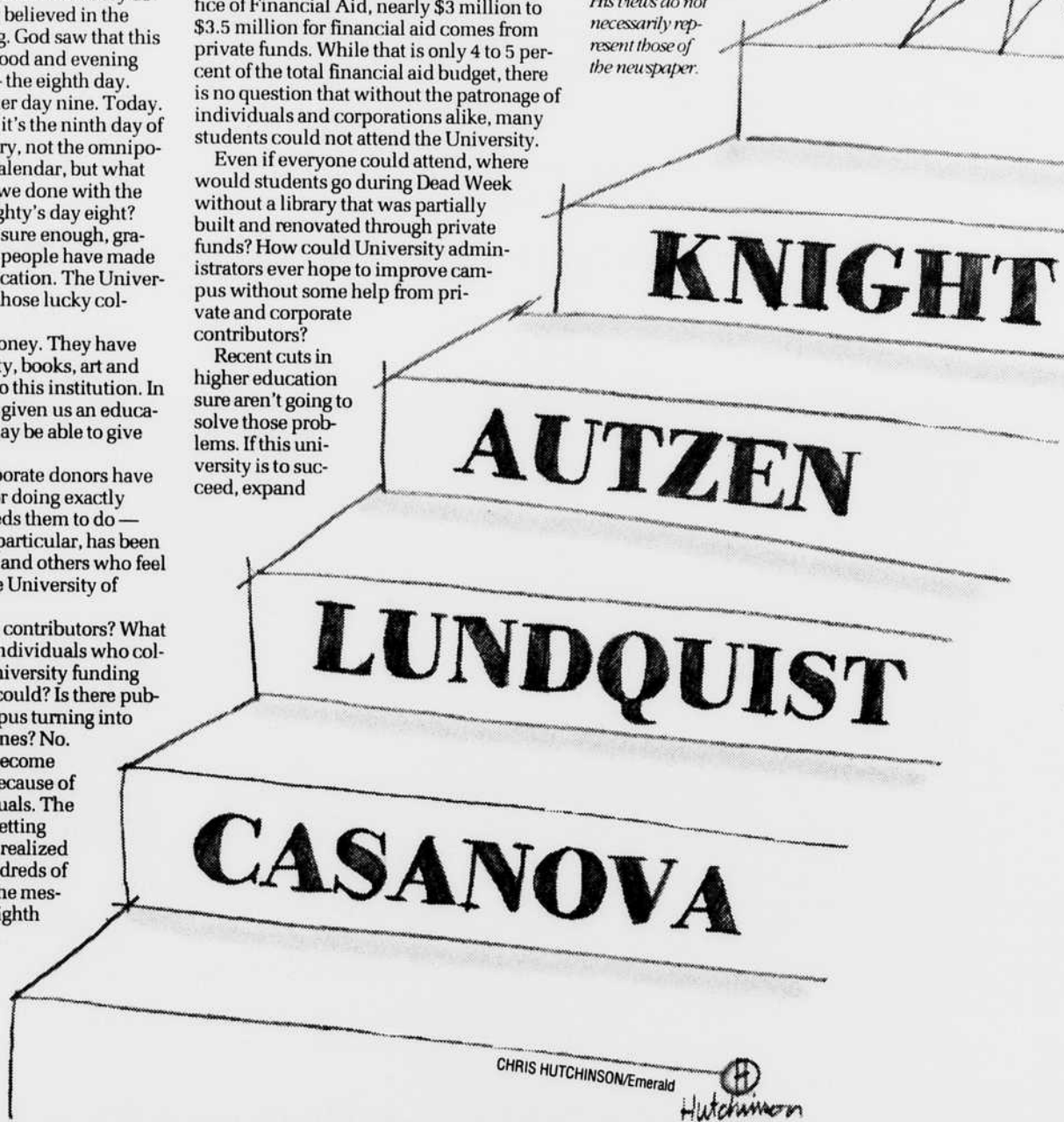
*Jonas Allen is a columnist for the Emerald. His work appears on alternate Fridays. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.*



**OPINION**



**Jonas Allen**



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**NAFTA harms students**

I am writing concerning some of the issues raised in the recent editorial concerning the "fast track" legislation and the free trade policy (NAFTA) in the United States. As an economics student, I had the opportunity to take two courses that covered these topics. It is hard to disagree with the editorial position asserted in the Emerald. It is true that since the signing of the NAFTA agreement workers and the environment have suffered. There have been more drawbacks than benefits for people other than government officials and corporations.

One of the arguments not men-

tioned by the editorial was the impact of NAFTA on students. The article clearly outlines what is wrong with NAFTA concerning other countries. Still, the question facing students is: How does this affect me? Students have reason to be concerned with the "fast-track" agreement because it impacts their future job search. Students should be aware that corporations, along with jobs, are leaving this country in search of cheaper labor and fewer environmental restrictions.

I would like to encourage students to put pressure on the government to be more concerned with the future jobs of the workers, as well as the

global environment, rather than the expansion of the global economy.

**Mohd Hafiz Mohd Yusoff**  
Economics

**Logging crucial issue**

I just wanted to say that I felt that the editorial pertaining to the price of logging was very well written. I feel very strongly about this issue, and I think that the author wrote a very informed, rational editorial. So often you only hear the radical message, which is often so one-sided that a lot of people would dismiss it, or can't really relate to it. Not so with this one.

This is one of the most important issues out there right now. If more

people are not made aware of the issues at hand, we may reach a point in deforestation from which we cannot come back. If people only knew of the corruption and amounts of money handed out from logging in the Forest Service, there would be, in my opinion, a much different outlook on the Forest Service and its practices.

So please keep up the good work. I would really like to see more of these types of editorials.

You all should consider sending this editorial out to some larger newspapers.

It couldn't hurt.

**Dan Calvert**  
Biology

**CORRECTION**

The brief "Oregon Health Plan available to students" (ODE Jan. 5) should have read that the University Health Center accepts payment through the Oregon Health Plan only in the first 30 days of OHP coverage, when the student is still considered "open-card" and does not yet have a primary care physician. The Emerald regrets the error.