

PERSPECTIVES

NEWSROOM:
(541) 346-5511
E-MAIL:
ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
ON-LINE EDITION:
www.uoregon.edu/~ode

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ryan Frank
EDITORIAL EDITORS
Kameron Cole
Stefanie Knowlton



Thumbs



TO HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE:

President Clinton implemented a housing voucher that will subsidize rent for 17,000 low-income people with disabilities.

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE:

For their new program that guarantees college students they will graduate in four years or the university will pay the remaining tuition.



TO THE RISE IN PREJUDICE AMONG TEENS:

According to a recent article in the San Francisco Examiner half of the 3,123 high school students polled admitted a prejudice against gays and lesbians. This figure shows a 19 percentage point increase from last year.

TO DROP IN GRANTS FOR COLLEGE TUITION:

According to a recent study, financial aid doesn't go as far as it used to. Researchers concluded that financial aid today covers less than half of what it did in 1976-77, which makes a higher education difficult to afford for low-income families.

No implementation without representation

The proposed police commission needs to include a student in order to truly represent the community

There has been a lot of talk about student behavior lately. It has been the subject of several meetings between students, police, city officials and the University.

All are concerned about the increase in violence, underage drinking and out of control parties that surround the University area. The majority has claimed that community members are becoming increasingly intolerant of students' irresponsible behavior. Tension is high between the community, police and students and appears only to get worse as events such as the Halloween riots make a third annual appearance near campus.

In order to ease tension and raise community involvement, the city has proposed the es-

tablishment of a police commission. With this in mind, one would think the city would want to include representatives not only from the community but also from the University. Yet no provision has been made to specifically include students in the commission.

So far the proposed 12-person commission would include two city council members, a representative from the city's human rights commission, eight residents and an additional member to be recommended by the police chief.

In light of the recurring problems between students and police and the fact that nearly 17,000 Eugene residents happen to be University students, it is ridiculous that a place has not been set aside specifically for a University student.

Students are a huge part of

the community and probably deal with police more often than any other demographic in Eugene. The city council claims that the ordinance includes a strong recommendation for recruitment of young people, but this is not enough.

Recent problems have given the University a bad name in the community, but most students are fairly responsible adults. By securing a place on the police commission, students will be able to give community members a more realistic impression and take part in discussing causes and solutions to problems that are close to campus.

In addition, students will give a unique perspective that may be overlooked by other community members. Inevitably topics such as minors in possession, out-of-control

parties and riots will come up in police commission meetings. And students can give information that is invaluable to these discussions. In addition, without student involvement the commission's discussions of these topics will be limited to the hypothetical and have little chance of producing change.

Considering that the result of these discussion will directly apply to students, it is necessary that students have a voice in the proposed commission. Representation in the council would breach the widening gap between students, police and the community, which is the whole point.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

