

PERSPECTIVES

The ol' switcheroo

The Legislature is trying to give students a bad program in the guise of higher education funding

Genesis tells the story of Jacob, the son of Isaac, who fell in love with Laban's youngest daughter, Rachel. Jacob went to Laban to ask for her hand in marriage and the father requested that Jacob work in his fields for seven years to earn his daughter's hand.

Once Jacob completed the task, he was given a wife, but upon receiving her as his wife he discovered she was not his beloved Rachel but her older sister, Leah.

This tale of deception and manipulation can be seen in our current situation as University students depending on the

Oregon Legislature to

do what it should — give us a tuition freeze instead of instituting unwanted half-baked programs supposedly designed to help all students.

As told in the story of Jacob, people are not always what they seem and programs do not always do what they are designed to.

Senate Bill 104 is Leah, the sister we never wanted. This bill would create a loan program at Oregon's seven public universities that would allow students to repay loans according to how much they make after graduation. The loan obligation would end after 10 years or after they have paid three times the amount of the original loan.

Therefore those who have the fortune, or misfortune, of making a sizable income after graduation would pay more than those who make less. Not only is this program unfair, it would be expensive.

Nothing would stop students from taking out loans they knew they could not repay, and the state and other students would end up picking up the bill.

The program also fails to help students who are already in school, and it will be slow in implementation. Only 2,000 students in the next two years would be affected, at an estimated cost of \$15 million.

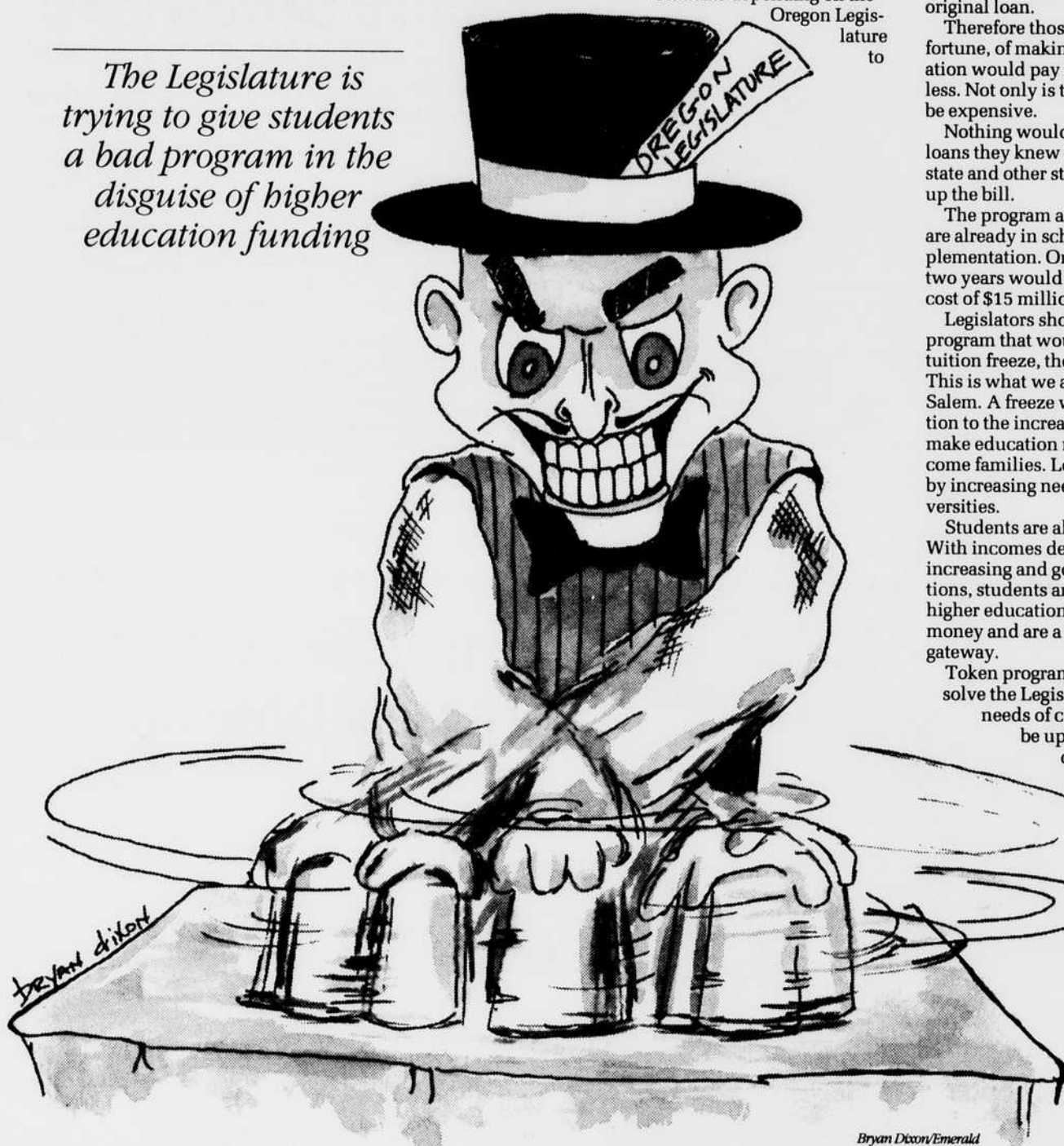
Legislators should be more concerned with a program that would help all students, such as a tuition freeze, the Rachel to college students. This is what we asked for in countless trips to Salem. A freeze would be an immediate solution to the increasing cost of tuition and would make education more accessible to lower-income families. Legislators could also add to this by increasing need-based grants at Oregon universities.

Students are already too much in debt as it is. With incomes decreasing, the cost of education increasing and government offering few solutions, students are discouraged from pursuing higher education. Loans do not save students money and are a barrier to education — not a gateway.

Token programs such as SB104 do not absolve the Legislature from focusing on the real needs of college students. It should not be up to Legislature to try and figure out what would be best for us or what we want.

We have spoken:
We want Rachel not Leah, and stop trying to manipulate college students. Unlike Jacob, we know the difference.

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



Bryan Dixon/Emerald

Letters to the Editor

Nike's university

I would like to thank Mike Hines for his article "Getting Cozy with NIKE?" (ODE, Feb. 23) because it reminded me, once again, of how much I despise the vast majority of modern media. Normally I am amused by frivolous paranoia, but the subject matter chosen for this article enraged me.

I can wholeheartedly say I am sick to death of instances in today's society where a person's altruism is mistaken for avarice and domination. The only flaw in the ASUO/Nike assimilation is people like Hines who search the ends of the earth just to find something else to gripe about and who systemically continue to bite the hand that feeds them.

Phil Knight is offering generous contributions that will aid the University in numerous ways, including: expansion of the student body's resource pool through the addition of the new law school and the already existent Knight Library, access to new facilities and equipment and improvement of the overall reputation of not only the University but the state of Oregon.

The composition of this article irritates and nauseates me. As a journalist, it is your job to find subject matter important enough to your reader to make them read your literature. Once you've found that, you are supposed to follow up with a halfway intelligent, articulate argument that supports its claims.

Hines' article does none of these things. I've read more intellectually stimulating literature written on the bathroom walls of the EMU by some drooling, rambling crackhead. Fret for your journalism degree, Hines, and dear editor, fret for your newspaper.

Andrew Stover
Psychology

Get active

With the cost of tuition rising more than 80 percent since 1990 and the threat of a tuition hike looming, it is now more important than ever that we fight as students to keep our tuition rates flat. With every rise, however slight, students are shut out of higher education — either having to drop out,

transfer or reduce credit hours. Statistics have proven that a \$1,000 tuition increase will reduce or eliminate access to almost 15 percent of the student body.

We had a day of action on Feb. 17 to show our legislators we care about our tuition rates. The governor allocated \$15.3 million and the state Senate \$15 million for an in-state tuition freeze. Students need to show support so this piece of the budget does not slip away. There are suggestions being put into legislators' heads to use this money in other areas. We need to show our support. Stop by the ASUO to find out how to get involved.

Ceri Swanson
Senior

QUOTED

"The public is tired of partisan BS. We want subjective news!!!!!"

— Clearly meaning objective news, John Adamson, international studies student, comments in a letter to the editor on the Feb. 23 opinion piece "Getting Cozy with NIKE?"

"Rather than alleviating concerns, the study reveals that assisted suicide is bad medicine and even worse public policy."

— Wesley J. Smith, lawyer for the International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force, describing the recent Oregon report on assisted suicides in 1998.

"But Oregon seems to have shown, on this most personal and final of issues, that it is possible to make law and bureaucratic rules that allow people to take responsibility for themselves, without the state, or anyone else, abusing them. That is a cause for relief."

— A New York Times editorial praising the study of the 15 deaths that occurred in Oregon under the new physician-assisted suicide law.

CORRECTION

The March 1 article, "Sweeping the night away," should have read that janitor Bob Foster has worked at the University 25 years and four months. The photo cutline should also have read that Foster's shift is from 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. The Emerald regrets the errors.