

# PERSPECTIVES

## TUITION FREEZE PLEASE

*Oregon universities have suffered funding cuts long enough; the budget needs to be passed in our favor*

**F**inally, someone is listening. Students have fought long and hard for a tuition freeze and other much-needed funding for Oregon universities.

The higher education budget was approved Tuesday in the House Ways and the Means Education Committee at \$87 million, which includes a tuition freeze. The Oregon University System originally asked for \$116 million to implement a new funding model that was designed to create a more efficient higher education system.

If you consider the funding the education committee put into separate bills for higher education, the \$87 million comes closer to \$100 million.

This is the highest increase since the late 1970s and it is about time.

Higher education funding has suffered greatly as a result of Measures 5 and 47, property tax reduction bills that

took money away from school spending in the early '90s.

Although solutions for elementary and secondary education funding have been examined in the last few years, little has been done to repair the damage these two measures have done to higher education.

In response, tuition has skyrocketed by 80 percent in the last 10 years, making education for some students difficult — if not impossible.

All this may change soon, or at least slow down, if the Oregon University System's budget

model is adopted by the senate and signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Easier said than done.

Although the senate may support the budget, the governor told legislators he will veto any proposal that exceeds his recommended amount.

The governor originally proposed \$74 million for higher education and is not expected to commit another \$13 million, even if the budget is his pet project.

The OUS model has been redesigned to promote efficiency and funnel money where it's needed.

Kitzhaber spent four years researching and designing the new model that's being debated, but he is squeezed between spending on higher education and K-12.

Ultimately, it will be up to him whether this budget passes and students get a much-needed tuition freeze.

When you look at kids, prisons, disabled people and college students, it is not hard to see why we get the short end of the stick.

College students have been enduring the brunt of the cuts for too long. If tuition continues to grow at this rate, fewer and fewer Oregon residents will be able to afford college in Oregon.

Spending on K-12 may be needed, but if you don't back that up with a strong higher education system, those graduates will leave and take their expensive education and tax dollars with them.

Kitzhaber, we understand you have to make tough decisions, but do not forget college students in the process.

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



### Letters to the Editor

#### Milosevic not a victim

In Vince Medeiros' column (ODE, April 16), Slobodan Milosevic was portrayed as the victim of bullying by NATO. His behavior in the Bosnian War proves otherwise.

The invasion of Kosovo mirrors that of the Bosnian War, with specific emphasis placed on the invasion of Srebrenica.

The Republika Srpska Army and Serb nationalists called Arkanovci, a.k.a. Arkan's Tigers, are some of the most vicious militiamen in the service of Milosevic. Kosovar citizens sought the involvement of NATO. It is not arbitrary.

To simply abstain from involvement would be to condone the behavior of Milosevic and his minions. His advisers, Gen. Ratko Mladic and Rodovan Karadzic, have been brought to trial at the Hague on charges of crimes against humanity. What does this say about their leader?

Involvement of the United Nations is explained in Article 51, the right of collective self-defense. In Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, the council found that "there was a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression of an international character." Concern was expressed in 1998 in Security

Council Resolution 1199.

It included "reports of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law." I realize that you have a deadline, but next time you want to write a column about international affairs don't use such simplistic ridiculous metaphors to describe a situation that isn't even factual. At least pretend to do the research.

Who is the bully and who is the victim?

Jennifer Jackson  
History

#### Analogy insensitive

I've been reading the ODE regularly for 20-plus years now, and in that time I've witnessed the perpetration of some pretty micro-encephalic drivel, particularly as it's appeared (frequently) on the editorial page.

But Aaron Artman's "Bittersweet Memories" wins hands-down in the realm of self-serving myopia.

Now I can ignore the slams at Eugene, for whom among us has not had similar complaints at times (although it's difficult to understand how "slow ... non-aggressive drivers" can be perceived as negative)?

Yet when he writes about "[war] veterans [whom] would be hard-pressed to

look more haggard than I do when I return to my parents home after too much wintertime in Eugene," I can only shake my head in profound disbelief.

Even taking into account the ignorance so common to youth and inexperience, comparing the chilly discomfort of Oregon rain to the boundless horror of war suggests a disassociation from reality bordering on the pathological.

Yes, yes, I know: it's possible that Artman was merely attempting to write with tongue in cheek. Unfortunately, he only succeeded, in my opinion, in conveying the impression of having some other part of his anatomy placed in an entirely different location.

Bill Smee  
Eugene

#### Election decision fair

Your editorial, entitled "Sore Losers" (ODE, April 19) attempts to justify some rather serious elections violations with double-talk and misleading statistics.

What it comes down to is this: The Wylie/Mitra ticket was in no way given a mandate by the student body. When only 1,600 students vote, no one can truly claim a victory.

In a situation where only a small mi-

nority of students choose to vote, elections are decided by the ticket that can marshal its support on short notice.

This opens the door for violations to influence the election process and gives a decided advantage to the Wylie/Mitra ticket, with its unlimited access to the residence halls' captive audience.

If only 29 people had voted for a ticket other than Wylie/Mitra, the ASUO Executive would not have been decide in the primaries and the election would have continued.

The Elections Board decision, the Emerald claims, is contrary to the will of the students. In actuality, it seems to confirm this will.

I have been attending the University long enough to have been, at first, mildly amused, and as time passed, increasingly disgusted, by the students we have continually chosen to represent us.

It is no secret that past student administrations have been guilty of some startling misunderstandings of political ethics. Attempts to subvert the political process seem to be the stock in trade of past ASUO administrations so, hey, why not continue the trend?

Aaron Abrams  
Political Science

### Thumbs



#### THUMBS UP

**To next year's winning season**  
The Oregon football team is expected to win the national championship next year, now that the Mill Camp is closed. Go Ducks.

#### To the Street Faire

Now that is with an "e" and it started Wednesday, not Tuesday as some rumors suggested. It is the 20th annual faire at the University, serving good food and fun.



#### THUMBS DOWN

#### To computer viruses

The Chernobyl virus hit computers Monday on the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl meltdown. The virus knocked out computers and erased hard drives.

#### To arming rangers

A man shot and killed one park ranger and wounded another Tuesday near Seaside. Although any death is a tragedy, the Legislature should not consider arming park rangers. Doing so would do more harm than good.

#### CORRECTION

The April 23 article, "Step Show will bring African culture to Mac Court," should have read: "... Ronnie Seawood, the outreach coordinator for the BSU and a member of Phi Beta Sigma." The Emerald regrets the error.