

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Perspectives

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A Golden Age of Growth

It seems you can't go anywhere on campus these days without seeing growth. As hammers pound cement near Allen Hall and the glisten barely dims on the law school, the message is clear: The University is in a golden age. Maturation of the campus academic dynamic showed up

as the University jumped a tier in the U.S. News and World Report rankings this year. And calls for increased diversity and student programs are signs of a healthy campus, both intellectually and socially.

If the University is on the rise, then alumni generosity is too: Their dollars have opened up a major era in renovation. The last few years have seen impressive construction for Esslinger, the new law school and the Moshofsky Center. An addition to the journal-

ism school is going on right now and will be completed this spring.

But it won't stop there. In plans unveiled Monday, the next few years will bring University students a bigger art museum, a fancier Gilbert Hall, a brand new cultural center for Native Americans and a 25-percent larger Autzen stadium. The construction is not merely cosmetic; the University plans for these additions to draw more students, whether by building a prestigious business school or by drawing more multicultural interest.

The funding is amazing: Almost \$60 million of the total \$135 million has already been raised through donations and gift-giving. The cost to students and government is so little, while the effects are so great.

The renovation of Autzen stadium might be the most telling

project. The addition of about 12,000 seats and 32 sky boxes with an upgrade of current seating and concession stands will take a whopping \$70-80 million, with

about 90 percent of the budget coming directly from fund raising. While Autzen is currently one of the smallest sta-

diums in the Pacific-10 Conference, the Ducks are often one of the most consistently successful teams. And if those long lines to get student tickets or the quick sell-out of sea-

son tickets are any indication, the need and desire to expand is rampant.

While there is seemingly no expense to students, we should expect some changes. It's fair that if other ticket prices increase to accommodate part of the other 10-percent cost of the project, student ticket prices would also rise. At this point, our prices are about half of what the public pays. The fair amount tickets should go up is whatever makes that same percentage.

Another question is whether any of those additional 12,000 seats can go to the student section. The Athletic Department is mum on the specifics, but it does assert that not all the student tickets for each game get picked up (with the Civil War among possible exceptions). If not all tickets get used and if those who pick them up don't go and don't utilize the ticket exchange, then the Athletic Department might have a reason not to expand the student section. The only thing for sure is that the student section will remain where it is now, and it will be improved just as all the other sections will be upgraded.

While some people may complain that so much space will go to the 32 new sky boxes, there is a huge upside to this: more money. Each sky box can be rented for about \$30,000 a season. With more than \$960,000 dollars to be gained, the Athletic Department moves even closer to self-sufficiency. In time, it may be completely financially separate from the University, and students might well reap fiscal benefits from this disunion in time.

As we will from almost all these construction plans. Better buildings seem to equal happier students, and better facilities draw more prestige. In this sense, construction is like a mindset. The more we build, the bigger and more important we seem, and then even more money can roll in. Whether we want the University to prize academics above all, it is money that makes the world go round. This go 'round, we just ended up making the most of it.

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



Letters to the editor

Senate working hard

Although the Student Senate is currently addressing issues of personal conduct, it is inappropriate to assert that your student government has not been functional.

Sen. Spencer Hamlin and others have worked diligently to improve diversity on our campus. Fiscally, this year's senate has been much more educated and responsible, making tough decisions with a decreased budget. Sens. Dave Sanchez and Jerome Grzybowski have put many hours into organizing our academic council in preparation for University Senate meetings, an area that had been severely lacking in years past. Our Programs Finance Committee senators are working hard to keep us updated on financial matters. Our Athletic Department Finance Committee senators have put commendable efforts into increasing awareness of student tickets and the constant struggle with a sometimes aggravating Athletic Department. Sen. Andrew Schneider has single-handedly taken the initiative to address student concerns with the Eugene Police Department. And our EMU senators are doing their very best with a tough budget. Finally, ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani, executive representative on senate, is doing an exceptional job of keeping open lines of communication between the executive and senate.

It's not often that the positive work of the

Student Senate makes headlines, and it's easy to criticize from a distance. Our student government is far from perfect; however, with countless hours devoted to student advocacy, five-hour plus senate meetings, personal conflicts galore and all other strains of academic life, with a \$70 stipend as compensation, I think it's safe to say that we're doing a pretty damn good job.

Eric D. Pfeiffer
 Student Senate ombudsman
 news director, KWVA 88.1 FM

Renters deserve rights

Have you ever been forced to pay your rent, even though your landlords refuse to repair your leaking roof, broken refrigerator or busted heater? If yes, you may want to participate in the Renter's Rights Day of action.

Today, the ASUO and OSPIRG are coordinating a day of action to gather information regarding rental problems. Please join us at our table outside of the Fishbowl entrance to the EMU from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to get more information about renter's rights in Oregon and to fill out a survey explaining your personal experiences.

One of the goals of our campaign is to pass a viable, enforceable housing code for the city of Eugene by the end of the school year. We hope that through days of action we will be able to gain enough information regarding rental issues to determine which areas our campaign should concentrate on.

If you have experienced problems or dis-

crimination in the rental process, and are unable to visit out table, please pick up and fill out a survey in the ASUO office, suite 4 EMU or the OSPIRG office, suite 1 EMU.

Matthew Lieuallen
 ASUO housing advocate
Marian Fowler
 ASUO Community Outreach director
Erin Pursell
 chapter chairwoman, OSPIRG

Rugby recognition

I wanted to thank the Emerald — especially sportswriters Shigenari Matsumoto and Inge McMillen — for its exceptional coverage of University rugby. It is good to see some of the University's most dedicated athletes getting the recognition they deserve. I had the opportunity to watch the Ducks put on a great display of finesse and athleticism in their domination of the Huskies. I was not surprised by the large crowd in attendance at Saturday's match. With the Ducks' fast-paced and exciting rugby style, they provide a gripping alternative to other Saturday afternoon sporting events.

Mike Arnold
 2nd-year law student

Heading back to school rewarding

I was interviewed for an article by Simone Ripke of your staff on Tuesday (ODE, Nov. 9). While I agreed to this interview, I

feel that portions of what I said — and the points I was trying to make — were omitted from the article. I offer further clarification of my position.

In general, the positive aspects of my experience were left out. I explained to Simone that I'd had some good — and some not-too-great — experiences while attending school here. The gist of my message was this: To accommodate the changing demographics of America's colleges, administrative personnel must realize that many more "non-traditional" students (read: older) are returning to school to update their skills and/or gain a broader educational background for future opportunities. In this light, I offered some suggestions concerning ways to improve the relationship between the University (administration) and those students. I also stated — and I'm sure most of my peers will agree — that returning to school has been a relatively positive experience. Nothing in life is easy, and while I've certainly had my share of lousy instructors — as I'm sure the remainder of students have — I've worked hard to attain some degree of success.

I've spent most of my life believing that earning that small piece of paper was the epitome of achievement. For me, it still is. And yes, I've had moments of self-doubt. Haven't we all? But for me, the fact that I made it this far should speak for itself: Perseverance is its own reward.

Michele Rutheiser
 journalism