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Perspectives

RAISING RESPONSIBILITY

■ Student-parents balance the full-time job of raising children with getting an education, and they could really use some help from the state

School is difficult enough as it is. Term projects, papers, research, theses, classes. They've been known to overwhelm students from time to time.

But add to that the responsibilities of taking your kids to school, getting flu shots, changing diapers and paying for day care, kiddie clothes and food, and we're talking about a full-time job on its own. If you have kids and want a higher education, surviving college means more than surviving a few hangers.

Right now, the student-parents at the University are trying to get funding for the Child Care Block Grant, a need-based grant that assists low-income students with their child-care needs. Currently, 700-900 student-parents are on the waiting list for child care. If legislators act to increase funding as the proposed budget indicates, the waiting list could be cut by half.

Student-parents — whether they be young ones just starting out or older ones coming back — are a valuable asset to the University. They give us perspective in our classes. They strengthen the Oregon work force. They inspire us not to get lazy, and they are good role models. With an average GPA of 3.6, student-parents are among the best at the University.

If we want to keep them, or even to get more of them, we need to increase funding for student-parent child care and even tuition assistance. These students have more than one person depending on them, and to assist a student-parent is to affirm that families are important. It's a trickle down effect: the children of these students will get a more educated parent, possibly a better life and we hope a better appreciation for education.

Many of us have had parents who have gone back to school, who were not able to go to school because they raised us or who got assistance and were able to balance family and education. We all understand the importance of higher education in life and in the economy, or else we wouldn't be here. Supporting student-parents is a way of showing we understand the full benefits of education.

And legislators should understand these benefits as well. Student-parents are necessary to higher education and to Oregon's future. The better educated our work force and our citizens are, the more informed voting we have and the better an economy we can manufacture. It's for selfish reasons that these legislators should back the grant: They could get a much more loyal voting public.



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

It's just hard to argue against increased funding for child care for student-parents. We don't get enough funding for higher education in general, and this grant is one way to augment the financial burden that school can create. We need more scholarships and grant money for all students, but student-parents are especially motivated.

Gov. John Kitzhaber has the Child Care Block Grant in his next proposed budget. Let him and your other legislators know that you want to support student-parents. You don't know how many lives you will touch.

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

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"I know that my service doesn't in any way match that of the heroes that we honor on this day."

— Vice President **Al Gore**, remembering veterans in Elizabeth, Penn., on Memorial Day. The Associated Press, May 29.

"As we recall our fallen heroes, we're privileged to be in the company of heroes. Thank you for serving our country. You make us all proud to be Americans."

— Gov. **George W. Bush** in Ft. Hood, Texas, on the same occasion. The Associated Press, May 29.

"I'm glad it's over. I was very nervous about this one."

— WNBA champion **Cheryl Cooper** on her Houston Comet's opening day victory against the New York Liberty, whom the Comets beat last year in the WNBA Finals. WNBA.com, May 29.

"I don't think we can guarantee that he is going to win a four-way race, but if Bush implodes, anything is possible. I want someone who knows how to build a movement — people's movements, citizens' movements, bringing in young people."

— **Carol Miller**, co-chair of the New Mexico Green Party and recent Congressional candidate, on Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nadar's chances this fall. The Eugene Weekly, May 25.

"Intern is French for slave."

— **Bill Cosby**, comic, speaking in New York City to graduates at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York. The Oregonian, May 29.

Letters to the editor

Tandem Taxi should stay

I'm writing this letter to express my concern about the possible disappearance of Tandem Taxi next fall. I have only heard about this in one of my classes, and I sincerely hope that it is only a rumor. If it is not a rumor, however, then I feel students should be informed about this possible loss.

I first got a ride with Tandem Taxi in fall term 1998 and have had the opportunity to ride several other times. Most of those occasions were dark, late nights, and the campus was mostly deserted.

The Tandem Taxi provides an incredible service, giving rides to people for free. It is a safe alternative to walking alone late at night, and it also provides transportation during the day for people who might be injured. The Tandem Taxi "drivers" are in direct contact with the Office of Public Safety and are able to report any emergencies immediately. Their presence around campus

makes it safer for everyone, even for those who never use this service. They are also great people who enjoy riding bikes and always receive their customers with big smiles.

I do not understand the reasons why Tandem Taxi may not be on campus next fall. I can only see positive aspects about it, and I think whoever is making this decision may make a big mistake. I hope the Emerald can send a reporter to find out about this important issue and inform the student body about the situation.

Ana Perez
linguistics

Real world doesn't require cars

After graduation, many of you will be leaving Eugene and driving off into the "real world." Driving to work, driving to buy food, driving, driving, driving. At this important time in your life, you may be thinking about employment, a place to live or starting a family. We also encourage you to think about transportation and how it will impact your life.

Would you like to put yourself into a situation where a car is your only transportation option? Residences bordering on freeways (a misnomer — they are very expensive) and places of employment not served by mass transit are just two examples of how land use can force people to be car dependent. Car manufacturers are also preying (and praying) on you new grads. They are looking to hook you into long-term loans. Once you start, the cycle is hard to stop. Many people end up taking a job that they have to drive to, in order to earn more money so that they can keep up with their car payments. Decide the kind of life that you want for yourself. The real world is what you make it. Good luck!

David Niles
UO bicycle safety coordinator

ASUO Executive should make rational decisions

Now that former ASUO Executive Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani are out of office and Jay Breslow and Holly Magner are in, I would like to re-

fect on our past leaders. Contrary to the picture portrayed, Chen and Anoushiravani did not do a good job in their respective positions. Beginning with their election campaign, they showed that they would change face to meet popular opinion. They displayed to us their ability to react to what was "cool" at the time and be all for it. When are we going to have people who can actually stand up for their beliefs and then act upon them during their entire term as ASUO execs? Breslow has already shown his inability to make rational decisions when he voluntarily got himself arrested demanding University President Dave Frohnmayer sign on with the Worker Rights Consortium, when the president was out of the state. Breslow and Magner jumped on the "popular," "cool" bandwagon with their support of the WRC, too. With that behind them, let's hope that they can stand up to the challenge and actually make their own decisions and not get arrested for making illogical ones.

Todd Huegeli
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