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Jim Hill

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Q: Do you support higher pay for university faculty?

A: Absolutely. I am keenly aware of the fact that our faculty, for degree and doctoral degree granting institutions, we're some of the lowest paid in the country.

Q: How do you plan on helping students afford college when scholarship funding in this state is being cut?

A: Again, it really does come

back to resources. It's my sentiment that we stop the cuts that are occurring in scholarships, but again, we're paying the price for bad fiscal management. We were not prepared for this recession. (As governor) I'd have the capability to help stimulate the economy and manage things better, and one of those priorities would be to restore those scholarships.

Q: Oregon universities are facing record enrollment rates, and at the same time funding is being cut. How do you propose that Ore-

For a full transcript of this interview, including extra questions, go to www.dailyemerald.com.

gon universities keep a high quality of education?

A: Whenever times get bad in the job market, you have to understand people will use that as an opportunity to go back to school. Unfortunately, we were not as prepared for the recession as we should have been. When those kinds of situations occur, you have more students and less money. I would be wanting to certainly get the economy back on track so we can get the revenues again. There is no quick fix for the situation. My sentiment, of course, is we do everything to keep the quality of our universities up in every way. I'd say one of the things that might be appropriate to do is this: For every kind of infrastructure project you have on campus, issue bonds for those projects; what can happen is the cash you have on hand you can use for other things that you might have used for the infrastructure projects. So you can free up cash to use for other things for the university.

Q: How do you plan on making yourself accessible to students if you're elected?

A: I would first of all look forward to coming and visiting the universities. At the same time, I'd always be very open as well to having (students) come to Salem if they had any issues they wanted to talk about. I feel it's very important to stay in contact with students. It's really important to see that there are some good opportunities for when people graduate. Just know that I enjoy visiting the campuses and will always want to know what the concerns of the students are. I do honestly look at it as, you young people are going to be coming out of school and you're going to be the people who are going to move this state forward, and that's why it's important for you all to get a good education.

Q: Do you think Oregon's public education system is adequately preparing students for college?

A: I believe that it's doing a decent job. You can certainly always do a better job. With the Certificate of Initial Mastery and the Certificate of Advanced Mastery, the issue there is we're implementing something and not putting any resources with it. You put a very heavy burden on teachers who are already heavily burdened.

Q: What should this state do to keep Oregon's top students at in-state colleges and universities?

A: One of the obvious issues is cost. If you can help keep the cost of a good education down at universities, our students are likely to stay. But as you know, as tuition goes up, it gets to a certain point where there's not much differential between staying in the state and leaving to go to college. A big component comes down to cost, and, of course, the other component of it is the quality of instruction students are going to get. If you're going to keep your best students here, you got to have good programs.

E-mail reporter Brook Reinhard at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

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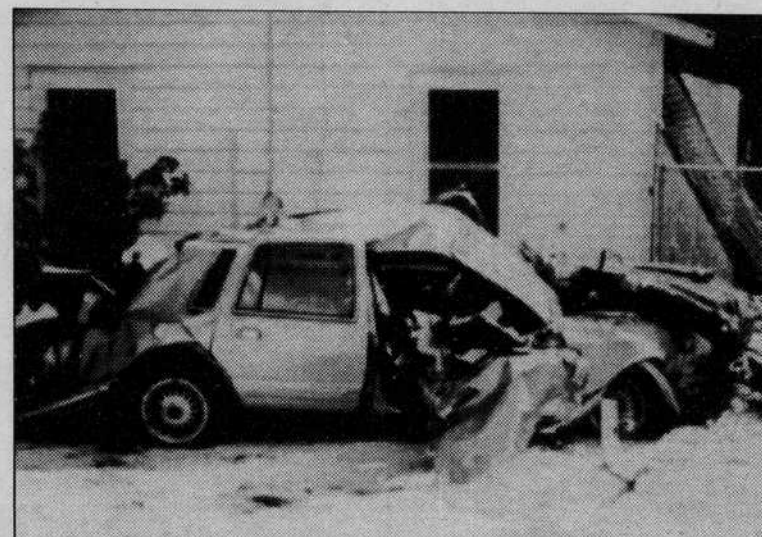
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