

President Frohnmayer addresses surcharge, quality of education

Guest commentary

Dear students,

As we approach commencement, I want to congratulate all of you on an outstanding year. And I want to assure you that we will continue the University's tradition of excellence and quality at a reasonable cost, despite difficult economic times in the state and the nation.

As we look forward to next year, we are committed to maintaining our academic programs, to making sure that students have the opportunity to interact with faculty and to providing the wide availability of courses that will enable you to graduate in a timely fashion and begin your professional career.

We received national attention this year for our innovative efforts to help you control the cost of your education by allowing you to take late afternoon and evening classes at discounted tuition rates. Next fall, we will extend the discounts to early morning classes as well, providing even greater opportunities for you to hold down your educational costs.

We weathered this year's financial challenges with belt tightening and a tuition surcharge that let us continue to provide the classes and the services you need at the quality you should expect from a great university. Because we recognize that the surcharge imposes a hardship on many students and their families, we dedicated a portion of the

funds to additional financial assistance. If you have concerns about your ability to finance your education, please contact the Office of Financial Aid. Our staff is committed to helping you.

Despite the economic pressures we face, the University will continue to offer you an education led by internationally lauded faculty members with the classes, facilities and resources you will need to reach your academic and professional goals. We look forward to seeing you here for summer session or back again this fall.

Warm regards,
Dave Frohnmayer

Dave Frohnmayer is the University president.

No one has right answer on abortion

Guest commentary

In a recent commentary ("Students must see results of abortion," ODE, May 6), Brian Stubbs suggested that the negative response of many students to the anti-abortion pictures were, in fact, the sole product of the choice that "pro-abortion" students so coveted and, therefore, ought to be seen as beautiful.

He mentioned that Planned Parenthood was "big business," and, therefore, pro-choice facts were propaganda and finished by pointing out the hypocrisy of supporting choice and decrying war. I'm not going to respond to the entire argument, particularly the propaganda part, because I don't know what was said, but I'll say what I know.

First of all, no activist is "pro-abortion," and, in fact, anyone who denies abortion to a woman who will die, along with her child,

through the course of her pregnancy cannot claim the status, "pro-life."

The truth is that the abortion issue comes down to a decision to either honor the inalienable right of a person over "their" body, or to instead honor the inalienable right of a "person" over their body. My point is that abortion should not be the subject of self-righteous rants but rather ought to be confronted as a serious issue.

As for Rachel Pilliod urging people not to view the posters, while idea exchange is important, there is a fuzzy line between speech and an attack, and huge posters of third-term fetus brains are not only a wholly inaccurate picture of abortion but also right on that line.

Certainly, showing these posters to someone who has actually had an abortion, even if they snuffed that would-be life early and for all the right reasons, crosses over into the realm of a psychological attack,

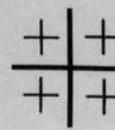
and the truth is, like me, you will never have to make that choice, and you have no right scoffing at the inability of others.

The Iraq argument goes both ways. First of all, anti-war demonstrators were never aligned with Saddam Hussein any more than they were ever against America. Who are you to say that the thousands of people we bombed was justified for the sake of safety, but that giving a woman the right to make a choice that will affect herself and her family, for the rest of their lives, is repulsive and offensive?

In short, abortion is a tough problem. Anyone who has the answer is lying. I believe the best route is to leave that problem up to the person, and hopefully the people, that it's going to affect, rather than assuming that the United States government can make that decision for them.

Damian Kemp is a senior biology major.

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