

Tuition

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"This is really pricing students away from an education," she said, adding that studies have shown that high education costs force students to drop out because they cannot afford school. She said for every \$100 increase in tuition, 0.7 percent of University students are forced to quit.

Unger noted that changes to tuition plateaus will also alter the college experience. The plateaus allow students to take a broad spectrum of classes, but if they are eliminated, students will only take the bare minimum of classes to graduate, she said.

"They are going to have to pay for any extra credit they take ..." Unger said. "I think that's changing what the university environment is supposed to be."

OSA is taking a group of about 10 to 20 students to the meeting, and OSA Executive Director Maddy Melton, also ASUO president, will speak on behalf of students. Representatives from other OUS schools will give testimonials on the changes' impacts at their individual campuses, as well.

While OUS universities originally hoped to institute changes in the fall, modifications have now likely been pushed to winter term because of an uproar about students not being adequately informed of potential changes before they left for summer vacation. Kjos said the decision to wait until winter was a victory for all students.

"Students need to be involved on decisions that affect their tuition," Kjos said.

"They will make any drastic move to make students think we need tuition hikes. In reality, we don't."

Gabe Kjos
ASUO legislative associate

Administrators have stated the financial crisis has left them with few options, and they may have to cut classes if they do not receive the extra revenue from the proposed tuition increases.

"I believe the fact that the administration is saying classes will be cut is a scare tactic," Kjos said. He said the University has a lot at stake in trimming classes because that could affect the school's reputation and ranking among other colleges.

"They will make any drastic move to make students think we need tuition hikes," Kjos said. "In reality, we don't."

Some students say they definitely don't need extra dollars tacked on their tuition bills. Sophomore Ashly Barth said the potential tuition increases, coupled with the knowledge that classes may be cut, was frustrating. She said it seemed like tuition is increasing while financial aid is decreasing.

"The tuition surcharges last year were bad enough," she said. "I still owe money for that."

Senior Chris Holman has similar sentiments.

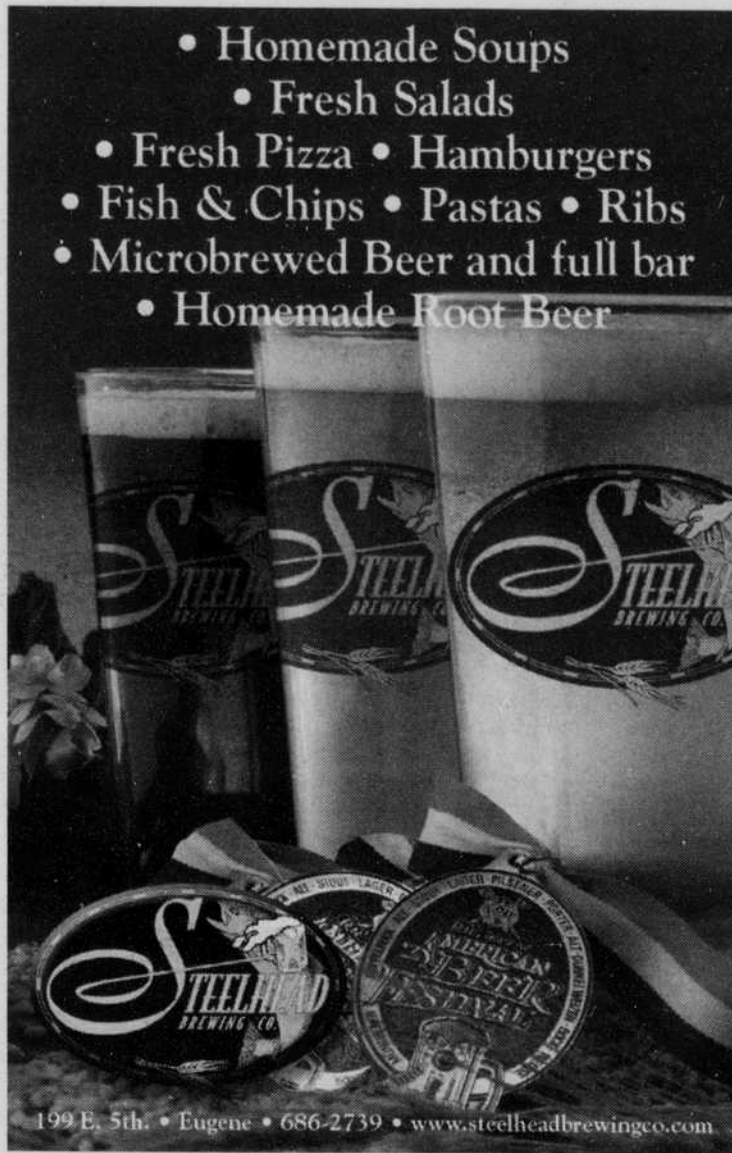
"Obviously, I don't like having to pay more money," he said. Holman added, however, that in some ways the increases were understandable because the state itself has no money. He said it was encouraging to see the University was taking steps to help by offering discounted classes at certain times of the day.

A student presence at Friday's board meeting signals only a part of efforts to stall tuition hikes. Kjos said students have also sent letters to state legislators and OUS, and testified in public hearings.

"We've been fighting and we'll continue to fight for students," Kjos said.

Contact the reporter
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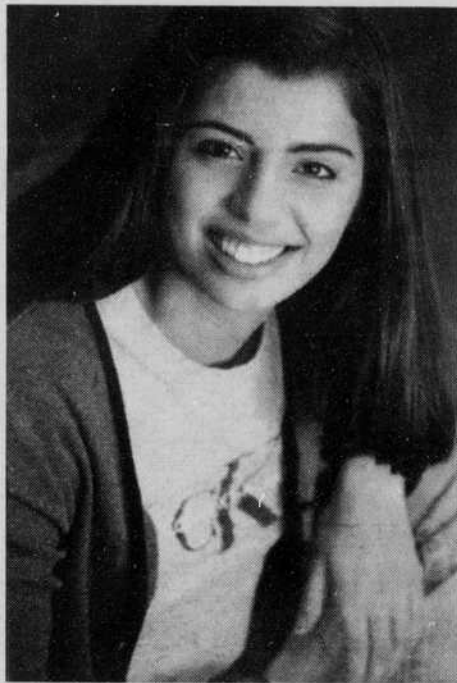
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- ◆ I will make my academics, not the party scene, my first priority.
- ◆ I will make a difference by getting involved on campus.
- ◆ I will make lasting memories with my friends.
- ◆ I will continue to be involved in community service projects in Eugene.
- ◆ I will finish my degree at the UO and go to Law School.
- ◆ I will challenge my friends to drink responsibly...or not at all.

- Jen Bok, UO Student

74% of UO students drink one or fewer days a week,
or don't drink at all.



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