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Governor tours state to speak on education funding plan

His funding solution emphasizes unifying Oregon's education system and growing the state's economy

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

Gov. Ted Kulongoski visited Eugene on Tuesday to promote his plan to find a stable funding solution for education in Oregon.

The roundtable-style meeting at Lane Community College was part of a statewide speaking tour about education.

This tour comes several weeks after state House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) announced her plan for stable education funding, which would dedicate 51 percent of personal income

tax revenue for K-12 education.

Critics of Minnis' plan say it doesn't provide enough money and only addresses the needs of K-12 education.

The governor's plan — which he is calling the "education enterprise" plan — is to dedicate 61 percent of the entire general fund to pay for all seven components of education in Oregon.

The seven parts of the education enterprise are: Pre-K, K-12, the Department of Education, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, The Oregon University System, Oregon

Health Sciences University and the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

Kulongoski began his address by outlining the history of inadequate school funding in Oregon. Specifically, he mentioned the fates of a variety of income tax, property tax and sales tax proposals that would have funded education.

"Every one of them — you know as well as I do — have gone to the ballot and they have been defeated," Kulongoski said.

Kulongoski said that educators and government must take the initiative to change the way they approach school funding.

"The longer I've been governor of this

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IN BRIEF

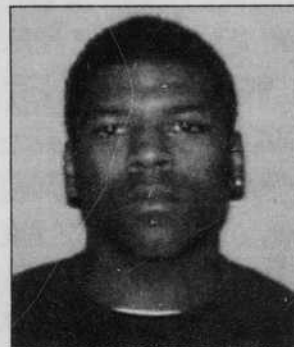
Warrant out for suspect related to Gillins' death

The Eugene Police Department issued a warrant Tuesday for Darrell Sky Walker of Orange County, Calif., for manslaughter and assault charges related to the death of 22-year-old Phillip Julian Gillins.

Gillins was assaulted outside a bar on East 13th Avenue at approximately 2 a.m. June 10, the day before he was slated to walk in the University's graduation ceremony, and died from brain injuries June 11.

Through witness statements, tips and other evidence, Walker was identified as having a

significant role in the incident, a press release said. After fleeing Oregon following Gillins' death, authorities suspect Walker to be hiding with family in either Orange County, Calif., or Chicago, Ill. The EPD welcomes any information from the public that could lead to the capture of Walker.



DARRELL SKY WALKER
SUSPECT

Walker is a 23-year-old black male, 6 feet tall, 165-185 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He has a labret piercing below his lower lip and a pierced left ear.

Anyone with information related to Walker's whereabouts, information about the incident or

anyone who has seen him is encouraged to contact their local police or EDP's Violent Crimes Unit detectives Ted Williams at 682-5175 or Tracey Belshee at 682-5835.

— Nicholas Wilbur

a prayer for PEACE

The memorial service for former University President Robert Clark included music and eulogies

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

Organ music greeted the somber crowd that filled the School of Music's Beall Hall on Wednesday for the memorial service of former University President Robert Clark.

Among the crowd was a delegation from San Jose State University, where Clark served as president before he was president of the University of Oregon from 1969 to 1975.

Welcoming the crowd, Greg Flint introduced himself as Robert Clark's pastor.

"More often than not it was he who ministered to me," Flint said. "Each death comes with its own grief, and each death brings us face to face with our own mortality."

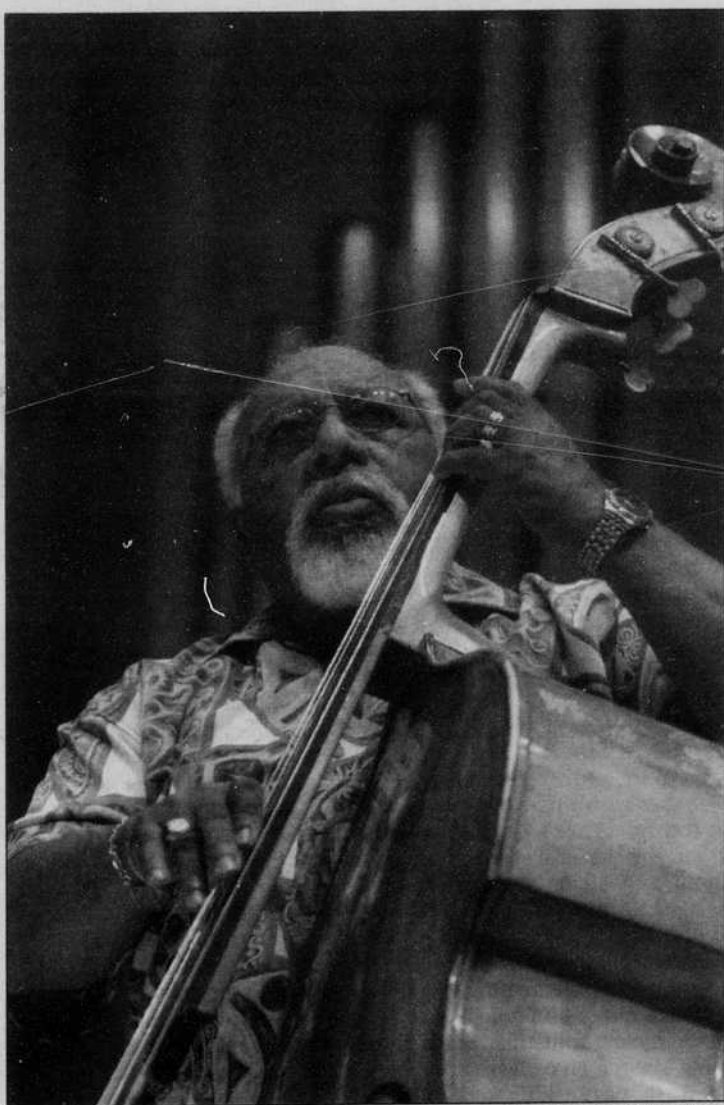
Flint acknowledged the impact of Clark's death.

"Life will not be the same without him, even as life was not the same because of him," Flint said. "The wound of his death is real and deep."

However, Flint also encouraged the crowd to treasure their memories of Clark.

"There is much more gratitude, and even joy, that we got to talk a little while on this good earth

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Professor Emeritus Edwin Coleman plays "Our Love is Here to Stay" in remembrance of Robert Clark, University president emeritus and professor of speech and rhetoric.

Federal education funding decreases as college costs rise

Statistics link lack of higher education, degrees to increases in poverty, crime and unemployment

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

On July 1, interest rates on student loans increased nearly 2 percent from last year. Predictions for 2009 interest rates on student financial aid are 4.4 percent plus the base 1.7 percent for all student loans. This assumption would put interest rates for those in school or in the grace or deferment period at 6.1 percent. For those already paying of their loans, the interest will climb to 6.7 percent.

Historically, high government spending had the potential to bring America out of recession (such as the case in the Great Depression). The difference between now and then is that, overall, there is a large increase in government spending overseas, not within America's borders.

The White House Office of

Management and Budget reported that \$55.67 billion was spent in 2004 on education from elementary through college and an extra \$73.83 billion in loan disbursements. As of March 2005, when the House approved \$81.4 billion to further fund the fight on terrorism, the total cost of war and anti-terrorism efforts was over \$300 billion.

Factors such as tuition, interest rates, inflation, cost of living, annual earnings for households in the bottom 90 percent and the availability of loans and grants all contribute to the overall economic status of America's future. Education spending currently accounts for less than 18 percent of war and anti-terrorism effort, not including the national defense base budget.

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Star Holmberg, the University's bargaining table representative for SEIU Local 085, led the classified workers' rally on campus Tuesday.

UO classified workers union rallies to express need for better contracts

Service workers and supporters held a rally after two days of bargaining to call attention to unsettled issues

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

University service workers continue to bargain with Oregon University System management as their requests for fairness and equality are not met. The latest rally by the Service Employees International Union was held at the Pioneer Mother, between

Campbell and Johnson Hall, on Tuesday afternoon.

More than 50 supporters and University service workers gathered at the statue and then marched through Interim Chancellor George Pernsteiner's office to send the message printed on the group's fliers: "We Stand United for Fairness and Will Leave No

Worker Behind!" Purple balloons surrounded the Pioneer Mother, as did protest signs that read: "Fair deal for all," "United for fairness" and "Stop bully bosses!"

"We met at the Pioneer Mother because I recently decided that she is part of the union. We're here to send a message to the Chancellor that we deserve a fair contract," said Star Holmberg, member of the SEIU higher education bargaining team.

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