

# Free money for all

Courtney O'Byrne  
Clackamas Print

grants for student aid, is a 71 percent increase in budget. Starting with the 2006-2007 school year, the increase will be enough to provide grants for all eligible full-time students and, for the first time ever, part-time students as well.

A second measure will put forth \$410 million for construction and maintenance projects on state university campuses- the largest amount that has ever been spent on campus building programs in a two-year budget.

A third measure provides \$38 million for construction projects at community colleges. Such funding has not been granted by the state since 1979.

Kulongoski's new education plan also promises to cap resident tuition increases at all Oregon universities and community colleges at no more than the annual increase in the Oregon median family income.

The fund, which is to be called the Education Opportunity and Innovation Fund, is unique because it includes PK-20, calling the PK-12 portion the Successful Schools Fund and the post-secondary education portion the Post-Secondary Academic and Workforce Investment Fund.

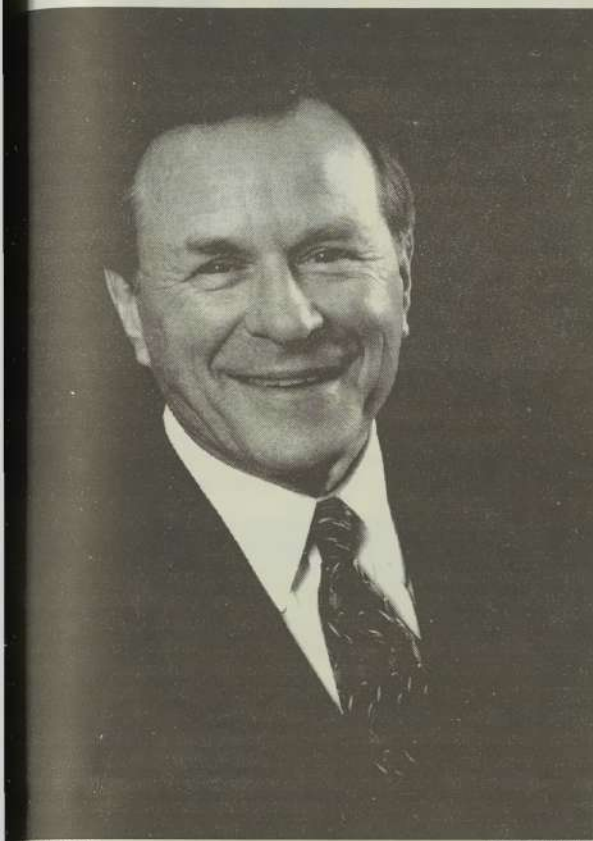
The money for this bill, according to Kulongoski, will come from Projected General Fund Revenues, rather than Projected Income Tax Revenues.

The new education bill is unlike anything Oregon has tried before, and might work well due greatly to the proposed increase in student aid money and the cap on tuition.

Increased funding for student aid will give more Oregonians the opportunity to attend college, meaning more will complete a college education, leading to the earning of higher salaries that will sufficiently pay the taxes that made the college education possible. Going hand-in-hand with the increased number of people attending universities and community colleges are the grants for maintenance and construction.

The much needed tuition cap will help those planning to attend college by relating the cost of in-state tuition to the average income in Oregon, giving many the hope to continue or go back and finish their education.

By putting the Education and Opportunity Innovation Fund into action, Governor Kulongoski will be taking a step in the right direction when it comes to the possibility of higher education for all Oregonians.



KULONGOSKI Internet Photo

# Pat Robertson does not play well with others

Tayo Stalnaker  
The Clackamas Print

On July 17, 2003, Pat Robertson issued a 21 day "prayer offensive" on the Supreme Court. He felt that it was time for some of them to retire, "them" being the more "liberal" judges. This year Robertson's prayers were half answered. One justice did retire (O'Connor) and the chief justice died (Rehnquist). However, O'Connor and Rehnquist were both on his side. Isn't irony great?

Robertson was the founder of the "Christian" Coalition and is a hero everywhere to hardcore, conservative, evangelical "Christians." He's a champion for the human race, peace, kindness and unity. Here are some examples:

"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family, political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians." This was told in a fundraising letter to his followers in 1992. Can you feel the love?

"[Planned Parenthood] is teaching kids to fornicate, teaching people to have adultery, every kind of bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism..." Robertson told this to his two viewers on "The 700 Club" in 1991. Hmm ... maybe I should read the Planned Parenthood pamphlets more closely.

Here's an example of how he wants to bring unity across the nation. This is from his show in 1985: "Individual Christians are the only one ... and Jewish

people ... are the only ones that are qualified to have the reign..." When asked about this comment in "Time" magazine Robertson said "I never said that in my life ... I never said only Christians and Jews. I never said that." I believe Robertson just broke a commandment here.

This is Robertson showing his compassion for other branches of the Christian Church on his show in 1991: "You say you're supposed to be nice to Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists, and this, that, and the other thing. Nonsense. I don't have to be nice to the spirit of the Antichrist." The dream is alive.

Robertson, you have shown what a great Christian you are by spending the majority of your life bashing women, gays and other religions. You've even called for leaders of various countries to be assassinated. Robertson, here's some advice: When your IQ hits 50, you should sell.



Illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

# Focus on fixing our federal fossil-fuel fetish

Gabe Stone  
Clackamas Print

The word "oil" is like- evoke passion in many Americans. Some think of a collusive cadre known jokingly as OPEC - the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Others think of "big oil" companies like ExxonMobil and their connections to our political system.

It was quite interesting to see the debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on Sept. 15 regarding the Gasoline Price Control Act of 2005. The five-minute vote was extended into 40 minutes as Tom Lantos scoured the floor for the amendments needed to save the dying bill. It eventually passed by a narrow margin on its way to the Senate, after which the Democrats chanted "shame!" loudly. What caused this Democratic angst to shoot up

like a gusher?

In the wake of the recent hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, gasoline prices shot up dramatically, raising accusations of price gouging. However, we need to keep a few things in mind. According to the Energy Information Administration, 85 percent of gasoline price changes over the last 20 years have been due to crude oil prices, or market forces. How large a part does the Gulf Coast play in feeding our voracious appetite for oil?

We import roughly 2/3 of our crude oil, with the remaining third being produced domestically. Almost 29 per-



Photo illustration by Gabe Stone Clackamas Print

cent is produced in the Gulf, and about half of our refinery capacity is there as well. No new refineries have been built since 1976, causing greater concentration and pressure on remaining refineries. In addition, 30 percent of our imported oil arrives through ports in Louisiana, Mississippi or Alabama. Existing infrastructure carrying all of this oil was also damaged.

The legislation just passed greases the rails for contractors to build more refineries by relaxing environmental regulations and facilitating acquisition of federal lands for these refin-

eries, excluding lands such as those within the National Park System. It also aims to lower gasoline prices by lessening the number of specialized "boutique" fuels communities must employ to comply with federal air quality standards.

This is all well and good, but as mentioned above, changes in gasoline prices not due to market forces account for only 15 percent of the total. The bill also subsidizes oil purchases from the government by small refineries up to \$4.50 a barrel, even though third-quarter refinery earnings growth is projected to be over 140 percent according to Standard & Poors.

Oil is a finite resource folks, and if we haven't reached the peak of current supplies, we will soon. This is just a band-aid that ignores two codependent facts: our lifestyle is dependent on oil, and it is unsustainable. This kind of myopia is not only becoming increasingly inexcusable, but also dangerous.

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