Opinions

The Daily Utah Chronicle

Editorials

Not an option

- Other issues more important than UVCC

All of Utah's gubernatorial candidates profess a lofty solution to the higher education problem. One of the most ludicrous solutions to overcrowded classrooms, though, is the proposal to make Utah Valley Community College into a four-year institution.

At the ASUU sponsored Legislator's Day, lieutenant governor hopeful Olsen Walker said that she and her running mate, Mike Leavitt, believe UVCC should be a four year institution. She said that this would alleviate overcrowding at other institutions of higher education and that it would be less expensive to make the change.

Such a proposal, however, would be disastrous for the remaining colleges and universities in the state. Money put into UVCC to change it into a four year institution would have to be taken from funding which would otherwise be distributed to the remaining institutions. At a time when all colleges and universities in Utah need money to continue and to improve existing programs, funding UVCC is not prudent.

Also, there is no guarantee that UVCC will not decide in the future to become a research institution like the University of Utah. If it did so, additional monies would have to be given to UVCC to fund these new programs.

Proponents of the plan argue that the transformation of UVCC gives students in Utah county an alternative to attending a four year college other than BYU. But these reasons do not overcome the importance of making sure the rest of Utah's colleges and universities emerge from their current state of crisis.

If the gubernatorial candidates truly wish to help Utah's college students, they should look to other solutions that directly affect students such as last year's Urgent Student Support funding in which colleges directly received a percentage of the tuition increase which went to student services and campus libraries and not in the general fund.

Letters

Mascot trivializes tragedy

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I am curious about whether or not Steve Miller has considered the implications which result from his defense of the name of the University of Utah football team to which the defamation of Native American culture is intrinsic ("Nothing's wrong with mascot name, says U coach," Oct. 1). Would he be so dogmatic as to dismiss the "Berber Beasts" or the "Auschwitz Jews"?

The last 300 years of Native American history has been one of intolerance. To cast doubt on the last 25 years that the reality of that and history has been the basis for a racist or genocidal element of society has been a severe disservice to the efforts of the Native American people.

Regardless of whether or not Mr. Miller has the capacity to be thoughtful, his columns on the Ute mascot team handle it, in my opinion, a solid example of—be it racist or stupid things people do.

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Letters policy

Business hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Chronicle welcomes readers' responses. Please bring typed, double-spaced letters not exceeding two pages, to 240 Union Building. Each letter should include your name, major, year in school and telephone number (for verification purposes only).

Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for spelling, grammar and space.