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AFTERSHOCKS

Three students affected by the regents’ enormous tuition hike.

by Doug Stevens
uition increases are like death and taxes — they're inevitable. Reasonable college students have learned to expect reasonable tuition hikes, even if they fail to see any increase in the quality of their education from year to year. But thousands of students attending Iowa's regent universities were surprised this year when the Iowa Board of Regents' annual tuition increase was the largest in a decade, about 10 percent. Although the increase isn't the board's fault and has much more to do with GOP-sponsored tax cuts in Des Moines, that still leaves many students wondering where they are going to find an extra $300-$1,000 next year to pay for their schooling. This question is especially daunting for those students with extenuating circumstances. It's easy for Suzy U. Bill and Johnny Frathouse to call up daddy and ask for a few more C-notes to cover the increases, but what about students who come from large families or live out-of-state? How about poor students getting by on a patchwork of scholarships, grants, and loans, or the married couple trying to scrape by so someday they can be secure.

Although the increase isn't the board's fault and is reasonable, the board's decision to raise tuition in the face of increased expenses is still unfair to students. Tuition increases are a fact of life, and the board must ensure that the increases are reasonable and that they are used for the benefit of students.

Doug Stevens is a freshman in pre-journalism. This is his first article for Ethos.