

Editor:

I was thrilled to pick up Friday's paper and see the headline, "Governor Eyes \$200M for Higher Ed." It's time to stop the stampede of professors and researchers out of Mississippi, and I applaud Governor Musgrove for his effort to keep them here.

If we're going to have a first rate system of higher education in this state, we need to be willing to make the investment. As I understand the governor's proposal, \$20 million a year over ten years doesn't seem unreasonable at all, not when we're talking about having the best people teaching at our schools.

Other teachers around the state have gotten a pay raise; the same commitment has now been made for higher education.

Editor:

The Sunday paper on November 17 carried a story about how governors around the nation are dealing with budget problems brought about by the slow national economy. Many are resorting to slashing their budgets or raising taxes on hard-working families.

I appreciate what Governor Musgrove is trying to do with his budget. He wants to cut the waste from government, while thinking about the long-term health of the state through more spending on education and jobs.

I hope the Legislature will give this budget the serious consideration it deserves.

Editor:

The game continues. The Legislature and Governor Musgrove are disagreeing once again on the revenue estimate used to shape the budget for the state. The Legislature wants to go with 3 percent, and the governor has already unveiled his budget based on 2 percent growth.

We've watched this game being played for three years now, and the Legislature loses every time. No, wait... the people lose every time because the Legislature doesn't have the courage to admit the governor's right, and much-needed services end up getting cut.

It's time for this game to be over; we already know how it ends.

Editor:

Once again, the Governor has been forced to cut agency budgets because the collections haven't met the estimate. When will the officials elected to represent us in the House and Senate stop being so stubborn, and put the needs of the state ahead of their own pride?

Musgrove has put out another budget based on a different estimate from the Legislature. Based on past results, it's fairly apparent which one the Legislature should go with.

Musgrove's put together a good budget that focuses on education and jobs, plus it's based on a reasonable revenue estimate. It deserves to be considered by the Legislature.