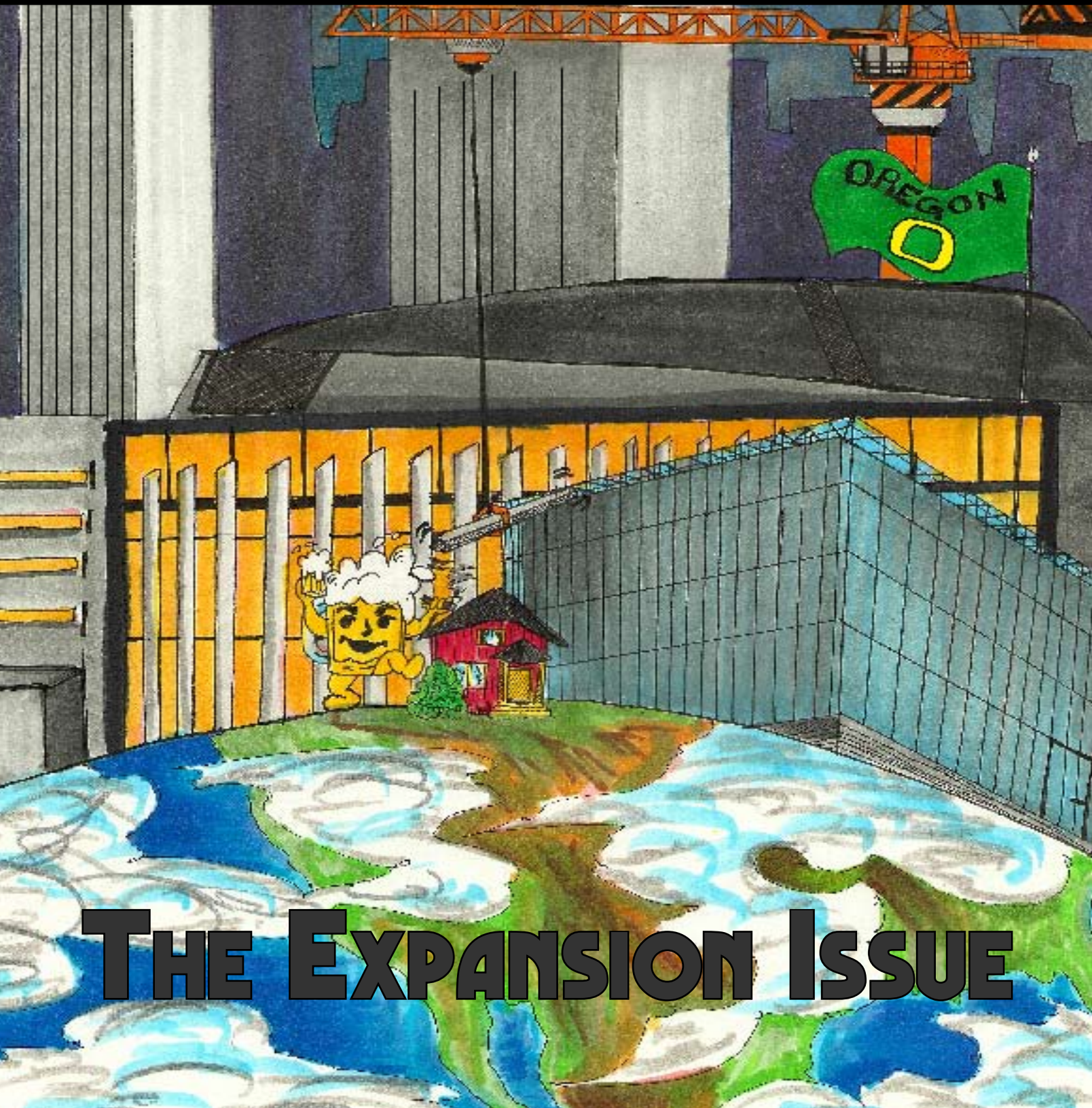


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Free Minds, Free Markets, Free Booze



THE EXPANSION ISSUE



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The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon for the campus community. Founded by a group of concerned student journalists on September 27, 1983, the Commentator has had a major impact in the "war of ideas" on campus, providing students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by other student publications, professors and student groups. During its twenty-six year existence, it has enabled University students to hear both sides of issues. Our paper combines reporting with opinion, humor and feature articles. We have won national recognition for our commitment to journalistic excellence.

The Oregon Commentator is operated as a program of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) and is staffed solely by volunteer editors and writers. The paper is funded through student incidental fees, advertising revenue and private donations. We print a wide variety of material, but our main purpose is to show students that a political philosophy of conservatism, free thought and individual liberty is an intelligent way of looking at the world—contrary to what they might hear in classrooms and on campus. In general, editors of the Commentator share beliefs in the following:

- We believe the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate—instead of the current climate in which ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality interfere with academic pursuit.
- We emphatically oppose totalitarianism and its apologists.
- We believe that it is important for the University community to view the world realistically, intelligently, and above all, rationally.
- We believe that any attempt to establish utopia is bound to meet with failure and, more often than not, disaster.
- We believe that while it would be foolish to praise or agree mindlessly with everything our nation does, it is both ungrateful and dishonest not to acknowledge the tremendous blessings and benefits we receive as Americans.
- We believe that free enterprise and economic growth, especially at the local level, provide the basis for a sound society.
- We believe that the University is an important battleground in the "war of ideas" and that the outcome of political battles of the future are, to a large degree, being determined on campuses today.
- We believe that a code of honor, integrity, pride and rationality are the fundamental characteristics for individual success.
- Socialism guarantees the right to work. However, we believe that the right not to work is fundamental to individual liberty. Apathy is a human right.

The Expansion Issue

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Editorial: UO administrators should stand and be counted

North Plains, Ore., is a city of a little less than 2,000 people situated just north of Hillsboro outside the Portland Metro Urban Growth Boundary. As gateway to Horning's Hideout and the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club along Highway 26, North Plains has attracted enough tourist attention to boost its local economy while still maintaining its status as a small, rural community. And as annexation proposals have been rejected at least four times since 2004, it seems the city wishes to stay that way: small and rural.

Due to its proximity to the Portland UGB, however, North Plains is in severe danger of being de facto annexed into the Portland urban area, its UGB incorporated into the Portland UGB and the city changed from small to large; rural to urban.

In Oregon, urban growth boundaries exist to curb urban sprawl. These urban growth boundaries are legally required to include enough land to accommodate 20 years of population growth. Portland grows quickly, so it needs a big urban growth boundary — thus North Plains' lingering fear of being included.

It's a question of giving Portland enough space for any population growth — and with Portland's economic significance in the region, the importance of doing that is obvious.

What is the opportunity cost? To those who are not citizens of North Plains and other cities near the Portland UGB, the answer would be, "not much." But for those people, the costs are significant: a change in way of life following crowds of urban citizens populating a formerly rural landscape. And that doesn't even take into account the subsequent costs of maintaining a city with a higher population.

While the city of Eugene has an urban growth boundary, the University of Oregon does not. The past couple decades have included significant increases in student enrollment, building acquisition and construction, all with the both stated and implicit hope of increasing the quality of a higher education experience at our fine university. But, as with Portland's ever-expanding population, what are the costs? What do we owe, and to whom? And what are the consequences for students, professors, Eugene residents and Oregon taxpayers?

The answers to these questions could prove useful in deciding the future of our campus and the types of experiences future students will have. But for the moment, there are only questions and a multitude of potential answers.

The examples are numerous: take rising enrollment. It manifests itself in the revamping of automatic admissions, the removal and lack of sufficient on-campus parking and the creation of new residence halls to house the ever-growing masses of out-of-state students. These are all consequences that affect the entire campus community,

from finding a place to take care of basic needs (housing, parking) to whether or not students can be students at all.

As far as campus infrastructure and construction are concerned, the impacts are much more actualized. Nike co-founder and University benefactor Phil Knight has taken to donating gratuitously extravagant buildings to the university for athletic purposes while failing to fund the operations, causing those costs to be transferred to taxpayers — costs that hover around \$2 million.

There is also great consideration regarding a serious renovation of the Erb Memorial Union, the center of student life at the UO. Although students have been surveyed, potential designs have been looked over and goals have been established, there is still no concrete mechanism for funding. The project is moving forward as though funding will magically appear, but that could come at a significant cost — both directly fiscal and indirectly atmospheric — to students.

The largest potential change is that of a new governance and funding mechanism for the University of Oregon, separate from the rest of the Oregon University System schools. Put out last summer by UO President Richard Lariviere, the proposal seeks relative financial independence from the legislature in response to declining state support while creating and maintaining a governance board specific to the University of Oregon. The university's funding would come from an endowment — created in part by state funds and in part by private donations — that would sustain the university through the foreseeable future. This independence from the state could prove beneficial for university programs, but at what cost to students?

The consequences for many of these projects can only be approximated, and for us at the **OREGON COMMENTATOR**, the future seems fairly grim. But that's really the problem, isn't it? A lack of concrete answers in the form of tangible goals and intended impacts can end up being a huge problem for everyone involved. The less we can expect, the less for which we can prepare. And as anyone will tell you, a lack of preparation leads to serious problems. In our case, these serious problems manifest themselves as skyrocketing costs coupled with diminishing returns.

We should expect more from our university (and yes, it is *our* university). After providing thousands of dollars per year in tuition and fees and giving up large portions of our souls (and livers, in some cases), we should see returns. The least we can ask for is information, and we're not even receiving that. It is our hope that these things will change, that the UO will be more transparent with its intentions, that the consequences of these changes will become more apparent. Until that happens, all we can do is seek and provide information.

Let's hope, for everyone's sake, that is enough.

Future EMU may contain bar

Rockne Andrew Roll

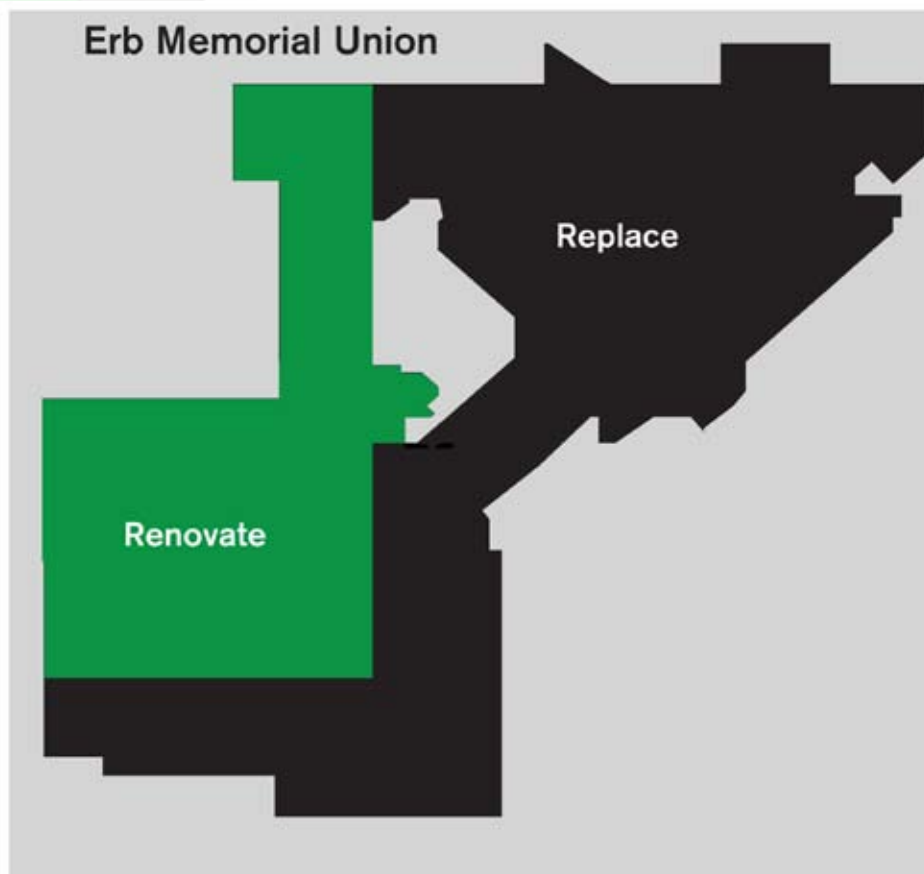
Between Lills Business Complex, BHEDCO Education and the renovations currently occurring along 13th Avenue (not to mention the new crop of athletic buildings on Franklin Boulevard), it seems like much of campus is getting a shiny new face. But one aspect of campus has gone untouched thus far, a big building that is a big part of many students' lives: the EMU. But that may soon change as the Erb Memorial Union is said to be on the brink of a massive reconstruction and renovation.

The consulting firm Brailsford & Dunlavey sent out surveys during the 2009–10 school year on behalf of the EMU, soliciting input as to what a new EMU should feature. The results of the firm's study were returned earlier this year, and another study to ensure that retail outlets in a new building would be competitive enough with other local retail came back recently. EMU Board Chairperson and ASUO Sen. Kaitlyn Lange said retail competitiveness is important to ensure that the building generates enough revenue to pay its debts.

Responses to the surveys included requests for a post office, more ATMs, and more lounge space. But far and away, the biggest request was for a bar. "Students and staff both agreed, they wanted a bar or pub on campus," Lange said. "That's a really hot topic."

Lange said that many students also asked for the building to be open later. The installation of a bowling alley, which featured prominently in the previous renovation plans, seems to still be a popular idea.

Contrary to popular perception, Lange said that administration officials are interested in the idea of an on-campus bar. "They actually are, now, open to a wet campus. They're open to it. Currently, right now, they're in the process of drawing plans for that. They want to bring students back



Locations in the new EMU that will be renovated. Image courtesy <http://yourvoice.uoregon.edu>

to campus at night, and right now there's not that draw. So a bar or pub in the EMU would be the perfect atmosphere to have going on. Right now, it looks like there's full support for it on all sides."

One of the concerns expressed by student unions and other groups currently housed in the EMU is, with all the new features being discussed, there will be less room for office space. "In the survey, we saw it was a really big concern among people in programs that the student office spaces be more up front and center instead of tucked away in the bottom back, awkward, dark corners. As of right now, that's a priority."

The EMU Board is preparing to form focus groups to get more student input on

new features and proposed ideas. "The user groups (for both the EMU and the Student Recreation Center renovations) are being formed right now. There's 12 people on each group." Lange went on to say discuss the focus groups that would help tailor specific areas of the building to the needs of their users. "There will be a focus group just on how to design programming space." The focus groups will start forming next fall if the project goes ahead.

At this point, the biggest obstacle is the money. Lange said the EMU Board is waiting to secure bonds from the state government

TURN TO RENOVATION, PAGE 20

A UO History Lesson: Your Money, Your Union



Ben Maras

Student unions date back to the early 19th century, with union debating societies at Cambridge (1815) and Oxford (1823). The unions were originally created to serve as centers for debate, but as they started providing libraries for members, they became popular social hubs for members.

By the 1920s, student unions were popping up all over the country. In 1924 both the University of Oregon and Oregon Agricultural College (later renamed Oregon State University) began fundraising for student unions of their own. Oregon's plan needed the university to fundraise \$10 million over 10 years.

So in 1923, the push began. Students were requested to pledge \$10 a year over ten years to help raise funds. Adjusted for inflation, that would mean a donation of \$125 per year. The *Oregon Daily Emerald* reported that more than 300 students took part in the campaign and raised \$219,000. Residence halls and Greek houses raised an additional \$10,000.

But that still left the university short of its goal, and trying to figure out how to fund the project. So in 1933 the ASUO proposed and passed a mandatory building fee of \$5 per term, or \$246 a year, adjusted.

By the 1940s the site of the impending union had been picked at its current location. According to Adell McMillan in her book *A Common Ground*, it's one of the first examples of modern design in student unions, characterized by "horizontal bands of large windows, asymmetrical arrangement, cubic forms, and the absence of moldings."

Construction began in October 1948, and the building was to be named after former University President Donald Erb, who had died five years earlier while in office. By September of 1950, just in time for fall term, it was ready for students.

During the first few weeks of its

opening, twenty pounds of coffee were used each day, to serve some 1,600-2,000 cups. The soda bar, with its curved window wall, became known as the "Fishbowl" within months, and became a hangout and meeting place for students.

In the gaming area, there was a bowling alley (which became a computer lab in January of 1985) and table tennis, which were so popular that 28 paddles were worn out during the first three weeks of school that year.

1962: Northeast Addition

By 1959, the Erb Memorial Union was beginning to get too small for its uses. It was the home of the cafeteria, student government, library browsing room, numerous offices and every non-athletic student group except the Young Women's Christian Association, which was housed across the street in Gerlinger Hall.

To meet demand, the first expansion of the EMU was planned. It was to provide additional dining space for 250-400 students, expand the cafeteria and add meeting rooms. Although it was originally supposed to be complete by August of 1962, in time for the school year, it wasn't complete until November.

Free Speech and Skylights

In the fall of 1961, Homer Tomlinson — Pentecostal Bishop and self-proclaimed King of the World, turned up on campus and spoke to a crowd of students from the Fishbowl terrace. Students responded by ridiculing and booing him, with some throwing eggs, fruit and vegetables. One journalist in the *Oregon Quarterly* called the event "repugnant" and "a rationalization of the suppression of free expression on a campus dedicated to unfettered academic inquiry and expression."

Shortly thereafter, inspired by free speech platforms in Hyde Park in London,

the Student Union board erected a temporary wooden free speech platform, which was later replaced by a permanent lectern.

Again, a need for more space was arising. The next improvement to the EMU would combine a renovated lower level, complete with public plaza, and a new second level, complete with outdoor terraces, zigzagging ramps, and skylights.

Ground was broken in 1972 on the new improvement, which cost the university \$3.4 million, and added an improved Craft Center, more dining facilities and lounges, and meeting rooms.

Construction progressed on schedule until July 1973, when it hit a number of roadblocks. First, a statewide operating engineer strike brought the development to a standstill for five weeks, followed by a dispute with carpenters and laborers. A new construction deadline was set for June 1974, although there was worry that the opening would again be delayed by the skylight, which still yet to be made.

The final bump was the realization that the rails on the raised walkways were six inches too short to meet regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and had to be raised from 36 to 42 inches.

A New Fishbowl for Food Fights

In 1977, Campus Planning Committee approved a proposal to remodel and renovate the Fishbowl to continue to meet student needs. Higher-strength materials were added, such as the brick and glass that comprise the Fishbowl to this day. Accommodations were added for a stage, jukebox and in-house sound system, and the whole area was made more accessible to disabled students, including the outdoor ramps that are still used by students. As part of the outdoor renovation, the

TURN TO EMU, PAGE 20

New dorm to save UO from housing fix

Ross Coyle and Ashley Reed

It's hard to walk anywhere on campus without running into construction. Construction noise echoes from the Lillis Business Complex to Fenton Hall to the Bean Complex residence halls. Most students have never attended the UO in a year without construction. Some of the projects are much-needed repairs — the renovation of Fenton or the upgrades to the Computing Center. Many, however, are geared towards expanding the university's footprint and accommodating the projected 24,000 undergraduates over the next 10 years.

As the freshman student body grows larger by the year, the university has had to provide increasingly creative solutions to student housing. In 2008, the university used half of the Stadium Park Apartments as a temporary dorm for the year. In 2010, housing redirected incoming freshman who couldn't get housing on-campus to the new Courtside

Apartments next to the Matthew Knight Arena. After two years of planning, the UO took steps towards correcting the issues it faced with a larger student body and insufficient housing: construction began on the East Campus Residence Hall.

The ECRH joins the Knight Arena, the Lewis Integrative Science Building currently being built near Oregon Hall and the development on the Willamette riverfront as a capital construction project aimed at expanding the size of the University in response to growing enrollment. Enrollment at the school has increased by more than 3,000 students over the last four years and shows no signs of slowing. Zeroing in on the growing enrollment, the UO Campus Planning Committee elected to build the East Campus Residence Hall to house incoming freshmen.

The new residence hall is a \$69 million project and incorporates a number of features designed to make the structure more modern. These include modular rooms that can be switched to classrooms or activity centers on the fly, in dorm dining, and a dizzying number of suite combinations. Designed with the successes of the Living Learning Center complex in mind, the ECRH will create room for an additional 454 and will, according to the UO Housing Department web-site, "help meet (the) UO goal of increasing (the) percentage of undergraduates housed on campus from 21 percent to 25 percent."

The new building will also contain several classrooms, multipurpose rooms, and a full-time librarian to assist students with study and research. In terms of the actual housing component, the university has sweetened the deal for undergraduates who have tasted the comforts of off-campus

living: 50 percent of the available rooms will be "traditional" rooms similar to those in other on-campus buildings (though slightly larger, with an additional 80 square feet in the case of doubles). The other 50 percent will be semi-suites. These rooms will be designed for two to five residents, and have a square footage of anywhere from 360 to 900 square feet (for those of you keeping score at home, that's two-and-a-half to six times the size of a standard double in Hamilton or Bean Complex).

UO Assistant Vice President for Capital Projects Gregg Lobisser,

who is the chairperson of the Campus Planning Committee, said the project was estimated at \$75 million, but the cost was reduced due to the weakened economy. Construction began in June 2010 and the hall is expected to open in time for the 2012–13 school year. Lobisser explained that the hall is part of the east campus development and will help increase the overall bed count on campus to meet the 4,800 bed needs for freshman classes. While he certainly sees more development in the east campus area,

he says that the Campus Planning Committee only plans to build out "what is necessary to meet campus needs." Lobisser said the committee adheres to the UO Campus Plan Density Policy, which dictates that the further from campus buildings are built, the less vertical space they can occupy.

Student reactions to the school's growth, specifically the new building, have been mixed. Some are looking forward to the new planned facilities, such as the new residence hall building.

Sophomore Hannah Williams has a positive attitude, in spite of the inconveniences the renovation and construction create. "I think they're doing it for the student's interest," she said. "They're trying to make the UO more competitive."

"It's my sense that the university is trying very hard to be a good neighbor. There are issues to work out, but everyone's doing the best they can." - Camilla Bayliss, Fairmount Neighborhood Association



Photo by Ross Coyle

Not every student shares her enthusiasm for the higher numbers.

"I sometimes feel like because there's so many students here," sophomore Ayak Beng said. "I'm not really getting as challenged as I would want to be."

It's a critical issue with continued expansion: already severely limited classroom space will be further stretched as the student body grows.

Junior Jennifer Harmon has experienced similar issues. "There are several classes that, even now in the seventh week, where there are students without chairs that stand in the back," she said.

Classes aren't the only aspect of campus affected by growth. Ted Ramsey, a senior studying political science, said he understands the need for growth, but also feels that administration doesn't provide housing options that cater for upperclassmen.

"It's a lifestyle thing," he said. "I don't want to live with girls drinking underage, listening to teeny-bop music."

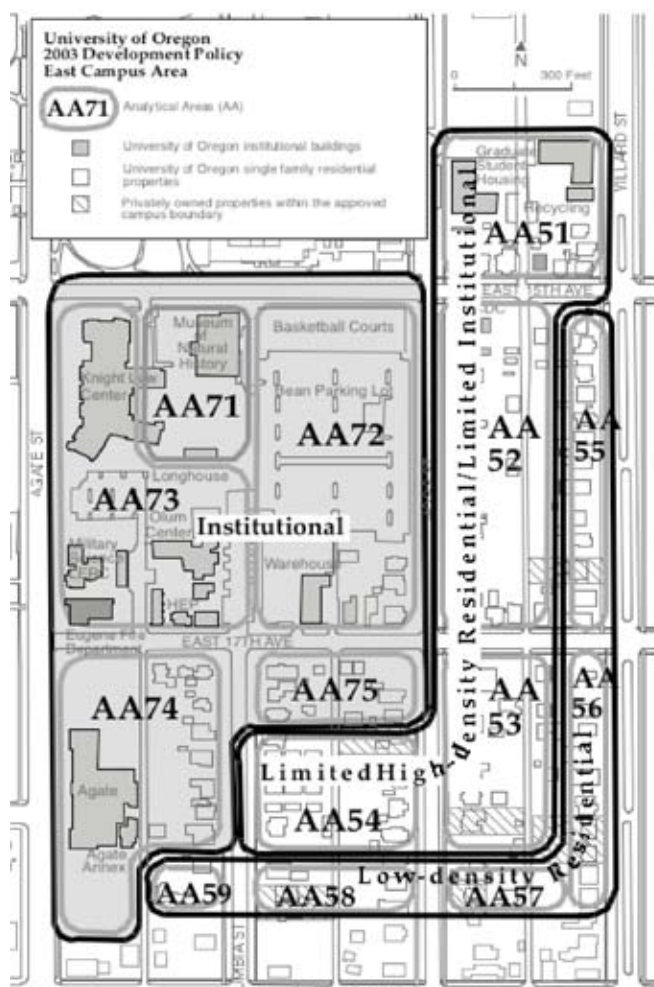
Ramsey also noted how much harder it is to find study space or EMU services with more students.

Regardless of whether or not they support the expansion, no students, faculty, or administrators can deny that the school is undergoing rapid growth, thanks in no small part to a top tier and well-funded athletic program. Whether it can sustain itself at its goal of 24,000 students remains to be seen, but the ECRH is certainly a step towards making the UO a high-profile destination.

Off-campus foci for freshmen, such as Stadium Park and Courtside Apartments, have their own share of difficulties. Sophomore Andy Jorgenson lives there and says it's no paradise.

"Disciplinary issues are somewhat of a problem at Courtside," Jorgenson said. "The freshmen-based floors have had a few evictions so far. Some freshmen were evicted for doing graffiti on the inside of the

TURN TO ECRH, PAGE 20



Source: University of Oregon East Campus Summary Policy



Source: East Campus Residence Hall Schematic Design

Riverfront situation awkward for all

Nick Ekblad and Sophie Lawhead

It was the mid-1980's; the theory of Reaganomics was at its peak, Hands Across America was stretching over the land and the University of Oregon and the Eugene city government were quietly planning the future of 67 acres of the Willamette riverfront. The plan was to build a multi-building office park to house technology development and research companies. It would simultaneously provide direct interaction between the school and technological industries while raising the university's profile on a state and national level. That hasn't happened; instead, the UO is stuck with a development deal that's losing money coupled with rising resentment over its decision to go forward with the park.

To see how this all happened, let's start from the beginning.

In 1986, an initial Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was formed between the University of Oregon and the city of Eugene. The city and the school intended to ensure equal input on planning between the city and the university. The initial IGA required a commission of seven members to oversee the development process, three appointed by the city council and four appointed by the university's president. By the end of the 80s, the city had approved the "Riverfront Research Park" master plan and in 1989 it issued a Conditional Use Permit to the university, allowing it to begin development. Students, faculty and the general public immediately began to express their opposition.

That same year, UO geography professor Alvin Urquhart sued to stop development, appealing all the way to the Oregon Supreme Court. Urquhart argued that the permit's issuance violated the Willamette Greenway Act of 1967, which set out to preserve, beautify and protect open spaces along the Willamette. The Oregon Supreme Court found that the issuance of the permit didn't violate

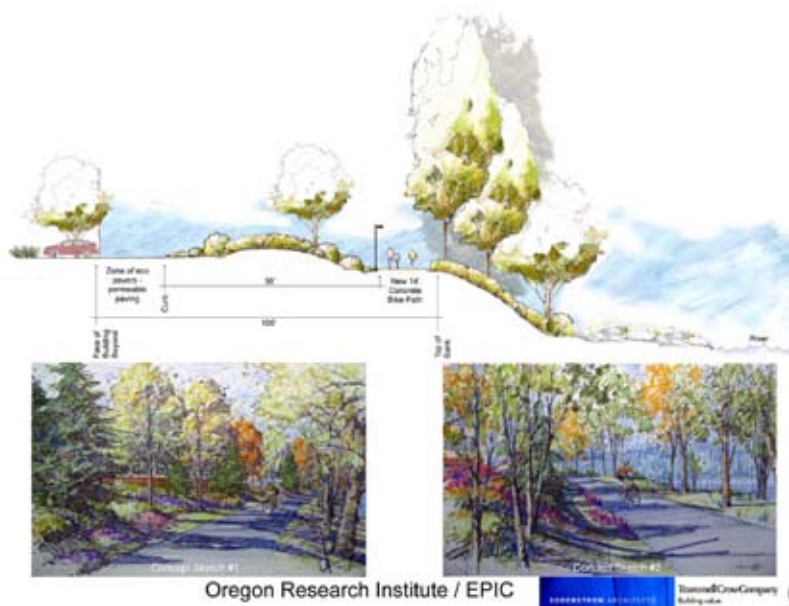
the act because conditional use permits exist specifically for the purpose of bypassing such acts. In response, the ASUO passed the Campus Greenway Initiative, a piece of legislation similar to the Greenway Act, but the ASUO is a powerless entity and the UO's permit stayed in place.

Nothing happened for eight years.

In 1997 the riverfront issue momentarily rose from the grave when 200 UO students rallied against the construction of an automobile underpass at the northern terminus of Agate Street, but it soon fell back into its casket.

In the wake of the underpass opposition, UO president Dave Frohnmayer realized that in a town like Eugene, where protesting for the sake of protesting is a time-honored tradition, the public

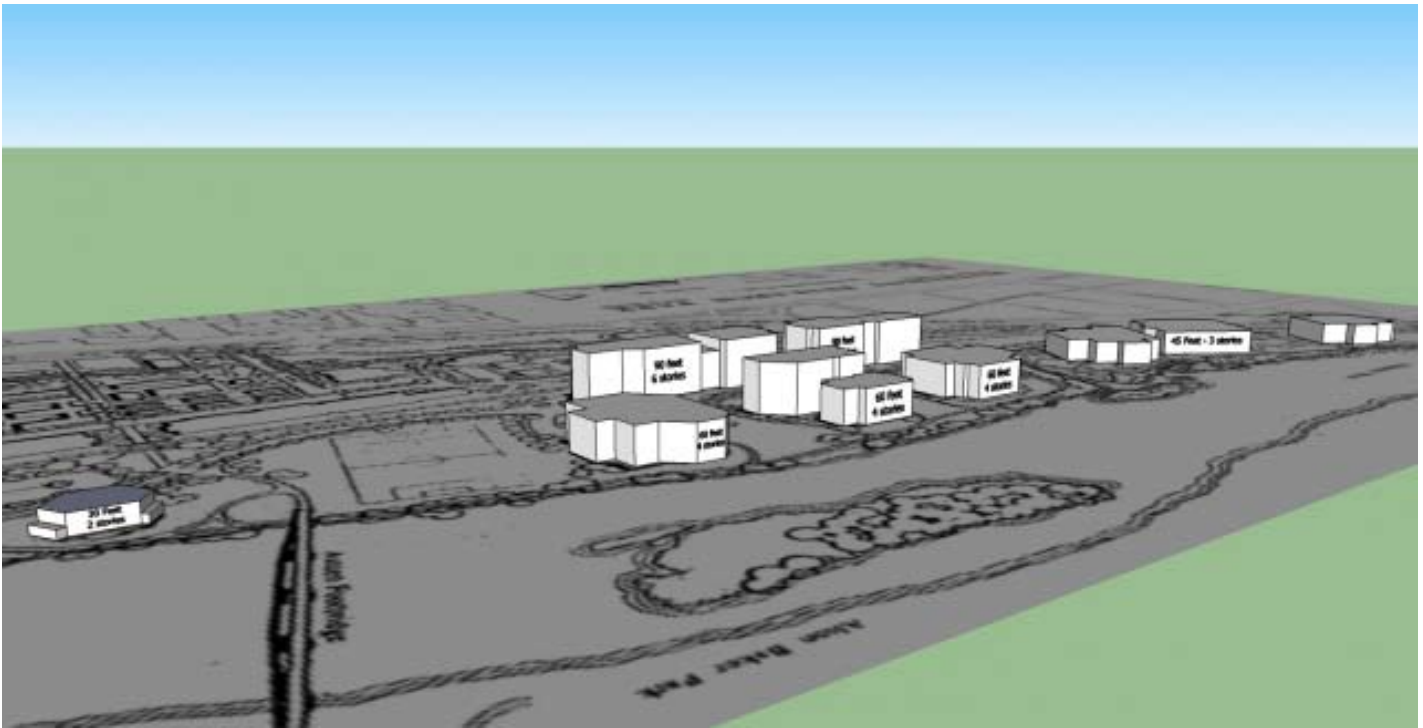
was going to have to be cut out of the decision-making process for any real progress to be made. Luckily for him, long-time university donor Dan Giustina was the chair of the Riverfront Research Park Commission, and he of course agreed with Frohnmayer that a second IGA would be needed, one which gave development control solely to the university. In a December 1999 letter to the president, then-mayor Jim Torrey and the Eugene City Council, Giustina stated that



Source: Connecting Eugene

the commission had found "compelling differences in the dynamics that originally led to the establishment of the city and university partnership to develop the Riverfront Research Park."

Giustina ultimately expressed the Riverfront Research Park Commission's unanimous recommendation to terminate not only the original IGA, but the commission itself. Four main points were



given: He wrote that “today’s economic environment is much different than it was in the mid-1980’s,” and that “economic development no longer ranks among the city’s top priorities.” He also wrote that the revised funding model put in place by the Oregon University System (OUS) “encourages our state universities to be more entrepreneurial.” His last two points possessed the same sentiment, pointing out that “without a shared vision of park plans and how the partnership should proceed, joint management is problematic,” and that the public input guaranteed to citizens by the original IGA was a “red flag to potential developers, signaling that dealing with the park may be cumbersome, time-consuming, and therefore, costly.”

Following this, the commission and Frohnmayer agreed to stop appointing council members since, as commission member Jim Johnson stated, “it appears that the commission will be dissolved.” However, crucially, the city did not actually dissolve the commission; it just stopped appointing members. This loose end was never tied up.

In 2000, the city of Eugene, the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency and the University of Oregon introduced a second IGA that transferred the responsibility of the administration of grants from the city of Eugene to the state of Oregon. Since the University of Oregon is an institution of the state, this, in theory, took away the city of Eugene’s financial input. The original IGA, however, remained to be officially dissolved.

This introduces us to the most important questions of the quagmire: Since the Riverfront Research Park Commission and the initial IGA were never officially dissolved, are they still active? Is it possible for this land to be developed jointly, or has the considerable obstacle of Eugene public input rendered the project untouchable? Are these the reasons why the project has been at a standstill for over 20 years?

Nothing happened until 2009. That year the university renewed the 1989 CUP for three more years. So what was the university doing when it should have been holding a bidding process to receive the highest

possible sum for the property lease? A bidding process, as such, is actually necessitated by Oregon state law.

Source: ori.org

As the situation currently stands, UO President Richard Lariviere has made a deal with Portland’s Trammell Crow Company to lease the 4.7 acres in question for the next 55 years for a single payment of just \$1.46 million. That’s only \$26,545 a year. This same property was valued at over \$3 million just six years ago, when the university hired an outside consultant to appraise the land. With potential lease payments starting at \$250,000 and increasing 3 percent annually, the school could’ve made around \$35 million in profit over the same 55 years.

Furthermore, Trammell Crow (a subsidiary of the world’s largest commercial real estate firm, CB Richard Ellis) has been the only company quoted the costs of development. As stated above, a bidding process is necessitated by Oregon law. Paul Cziko, a UO biology graduate student opposed to the current development plan, said this process has been skipped as no other firms have been contacted about bids. In effect, the university has waived its capitalistic right to the best deal available.

On top of all this, the university has agreed to take on all of the infrastructure costs, which are estimated to be between \$1.1 and 1.4 million. This coupled with legal and administrative costs amounts to a huge net loss for Oregon taxpayers. This project was originally funded by the Oregon Economic Development Department, a state-run agency, now called the Oregon Business Development Department. Currently, the project is financed by about \$1.2 million in state grants.

It’s hard to believe that a state university could simply overlook such a financial aberration, but what other explanation is there? Another possibility is that the litany of appeals filed by public groups such as Connecting Eugene hindered the bidding process necessary

for the university to land a good development deal. Connecting Eugene and a number of Eugene citizens and UO faculty, staff, students and alumni, are unsatisfied with the current development trajectory. They are hoping that the missteps of due process will give them enough leverage to stop the University's current development plan and replace it with something community-approved.

One of Connecting Eugene's solutions is a proposed alternative location for the ORI building. According to Connecting Eugene's website, the area west of the Millrace and south of the railroad tracks (some, but apparently not all, of this land is owned by the University, as stated on the website) would accommodate some of ORI's needs without invading the riverfront area, but it can't house the necessary parking lots and would not allow for the six other buildings that are planned for later.

Because the Riverfront Research Park Commission and the initial IGA were never officially dissolved, and due because the second IGA states that the University of Oregon and city of Eugene will be developing this land "jointly," Connecting Eugene believes that the university cannot proceed with its current plans. University

administration has responded to these complaints evasively.

During a University Senate meeting on Jan. 13, concerns were brought forth by the Senate, which submitted a packet of 12 questions regarding the riverfront development to Lariviere that he infamously dismissed (by stating that he believed the questions had "already been answered"), Lariviere claimed that the university believed the first IGA,

which requires public consultation was "not in effect and has not been for many years."

Later, in a communication to Eugene Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary, Richard Linton, UO vice president for research and graduate studies, explained the university's official position on the matter. He cited that the original IGA requires only the demonstration of an "intent to withdraw" from the agreement

by one or more parties for it to be considered terminated. Guistina's letter to Frohnmayer in 1999, and Frohnmayer's subsequent response in 2000, are considered by the university to have been an indication of withdrawal.

Connecting Eugene filed another appeal on Feb. 22, this time claiming that the planned parking lots are in violation of the University's conditional use permit. Cziko says that this appeal is just the first step to ensuring a responsible trajectory for the

"I'm not a lawyer ... but my understanding (is that) the IGA is not in effect and it hasn't been for some time."

**-University President Richard Lariviere
("President, students differ on riverfront property," ODE, Jan. 13, 2011)**



Photograph by Tom Walsh

Riverfront's development. Records will be made available to the Land Use Board of Appeals within 14 days, followed by written arguments from both sides of the dispute 21 days later. Cziko and Connecting Eugene hope the Land Use Board of Appeals will acknowledge the need for an updated plan and that the matter will be opened up to public input.

In a most recent development on Mar. 3, ASUO President Amelie Rousseau announced via e-mail that the ASUO has petitioned State Attorney General John Kroger to allow the student organization to seek independent legal counsel to fight the university. By state law, the ASUO is required to use the legal services of the attorney general, unless he possesses a conflict of interest. The attorney general cannot serve the interest of students because he already provides legal counsel to the university administration in regards to the Riverfront Research Park.

The University is avoiding addressing these issues, clearly because the high level of public opposition is obvious. However, that is what administrators like Lariviere are paid to do: answer for their actions and to take a transparent stand, being clear about their intentions, even if they aren't popular.

The original agenda was drawn up in the 1980's. It is irresponsible for the University to assume that it would still be a sound plan more than 20 years later. Regardless of whether the idea of a research park on the riverfront meshes with Eugene's aesthetic and environmental values, development of the riverfront is inevitable; no number of protests, appeals, and websites can change this. Whatever is developed needs to be of maximum benefit to the university and its dependents. The university and the city government have failed UO students and faculty, both present and future, displaying a serious lack of courage in the face of public disapproval.

If the public is bent on delaying construction until their voice is heard, it seems more logical to appease them rather than continue to fight a long, expensive battle to a disappointing, and rather embarrassing end. At the very least the university needs to disengage from its current agreement with Trammel Crow and either renegotiate or enter a new bidding process, because if it's going to fight Eugene's legion of protestors, it might as well make the battle worthwhile.



Nick Ekblad is distribution manager for the OREGON COMMENTATOR and Sophie Lawhead is associate editor, and their article was written without a public comment period.

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- George Bernard Shaw

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The New Partnership

Lyzi Diamond

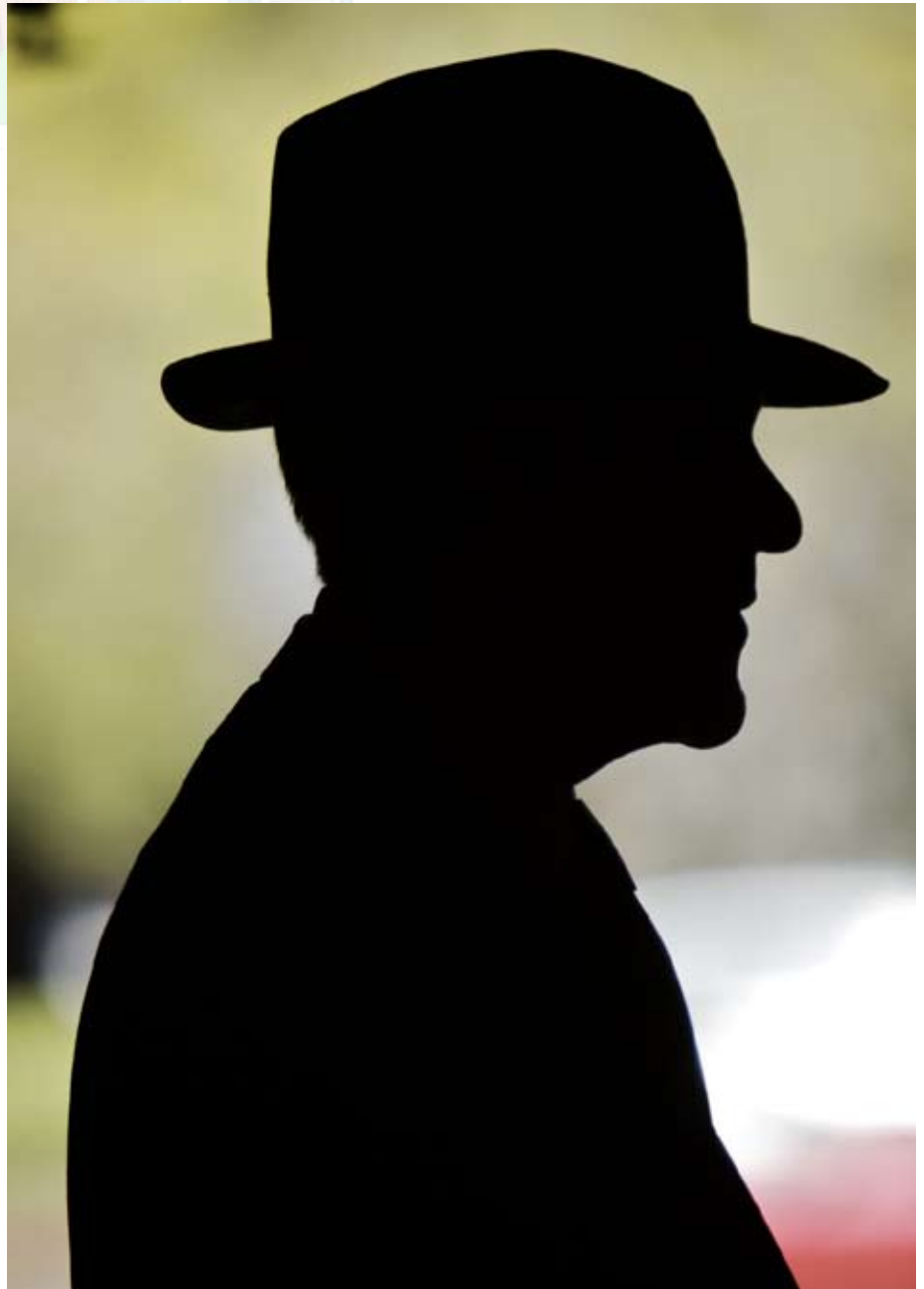
The Proposal

The proposal is divided into two sections: governance and funding.

Under the new partnership, the University of Oregon would have its own 15-member governance board, with seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate and eight members appointed from other bodies. Of the seven governor-appointed members, one would be a current UO student and one a current UO faculty member. In addition to these seven, one member would be from the State Board of Higher Education and appointed by that body, one would be a member of the University of Oregon Foundation Board of Trustees, and five would be appointed by the rest of the Board of Directors. The 15th member would be the University of Oregon president, who would not have a vote. All members would be appointed for four years, except for the UO president, who would serve for his or her entire tenure of office, and the student, who would serve a term of two years. This body would be charged with enacting and approving all policies for the governance of the university and all the subsequent duties that entails — including the appointment of future presidents of the University of Oregon.

As the largest problem facing higher education in the state of Oregon is declining state funding, the new partnership plan outlines a divergence from the status quo in terms of where the University of Oregon gets its money. Within the plan, the state of Oregon would sell thirty-year bonds equal to \$800 million with 7 percent interest; roughly equaling the amount of money the UO is currently receiving from the state (\$64.5 million annually). In addition to these funds, the university would solicit individual donations to equal \$800 million, creating a \$1.6 million endowment. The university would then operate off the interest from this endowment.

These visions would be actualized through Senate Bill 559 and Senate Joint



Resolution 20, tackling the governance and funding proposals, respectively.

On Mar. 1, President Richard Lariviere presented tuition cap proposals to the Oregon state legislature. Under these

Source: The Oregonian
proposals, the University of Oregon would only be allowed to raise tuition by 5 percent per year without express consent from the governor and the state legislature.

In the wake of declining state funding, the University of Oregon is proposing a “new partnership with the state,” involving changes in how the university is governed and funded.

Additionally, the proposal would guarantee that students entering the UO would know their total enrollment fees for the next four years of their tenure at the university.

The Opposition

Much of the opposition to the proposal centers on access to higher education, following the idea that without the checks and balances from the state legislature, many Oregonians and other students will be priced out of education at the UO. Additionally, students and administrators from other universities believe that the proposal will only potentially solve financial problems at the University of Oregon, where in reality the problem extends to all universities in the OUS system.

There are also questions of transparency. Many believe the University of Oregon proposal to be a privatization proposal that would create an even more oblique and incommunicative university government than the one that currently exists. These critics believe that without the state providing funding and overseeing university governance, there will be no reason to be transparent with students.

Finally, many of the opponents of the proposal believe that a significant increase in private donations will invoke an increase in private influence over the university. The forms it is perceived this will take vary, but many believe it will manifest itself in influence over which academic programs receive funding and which continue to decline, the content and curricula taught in classrooms and how much money is given to academics versus athletics or other university programs.

The Alternative Proposal

The Oregon University System has put out an alternative proposal (Senate Bill 242), which is in many ways similar to the new partnership, but allows the whole OUS to create an independent 15-member,

governor-appointed governance board. Of this board, one member must be a student at an Oregon public university student and one must be an Oregon community college student. This body would be charged with creating governance proposals for all seven schools in the OUS system (Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Western Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, Portland State University and Oregon Institute of Technology) as well as determining enrollment fees (tuition) for each university.

Additionally, SB242 would eliminate line-item funding for the OUS and replace it with block grant funding. Other education entities in the state, namely the Oregon K–12 system and the community college system, are funded similarly. Additionally, the passage of the bill would allow the OUS to retain interest on tuition payments that currently go to non-university uses.

Problems and Remaining Questions

The largest problems with both proposals are the lack of clear impacts and consequences for UO students. These consequences could come either in the form of exorbitant tuition increases or donor input in curricula, both of which could prove to be serious detriments to the University of Oregon learning experience.

While Lariviere’s tuition cap proposal does provide checks on the growth of student tuition, it does not set a baseline for that tuition. This is a frightening proposition for UO students on the brink of an income bracket who may be stretched just beyond their means when it comes to funding their higher educations.

On the other hand, the OUS proposal and the status quo continue diminishing state support with sloppy solutions for

capping tuition. Perhaps this proposition is even more frightening.

As far as donor influence is concerned, with both proposals there exist governing boards that would oversee the University of Oregon (directly and indirectly). Lariviere’s proposal allows for a board with a University of Oregon student as a voting member as well as half of the voting members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state legislature. Under the OUS proposal, the 15-member board only guarantees one student member, and all members will be governor-appointed. With both boards there are direct links to the citizens for accountability, but the UO plan guarantees a University of Oregon student on the board and adds an extra level of accountability via senate approval for seven of the board members.

In all, though, both plans are cause for concern. The status quo is clearly not working. Students are already being priced out of education. Students already don’t know what’s going on in the university administration. If either of these proposals is to go through, there needs to be a significant amount of information divulged to the public.

No matter how many approximated numbers they throw at us or how grave the problem seems to be, until they display concrete impacts on students, we are not going to bite.



Lyzi Diamond is the editor-in-chief for the OREGON COMMENTATOR and is not sure about the University of Oregon.

Why I'm Mad at Athletics Donors

Kayla Heffner

It almost goes without saying, but sports at the UO are a big deal and getting bigger. The athletic department owes its growth to the football program's successes since going to the Rose Bowl in 1995. The UO is on ESPN and the national attention is boosting revenue, the UO/Nike brand, donations and recruitment for the university.

In the height of all the national attention, donations to athletics are at an all-time high, allowing for new construction projects in sports and sports-related facilities. The newest expansion is to the Len Casanova Center, the football team's headquarters. The building is being enlarged and the UO is also building a new women's soccer/lacrosse facility nearby. The newest expansion may be the third-most expensive structure built for the university.

The way the financial aspect of the expansion is set to work will parallel the construction of the John E. Jaqua Center for Student Athletes: the UO will lease the land to a private company for next-to-nothing, then get the property back once the building is complete, subsidized by Nike co-founder Phil Knight.

The new digs and amenities at the Cas Center, located next to Autzen, are set to cost the Athletic Department \$1–2 million annually in operating fees: salaries for five full-time staff positions (including a museum curator for the hall of fame) and other expenses are all going to be paid with public money, not donor money.

Athletic Director Rob Mullens told the *Oregon Daily Emerald* in February that his department can afford the expansion because of the revenue football

generates. "That's an easy decision for us," Mullens said, "to take on a little additional operating expense to meet a real need."

Need? If Mullens is referring to the nine football player meeting rooms, two team video theaters, offensive/defensive meeting rooms, conference suite for coaching staff, additional offices, a player lounge, a media interview room, a recruiting center, outdoor courtyard and plaza, three practice fields and a full-service dining facility as a "need," by all means, proceed. Mullens also went on to say, "As a unit that receives no general fund support, we have to have these types of facilities. The return from that facility investment is tremendous."

Yet Mullens told KEZI news, "The University of Oregon and UO Athletics are so fortunate to benefit from the continued generosity and vision of Phil and Penny Knight," further emphasizing, "This project epitomizes a long line of world-class facilities that has enhanced the University, and will add to the support we offer all our student-athletes. We are also fortunate to have an exceptional team leading the planning phase of this important project. They have spent long hours putting this project together and along with our staff, donors and fans, will help us continue our current standard of success in the future."

According to the permit application at the City of Eugene Planning and Development Department, the building's other accumulating costs include \$1.75 million, (paying for the first phase of expansion), affirming the contractual agreement between the university and Knight. Knight is contracting mainly with Hoffman Construction, who did the work for the Jaqua Center and Knight Arena as well. The specifics for the budget will be kept private until its completion in summer of 2013 and the building will then be given back to the university.

This is not a gift-in-kind, it's a thumb in the eye. Athletic recognition for the university has been on a rise since the 1990s and the number of outside and alumni donors is at an all time high, but none of the hype and success is trickling down to academics.

Recent findings from the Council for Aid to Education in 2010 assert that the athletic department received \$18 million in donations, while in the same year academics received \$4.9 million.

It should be no surprise that when a university team is doing well, donations are given to athletics over academics. No one hears about academic needs because it is not broadcast on a scoreboard or on a highlights reel from the local news. It should also be evident that UO is not the only university in the country that receives controversial donations from boosters or alumni that favor their donations to athletics. Anyone can demonize Nike and blame Knight for the descent of the academic mission on campus, but many schools across the nation are facing the same issue.

UO, Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University all have centers for student athletes only via athletic department funding, donations and outright gifts. This forms a divide between student-athletes and other students and can ultimately hurt the morale of all students. The issue is that the students' academic success is being compromised because of "athletics only" donations.

Allen Sack, a University of New Haven professor and a former Notre Dame football player, said in an interview with the Chicago



"It's an area of need...We've made a lot of progress (and) we certainly want to maintain that elite status. This is a critical piece to the puzzle." -University Athletic

Director Rob Mullens

("Casanova Center expansion to create big expenses for University," ODE Tuesday Feb. 15, 2011)

Tribune, "These athletic tutoring palaces perpetuate resentment and stereotyping on campus. A student who is not an athlete will say: 'I'm working nights to get through school, why don't I get free tutoring?' (and) that the athletes do perpetuate the image of a dumb jock who couldn't get through school without special help."

If these are tutoring centers for student-athletes, why are other students kept from being able to study with their fellow classmates, who happen to be athletes? This seems odd, yet many schools share the practice of having student-athlete only centers. There have also been scandals concerning academic fraud at the tutoring centers of the Universities of Florida and Minnesota. In both cases, the schools were found guilty of academic fraud. Athlete-only centers foster resentment among students and can lead to student-athletes cheating through tutors, sacrificing the academic mission for both groups of students.

Donors, students and administrators may have forgotten that the main goal of attending a university should be education, if a student also participates in an extracurricular activity, that should receive support from the university, as long as the student's academic goals are not compromised. Donors will continue to give their money to athletics and athletics will continue to provide athlete only services that may or may not focus on student-athletes academic goals. With the number of schools involved in academic fraud, it is obvious that UO isn't the only school witnessing an emphasis on athletics over academics. Until the realization occurs that academia is suffering at the cost of "athletics only" donations, this type of transaction will further divide student-athletes from their fellow students.

The ball is in the donors' and the university's court — funnel money into centers that only benefit athletes or provide structures from which all students can benefit? The university mission is meant to emphasize academics for all students — "Mens agitat molem" in Latin, "the mind moves matter." Yet, with mounting donations from donors and big boosters such as Knight going toward athletics, the alma mater should change: sports moves matter.



Kayla Heffner is a contributor to the OREGON COMMENTATOR and she watched the BCS title game with a voodoo doll in hand.



Photograph by Tom Walsh

It's hard to find a parking spot at Knight

C.W. Keating

The opening of the Matthew Knight Arena was breathtaking. Hundreds flocked to the newly built basketball court, rubbernecking their way towards the latest testament to Nike co-founder/mega-donor Phil Knight's gargantuan footprint on the University of Oregon. Excitement was in the air as the sounds of the first basketball game ever played in the Knight Arena rumbled throughout the University.

Amid the excitement, the UO was charging students and faculty to park on campus, even if they weren't attending the basketball game if they parked in the HEDCO Education Building parking lots.

To top it all off, School of Education Dean Michael Bullis had to inform parking officials of the university's parking rules, something on which the additional officers had not been briefed.

Concerns about the increased traffic around the Fairmont and University neighborhoods as well as the high cost of parking underneath the arena have raised the ire of faculty members who are frustrated by the lack of administrative concern over parking.

"The university built an underground parking lot for the arena and are charging faculty and students and staff, and nobody can use it except for student athletes," University Senate President Nathan

Tublitz said. Tublitz sent out a public e-mail urging students to demand their money back if they had been unfairly charged as a result of the opening. "It seems to me a reasonable intermediate compromise would be to charge people \$10 to park in the parking structure instead of charging to park elsewhere."

According to the Knight Arena Parking and Transportation website, parking spaces at the Knight Arena are first come, first served. As Department of Public Safety Lieut. Herb Horner explained, "On days of events, (the Athletics Department) select the number of lots they want to use for the event and the lots are turned over to them to manage for the event."

After this process, Starplex CMS, a state-certified security company, is brought on to manage the event.

However, communication between the Department of Parking and Transportation and these contractors has been poor at best due to the constant changing of employees and the lack of consistency. "We had a new building and we kept having different audiences," Vicki Strand, director of athletic events for the Knight Arena, said. "It's hard to get in stride with the constant changes we had."

Even though Starplex CMS employees hadn't been briefed on the university's parking rule before the Knight Arena's opening night, it seems that the problem lies not in the sudden change in rules but in the mismanagement of parking around the arena and around campus.

The parking crunch surrounding the newly opened arena is merely a symptom of a larger parking crisis on campus. It's been an issue for years, one that officials at both DPS and the Athletics Department fervently deny. "What we have found is that there's really plenty of parking on campus now," Horner said, citing a November survey DPS conducted that found a number of lots that were unused. That survey, once posted on DPS' blog, can

no longer be found.

Part of the reason DPS officials are denying that parking is



Photograph by Tom Walsh

a problem is its status as an auxiliary department. "Parking is an auxiliary like athletics is an auxiliary," Horner says. "Which means that it's self-supporting. So parking has responsibility for maintaining and selling the parking and coordinating the parking and making sure there is parking."

Thus, DPS needs to fulfill its budget. And one way to do that is to increase the parking permit pass for faculty from \$300 to \$400. "There are some serious parking issues at the moment with trying to find a space on campus, especially with staff paying \$400 for a hunting license to not get a parking space," Tublitz said.

Horner explains that this is for no other reason than balancing DPS' budget. "You control demand through a number of ways, but one of them is with pricing and we had a pretty good increase for faculty staff," he says. "People raised furloughs ... We understand all that. It was not an easy decision to make. But we are an auxiliary which means we are self-supporting so our budget has to balance." It seems that both the Athletic Department and DPS are interested less in the interest of students and faculty and more in balancing its budget in order to receive increased funding for the next year.

Another reason trotted out by the university is the supposed insistence on a bike-friendly and environmentally friendly policy. Horner cites the increased number of bikers coming to campus. For students in Springfield and the outer reaches of Eugene, however,

biking is not a realistic plan.

The \$3 shuttles, the \$10 parking and the restriction on parking in the Fairmont neighborhood are merely to balance the budget of the Athletics Department and DPS, not for any substantial financial contribution to developing a better parking policy. The Knight Arena's parking spaces have already been sold to the highest bidder and parking on campus remains a difficult task.

"Parking is the one thing that is a very personal and inflammatory thing for almost every person on this campus," Horner says. Without a space of one's own, it will remain an inflammatory thing until the administration figures out a way to satisfy student's demand for more parking on campus.

The Knight Arena parking should be restricted to students or faculty. Balancing the budget is no excuse for robbing students of fundamental space. Until the university realizes the needs of students and faculty come first, its parking policy will be stuck in reverse.



C.W. Keating is a contributor to the OREGON COMMENTATOR who can't even find his own iPod, let alone a parking space.

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EMU, FROM PAGE 7

Free Speech Platform was ripped from its previous home on the Fishbowl terrace and put into storage. The total budget was \$167,050.

In 1986, for a cost of about \$1.4 million, the EMU ballroom that had served many purposes, from concerts to student registration, was set to get its first renovation. Improvements included new hardwood flooring, acoustical treatment, room-darkening devices, more seating, lighting and ventilation.

The Amphitheater

The most recent major remodel came in 1998. On Dec. 4, 1997, just in time for its hundredth birthday, the ASUO sponsored an improvement project on the amphitheater. It was passed by the ASUO Senate with a 13-0-0 vote. The renovations were expected to cost more than \$410,000, and turned the amphitheater into what students know it as today

The Free Speech Platform, which had previously been salvaged and put in storage, was placed at the center, along with the bronze seal that had been buried in the previous plaza. Students were also careful to save the two time capsules that still lie dormant in the concrete; one from the original 1950 building, and one from the 1974 expansion. Unlike past improvements, students were more involved with this one than merely paying for it, as they worked heavily on



Ben Maras is a contributor to the OREGON COMMENTATOR who has a tattoo of the EMU on his buttock, signed by Erb himself via time travel.

ECRH, FROM PAGE 12

building, which most people would probably agree is not acceptable."

"Recently, some... teachers moved in to Courtside for the term. The only problem is (they) are not college-age and the majority of them seem like they are probably between the ages of 25 to 40. We have several apartments next to our own on the fifth floor that are occupied by the teachers...I don't (know) why (the managers) ever thought it would be acceptable to move teachers...right into an apartment complex that is intended to be for students. It's ridiculous that they were so shortsighted."

Residents of the East Campus neighborhood, better known as the Fairmont Neighborhood, have mixed views on the construction and expansion of the University. Julia Rockwell, who lives in student housing on East Campus and appreciates the friendliness of the community, has noticed a marked increase in vandalism and traffic since the Knight Arena opened. Her concerns are echoed by junior Jessica Rojas, who worries about the long term impacts of dense construction.

"Trying to walk across the street during a game is a challenge," Rojas said. "This area's pretty, and I'm concerned how pretty it will be in the future."

Mel Obermann, who lives in the same area as Rojas, has similar

RENOVATION, FROM PAGE 6

before design and construction can move forward. The University only received \$6 million in bond funding for capital projects next year, as opposed to the \$221 million it needed overall. Other sources of funding are being pursued, including student fees and private donations. "We're pretty much going to name every room in the building, I'm sure, with a donor." However, bond funds will make or break the situation. "We definitely need bonds to fund this building besides depending on student fees. If we can get bonds, we'll have a new EMU."

If funding is approved, construction could begin in the next couple years. "As of right now, we're going ahead as if the project is able to happen. More information about funding will be coming in June, and that's when the final decision to proceed with design and construction will be made. Just to be prepared, the process of selecting an architect will begin next term so, if construction is approved, the process can move forward quicker."

The project wouldn't mean that the whole building would be demolished. Lange said part of the current structure would be renovated from its current form, while the other section would be knocked over and rebuilt. Lange said that plans are still in the works to relocate the EMU's current services to other locations during construction. Once funding is secured, construction could begin a little over a year.

As it stands, it all depends on the money. "As of right now, we have enough money to go through with everything but construction," Lange explained. "Everyone sees the need for the new building, there's no denying that, but its whether we can fund it."



Rockne Andrew Roll is managing editor of the OREGON COMMENTATOR and, if there was a bar in the EMU, he would fail out of school, but not because he'd be drinking.

Obermann worries about the development and expansion, and questions who is in control of the growth.

"I don't think they're very honest," he said in regards to the East Campus Density Policy.

Neighborhood Association Co-Chair Camilla Bayliss said she looks at the development as a necessity that, as long as it is controlled. She said it will improve the community. She said the greatest concern the association has is a student-only culture moving into the area. She said the issue is one of balance, finding the appropriate ratio of college life and small town community life.

"It's my sense that the university is trying very hard to be a good neighbor," she said. "There are issues to work out, but everyone's doing the best they can."



Ross Coyle is publisher of the OREGON COMMENTATOR and Ashley Reed is a contributor, and the two of them are a deluxe double.

New arena will make us all proud

by Mark Jacobs

There's no denying that the Matthew Knight Arena's price tag is staggering; however, the payoff the University of Oregon hopes to receive goes beyond money. At least in theory. If you're worried about the money, think 30 years into the future. You don't think the money the UO will make enough money to pay for the arena makes from out-of-state students who come in to see a national powerhouse in athletics, from concerts and special events, and from bowl games and the NCAA Tournaments reached with the top-class prospects the new facilities will attract.

Imagine the prestige and reputation Oregon will soon have. Oregon will not only be a perennial Pacific-12 Conference powerhouse, but a perennial national powerhouse. Excluding the money, the prestige that the country's largest on-campus basketball arena will give the UO a type of national recognition will have schools around the country mimicing Oregon That type of positive light will have Oregon on ESPN more than fake boobs on VH1.

If the prestige and positive air-time Oregon will receive don't get you excited, what about the pride it will instill in you? You

wouldn't be proud? Proud that you were at Oregon when the arena was built, the first time the football team made the national championship? You wouldn't be proud to send your kids to a school like Oregon? Every time ESPN shows up for College GameDay and the camera spans above the Kilkenny Floor, there wouldn't be a bright, burning, ball of fiery pride in your heart? You are an Oregon alumnus or alumna. You can tell your children and grandchildren that you were there for the start of the movement.

The Knight Arena and the John E. Jaqua Center for Student Athletes project exactly the image Oregon's been trying to build. We're the university with the sleek, cutting-edge new uniforms in every game. We air the commercial that asks, "You know the cool thing about having an 'O' for a symbol?" It answers with, "You learn to see endless potential everywhere you go." The Jaqua Center and Knight Arena, and the stratospheric potential they symbolize for UO athletics, are a testament to the truth of that statement.

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UO nixes automatic admissions rule

Alex Tomchak Scott

The University of Oregon has tightened its admissions standards considerably in recent years. Most of the school's current students were admitted under standards that automatically admitting any student with a grade-point average a little below B+. Starting next year, there will be no automatic admission point.

UO President Richard Lariviere and Vice Provost of Enrollment Management Roger Thompson gave reasons for the new standard based around an intention to change the UO's image among high school students.

Assistant Director of Admissions Brian Stanley, however, suggested the decision has a more pragmatic basis.

"We don't know that we're going to be able to handle the growth (in admissions)," he said.

That's because, despite the fact that the UO raised its automatic cutoff for admissions from a 3.25 GPA to a 3.4 for the current school year, the school has received more applications than ever. Stanley said the number of students applying to the

University increased by 25 to 30 percent during the current school year.

Before the UO raised its automatic GPA requirement in the fall, Stanley told the *Oregon Daily Emerald* that 70 percent of the school's students had been admitted automatically. After the change, however, Stanley said that 60 percent of the class of 2015 was admitted automatically.

Those numbers are not the reason officials in other UO departments cited for the change. Thompson, whose job includes visits to schools across the state, said the automatic admissions policy causes academics there to suffer.

"One of the most common things I hear is a lot of those students don't push themselves academically because they know, if they get a 3.4, they'll get into the University of Oregon," he said.

Lariviere's assessment was altogether more scathing, if equally theoretical.

"If you're a 3.3 student or a 3.2 student and you're in one of

those subsets that we really want to apply to the place — if the message is that if you don't have a 3.4, you're not going to get in, you diminish the likelihood that that student will apply," Lariviere told a group of journalism students on Feb. 16. "On the other hand, if you're a 3.9 student, why the hell would you apply some place that only requires a 3.4? I'm smarter than that. So we're just sending the wrong message to everybody."

But it's not unheard-of for students with high grade-point averages to apply to the UO. Junior Lauren Cartmell, from Issaquah, Wash., placed eighth in her high school class with a near-4.0 GPA, but still decided to apply to the UO.

"I came for the architecture program," Cartmell said. She is studying interior architecture, a very small program within the School of Architecture and Allied Arts with a good reputation.

But what she said also reinforced some of what Lariviere said about the school's perception among high-schoolers. "I knew the school is really easy for people with my grades in high school."

That wasn't entirely a turn-off when she applied, though. "I liked the vibe of the school," Cartmell said. "I didn't want to be stressed-out all of my time in college."

While she finds classes in her department challenging, "Some of the general education stuff I take ... is really easy, so it balances out."

She said the relative ease of the classes gives her time for extracurricular activities, another reason for coming; all and all, she doesn't regret her decision. "The school has a lot to offer. There's a really good business school ... a really good architecture program ... really good sports teams. Even if you get good grades, it doesn't mean you're not into sports."

Sports may indeed be a large factor in this. UO officials often push the idea that athletics provide value to the school's academics by driving admissions. The increase in admissions suggests there may be truth in that assertion.

The first increase in the GPA requirement was enacted in the 2008–09 school year. The year before, the Ducks football team had reached second in the NCAA standings, led by quarterback Dennis Dixon, and threatened to compete for the national title until Dixon got injured. The Ducks men's basketball team had also recently reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Admissions skyrocketed to the extent that the UO had to house freshmen in the Stadium Park Apartments because there was no room in the dorms. High admissions figures in the previous two years have also followed successful football seasons.

But correlation does not equal causation. In a Dec. 30, 2010, letter to the Register-Guard, art history professor Richard Sundt called notions that sports drive admissions "undocumented boosterism," colored by "Hollywood unreality."

Lundt made a valuable point beyond pithy phrases: Admissions have risen at all Oregon universities, probably fuelled by a recession that drives more students to college. Thompson himself insisted that football should not be the focus of discussion about higher enrollment.

Higher enrollment should. But one thing that is curious:

Fall 2010 University Profile

ENROLLMENT

Undergraduates: 19,534

Graduates: 3,855

Total: 23,389

MEAN AGE

Undergraduates: 20.6

Graduates: 27.5

Freshmen: 18.8

Total: 21.1

RESIDENCY

Oregon Residents: 13,757 (58.8%)

Non-Residents: 9,632 (41.2%)

ETHNIC IDENTITY

Ethnic Minorities: 3,732 (16%)

Asian: 1,223

African-American: 431

Hispanic: 1,138

Native American: 221

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 157

Multi-ethnic: 562

White, non-Hispanic: 16,542

International: 1,750

Unknown: 1,365

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN

Oregon: 13,263

California: 3,975

Washington: 1,015

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Enrollment: 1,750 (7.5%)

Number of countries represented: 86

ENTERING FRESHMEN

Male: 1,836

Female: 2,073

Total: 3,909

High School mean GPA: 4.0

SAT Mean Score (Verbal + Math): 1104

Data from Office of the Registrar, University of Oregon

just as the UO is abolishing its automatic admissions policy, the state's other public schools are enacting ones for themselves, despite increases in their own enrollment.

Melissa Haskin contributed reporting to this article.



Alex Tomchak Scott is copy chief for the OREGON COMMENTATOR and couldn't even get automatically admitted to a cesspool.

