

# Term's students fewer than expected

By ANDREW WIESENFELD  
For the Emerald

The final statistics aren't in, but some projections indicate that the summer enrollment is three to four percent less than expected by summer session organizers.

Summer enrollment was originally estimated at 7,150, according to Summer Session business manager Ronald Trebon. But a head count taken at registration showed only 6,900 students.

However, Trebon says that is not the final count. A student is not officially recognized as enrolled until tuition fees have been paid and another count taken. Due to a delay in receipt of financial aid by nearly 400 students, that count is delayed.

Trebon says those students were considered in the registration count. But because of the "lag" between the tallies, the registration count is usually higher than the fees paid count. And that could mean that the final total enrollment will fall below 6,900, he adds.

This is the first time summer enrollment has been

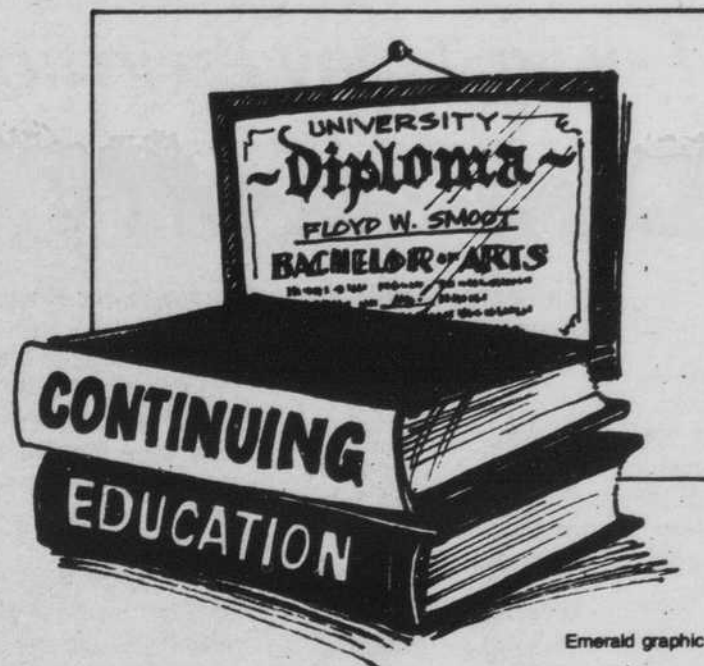
down from previous years, according to summer session director Clarence Schminke.

"The one thing that is tied to it (summer enrollment) historically is that the summer term tends to be like fall term," Schminke says. The all-time previous low for summer term was an enrollment of about 7,090 four or five years ago, Schminke adds. But this summer, he doubts that the final tally will significantly exceed 6,900.

Factors influencing summer enrollment include those that have affected the general trend for the academic year. Fewer graduating seniors, the increased tendency for students to choose community colleges over state schools or universities, commuting distances and tuition costs all influence the downward shift.

An unexpected increase of students attending the second half of summer session may "give a boost" to summer enrollment, Trebon says. But he doesn't think that increase would be significant.

The decline in the expected enrollment follows a similar trend shown in last year's summer session. According to the latest survey of student motivations for attending sum-



Emerald graphic

mer session, taken in 1973, 50 percent of the enrollment comprises continuing students who are accelerating their education.

At least 60 percent of summer students are once-only summer registrants, according to the survey. "That means it's a very transient period of instruction — that makes it difficult to plan for," Schminke says.

Trebon says the percentages have held constant since the survey was taken.

# Senator warns of negative side of tax limit

By KEVIN HARDEN  
Of the Emerald

Oregon voters have the "right to be wrong" on the controversial property tax limitation measure that will probably be on the November general election ballot, Senator Vern Cook (D-Gresham) said Thursday.

Cook, chairer of the state Interim Committee on Revenue and School Finance, said if the limitation measure is approved by voters in November, it could lead to large cuts in state and local civil services, as well as a one-third reduction of school administrators and teachers around the state.

But if that's what the voters want, that is what democracy is all about, according to Cook.

Although Senate President Jason Boe declared last week the Legislature should stay out of the emotional battle over the proposed property tax limitation measure, Cook said he could not remain silent on the effects such a measure would have on the state's economy.

"I think as an employee of the people of this state who has been in a position to have a better opportunity to see the effects of legislation like this, I must say what those effects may be," Cook added.

Comparing himself to a lawyer or a doctor, he said it was his obligation to say how he felt about the proposed tax limitation measure and to present the facts about that measure's effects.

"Like a doctor, you don't give a patient pabulum if he has cancer," Cook said. "You have to tell that

patient what will happen if he doesn't treat the cancer. You wouldn't just say he's okay and let him walk out and have his arm drop off because of the cancer."

The measure, a proposal that would limit state property taxes to one and one-half percent above the 1975 assessed property value, has been tentatively assigned position number six on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The measure was proposed by angry taxpayers who wanted to combat inflation, Cook said, but added that it may be the wrong way to attack the problem.

"The way to fight inflation (tax waste and revenue misappropriation) is not to put local government in a straight-jacket, but to replace elected officials at all levels with people who will work to reduce taxes and expenditures."

If approved, the proposal could cause "radical, curious and catastrophic effects" in the state because it was originally written for California, Cook suggested as California's tax system is much different from Oregon's, which

takes the majority of operating funds from local property taxes.

The state school system, which draws nearly 70 percent of those tax revenues for its operation, would be forced to cut about one-third of its personnel if the limitation goes into effect next year, he added.

Although the average Oregonian wants lower taxes, less government spending and lower inflation, the proposed tax limitation would be "very destructive" to local control of tax matters, Cook said.

A reduction of money for some cities around the state could lead to requests from civic leaders for state funds to operate essential social services, he said. The federal government would also be asked to increase funding for state programs, which would mean an increase in government regulations.

Although few supporters of the tax limitation believe the "horror stories" about reduced services and higher income taxes, Cook said the consequences of the

measure should be made public before the November election. To that end, a special report is being prepared by Legislative Revenue Officer Richard Munn that will detail the effects of the limitation.

"I think I have an obligation to tell people what I think will happen if this measure passes," Cook affirmed. "Everyone should know

what the effects of the measure will be before they vote on it."

Only after voters have all the facts about the measure will they be able to vote responsibly, he added.

"I don't think it's responsible to vote for this because they're mad at everyone in government, however."

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