

# Women's studies program endures cuts

By DIANE WINOCUR  
Of the Emerald

Women's studies programs statewide are threatened by an impending department elimination at Portland State University, says the University Women's Studies Committee.

But the committee also reports that the University's program is the most cost efficient program on campus and is in no danger at this time.

Mary Jo Wagner, temporary director of the University

women's studies program, says if PSU's program is eliminated, the likely outcome will be inclusion of women's studies curriculum in related departments.

PSU's decision could influence other universities, she says.

"It's that first wedge into the state system."

"We're down to bare bones," says Laurel Butman, office manager at the University women's studies department.

"We are presently managing with only two half-time em-

ployees and two third-time GTF's. Yet with a budget that in some departments salaries one professor, the program is producing over 1,500 credit hours annually."

"It's a small and very cheap operation that makes a big impact," says Mimi Johnson, head of the women's studies programs. She says its cost efficiency is quite remarkable.

Johnson believes the administration would not eliminate the program because, as she says,

they have been very happy with it.

"We're not costing them much, and we're meeting a need."

Wagner says "the threat of such programs is part of the national trend toward eliminating those things in education that seem radical."

But, as Johnson says, the department fills needs that more traditional disciplines cannot offer.

Wagner describes those needs as two-fold.

Wagner says "a women's studies program is a beginning to correct the deficiency in which women are not included in the rest of the curriculum."

"Women's studies is becoming a discipline in its own right, a collegiality and a language of feminism on which scholars in many areas of women's studies can agree," she says.

Although Wagner concedes that the program will never be perfectly safe, she maintains that it has a strong future ahead.

## Bookstore—

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kage" and increasing management personnel.

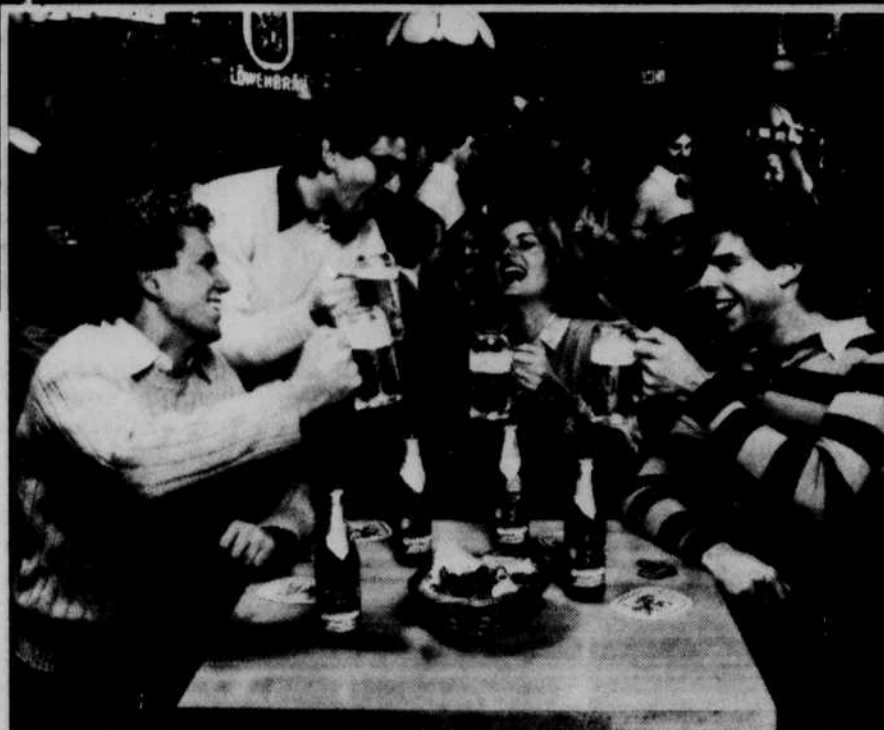
The manager's report shows a 156-percent increase in the used textbook sales during the Sept. 21-Oct. 3 period.

Overall sales are up only 8.9 percent over the same period last year. Manager Jim Williams said he had predicted a 13-percent jump in sales when the University forecast an enrollment increase. However, the 2.8-percent enrollment drop makes re-assessment of that sales prediction necessary, Williams said.

To make it through the resulting tough economic times, Williams said the store overestimates costs and underestimates income.

At their next meeting Oct. 28, the board will discuss an employee compensation package.

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