

opinion

Closing one college saves entire system

A suggestion in the Oct. 20 Oregon Journal by staff writer Diane Carmen that retiring Chancellor of the state System of Higher Education Roy Lieuallen ought to do his successor — and the state system — a favor by closing one school, is not to be easily dismissed. The closing of one school is one of a dwindling options left to the state board to ensure for the continued financial solvency of the entire state system.

This is the time, while the Legislature is demanding another four percent cut, to shrink the state system to a size more realistic with the economic conditions of the state.

Lieuallen may suffer a wave of criticism for making such an unpopular move — but the future will prove it a necessary decision. If Lieuallen decides to eliminate one school from Oregon's eight state colleges, it will strengthen the remaining schools.

Critics doubtless will say Lieuallen is sacrificing readily-available education, even though the concept of availability is not the major issue.

The concept of availability is coupled with a determination to promote regional access to higher education. Many of the state colleges were converted from Normal Schools solely to accommodate a specific region.

The Oregon Journal opinion tacitly advocated the closing of one state school, although it didn't venture which.

The Emerald agrees that one state school should be closed — if only for the good of the whole system.

In lieu of this admittedly drastic action, the State Board should eliminate entire programs from the system and sell off some land-holdings. Those land-holdings run in the millions of dollars throughout the system.

All the state schools are teetering on the brink of financial exigency. Portland State University, looking ahead, declared exigency last month. Throughout the system highly qualified faculty and staff are being laid-off. Many administrative positions that require dynamic leadership are being filled by less qualified — and lower paid — people. If those positions are being filled at all.

This is certainly a case of all the schools

suffering because the system is not fat, just too big for the economic realities. There are stronger schools and weaker schools as a result of the budget being spread so thin. University Pres. Paul Olum termed this as the creating of "mediocre" institutions. His judgement is correct. Anytime a strong institution is stripped to bolster a weak one the entire system suffers.

The duplication of curriculum programs at many schools hasn't been resolved even though the state system has been under extreme scrutiny. This duplication is again the result of the Normal schools being converted to colleges. When this conversion took place there was general proliferation of programs throughout the system, regardless of existing programs at other institutions.

Duplication exists, as an example, in teacher education. The University, Eastern Oregon State, Oregon State, and Southern Oregon State College all have elementary and secondary teacher education programs. This is twice the number of programs needed.

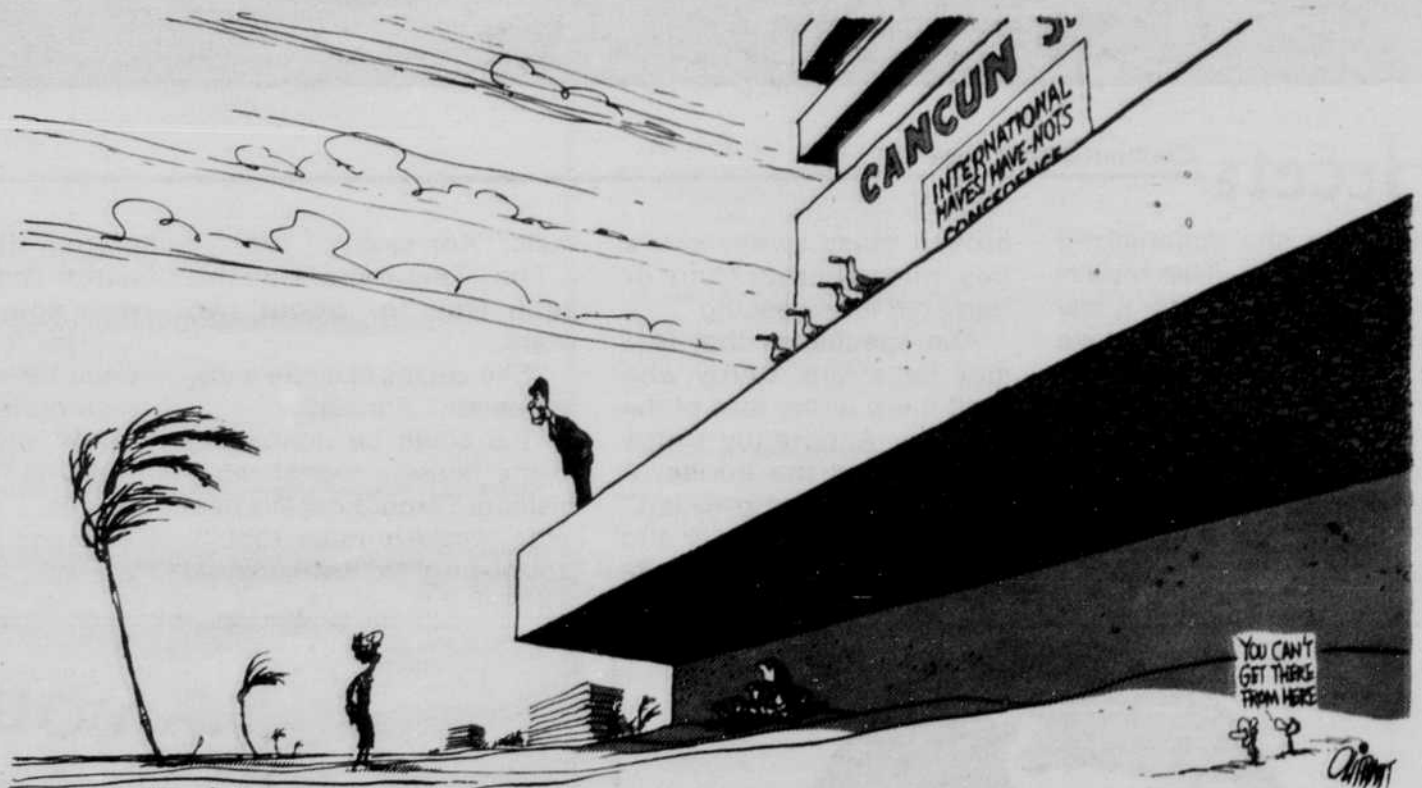
Schools such as SOSC and EOSC have little in their curriculum to validate them as essential to the system. Neither school has little more to offer than their location. Is locale reason enough to keep EOSC and SOSC as financial liabilities? Estimated enrollment figures for the current term indicate a loss at either of these schools.

Wouldn't it save the state system more money to close SOSC or EOSC?

The problem is not keeping the state system functioning at its present size — the problem is to take the necessary measures to keep the system at a size equitable to the state budget.

Lieuallen has a number of options before his retirement. He can do what is the most painful, but what is best for the state system as a whole. Or he can continue to cut a little here and a little there, bleeding the entire system.

Something has to give — one diseased limb can kill the entire tree despite all the careful pruning of the other limbs.



'WHAT IS BOOTSTRAPS, SENOR?'

letters

Greek excess

As Alan Wright stated in the Oct. 22 Emerald, the Greek system has both advantages and drawbacks. This statement cannot be intelligently denied. Through various articles, letters, and classified ads redundantly printed in the Emerald, the Greeks have convinced many that they truly enjoy their system. Great!

However, all this has recently been taken to excess. In particular Wright's description of Greek society as a "microcosm" of American society is exceedingly putrid in its connotations. The mainstream of our society is adverse to petty rules and rituals which impinge upon personal freedom of action. This is not to say Americans are adverse to uniting into groups as a means of advancing common interests. But there is a fundamental difference between the Sierra Club and the Elks. The Greek system does not in any way represent American society in miniature. Rather its structure and organization place it in a class of ideologically uniform, socially biased, and ritualistic organizations such as the Masons or Elks.

So Greeks, enjoy your system and its benefits — but cut the bullshit! We have been insulted enough by lofty analogies, Pan-Hellenic Councils (Socrates would surely roll in his grave), and other such absurdities. Your true identity will always shine forth from the intellectually stunted

classifieds your members submit — without fail — to every edition of this paper.

John Grove
Junior, economics/history

Frat life

Fraternity life must be a great learning experience. I mean, really, wild beer brawls, beautiful women, brotherly love, and best of all — that good old school spirit. I think it would be great to live with 45 guys. Just think of all the friends you could make. And the ladies, all you need to do is attend weekly or bi-weekly "functions" and PRESTO — you get laid every night. It's no wonder the Greek system produces a gut reaction for many students.

Mr. Hallquist states that "It's easier to criticize than go through rush." Well, I've gone through rush and I'm also criticizing. Rush week involves more bullshit phony politics than most rushies ever conceive. Fraternity members claim that you must pick the house with guys who you could live with. How on earth can a freshman make such a decision in haste? Well, if he's got bucks, or if he's an outstanding athlete, it's no problem at all. The members will manage to recruit the cream of the crop. Once you pledge a house you probably will become part of the Greek system for the rest of your life.

Don't get me wrong. Not all frat boys

are insecure, selfish, and big-headed. It's just that they get wrapped up in a unique living style which seems to control their behavior and formulate their values. Looking beyond these stereotypes, there're plenty of "good guys" who live in frat houses. I guess it's just not my trip!

Jim Lake
Junior, telecommunications & film

Support

The postponement of FBI recruiting on campus due to failure to comply with affirmative action policies regarding homosexuals is applauded by the University Gay Peoples' Alliance. We also wish to express our sincere sense of support and gratitude to the law school for taking the stand it did.

The FBI conception that homosexuals are more vulnerable to compromise because of their sexuality is self-fulfilling. Any homosexual who is "out" has no fear of blackmail, as blackmail is ineffective when the knowledge is common and not embarrassing. If a homosexual did not have to fear loss of employment at being exposed, an outside party seeking to blackmail the individual with the threat of exposure would have far less pressure to apply. It is an illusion that homosexuals are any less emotionally stable or able to cope under pressure, and it is

erroneous to assume they would function any less efficiently.

The law school's pursuit of the matter is admirable. Dean Bell's inquiry and subsequent postponement of the recruitment until the FBI presents a suitable reply shows a dedication to the overall principles of affirmative action and deserves support and praise. It is extremely important that American society move forward in combating discrimination in the form of racial, sexual, or any other kind of discrimination. The law school's actions do this.

Unless the FBI changes its blatantly discriminatory policy, it should not be allowed to recruit on campus at all. The University owes this to its students, gay or straight.

Gay Peoples' Alliance

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication is dependent upon space available.