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INSIDE

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It was the best of times before the special session mandated cuts that decimated the University. Now the University is plotting a comeback with legislative lobbying and a public awareness program.



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The branches of the main library — like the Fenton Law Library — serve the needs of students in specific fields of study.

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The diverse architectural styles of campus buildings are examined in an article that illustrates the tenacity of this 106 year-old University.



Nearly a quarter of eligible students will not be receiving Financial Aid, page 4, at registration because of a filing foul-up. The joys of Frisbee golf, page 8, are highlighted, including a map of the 18 hole campus course. The University's Main Library, page

11, is slipping, but still rates an excellent. The University is committed to educating students in the proper use of the written word, Literacy, page 18. Students are captured at the lofty peaks of "high fashion" On the Campus, page 20.

cort fernald

sidelong glances

Brace yourself. This is yet another column on the economic condition of Oregon higher education. You can stop right now if you're as tired of reading these columns as the writers are of writing them. If I had a nickel in my pocket for every time the Emerald has used the word "budget" in news stories, editorials, columns and letters when I walked it would sound like the sifting of debris following the collapse of the Crystal Palace.

But now all the wailing and beating of breasts that initially met the Legislature's special session(s) budget cuts to higher education has become but a quivering lower lip and a barely audible snuffle.

Only in the last special session was the state system of higher education spared. That doesn't mean the crisis has passed — as those-in-the-know . . . know. It does indicate the Legislature has come to recognize the dire consequences to this University and other colleges and universities if forced to again cut their budgets.

However, don't dry your eyes and tuck that damp hanky into your back pocket even though things might look stable for higher education.

Don't be deceived by the campaign antics in the first of three debates in Portland between Gov. Vic Atiyeh and challenger Ted Kulongoski. In the midst of a debate that was supposed to point out how diametrically different Ted is from Vic — and vice versa — They agreed on a strong support for higher education. They also voiced their opposition to the closure of any higher educational institutions.

However, that same afternoon in Eugene those-in-the-know (the State

Board) were at the University meeting with a less than unified front.

The board was taken aback by the speedily devised plan of newly appointed Chancellor Bud Davis to merge the teacher education programs at OSU and WOSC. The board wasn't completely willing to leap on the cart with Davis — in their disagreement they agree to postpone action.

In what newsreporters write as "meanwhile, the board" the board reviewed and approved a "priority list" for Atiyeh to use in case the 1983-85 higher education budget must be cut. This is a "rollback" plan with cuts ranging from 5 percent to 20 percent that the board is required to submit.

The board described possible cuts without naming specific programs or schools. But it is speculated that each 5 percent represents \$18 million lost in tax money — in terms more tangible — that means the loss of 300 faculty, 60 staff and an enrollment reduction of 4,000 students. Those cuts will kill higher education in Oregon.

These are not the rational actions of people who believe the worst is behind them. A representative from the chancellor's office said he didn't expect such a situation to occur — at least not in such proportions. But if one reads the board's actions — and their contingency plan — whether or not it will occur is moot. Their action begs the questions "when, how much and where?"

What happens next? Well, it is an election year — and a vote is a statement of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the way things are and what they might become. And that's the most positive statement you'll ever get from a cynic.

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