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end of the survey, OSL left room for comments, and many of the 90 responses received were surprising, she said.

Cuts

"They wanted to vent a lot of anger and frustration about the situation that they've been put in," she said. One questionnaire's commentary, signed by two students, ended with the question, "How can we help freeze tuition?" Another part of the survey addressed charges for extra classroom materials, Oeser said, and it was here she saw two specific problems appear often.

"It was fairly common that students were being required to purchase handouts and pay for class films," she said. "I was shocked when I first saw that, and I'm a bit alarmed. Students are already being asked to pay tuition."

Oeser said OSL will ask the institutions to investigate the situation as well as course scheduling problems, which also showed up on the survey.

"In every discipline, courses were cut. Many students were having trouble getting courses they needed to graduate," she said. A lack of courses forced one student to completely change majors and add another year of studies before graduating, she said.

Problems such as these began appearing after large budget cuts in higher education were made during the 1979-80 and 1981-82 fiscal years, Oeser said. During these same periods tuition was increased by 60 percent, she added. "That is one of the reasons why Oregon now has one of the highest tuitions in the western United States."

Oeser said the Reagan administration is partly responsible for the cutbacks in financial aid, having cut aid by 20 percent in the last three years alone. Because of the cuts, students have been forced to find other ways of paying for tuition, she said.

"I know from the figures from the State Scholarship Commission that Guaranteed Student Loans have increased three times in the past few years," Oeser said. "It was a fairly small program several years ago, and now it's the largest program of all."

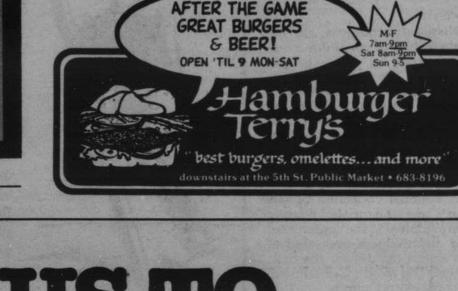
Despite the generally dismal picture, some students taking the survey said that they weren't aware of any effects from budget cuts and that they were generally happy with their education, Oeser said.

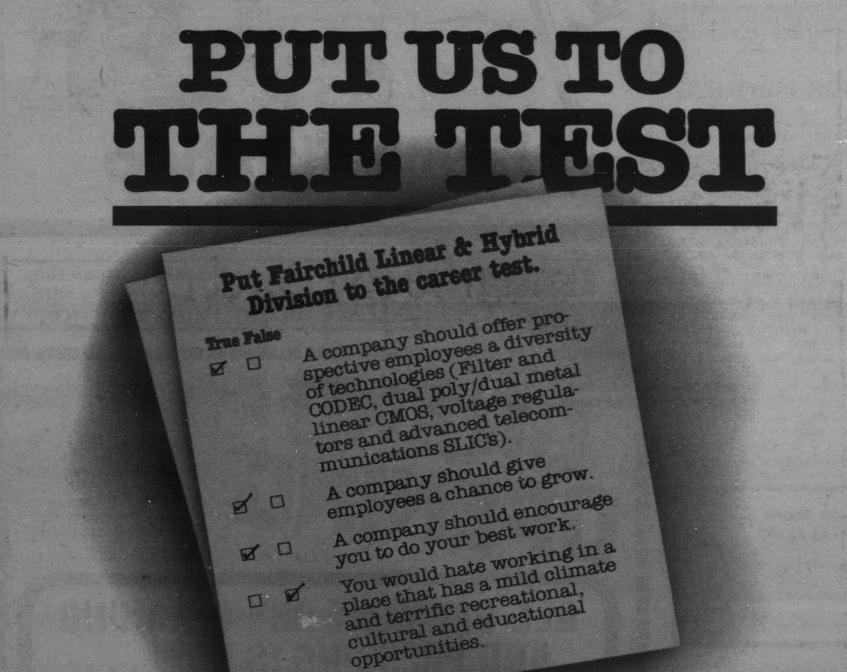
"That didn't really surprise me," she said. "A lot of the time when budget cuts happen, it's hard to pinpoint where they've actually occurred. If it's incremental, it's even harder to detect."

The OSL report will be presented to the Legislature during next year's hearings on the state system budget, Oeser said.

"I think it will have an effect on legislators because they don't always hear from students," she said. "Students don't have an ax to grind. What students do want is to learn, and they want the resources necessary to learn. I think in the next Legislature students are going to be taken much more seriously than ever before."

The final survey report should be available Friday, Oeser said. Students who want a copy can get one free by calling or writing to the OSL in Salem, 588-1571 or 573 Union St. N.E.





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Thursday, October 4, 1984