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## Officials recommend semester system

By Chris Norred  
Of the Emerald

The State System of Higher Education executive staff has recommended that all Oregon public colleges and universities switch to the semester system beginning fall term, 1989.

The State Board of Higher Education will vote on the recommendation at its Jan. 16 meeting at Oregon State University.

The move to a semester calendar has been debated in the State System since 1972 when the University Law School received permission to change to an early semester calendar. The University as a whole was denied permission because the State Board wanted to maintain a uniform calendar at State System institutions.

Proponents of the semester calendar say it improves the quality of education by allowing students more time to study each subject, reduces administrative costs, reduces costs to students by eliminating one term of new book purchases and will bring Oregon's colleges and universities into line with most other higher education institutions in the United States.

Opponents of the switch to semesters say the quarter system provides more flexibility for students to take more classes and for professors to teach more classes, and the quarter system allows non-traditional students to enter and leave programs without a long-term commitment.

University President Paul Olum advocates the move to semesters. "The semester system has been discussed here many times, and it was clear that a majority of faculty members wanted some kind of semester system," Olum said.

Students who argue against the semester system say quarters are better because if a class is bad, it is easier to endure 10 weeks than 15 weeks.

"Academically, I'd rather stay with quarters," said ASUO President Steve Nelson. "With the quarter system, I've had the opportunity to take a lot of different courses from a lot of different professors, and I enjoy that," Nelson said.

In 1983, the University requested permission to begin an early semester system here. The State Board defeated the University's request in a 5-5 vote, citing its desire to maintain uniformity in the State System and a concern about which semester system would be adopted.

The University faculty who supported the semester system in 1983 were divided between the two different semester systems: the "traditional" semester system and the

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Photo by Bobbie Lo

Businesses near the University like Rainbow Optics and the Giant Grinder enjoy the large number of student customers that comes with the territory.

## Merchants say University students can make or break area businesses

By Carolyn Lamberson  
Of the Emerald

University students provide a large part of the business for the 60 shops in the West University District, an area stretching from Alder to Patterson streets and from 11th to 13th avenues.

This arrangement seems to work well for both sides, providing students with places close to campus to shop and giving businesses a large number of potential customers.

Some might expect businesses to have problems in dealing with a large numbers of students, but merchants find this is not the case in most situations.

Richard Greene, former president of the University Small Business Association and an optician at Rainbow Optical, said he was surprised when someone suggested to him that prices in this area might be higher than prices in other areas because the businesses are in a university district.

"That isn't really true," he said. "Our prices need to be competitive in order to keep the student business."

Competitive prices may not keep a business in the area, however. Greene noted that restaurants and clothing stores seemed to have a

difficult time in the University area.

"To be honest, I couldn't say why. I heard that one clothing store had a shoplifting problem, but I'm not sure why some businesses stay and others don't," he said.

Vicky Leppman, one of the owners of Jabberwocky cards and gifts, didn't know why, either. "It seems strange that clothing stores don't do very well here. Students now seem to be more fashion-conscious than they used to be, and one would think that they would want a wider variety of shops," she said. "Kaufman's seems to do well, but that's about it."

Dealing with students doesn't appear to be much of a problem for many of the area businesses, Greene said.

"A lot of the businesses chose this location because they wanted to work with students," he said. "I love working with them. They're friendly and patient and fun."

Leppmann agreed with Greene but finds a large student clientele to have one disadvantage.

"Every year, you lose a large portion of the clientele you've been building over the past three or four years." But she added that each year the

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## Local organizations help AIDS patients face disease

By Jolayne Houtz  
Of the Emerald

Editor's Note: This is the last part in a three-part series on AIDS. Today's article looks at what it is like to have AIDS and organizations in Lane County devoted to helping those with the disease.

It was a week before Christmas last year when Ken Brownell learned that he had tested positive for the AIDS virus.

He grabbed a fifth of Dewar's scotch and headed to his best friend's house, where the two sat in front of a fire for four hours, crying, getting angry, talking through one of the most numbing things that had ever happened in Brownell's life.

"I was just looking for someone to hold me," he said.

It has been more than a year since he learned from the Lane County Health Department that he is an Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus carrier. After the initial shock, Brownell said he's learned to live with a virus that has killed seven Lane County residents and about 18,000 people nationwide.

"If I were to live worried about that, I'd never enjoy myself," Brownell said.

Although he already suspected he would test positive for the virus, his heart sank when his fears were confirmed. "My first words were, 'Well, Merry Christmas.'"



Like anyone facing a life-threatening disease, Brownell went through a period of denial. "The first thing you do, like if you learn you have cancer, is think, 'Oh no, it can't be me.'"

Since then, Brownell has adapted his lifestyle to the disease by cutting out smoking and the eight to 10 cups of coffee he used to drink each day.

"Those things break down the immune system, and I've already got a damaged one."

Brownell, who is house manager at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, said cutting down on things damaging to his health, especially alcohol, was no easy job after being in the hospitality business for more than 20 years.

"Those things are a definite part of the business," he said.

Brownell has been involved for a year and a half with the Mid-Valley Action Committee, a local AIDS awareness organization that also provides support to AIDS patients. As vice chairman of the group, Brownell also set up a support group for people who test positive for AIDS.

"I just decided that I want to get on with life and help other people come to grips with it."

While many people with AIDS experience rejection by their friends and

family, Brownell considers himself lucky to have the support of his co-workers and family members.

He was separated from his wife in 1984, but he still sees his two children regularly. When he told them last year that he was homosexual and that he had been exposed to AIDS, their relationship grew stronger.

"It's made us closer. We were always a physically affectionate family, and we still are," he said.

Many people find that their lovers leave them and their families desert them, leaving them alone and angry.

But for Brownell, the biggest challenge was accepting the disease himself.

"I've been sort of not dealing with this disease for about a year," he said. "Every once in a while, the thought (of contracting AIDS) may cross my mind, but I immediately think about something positive." Brownell said he will be studying meditation techniques to try to fight the disease.

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