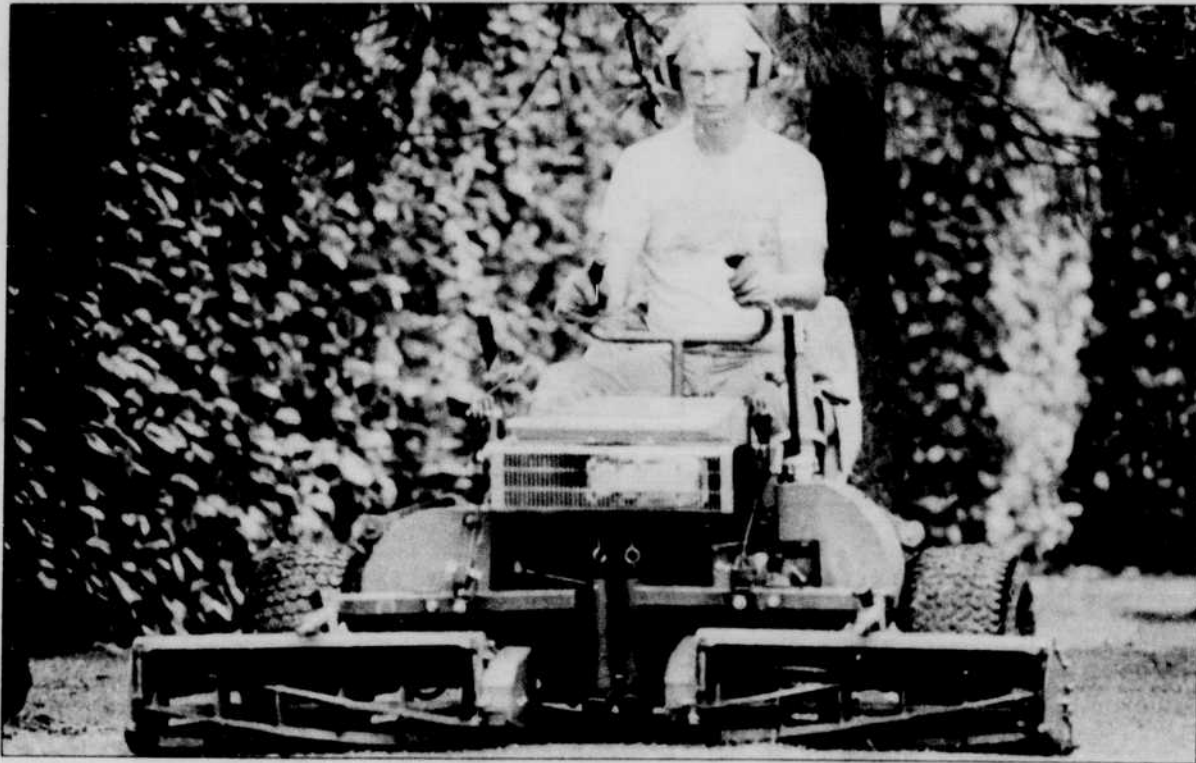


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Grassy rider

Rain returned to the University campus Tuesday, but John Anthony still made his rounds cutting the greens. Overcast skies are expected to continue today.

Photo by Mark Ylen

Book banning attempts usually fail

But state is second in tries

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

Censorship attempts occur more frequently in Oregon than in any state except California, according to a recent study — but the statistics may shed false light on the actual attitudes of Oregonians.

During Banned Book Week, Sept. 23-30, local librarians and civil libertarians will advocate freedom of speech and the protection of controversial literary works.

Today's instances of censorship are more subtle than burning stacks of paperbacks or felt-tip marker editing, but books on school and state library shelves continue to be scrutinized and challenged by those disagreeing with the books' contents.

According to a report last month from the anti-censorship group PAW (People for the American Way), Oregon ranked No. 2 nationwide in the number of cases of attempts to restrict materials from schools or school libraries.

Oregon had 18 such cases during the 1988-89 school year, and only California had more, the report said. Reading material under fire included the book *Understanding AIDS* and *Rolling Stone* magazine.

However, the large number of reported attempts may be a result of more efficient reporting of cases, not excessively prudish attitudes of state citizens.

"The (PAW) report reflects better data collection. It's not that Oregon is a more conservative state," said Mary Ginaane, coordinator of the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, an Oregon State Library department.

The Clearinghouse was established in May 1987 specifically to monitor challenges of books and library materials and to provide assistance to libraries receiving challenges. Oregon is one of only a few states with such a service.

Until other states collect information in the same way, Ginaane said, it is too early to compare Oregon to other states using Clearinghouse statistics.

The second annual report of the Clearinghouse, released Sept. 22, reports challenges against 34 library books, as well as one art exhibit, in Oregon's public and school libraries between July 1, 1988 and June 30, 1989.

In most of the cases, a committee reviewed objec-



Graphic by Todd Peterson

tions, and the materials in question stayed on the shelves.

However, while *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*, by Barbara G. Walker, was being reviewed after a North Bend parent complained about its contents, it was temporarily removed from the shelf of the North Bend High School media center.

The basis for the complaint was that "the things discussed in this book are of no benefit to anyone," according to the Clearinghouse report.

North Bend High School librarian Ann Magill said that the book is back into circulation, and that the book is indeed of benefit to those who need that information.

"I support freedom of inquiry, but also the right of citizens to object," Magill said. "The person that objects to (a book) certainly doesn't have to use it. I think high school students are capable of making good choices about what they review and see."

The James Baldwin book *If Beale Street Could Talk* was removed from a St. Paul high school library after objections to profanity and anti-Christian passages. The Clearinghouse report also included challenges of books from the Portland area, Roseburg and Lebanon, among other areas.

Oregon is one of only a few states with an active clearinghouse of this sort, said David Fidanque of the local American Civil Liberties Union chapter.

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Enrollment limits appear on target

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

The University director of admissions announced Tuesday enrollment figures are "right on target" for the school's two-year plan to limit the student population.

"The numbers appear to be really right on where we hoped they would be for fall," said Jim Buch, admissions director.

Because of budget constraints, the University had to implement a selective admissions process for the first time in the school's history to limit the number of incoming freshman and transfer students.



Jim Buch

The University's projected enrollment is placed at 18,000 students for fall term, which is 541 fewer students than last fall, Buch said.

The ultimate goal is to roll back the enrollment level to 17,600 students by the fall of 1990, he said.

Last fall, the University enrolled 18,541, which was 1,000 more students than the state had allocated funds to serve. The result was a crowded campus and a lack of adequate resources.

"The critical term is going to be the fall of 1990," Buch said. "That's what we're aiming for."

"One hundred or 200 over (the quota) doesn't spell disaster," he said. "If we're at 18,500 (this term), it means we have to continue very severe restrictions for winter, spring and even summer (terms)."

Buch said the University will not know how severe future restrictions will be until the official fall enrollment total, which will be tallied during the fourth week of classes, is known.

"The projection I did based on the activities through the first two days of the Mac Court registration process suggest that we would be within 30 or 40 of the actual number we had planned for," Buch said.

In addition to implementing a selective admissions program, the University raised its minimum requirements to a 3.0 grade point average for freshman applicants and a 2.0 GPA for transfer students.

Minimum requirements for transfer students to be considered for admission next fall will rise again to a 2.25 GPA for residents and a 2.50 GPA for non-residents in order to limit enrollment even further, Buch said.

Meeting the minimum requirements, however, no longer guarantees admission, Buch said.

Because of the higher standards, Buch said the mean GPA of this fall's freshman class is substantially higher than in previous years.

"The effect we see this fall, indeed, is a very well prepared class," Buch said.

"The preparation we will see in the coming years will be even stronger as more and more students come to the realization that its not good enough just to study for the first three years of high school," he said.

Buch said no new roll backs were planned for future freshman classes, and that the level of freshman admissions will stay at 3,500.

Moreover, Buch said the University should not experience the same strain of classroom space because of the decrease in enrollment and the availability of new rooms.

The selective admissions process is expected to stay in place beyond the two year period of roll backs in enrollment to ensure the student population doesn't swell over the University's budgeted resources, Buch said.

"We're going to continue to be concerned that students who come to us are well prepared to meet the challenge," Buch said. "We do not want to send out the message that you have to be prepared in '89 or '90 and not in '91 or '92."