

## Students cross border to attend state schools

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State University and the University of Idaho are both land-grant schools on the Palouse, eight miles apart. Both offer degrees in more than 100 majors and have large campuses in small-town settings.

So why do hundreds of Washington students cross the border to attend school in Idaho and vice versa?

Some students who've made the cross-over cite academic reputation, size and a change of scenery.

Some 647 undergraduates from Washington now attend UI, an increase of 23 percent since 1985. At WSU, the enrollment of Idaho undergraduates has hovered at fewer than 300 students for the past five years.

"I transferred from Mead to Gonzaga (Prep) because it was a smaller school and a more personal environment," said Tina

Kagi, UI's student body president and a Spokane native. "It's the same thing here. It's a smaller campus and the people are extremely down-to-earth."

The UI has 9,145 students while WSU has more than 16,000.

"You get to know more people and you're on a more personal basis with everybody," says Amy Burns, who left Spokane to attend UI. "On a large campus if you walked around and saw a person you'd just say 'Hi.' Here you're establishing friendships."

Burns is paying a few hundred dollars more per semester to attend UI but she said she can easily make up for that by becoming an Idaho resident.

"After you spend 12 months here and establish your residency, it is cheaper to go here than to go to WSU," she said.

The two states have a recip-

rocal agreement by which 165 students from each state can attend school across the border at a reduced tuition rate. The arrangement was started in 1985 to make it easier for students to enroll in programs they could not get in their home state.

But as the number of unique programs has diminished, the partial tuition waiver has come to be given to students based on their academic standing.

Lance Amato, a Lewiston, Idaho sophomore studying zoology at WSU, says the arrangement saves him \$1,900 a year in attending the school he feels is academically superior.

"When you grow up in Lewiston, WSU is always looked at as such a better school," he said. "Also, so many people from my high school graduating class go to Idaho, and from the years above and the years

below me, that at times it almost seems like high school again."

John Campbell, a Lewiston sophomore in WSU's hotel and restaurant program, agreed. "Most of the people from my high school had attended the UI and I just kind of wanted to get out of that atmosphere, the high school atmosphere, and start over again," he said.

Like many UI students, a number of Idaho natives attending WSU also cited size as a major factor in how they choose their school - only this time, bigger was better.

"Coming from a small town, the excitement of going to a university that's probably the size of northern Idaho, or northern Idaho without Coeur d'Alene, pretty much puts that in perspective," said Erik Falter of Priest River.

## Support for Portland State University programs urged

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland State University faculty and staff have been asked to fight a plan to dismantle the university.

Roger Edgington, acting university president, said Monday the plan is a threat to Portland State employees.

Edgington addressed a faculty meeting in response to a proposal made to a governor's commission that is studying higher education in the Portland area.

The commission is considering a proposal from the Oregon Council of the American Electronics Association that would transfer Portland State's undergraduate and graduate programs, aside from engineering and computer science, to the University of Oregon.

Under the proposal, Portland State's engineering and computer science programs would be included in a Washington County engi-

neering school to run by Oregon State University.

"I don't believe for a minute that dismantling this institution is in any way going to improve the state of higher education in this city or state," Edgington said. "The solution is going to have to be a strengthening of PSU."

He said the commission's study was a chance for Portland State faculty and administrators to lobby for more state money for the university.

Franz Rad, chairman of Portland State's department of civil engineering, criticized the electronic association's proposal. Rad said the plan was narrowly focused around materials science and for the computer science and electronics industry.

Rad said he would support an expansion of current Portland State programs and adding a technical center at the university.

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