### DECLINE

The unexpected decline in student enrollment can be traced to specific segments of the student body

Among continuing students, Oregon resident enrollment is down 730. The number of nonresident freshmen also declined, down to 842 from 871 last fall.

Drops of 298 and 327, respectively, occurred among students previously enrolled in programs being phased out in the College of Human Development and Performance and in the College of Education.

Brand said that anecdotal and other information gathered by informal telephone polling of students who did not return seems to indicate that uncertainty about the state of higher education in Oregon was a key factor in their decision to leave the University.

Brand said many of these-students have dropped out of school temporarily to find a job and save money to go back to school at a later time.

"Others, as reflected by bulging enrollments at most of Oregon's community colleges, apparently have chosen an educational route less costly to them, but more costly to the state,' Brand said.

Two areas that showed an increase in enrollment were minority and international students. Enrollment of minority students climbed from 1,639 to 1,660. Enrollment of students from foreign countries grew from 1,288 to 1,378.

THE SAGA CONTINUES!

## More state students flood community colleges

By Kevin Tripp **Emerald Contributor** 

All but two of the state's community colleges saw a rise in the number of firstweek enrollments this fall despite a sharp drop in student enrollment at Oregon's state universities

The overall rise in the state's 16 community colleges from the same time last year was more than eight percent, adding up to 99,468 total students, according to a report released this month by the State Board of Education's Office of Community **Education Services**.

Locally, Lane Community College saw a 10 percent jump for a total enrollment of 9,400.

Some community colleges showed even more dramatic increases in first-week enrollment: Southern Oregon Community College experienced a leap of 43 percent, resulting in a student population of 2,831; enrollment at Columbia Gorge Community College increased to 1,025, a 24 percent jump.

Dale Parnell, commissioner of the Office of Community College Services, said the recent rise in university tuition was one reason commu-

**OUR WEDNESDAY SPECIAL:** 

nity colleges have seen such a dramatic population in-

'I think cost is the biggest factor," he said, adding that a large number of students transfer to universities after completing community col-

Parnell said there is no question in his mind about the possible correlation between the rise in community college and decrease in state university enrollment.

"I think the word is getting around that you can get a good education (at a community college)," he said.

Parnell said there is an increased interest in technical fields that don't require education beyond community college, such as nursing.

Randa Law, an Employment and Training Specialist at LCC, sees a trend toward dislocated workers, or even employed workers, seeking additional training to enhance their present work

However, increases in class demand have created space shortages.

"There's always a waiting list for our program," Law said. "Trying to stretch the facilities is definitely a chal-

# Oregon Daily

P O BOX 3159. EUGENE. OREGO

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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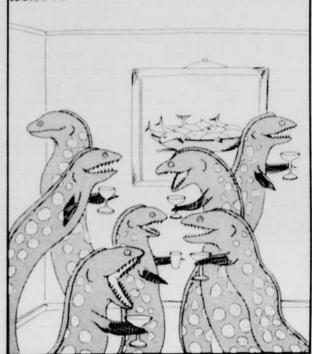
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