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## "Fighting For Our Future"

TODAY!

A PRESIDENT'S FORUM  
presented by

Presidents Myles Brand and Bobbie Lee  
3:30 p.m. Fir Room - EMU

Students! Come and discuss the legislative outlook for public higher education and the University of Oregon. Hear local legislators, student leaders and campus officials tell it like it is. Learn what you can do to preserve the quality of your degree, now and in the future. Prepare to take action!

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## Signing approved as prerequisite

By Sarah Clark  
Emerald Reporter

High school students can use American Sign Language to fulfill their foreign language requirement for admission into state colleges and universities, according to a policy adopted Friday by the state Board of Higher Education.

Last month, board members voted to require proficiency in a second language as an admissions requirement for OSSHE institutions starting in the 1997-98 school year.

The board unanimously approved to add the American Sign Language proposal to the language requirement Friday.

American Sign Language is the language used at the Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the world's only uni-

versity for deaf students.

Proficiency standards will be set for each language taught in an Oregon high school using the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language Guidelines. The standards will be set to account for variation in difficulty of the foreign language.

The purpose of the foreign language requirement is to prepare students to communicate with others from around the world, said board President Bob Bailey.

Greg Haretos, a counselor at the Oregon School for the Deaf, said American Sign Language fits the requirement's purpose because it would foster communication between hearing and deaf students.

"The deaf do not consider themselves handicapped," Haretos said. "They see themselves as people who speak a different language."

Both hearing and deaf students would benefit if more hearing students learned American Sign Language, Haretos said. Besides allowing people to talk to each other, the language builds memory skills and teaches hearing students a language structure that could help them learn other foreign languages, he said.

Students would probably have to test their proficiency with interviews with other American Sign Language speakers, Haretos said, because the language has no written form.

Of the 300 school districts in the state, probably fewer than 50 offer any form of sign language, said Don Lorenzen, director for the Oregon School for the Deaf.

The language is used primarily in North America, Haretos said. Other English-speaking countries such as Australia use a different sign language.

## OPTIONS

Continued from Page 1

sity.

In other board business, members gave final approval to the proposed policy for Second Language College Admissions along with an amendment to include proficiency in American Sign Language.

The policy will require proficiency in a second language as an admissions requirement for state institutions starting in the 1997-98 school year.

The University Vice Provost for Planning and Resources Gerald Kissler made a presentation to the board on higher education and the state's economy. He said more people will need a college education as the demand for blue-collar jobs decreases.

"This is the time in order to prepare for the economy," Kissler said. "We need more college grads to fill the jobs, and we need to attract more businesses in the high-tech industry. The only way we'll attract the businesses is for the University to do more research."

In a board members' report Kissler also states that because of an increase in the number of babies born

in the state between 1972 and 1982, more people will be graduating from high school.

The increase poses some serious problems for the state, Kissler said. One out of two of the state's high school graduates who will want a college education will not be able to get into any community college, private school, state college or university in Oregon by the year 2001, according to the report.

"I'm not optimistic about the short term, but if we make the right decisions now, in the long run we'll be OK," Kissler said. "In the short term, I don't see a movement in Salem that leads to tax reform this year."

The lack of tax reform options, Kissler said, has forced the board to discuss measures such as privatization of one or more schools.

"I'd hate to (privatize the University)," Kissler said. "But I'd rather see that than the quality of the University go down."

Quality would suffer, Kissler said, because more faculty would be laid off if tax revenue isn't created. Also, whenever downsizing occurs, quality suffers.

"You can always downsize a little, but this is ridiculous," Kissler said. "This is the stuff that depression is made of."

## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

**President's Forum** "Fighting for Our Future," a discussion on the University's budget, will be today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. For more information, call 346-3724.

**OSPIRG Sustainable Energy Group** begins Bike to School Month today. Ride your bike to classes this month. OSPIRG will be giving prizes donated from various community businesses to students riding their bikes on campus. LCOG will also give a lecture and slide presentation on Eugene's 30-year trans-

portation plan to reduce automobile use by 30 percent. For more information, call 346-4377.

**Incidental Fee Committee** will have budget hearings regarding the following groups today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Board Room: Committee Musical Arts, Women's Resource and Referral, International Lawyers' Guild, Black Law Students Association and Sister University. For more information, call 346-3749.

### MISCELLANEOUS

ESCAPE Field Studies presents a smorgas-

bord of non-classroom education opportunities today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU lobby. Representatives from public schools, human services and outdoor schools will be there. For more information, call 346-4351.

**Career Planning and Placement Service** will have an office orientation tomorrow from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. There will also be a resume writing workshop Tuesday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, go to Room 244 Hendricks.

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