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Higher ed may become public corporation

PORTLAND (AP) — The top two higher education officials in Oregon will recommend Wednesday that the State System of Higher Education become a public corporation, freeing most of its budget from legislative control.

Chancellor Thomas Bartlett and Janice Wilson, president of the State Board of Higher Education, have scheduled a news conference to formally announce the proposal.

Bartlett told the *Medford Mail Tribune* Tuesday that forming a public corporation will "give us the tools, take off the handcuffs" as the higher education system tries to maintain quality while cutting expenses.

The move would allow the system to squeeze in an additional 2,000 undergraduate students, higher education officials said.

Of Oregon's \$1.2 billion annual higher education budget, only a quarter comes from the state, Bartlett said. The remaining 75 percent comes from areas such as room and board, housing, and a large hospital. About \$200 mil-

lion in research funds comes from outside sources each year.

Yet the entire budgeting process is controlled by the state, Bartlett said.

Under the public corporation proposal, the higher education board would control 75 percent of the budget, while the Legislature would budget the remaining 25 percent.

"That gives us the ability to run our business much more efficiently," Bartlett said.

He stressed that higher education still would remain public.

"It's not a radical departure at all," Bartlett said. "Given the way higher education is funded in other states, this is a 'ho-hummer.' This is just new in Oregon."

State Sen. Lenn Hannon, R-Ashland, said he has heard of the proposal, but he hasn't yet studied it.

"Certainly it will be something to look at and visit and discuss ... in the next (legislative) session," Hannon said.

Southern Oregon State College President

Joseph Cox said that under the proposal, "We would be more free to respond to opportunities, and to be more entrepreneurial."

The public corporation recommendation originated with the 2010 Advisory Panel, a cross-section of private citizens, legislators, private citizens and educators.

Diane Christopher, a higher education board member from Jacksonville, said the proposal will be on the board's agenda this month.

"I think a lot of what's happening is to get the idea out there and get some public input," Christopher said.

"Having studied it in some amount of depth now, we think it's a good idea."

The state system includes the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon State College, Western Oregon State College, Eastern Oregon State College, Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon Health Sciences University.

OCA will try overturning legal ruling

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Citizens Alliance said Tuesday it will not try to qualify a new anti-gay rights measure for the statewide ballot this year to replace one that was ruled unconstitutional.

It will continue legal efforts to have that ruling overturned.

OCA Chairman Lon Mabon said there would not be time to start with a new proposal now and collect enough signatures to get it on November's general election ballot.

Marion County Circuit Judge Rod Miller has ruled the original proposal ineligible for the ballot on grounds it violates a ban on proposed constitutional amendments containing more than one subject.

The OCA split its proposal and filed it with the state Tuesday as two initiatives — but for the 1996 ballot.

The OCA is appealing Miller's ruling.

Graphologist analyzes with handwriting

CANYONVILLE (AP) — Hand Tia Perlman your grocery list and she'll tell you how honest you are.

Show her a letter from your lover and she'll predict whether he will be true; give her a peek at a Post-it note scribbled by your boss and Perlman will advise you how to handle her.

Perlman admits when she sees penmanship — anybody's penmanship — she doesn't read the words. Instead, she examines loops and strokes. She studies "T" crosses and "I" dots. And she sums up a person accordingly.

Graphologists, or people who analyze others' writing, aren't supposed to blurt out one-word descriptions of the personalities they're assessing, Perlman said. But she can't always stop herself.

"My husband is always telling me to be more tactful, but, well, I have trouble with that," she said.

Everything but a person's age, sex or religion can be deduced from writing samples, Perlman claims.

She avoids the term "handwriting," as people who don't have hands or can't use them might rely on feet or mouths to guide their pens. "Brain writing" is a better label, she said, because the process all starts with thought.

"Of all the psychological tests, this is the most accurate because it's from the self; it's not external," Perlman said. "In other psychological tests, you have to answer questions, but this goes right from the nervous system to the paper."

Perlman said graphology is getting more respect all the time; many European personnel departments use it as a tool for evaluating potential

employees. She says the Library of Congress recently reclassified its materials on the study, filing it under "Psychology" rather than "Occult Studies."

But a psychology professor from the University of Oregon said graphology has been given less, not more, credence by psychologists nationwide.

Ray Hyman said "brain writing" in the 1950s was used as a psychological screening much like the inkblot test. This is no longer true, Hyman said.

"The evidence is against validity. It's about as good as astrology or tarot cards," he said. "People who use it try to make plausible cases for it, but the fact is the evidence is much against it."

Nevertheless, Perlman believes teachers and psychologists could save time and guesswork by analyzing writing samples at the start of school semesters and counseling sessions.

A self-described frustrated psychiatrist, Perlman has been studying graphology since 1967. She completed an 18-month course accredited by the Chicago-based International Graphoanalysis Society and has various certificates in the subject.

She's also taught graphoanalysis, a subtopic of graphology dealing with individual writing strokes.

Besides teaching, Perlman sometimes studies writing at parties and will provide a compatibility analysis for people considering marriage or partnerships.

She also holds free "self-awareness" sessions in her home for people who want to find out what keeps them from being happy and fulfilled, she said.

Prisoners break away from cycles of crime in boot camps

COOS BAY (AP) — The first platoon to go through Oregon's new prison boot camp can be proud of its efforts to reject the cycle of crime and punishment that fills Oregon prisons, the governor told inmates on Tuesday.

"This galvanizes a platoon of inmates into a community of women and men seeking to turn their lives around," Roberts said at a dedication ceremony for the camp known as Oregon Summit.

Located in a former military camp at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution north of Coos Bay, Oregon Summit took in its first 66 inmates on March 6.

There were 52 left - 46 men and six women - after six weeks

of 16-hour days filled with strict military-style discipline, rigorous physical activity, and community meetings to examine the attitudes keeping the prisoners from succeeding in a new life.

Their offenses include drug charges, assault, burglary and second-degree manslaughter. Sex offenders and murderers aren't allowed.

The program is designed to break young offenders from the cycle of crime and prison and set them on a course to a new life.

"Attitude determines altitude," Oregon Summit Superintendent Bill Beers said in a recent interview.

Despite statistics that show

boot camp graduates in other states go back to prison at about the same rate as other inmates, Oregon corrections officials are counting on the program to reduce the state's prison population by 400 by 1996.

If an inmate makes it through the six-month program, he can have three months to two years taken off his sentences.

New inmates get a uniform and a close-cropped haircut. Even mustaches come off.

They get up at 5:15 a.m., march in cadence everywhere they go, and perform under the watchful eyes of guards who went through drill instructor training. In the evening, there are community meetings, where

inmates examine the actions and attitudes blocking their progress to change.

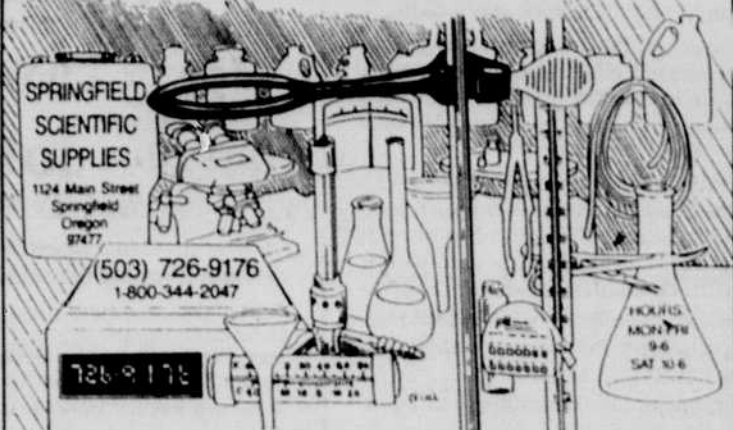
"I'm not just a keeper," said drill instructor Claudia Allen. "We might make a difference."

Dressed in khaki pants, white shirts and brown neckties, inmates proudly showed off their computer skills for the governor. A special crew demonstrated fire fighting equipment.

"When I graduate from this program, I know my life will be better and I will," said inmate Raymon Blodgett of North Bend.

Inmate Cheryl Acosta of Medford said she was looking forward to graduation on Aug. 31.

"I will get to go home and be a better person," she said.

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