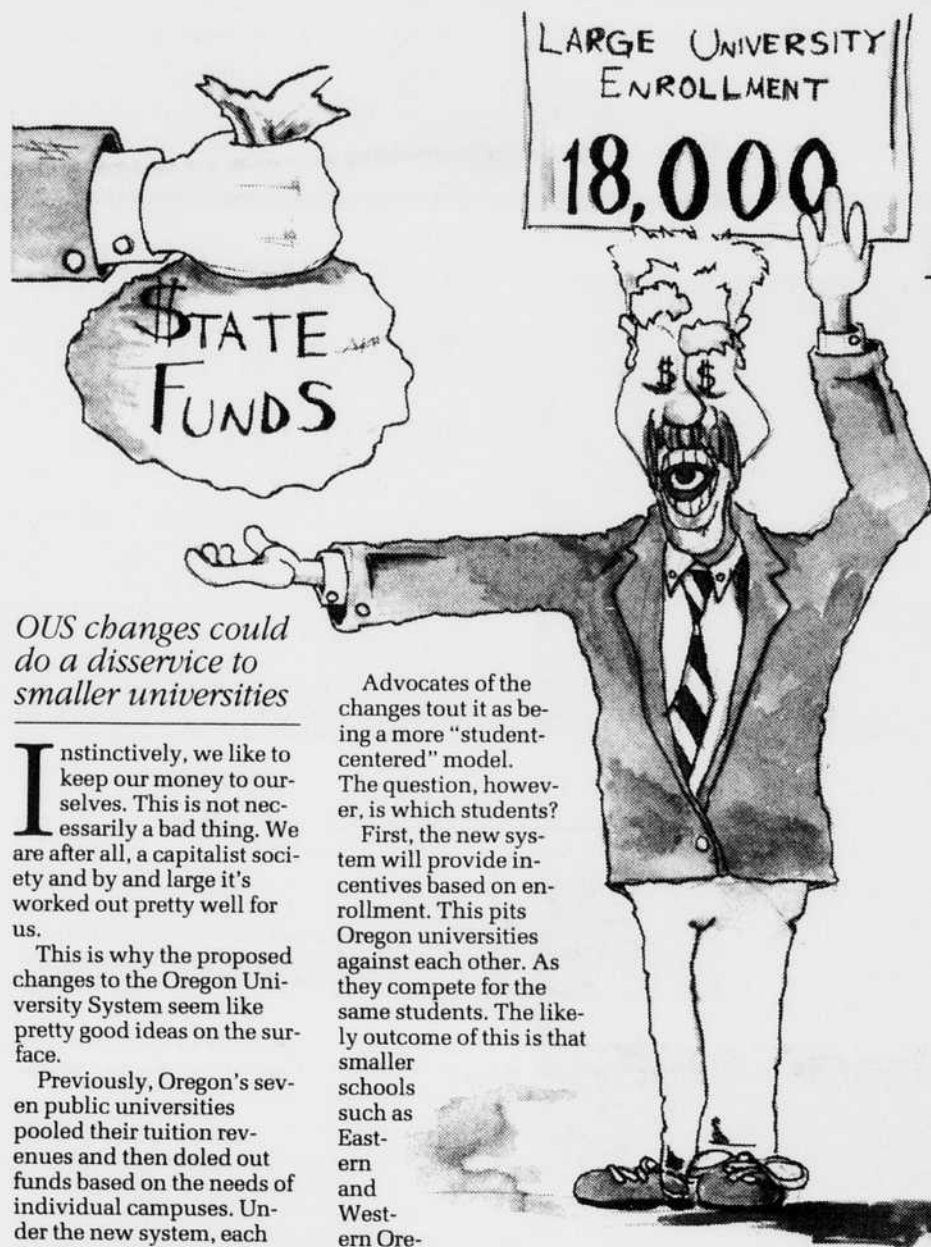


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# PERSPECTIVES

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## Heads we win, tails they lose



### OUS changes could do a disservice to smaller universities

Instinctively, we like to keep our money to ourselves. This is not necessarily a bad thing. We are after all, a capitalist society and by and large it's worked out pretty well for us.

This is why the proposed changes to the Oregon University System seem like pretty good ideas on the surface.

Previously, Oregon's seven public universities pooled their tuition revenues and then doled out funds based on the needs of individual campuses. Under the new system, each campus maintains control of its own money but still has the opportunity to draw from a pot of state funds.

The system changes would likely be a boon to larger schools like Oregon. Indeed, the list of possible benefits to the University reads like a higher ed wish list: re-establishment of axed programs, smaller classes and higher employability rates for students.

Portland State University is poised for a similar shower of good fortune, with a projected budget increase of 17 percent stemming from the new system.

Advocates of the changes tout it as being a more "student-centered" model. The question, however, is which students?

First, the new system will provide incentives based on enrollment. This pits Oregon universities against each other. As they compete for the same students. The likely outcome of this is that smaller schools such as Eastern and Western Oregon universities will be put at a greater disadvantage.

As money flows into the larger students, they will be able to make major upgrades in curriculum, facilities and student services, attracting an ever-larger group of students and trapping other schools in a vicious cycle of dwindling enrollment and consequently, dwindling funding.

There are, of course, arguments refuting that outcome. Some officials believe that the differences among the various Oregon campus-

es attract particular students to particular universities. In essence, they believe that a student who would be interested in bustling Portland State would not care for pastoral Eastern or Oregon State.

That makes a certain amount of sense, but it is an argument rooted largely in the theoretical. And theoretical arguments have the tendency to shatter when they bump up against real life.

When students are making the decision about what college to attend, they consider a number of factors.

For most of these students, the quality of education takes precedent over location, and many people measure the quality of education in terms of high-profile programs and hotshot faculty. The larger schools will have the definitive advantage in these areas.

Smaller schools could be faced with yet another conundrum — they may be too successful in their recruiting efforts. For example, if Eastern was somehow able to attract a slew of new students, it would run the risk of upsetting its low student-to-

faculty ratio, a trait that has attracted students in the past.

Of course, most of this debate will be rendered moot if the legislative funding needed to launch the changes does not come through.

Now would be a good time for OUS and the University in particular to consider whether the best way to get ahead is to leapfrog over other campuses.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Take the power back

It has been proven, written and published that our age bracket has one of the lowest voter turnout rates. In fact, the highest voter turnout comes from senior citizens. So it's no wonder that the issues on the ballot this year are detached from student concerns and focused on the lifestyles of the voting population. Do you see where I'm heading here?

The student leaders on campus fight and lobby for the concerns that face us every day as students. Federal student loan interest rates are going down. The Pell Grant, given to students at or below the poverty line, is going up. In-state students won a tuition freeze to stop the ever-increasing

cost of tuition. These are all campaigns that were fought for your ASUO, and we're winning. If students had the highest voter turnout rates, the politicians would begin to frame debate around our concerns: financial aid, student control of student fees and campus child care to name a few. Your vote counts. We are making progress, and our voice is being heard. Don't waste your vote. Register by October 13.

Jessica Timpany  
EMU Board Finance Senator  
**Concert chaos**

It is my understanding that the Dylan/Morrison show at Mac Court on Sept. 24 was a general admission show. This does not give anyone the right to save seats for others, especially

rows of seats. The show was obviously over booked. It was standing room only for those who chose not to wait in line at ten a.m. for a 7 p.m. show.

Evidently, the Cultural Forum felt compelled to take the first three rows around the stage on the first balcony for their own. The women that were in charge of defending these seats were beyond rude. As I tried to sit after being moved from the aisle by security, one of the men seated in these "saved" seats started to slug my shoulder, telling me I was sitting on his coat. I gave him the opportunity to take the coat, which he did not do. He just persisted in slugging my shoulder. Is simple assault just a part of the culture? We left these seats af-

ter being told by security that they were being saved for the host of the show — the Cultural Forum.

What a bunch of pretentious people. They are terrible hosts. They haven't the first idea how to treat their guests. The name Cultural Forum is a definite misnomer, as they severely lack culture and a forum. As far as I could see, most of these seats that were so diligently defended remained empty for the entire show.

I know that I am not the only one so rudely treated by these people. I hold them responsible for ruining the show for me. How and why can this sort of thing happen? Thanks for nothing.

Janean Fossum  
Eugene

## Thumbs



**TO BILL GATES:**  
The Microsoft chairman is offering a tour of his lakeside mansion as part of an employees-only charity auction at Microsoft. The "item" is expected to sell for around \$50,000 — and the buyer won't even need Internet Explorer to search Gates' home.

**TO BRAZILIAN DOCTORS:**  
A team of doctors recently approved an abortion for a pregnant 10-year-old rape victim. The girl is four months pregnant and could have faced serious health problems if the doctors had not approved the procedure.



**TO PREJUDICED COMICS:**  
Marvel Comics recently recalled more than 250,000 issues of "Wolverine" because it referred to a villain in an anti-Semitic way rather than calling the villain "the killer." To add insult to anti-Semitic injury, the comic was shipped to retailers on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.

**TO CROOKED FAMILY TREES:**  
Nevada resident Pamela Reno had her son's sperm frozen after he killed himself playing Russian roulette. She hopes to find an egg donor and may decide to carry the resulting fetus if another surrogate is not available. Would the child call her "grandma" or "mom"?

## Correction

The Oct. 2 story "Weather cuts concert short" should have identified Tim Loun as the co-recruitment chair of the Interfraternity Council.

The Oct. 2 story "Neil Simon play opens at Leebrick" should have said that "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" is showing Oct. 1 to Oct. 24 at the Lord Leebrick Theatre Co. The Emerald regrets the errors.