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## Rumors & lies

### University to offer students luxury classroom seating

In another move to increase funding, the University announced Friday it would build luxury boxes in large lecture halls.

The new plan could bring an extra \$1.2 million to the school each year to offset budget cuts, officials say.

Construction crews will begin building the 12 luxury boxes in 100 Willamette, home of many large lecture classes. Students may buy a box as a group, or single students may pay to sit in single seats within the box. The University has not announced a price, but said seats will go on sale later this term.

Ticket holders of the boxes will receive free coffee service, a large buffet, an executive washroom and their personal graduate teaching fellow. The boxes will also include large-format televisions and stereos, video games and large recliners and sofas.

"We see luxury boxes as a win-win situation for the 21st century University," spokesman Kyle Lundgrass said. "Students will get a new, exciting learning opportunity, and the University will see some extra funds."

Many students are excited by the thought of learning in new state of the art facilities.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to this place," said senior Josh Freeman. "This will give me that extra advantage I need to get into the real world."

Lundgrass said that if all goes well with the boxes in Willamette, other buildings may also see luxury boxes.

### State Board crosses its fingers on tuition hikes

Members of the State Board of Higher Education used a little-known Oregon law to back out of a promise not to raise tuition at public universities.

The State Board said Friday that it simply "crossed their fingers behind their backs" when pledging it would not raise tuition for the 2002-03 academic year.

"It was never our intention to honor such an action," board spokeswoman Jennifer Lutz said. "We were under so much pressure from student groups. What were we supposed to do?"

The move stunned student leaders, who questioned its legality.

However, the board conferred with Oregon Attorney General Hardy

Meyers before making its announcement. Meyers told the board that "crossing fingers" was legal under an Oregon law dating back to 1870.

"Oregon law states that government organizations can recant any actions if they 'cross their fingers' when making the pronouncement," Meyers said.

University lawyers said the law was primarily designed to help the state of Oregon make — and subsequently break — treaties and other arrangements with various Indian tribes living on state lands.

Student leaders vowed to take the board's actions to court.

"One thing we will look at is invoking the 'cross my heart and hope to die' defense," said Matt Le Farj, legal director of Oregon Students United.

— Billy Eldred

### Made-up words make the grade

Sophomore history major Joshua Messing reported Friday that he received "the highest damn grade in the class" on a final paper about the history of literature that he said he had "completely blown out (his) ass."

Here is an excerpt from the paper, which was returned with an "A+" on Friday:

"The semiotics of understanding cannot properly be systematized by the paradigms available to the modern thinker interested in rewriting the baby boomer hegemony of war and victory. The old literary historicity routinely erases the multiplicity of difference in mapping the triumph of the center over the margins and substituting a falsity of unity for a reality that was and is offering continuousness through a multiracial, multiethnic and multicultural semantic system."

Messing, who had not studied at all for the final, said he got the idea to string together a variety of academic "terms" after listening to a speech by Purdue University Professor Chad Ryan and after being dazzled by the continuous use of "non-words" by his professor in lecture.

"Basically, these people make up words that sound good, or that have such an esoteric meaning that they might as well not exist at all," he said.

After the finals were handed back, Messing's paper was used by the professor as an overhead to illustrate the meaning of "some garbage that I sure as hell couldn't understand," he said.

Messing admitted that he had "pretty much just lifted" the text from Ryan's recent speech inaugurating the Koehn Colloquium, established by Michael and Stacy Koehn to bring outstanding scholars to the University to work with Architecture and Allied Arts faculty.

— Ript Pantz

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