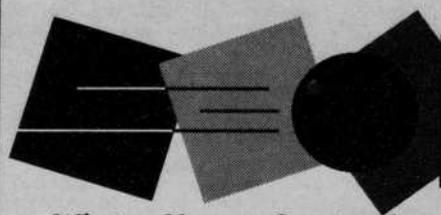


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## Funding

continued from page 1

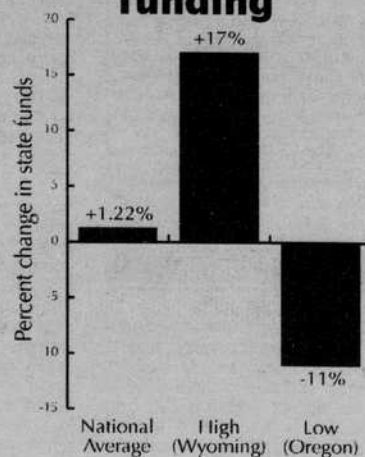
The study also found that Oregon was one of a few states that actually cut financial aid to schools while increasing tuition. Oregon has cut financial aid by 10 percent so far this year and increased tuition by an average of 7 percent.

The University has already slashed \$7 million from its academic budget this year, a cut University officials have attributed to economic downturns and across-the-board cuts to education.

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod said she was not surprised by the study, which she called "abhorrent." "I think we've had it coming for a long time," she said. But "students are going to suffer as a result."

Pilliod added that the study was evidence that the state needs to start planning for education funding from kindergarten through undergraduate course work, not just K-12, if it wants to have a successful educational system. "I think it's going to show that

## Higher education funding



Source: Center for Higher Education and Education Finance

Emerald

Oregon really needs to prioritize education as a whole," she said.

Contact the senior news reporter at [janmonty@dailymerald.com](mailto:janmonty@dailymerald.com).

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## Theft

continued from page 1

what to do to prevent identity theft as well as what to do if victimized. Concerned individuals can take several measures to minimize their risk, including ordering credit report copies from each of the three major credit bureaus, avoiding the use of personal information for account passwords and shredding discarded statements and receipts.

Other recommended actions include carrying only needed identification information, paying attention to bill cycles and providing a Social Security number sparingly. In the event of information misuse or theft, the victim should take three steps immediately: contact credit bureau fraud departments, close all endangered accounts and file a report with local authorities.

Besides financial burden, Humphrey said identity theft can jeopardize a victim's entire future by causing lingering problems resulting in a horrible credit history.

"There are several prongs to identity theft and its consequences," he said. "There needs to be a heightened awareness so that individuals are not so trusting in giving out their information."

DPS Associate Director Tom Hicks said the victimized University student was called by a supposed representative of a company called

Clout, which claimed association with an organization called National Universities. The unidentified caller, described as a personable male, first asked the student to confirm her address and phone number, then to provide more personal information to determine her eligibility for financial aid, Hicks said. The student, somewhat suspicious, asked the caller a few questions before she provided him with her date of birth, her income from the previous year, her social security number and her mother's maiden name, Hicks said.

"Mother's maiden name should be a red flag," Humphrey said. "If someone tries that, contact EPD right away."

Hicks said the closest match to the named organization is the National Universities Commission, but DPS has not been able to confirm if Clout is a true company. In the event others receive similar calls, Hicks advised students to ask for a written request for the information. He added that a legitimate company should be considerate of one's decision to refrain from giving out information over the telephone.

Identity theft victims are advised to file a complaint with the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline by telephone at 1-877-IDTHEFT, by mail or online at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft).

Contact the reporter at [caronalarab@dailymerald.com](mailto:caronalarab@dailymerald.com).

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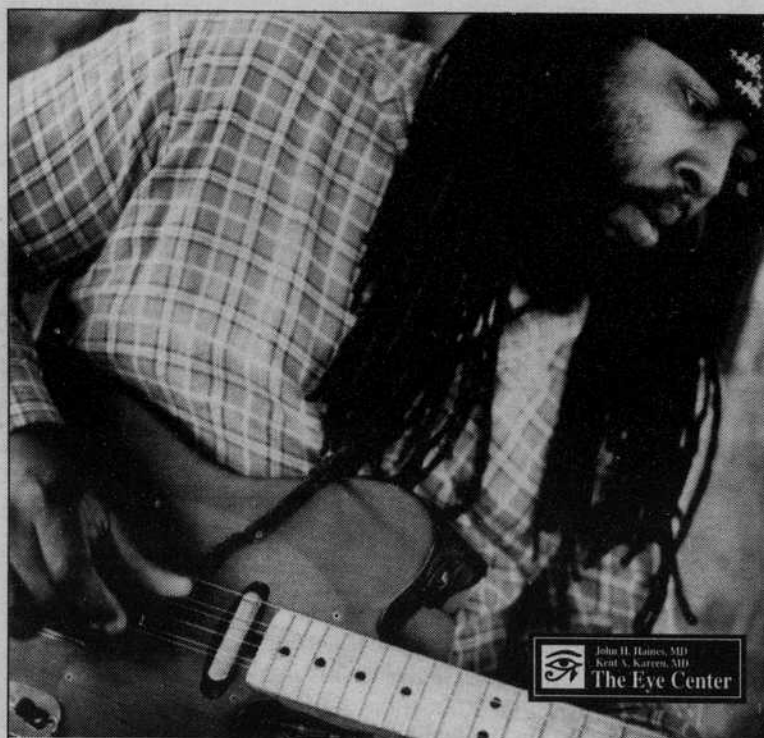
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