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Three Oregon schools shift to smaller scale institutions

BY JULIA SILVERMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — Three more of Oregon's largest high schools — two in Portland and one in Central Point — will morph into smaller "schools-within-a-school," using grants partly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Roosevelt and Madison High Schools in Portland and Crater High School in Central Point, none of which earned a grade over "satisfactory" on state report cards last year, will join 12 Oregon schools and schools-to-be already receiving grants from the \$25 million initiative, which is also backed by Portland-based Meyer Memorial Trust.

The largest of the three schools, Crater High, will receive \$1.1 million over the next four years to help cover the costs of converting from a comprehensive, traditional high school to the small school model. Roosevelt and Madison will receive \$620,000 and \$775,000, respectively.

In the beginning, the money will mainly be spent on planning and professional development; the goal is to

end up with smaller learning communities in which teachers and students have more personal relationships. Backers of small schools say they can help raise student achievement and reduce drop-out rates.

The small schools grants target institutions with more than 700 students and where at least 25 percent of the students are either minorities or from a poor family. The three schools were chosen from among 10 applicants; 50 high schools in Oregon met the criteria and could have applied for the grant money.

A handful of the schools that had been awarded the grant earlier have already opened, often with the smaller schools arranged around specific themes; others are still in the planning stages, shooting for openings in fall 2006 or 2007.

Eight of the schools previously awarded the grants are traditional large high schools that have already or will be subdividing into smaller "schools-within-schools," topping out at no more than 400 students each. They include schools in Portland, Lebanon, Eugene, Woodburn,

Hillsboro, Newberg and both of the traditional high schools in Medford.

Making the transition to a small school is uphill work and far from an instant cure-all, some of the Oregon grant recipients said, especially with the knowledge that the grant money won't last forever, a concern in Oregon's uncertain budget climate.

At North Eugene High School, teachers and administrators visited some large high schools that weren't totally pleased with their conversion into smaller schools.

"Some worked, some didn't," principal Peter Tromba said. "The ones that didn't were pretty ugly. Schools were competing, staffs were fighting, there was lower student achievement. You can't bulldozer in, carve a school into four pieces, and just expect it will work."

North Eugene's concerns were well-publicized and eventually led to an anonymous vote on whether the school should continue with the small schools transformation process.

It could have made the school among the first in the country to decline the Gates small schools money.

Oregon House to consider bill requiring abortion notification

BY BRAD CAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM — A bill that would require doctors to notify parents before performing abortions on minors is headed for a vote in the Oregon House and is likely to get a veto even if it wins legislative approval.

Backers of the bill say parents should have the right to know when their teenage daughters are seeking an abortion, but opponents say it would endanger girls who are in abusive homes.

The measure, which the House Judiciary Committee approved Tuesday, is similar to a bill passed by the 1999 Legislature but vetoed by then-Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Patterned after notification laws in 24 other states, the Oregon proposal is a top priority of House Speaker Karen Minnis.

"This issue enjoys wide support

among the public, so I hope all House and Senate members will give it due consideration," the Wood Village Republican said.

The bill would face a near certain veto from Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski, a long-time backer of abortion rights.

"This is a governor who is pro-choice," Kulongoski spokeswoman Holly Armstrong said. "He has been very clear on that."

Under the bill, doctors would be required to notify parents before performing an abortion on a girl younger than 18.

Also, teens who fear they would be putting themselves at risk by having their parents notified about an abortion would be entitled to appeal through a formal administrative procedure.

Gayle Atteberry of Oregon Right to Life called it a common-sense ap-

proach that protects the rights of the girl and her parents.

"We've had mothers testify about their daughters having abortions in secret, behind their backs," she said. "It's one of the most important decisions a girl can make, and parents are going to be left out of the loop?"

But opponents say most teenagers already talk to their parents about such important decisions, and the law would endanger some girls.

"It could result in escalated abuse. They could get kicked out of their home," Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Kellie Shoemaker said.

The 1999 bill won approval at a time when Republicans controlled both the House and Senate.

This year, though, Democrats are firmly in control of the Senate, and a top Democrat said Tuesday the parental notification bill likely won't even be brought up for a vote.

Company: Students react to promotions

Continued from page 1a

McCarrel called Sports Illustrated and landed an internship.

"I said, 'We want the magazine,' and sold Oregon to them before I was a student," McCarrel said.

McCarrel now plans and executes promotional events for Sports Illustrated and its advertisers.

One event McCarrel planned was a promotion for a Dr. Marten movie called "Veer." The company selected 15 campuses at which to show the movie, and the University was one of them. McCarrel and his team of four others had to plan the event and, more importantly, make sure students were there.

But the showing was slated for the third day of school, giving his team only three days to promote the event.

"It's our job as consultants to get people to come," McCarrel said. "We ended up earning Campus Consultants of the Week for that event."

McCarrel and his team use what he calls "guerrilla marketing," which includes rave cards, posters,

fliers and tabling. They also hold giveaways.

Stoolman's and McCarrel's promotional efforts have elicited a variety of responses from students.

When junior Jessica Rowan saw the Axe thongs on a bench last week, she said she thought they might be part of an anti-rape campaign — until she read the message.

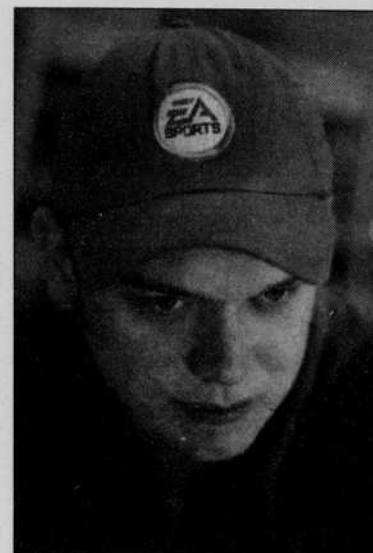
"I personally think it's degrading to both men and women," she said. "On the whole I don't understand it, but I think it's inappropriate."

Senior Jon Winger said he saw how the advertising campaign might be deemed inappropriate, but it needed to be taken with "a grain of salt." Axe commercials are done comically, he said, and if people were aware of the entire campaign, they might understand it better.

"It's meant to be humorous; just laugh about it," he said.

abolsinger@dailyemerald.com

News Editor Ayisha Yahya



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Nick Stoolman is a campus representative for Electronic Arts, the maker of EA Sports video games. Part of his job includes giving away free games, organizing tournaments and raising awareness about the brand on campus.

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