

Colleges facing unsure future

Brendon Neal
Opinion Editor

Imagine going to almost any college site in Oregon and it being a satellite of Oregon State University or the University of Oregon. This is one of the possible changes that a governor's work group and the Board of Higher Education's Chancellor proposed.

During the first week of October, Joe Cox the chancellor of the state Board of Higher Education, announced he was soliciting ideas for changes in Oregon's higher education. The Oregonian noted that they could be the most fundamental changes in the system since the 1930s.

The state system that currently stands originated between 1929 and 1932 and was necessitated by the Great Depression. Cox and others feel that it is outdated and needs to be changed to come into sync with Oregon's economy.

Some of the possibilities include a two university model, single education board, public corporations, a Washington County campus, or revamp public funding.

In a system where Oregon State University and University of Oregon will be the only major schools, with other colleges becoming satellites we face the dangers inherent in any monopolies. Class prices would rise and curriculum would be in danger. While colleges can afford to lean towards certain programs or beliefs in the current system, in a dual college format we would have only two choices. If you don't like either college's way of doing things you are left with the choice of going out of state and paying higher prices elsewhere.

There would be less college identity. A student going to a college in Portland would be going to the same college as the one down in Salem. Some believe that competition between schools is healthy.

Free standing college corporations are dangerous. While it is a natural idea in a capitalist society it would not work. While prices might stabilize if there were enough of the colleges/corporations it would bring the problem of over competition and specialization. Colleges would seek profits over quality in an attempt to keep from going bankrupt.

If colleges were profitable states wouldn't have to put millions of tax dollars into colleges every year. This might work if government subsidized and kept some control over the college corporations. Without some regulation the colleges would lose sight of their students' needs.

I would ask readers to con-

would also encourage more interaction between levels of education. With a single board each level would be represented equally. However, the word committee gives me some misgivings. Multiple bureaucracies could easily be replaced by one full of committees that never actually got anywhere but instead talked about ideas for months on end.

One idea for financial re-vamping would involve converting half of the state funding for higher education into vouchers that resident students could use at any public or private post-secondary school. While this would probably work for in state students what about out of states? Without the vouchers they would al-

ing then this could give high-tech industries a boost in Oregon. Fees would probably be lower at the new college than at OGI but a little higher than at Portland State University.

We all have time to consider these and other possibilities that are bound to come up in the future. No new legislation is expected until the 1997 legislative session. However, hearings will start soon and the public, especially students and parents, should pay attention.

Other concerns include the affect this will have on community colleges. The words "community college" only come up once in more than a page of the Oregonian article from early October.

If either combining or incorporating colleges occurs, this could have serious affects on the community college; combining especially since one of the community colleges' specialties is diversity.

With so many community colleges spread across the state students can live at home and go to college or choose from a variety of programs and systems. Also, incorporating would probably raise prices at all levels.

The reason community colleges are especially needed is that they are far cheaper than four year colleges. Many students can't afford to go to a four year college or do not need a bachelor's degree.

The information that is currently out is very vague. I would hope that Cox would submit to the public more detailed information in the near future. A possibility that is not mentioned would be a vote by the public or at least several public hearings. If the government goes against public opinion on this issue, it could be facing major problems. This affects most Oregonians and will affect more as getting college degrees become ever more important in the future.

Humans have a lot in common

Vicki Welch
Copy Editor

After reading Eric St. Anthony's last opinion article about the teleconference, I was astounded at the way he trodded over humanity itself.

First of all, Eric, we DO have a lot in common. We are humans. That one word says a lot about each and every one of us. After all, there are many words in the dictionary that are made from the root word human; humane, humanitarian, humanity, humankind, just to name a few.

Humans belong to the homo-sapien family. We are flesh, blood and bone, with a little hair here and there.

Humans have similar experiences in their lives. We all come from the same beginnings. We are born to parents who are supposed to love us and teach us. We live with them until we are mature enough to live on our own. We learn and learn, work and have kids, fall in love, but not necessarily in that order.

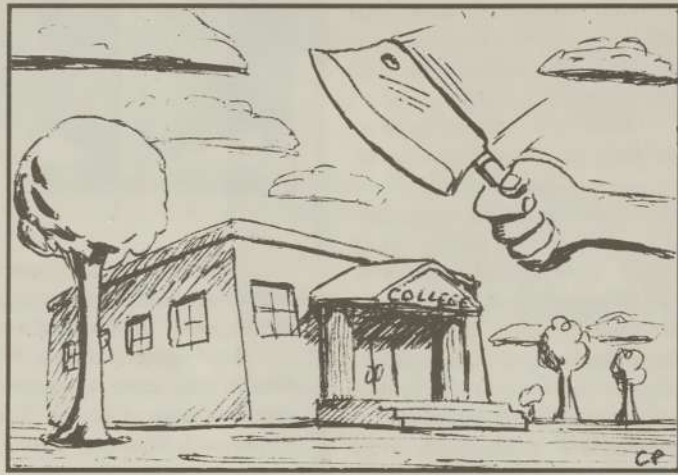
And then we die.

And when we pass on our friends and family mourn our deaths. They bring over casseroles and cakes to our family. They reminisce about our lives. They remember.

Each of us has an effect on the next person and they on us. We may not even be aware of that person, but that person changes us. For the better or for the worse, it matters not.

We make mistakes, we learn, we go on. That's what you expect of humans. We try hard, we fail or maybe we succeed. Who knows?

And what matters most? We are human beings, we have rights and lives. We belong to the most advanced civilization on this small planet, as far as we know. We are humans.



sider private colleges when reading the above possibility. Look at their prices. Are these the rates you want to pay?

The idea of a single education board would combine several currently existing boards of education into one. It would cover all state programs dealing with education. It would be headed by an appointed director and a non-partisan board with committees specializing in K-12, community colleges and higher education as well as budgets.

This idea could shrink some of the bureaucracy that plagues the current education system. It

most assuredly have to pay even higher prices than they currently do. If we wish to prove Oregon's higher education we need to encourage students from other states to come here.

A more minor change would be merging the graduate programs at Portland State University with programs from the private Oregon Graduate Institute into a single technical/research and teaching institute in Washington County. The only major problem I can see with this, is that OGI wouldn't want to lose the freedoms often associated with private colleges. If they were will-

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Alternative lifestyle hits home

Student learns to deal with his mom's sexuality

Ryan Humphris
Staff Writer

I was eleven years old when my parents were divorced. Divorce is hard on a kids because they don't know why it's happening, or what they did to make their parents hate each other enough to separate.

In my case, it wasn't what I did- or what my brothers and sisters did- but it was the fact that my mother had decided that she was not heterosexual, she did not like men anymore and she was homosexual. This was a shocking fact to be heard by an eleven year old, not even knowing what it meant to be homosexual.

My mother tried to explain it to me, but in the mid 80's nobody in elementary school even thought about what it would be like to kiss or have sex with another person of the opposite sex.

We as guys hated the girls, and the girls hated us guys.

I left my mother's side in disgust and hatred, not wishing to see or speak with her ever again. I was totally shocked by the fact that my own mother was leaving my father for another woman. Eeeew!

After about two years had passed I decided after growing a little bit older and learning more about gays and lesbians I called her to say that I was sorry and that I loved her. During the next few months we talked and learned to understand where each of us were coming from, growing closer together the more we talked with each other.

After another year had passed, she moved back to Utah and I moved in with her, after finally settling our differences about our opinions on the subject

of being homosexual. Through this experience I have learned that no matter who my mother sleeps with or who she kisses in public or whatever lifestyle she has, she will always be my mom and I will love her forever.

After learning more about the homosexual lifestyle as a whole, being drawn in so close dealing with my mom, I have realized that whether a person is gay or straight makes no difference to me. People should not be hated or ridiculed for that fact. Everyone is human and we all live our own lives, make our own choices and suffer the consequences thereof, good or bad. Every person in this world is different in their own way.

We need not judge a person for being different; rather we should commend them for standing up for their beliefs.