

University medical work supported by CIA money



Graphic by Jim Payne

CIA funds have been paying for a medical research project at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center (UOHC) in Portland, newspapers reported during the Christmas holiday.

Two UOHC researchers solicited the agency funds to pay for studies in physician-patient relationships to find out how a doctor's speech habits can affect a patient's well-being.

Special techniques such as varying speech tempo were studied to see if they caused doctors to be perceived as being more empathetic.

The project, conducted by Drs. Joseph Matarazzo and Arthur Wiens, has been annually funded by the agency since 1967 at \$50,000 per year.

"The CIA has made absolutely no demands on our research," says Matarazzo, project coordinator. "All our results have been published in the public domain and are open for anyone to see."

Matarazzo says his project is "basic research" and that the study has "not developed any

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

specific techniques" to help doctors deal with difficult patients.

"We may have some specific results in the next couple of years," says the doctor. "But up until now most of the things we've found would interest theoretical scientists."

Matarazzo says the application procedure he used to receive CIA funding is no different than that used for other government sources, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The doctor says the CIA "has been interested in bio-medical research for many years, much of which yields no immediate results. They may fund projects in esoteric areas which may have some benefit only in a long-range perspective."

Since hearing of the CIA-funded project, Paul Olum, University vice-president for academic affairs, says he has confirmed that the University itself has no CIA-funded projects.

The UOHC is administratively independent of the University.

Aaron Novick, graduate school dean, confirmed that the University has no CIA-funded research projects: "There never have been," he said.

Faculty legislation from the 1960s prohibits secretive research or study under any research funding formula that prevents or limits the publication of research results.

An unidentified spokesman says the agency supports a "great deal of University research," always with knowledge of the institution administration. While some of that support goes to projects unsolicited by the agency, the CIA solicits and pays for many more projects of its own, the spokesman says.

Unsolicited projects are reviewed internally by the agency. "Our own people are eminently qualified to review research proposals," says the spokesman.

Projects solicited by the agency may be unclassified (results are public) or have some degree of restrictive classification. Results from and information about classified projects are controlled by the agency and closed to public scrutiny, though they may be challenged under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sixty-seven CIA documents relating to political activity on U.S. college campuses were declassified in November following a challenge under the act by the Campaign to Stop Government Spying.

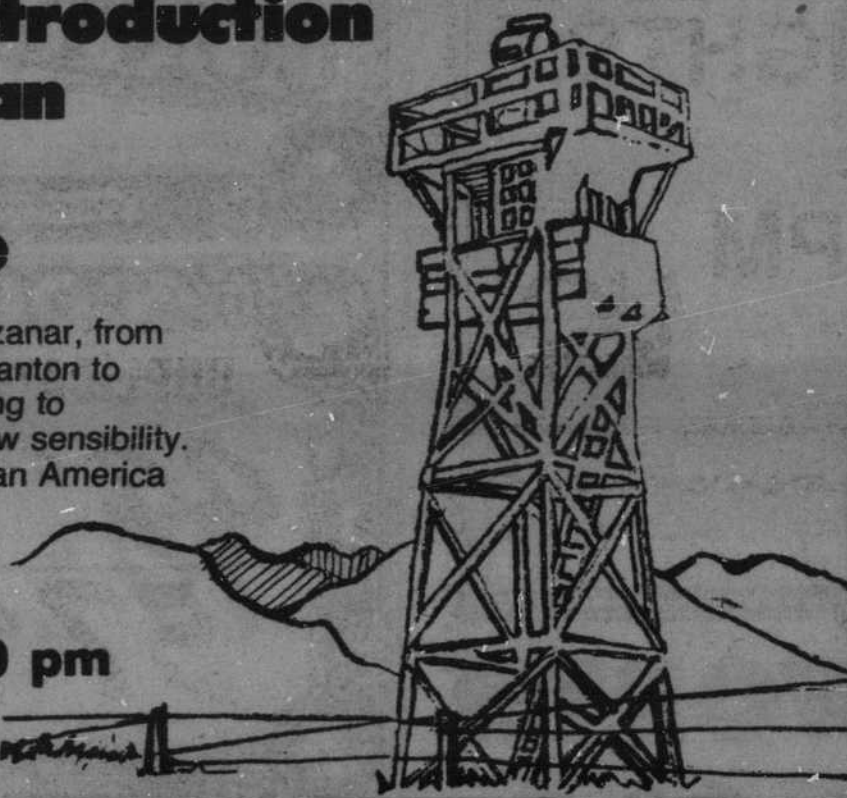
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Labor workshop slated

Leona Sibelman, a labor-management specialist with the U.S. Dept. of Labor in Washing-

ton, D.C., will conduct a workshop on contract negotiations Friday through Sunday. The workshop, sponsored by the Labor Education and Research Center at the University, will be presented at the "Keg and Platter" restaurant in Salem.

Participants in the course will actually negotiate a contract, taking "labor" and "management" roles. Although a settlement is encouraged by the trainers, some negotiations result in "strikes" or lockout. Trainers sometimes enter the negotiations as "mediators" if proceedings become deadlocked.

Other parts of the workshop include a presentation on the language of collective bargaining, films, a lecture-discussion and various program exercises.

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