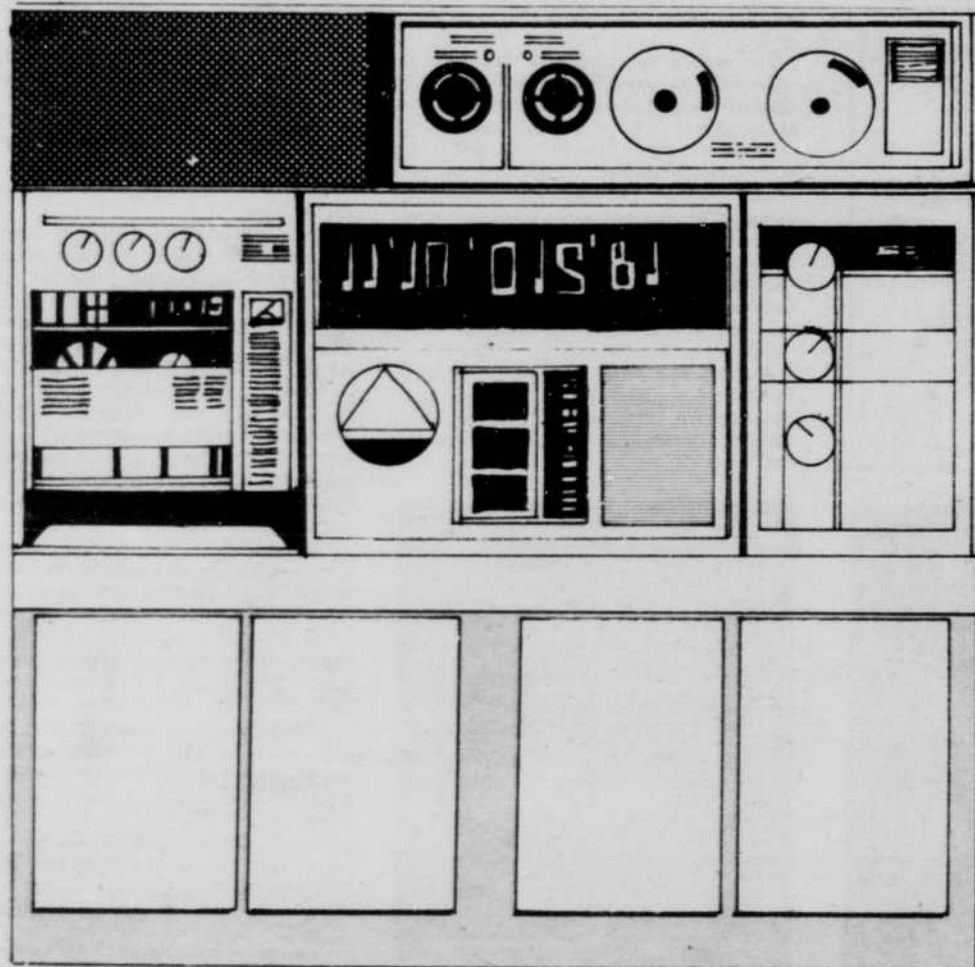


# oregon daily emerald

Vol. 83, No. 46

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Friday, November 6, 1981



*Emerald graphic*

## Computer resources offer shortcut to reference file

By **STEPHEN CRAKER**  
Of the Emerald

Despite its isolation, Room 151 of the library is the control center for the University Computer Search System, connecting students, faculty, staff and the public with reference materials.

Inside is a terminal which is tied into resource computers from areas as distant as New York and California. These sources, when called upon by the terminal, can send back reference information immediately.

"The system has been at the University since 1975," says coordinator Rod Slade. "Both this one and the one at the Science Library cost \$1,700 apiece. With them we are able to provide a service we couldn't provide before."

That service is finding research materials for interested solicitors very quickly.

"We buy services from vendors of data bases, and have access to four major systems. What used to take 50 hours can now be done in one, and it also finds things you can't find by hand."

Data bases are the 160 subject areas available for request. Journal articles are the primary source of references, though technical reports, books, newspapers, proceedings and dissertations are used as well.

"There are over 40 million references available, everything from Avon to collective bargaining."

To retrieve information from distant computer sources, the operator compares key words of the specific subject requested with words in titles, subject headings and abstracts of bibliographic citations.

"For instance, if you used the word 'dog,' the computer would construct

a table and compare that word with what it has and send back the information. If you wanted to use the word 'rabies' with dog as well, the computer would check that too against its table and send back the information," says Slade.

The information is sent back in the form of abstracts which Slade describes as "a short narration of what the reference is about."

"Obviously you can't represent everything you can find in a reference on an abstract, but its real value is in referring you to the original document in the library. The abstract gives you something to judge."

Costs largely depend on the data base. The more expensive data bases are mainly for private companies who can afford that price and benefit from the exclusive references, Slade says.

"In the last three years, the average price for a session has been around \$17.50 for two data bases."

The computer time plus the amount of references printed are also factors in determining cost.

"It is a little on the expensive side, but if you're used to going about it manually, it is remarkable what it can do in an hour," says law student Roger Mellum.

"If we screw up, and it is an obvious error, we are not going to charge student or faculty for our mistakes," says Slade.

The fee covers the costs spent on the program. Salaries and administrative costs come from the University budget.

Around 110 people use the system each month, or about 900 users a year, mostly doctoral or master's candidates "who are getting ready for a major writing project," says Slade.

## Olum says cuts likely due to lack of debate

By **HARRY ESTEVE**  
Of the Emerald

Across-the-board budget cuts to University programs, schools and departments probably will be recommended without much public argument from faculty or students, Pres. Paul Olum said at a Thursday press conference.

At a Wednesday faculty meeting, Olum asked for further comments on cuts he will recommend to the State Board of Higher Education, but "no one said anything," he said.

"Faculty and students have no better suggestions."

On Dec. 11, Olum will submit the list of budget cuts to the board for final approval. The cuts include suspending the international education program for a year, freezing searches to fill a number of vacant administrative positions and closing the natural history museum.

A total of about \$2.15 million will be cut from the University's 1982-83 budget, if the board approves the recommendations.

At past faculty meetings, professors and department heads opposed cuts to their own programs. But at Wednesday's meeting the small turnout and lack of discussion suggested most have resigned themselves to the proposed cuts.

Conspicuously absent from discussions on the budget cuts have been students and student representatives. ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins says this is partly because

students don't have enough information. "It's really hard to come up with alternative cuts," Wilkins says. "We don't have all the information."

"It's not a fault of anyone. It's just the way it is."

ASUO representatives opposed increases in admissions standards and remedial education cuts, Wilkins says.

"There's nothing I disagree with," he says about Olum's proposed budget package. "We need to preserve the main, core programs."

Student response to the cuts has been "kind of slow," Wilkins says, but it has been improving.

Response should reach its peak next year "when the big crunch comes," he says.

At his press conference, Olum also stated the conflict between FBI employment recruiters and the law school probably would not affect current affirmative action guidelines at the University.

FBI recruiters last month postponed their interviews at the law school after dean Derrick Bell sent a letter asking them to explain their policies on hiring homosexuals.

Olum said FBI recruiters still could set up sessions through the Career Planning and Placement Office on campus to interview potential lawyers.

In other business, Olum said no further progress has been made concerning the status of the Pacific Northwest Resource Center on campus, and Richard Hill, acting provost for academic affairs, was appointed permanently to that position.

## Speaker raps nuke policy

By **BRAD BARTON**  
Of the Emerald

Considering the present intensity of the arms race, civilization's chance of preventing a nuclear holocaust is less than 50-50, an investigative reporter said Thursday.

Norman Solomon, who has written on nuclear-related topics for several major American newspapers and periodicals, spoke to an audience of about 50 at Emerald Baptist Church.

Solomon identified several instances where the U.S. government has been less-than-honest with the public in nuclear-related matters.

He stated that arguments presented during the debate over the hydrogen bomb were not made public until after the decision to deploy the bomb had been made. He also said that former Pres. Dwight Eisenhower ordered the commissioner of the Atomic Energy Commission to "confuse the public" about the differences between nuclear fission and fusion.

Between 1946 and 1962 over 250,000 U.S. troops, without their consent, were deliberately exposed to dangerous levels of radiation, Solomon claimed. These "experiments" were more psychological than physiological in that the intent was to test the ability of troops to assemble a rifle just after a nearby atomic explosion, he added.

An average of one dozen nuclear explosions took place at testing facilities



*Photo by Mark Pynes*

**Norman Solomon**

in Nevada and Texas during the 1950s, Solomon said, adding that the AEC claimed that the public was in "no danger" from the fallout clouds that drifted over those states as well as Arizona and Utah. The unusually high levels of cancer and leukemia in those areas tend to prove the AEC wrong.

He went on to say that underground tests are currently taking place every three weeks in Nevada. While radiation leaks have been detected, the government hangs on to the "no danger" stance, he said.