

emerald

Group pans state board budget cuts

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Recent State Board of Higher Education decisions regarding the 1982-83 budget have been blasted in a report issued by a state educational coordinating commission.

The 1982-83 higher education budget continues a short-term strategy, relies heavily on tuition increases, does not adjust for projected enrollment drops and reflects no clear system-wide planning for staff and program reductions, according to a review of the higher education budget prepared by the staff of the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission.

The commission is a state agency charged with planning and coordinating all levels of education, kindergarten through higher education.

The report, which says that the budget fails to comply in many ways with the Legislature's 1982 notes on program reductions, points out a number of areas in which discrepancies supposedly occur.

The report also criticizes the higher education staff for choosing "targets of opportunity" for cuts, such as eliminating positions when someone leaves, instead of firing tenured faculty.

At a meeting Sunday, the seven OECC commissioners accepted the staff's report, which now accompanies the higher education budget to an April 29-30 meeting of the state Emergency Board.

The State System of Higher Education was the only state agency to have only one year of its two-year budget funded by the 1980-81 Legislature, which put only \$1 in the 1982-83 budget. That action means the Emergency Board still must approve next year's budget.

At the meeting, Chancellor Roy Lieuallen responded briefly to parts of the OECC report, pointing out that it is "impossible" for anyone who didn't follow the state system's budget cutting process to conclude there has been inadequate system-wide review. However, he said the commission's suggestions would receive "careful" consideration by the state board.

University Provost Richard Hill told the commissioners he found the report "one of the most devastating of the recent series of dismal documents on higher education in Oregon."

Hill pointed specifically to a part of the report that says "in the absence of divine intervention or a major realignment of political forces it is not likely that higher education will receive a disproportionate share of the projected \$3.5 billion general funds in 1983-85... there is little leeway for recovery of past support levels for higher education."

"I cannot accept that message, and it would be tragic if this commission adopted that message as its position. We will not accept the assumption that existing funding levels cannot be improved — nor should you," Hill said.

Bob Watrus, executive director of the Oregon Student Lobby, applauded the commission's report and said the OSL agrees with "the majority of the document."

"(The OSL), indeed, sees the need for restructuring of the state system," Watrus said.



Photo by Bob Baker

Ahhhhh — sunshine

The student who belongs to these legs had a hard mattress Monday when he fell asleep basking in the sunshine. Weather is expected to be sunny and warm again today, with temperatures reaching the low 70s.

Two discuss Darwin's ideas

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

Religion is not the key issue when looking at the origin of the world, two authorities agreed at a Monday night discussion of creationism and Darwinian theory.

"Science does not ask if (an ape) has a soul," said David Wagner, director of the University herbarium. "I know I have one, but I won't try to prove it by Darwinism."

Wagner repudiated the argument that "rejecting creationism undermines God and morality because evolutionary theory does not use God." He compared that argument to arithmetic, saying "then math must be atheistic, because there is

no God in long division."

"The study of creationism makes a person religious just as much as studying Toyotas would make a person Japanese," responded Scott Chambers, assistant chemistry and physics professor at George Fox College in Newberg.

The two men argued the issues of creationism vs. evolution at a fund-raiser for the natural history museum that commemorated the 100th anniversary of Darwin's death. About 200 people paid the \$3 admission fee, which will be used to help keep the museum open next year.

Wagner tried to prove his pro-evolution case by examining the inadequacies of creationist thought. He said one popular and fallacious argument is that

any difficulty with evolutionary thought is a point in favor of creationism.

Wagner stressed the ability of the creationist to "impress you with statistics" by saying there was only one chance in "several hundred zeros" that life would arise from nothing. He advocated the idea that given enough time, the proper conditions were possible.

However, Chambers pointed out that the world was unlikely to be the product of mere chance, and that some type of intellect was required. For example, the most advanced computer storage system can hold only 15,000 bits of information per square centimeter, he said, while the cell has over one billion bits per square centimeter. This points to the need for some higher intellect to design the world, he said.

Wagner also said the universe has to be more than 10,000 years old (which some creationists pick as the world's age) because a lot of galaxies have more than 10 million light years between them.

But Chambers noted some data that supported his view that the earth is relatively young. He pointed to studies that pinpoint the origin of life at 150,000 years ago, 12,000 years ago and to 4,040 BC.

In addition, Wagner said that "certain individuals possess qualities not given by chance alone that make the difference between the survivor and the non-survivor." He says the theory of survival of the fittest has brought about change in the species.

Chambers, however, said that after creation organisms either stayed the same, became extinct or were slightly modified. He admitted slight changes may be possible, but "a fruit fly will always be a fruit fly" even if superficial alterations are made.

Wagner also said the notion that a single great flood deposited most of the sedimentary rocks on the earth is "preposterous" because geological studies show that the earth's construction would be vastly different than it is now if that were the case.

Takin' it to the street

Budget decorates 13th

Most of the bicyclists and pedestrians traveling 13th Avenue Monday didn't seem to notice the small stenciled letters running down the middle of the street. Of those who did notice, most wondered what the neatly painted graffiti meant.

By walking from Kincaid Street toward the intersection of University Street and East 13th Avenue, students can view federal budget proposals laid out in an unusual way. Using the street as a figurative yardstick, an errant artist has offered an unusual illustration of Pres. Ronald Reagan's budget priorities.

Red painted letters and arrows indicate percentages of budget money allocated to various parts of the federal budget. Spaced accordingly, some of the street is untouched for almost an entire block, to illustrate the defense department's 29-percent allocation.

Across from Johnson Hall, the gaps between budget items narrow as the illustrations of allocations for higher education and environmental preservation — each about 1 percent of the budget — are painted a few feet apart.

Rumors indicate the illustration may be a part of "Earth Week," but the University Survival Center claimed no knowledge of the graffiti or its artists.

One Survival Center source said the spray painted graph "sounds" like something that might be attributed to the Survival Center, but the source added he couldn't be sure.

A campus security representative said the "graph" had not been reported and the security office was unaware that anything had happened.

The painting was apparently done late Sunday night or early Monday morning.