

Program cuts, lesser of evils

It's regrettable, but University Pres. Paul Olum is making the right move in naming four "outreach" programs as the victims of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's unexpected recommendation to cut higher education's budget — again.

Losing the Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, the Labor Education and Research Center, the Marine Biology Institute at Charleston, and KWAX — although painful — will harm University academics the least.

The University probably will be forced to "trim" \$650,000 from its budget. This cannot be done by hoarding paper clips, reducing services, and snipping other non-personnel expenditures as the Chancellor's office led the legislature to believe. Olum is saying there are no more "discretionary cuts" available. From here on out all hacking away at the budget for higher education harms the quality of the University and the state.

The University already has postponed salary increases for faculty, raised fee deposits to discouraging levels and minimized library and sport facilities. It has reduced the budgets of the departments and schools to minimal services while still retaining their integrity.

Olum's view seems to be that he has three choices: Either cut away meat from existing departments or professional schools, axe an entire school or department, or eliminate outreach programs.

Debatably, the "expendable" programs on campus already have been cut: The Wallace School of Community Service and Public Administration, the Insitute for Social Science Research and the University architect to name but a few. It should be noted that KWAX has already been put on a four-year phase out program from University funding.

Actually, Olum is shrewd in his proposed cuts. They are examples of programs that directly benefit Oregon — thus sending a message to the Legislature that cuts in higher education hurt everybody, not just University faculty, students, and staff — something they have yet to learn.

The four institutions are major aides to business, labor and communities within the state. We hope the businesses and interest groups who benefit from the Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, the Labor Education and Research Center, the Marine Biology Institute and KWAX have notified the legislature of their support of these programs and their anger at this latest round of cuts.

Obviously, the major drawback of Olum's proposal is that the disappearance of the four outreach programs will further sever the crucial link between the University and the state. The link is necessary for good public relations between the University and the community, such as the Labor Education and Research Center's programs for working class groups.

The programs supply work experience for students, they attract industries that look for academic excellence and innovation where they choose to locate, they are direct links between academic research and community participation — all qualities that the Legislature demands of Oregon higher education.



letters

Bike safeguards

Your article on "Bike Thieves" (Spring term, Emerald) was commendable for focusing public attention on a widespread problem. However, you overlooked mentioning several theft prevention safeguards available to bicyclists. The two basic essentials necessary to prevent bicycle theft are personal identification and proper security. If bicycling is your main mode of transportation, and if you can't afford to replace your bicycle immediately if it is stolen, take heed of the following precautions.

The most valuable step a bicycle owner can take for identification purposes is to engrave your drivers license number onto the frame of the bike. When you buy a new bicycle, this service is available through tool libraries, local police stations, and neighborhood watch programs. Police authorities nationwide will be able to trace you through your engraved I.D. number once the bicycle has been recovered.

Secure your bicycle with a Kryptonite or Citadel brand lock. Used properly, these locks will stop any bolt cutters. Don't gamble with chance. If you ride an expensive bike or one that you can't readily replace, invest in one of these locks. Their higher price is not unreasonable to pay to protect your bike from thieves.

Record the manufacturer's serial numbers into your frame, and keep them in a safe place. A color snap-

shot of your bike can also help in searching for, locating, and identifying your stolen bicycle. Register your bike with Campus Security.

For the sake of the student populace, labeled socially irresponsible and apathetic, it is difficult to determine the intent of suspicious behavior. However, anyone carrying bolt-cutters in the vicinity of bicycles should be reported to the police immediately. Overcome your fear of getting involved by enlisting the help of bystanders as witnesses, then call the police.

To report theft or locate a stolen bicycle, call the following numbers: Campus Security 686-5444, Eugene Police Department 687-5121, Lane County Sheriff 687-4150, Oregon State Police 686-7521.

Don't wait until your bike is stolen before you become concerned.

Jean Snider
City Cycle Messenger Service
Ron Liquory
Bicycle Safety School

Harassment

It concerns me that at the University in the 1980s we have a need for a task force to deal with problems of racial harassment. I will be first to agree we need laws and statutes, task forces, and whatever else will help us "insure" against racial harassment. But it concerns me nonetheless that this institution whose students took a

leading role in the civil rights movement in the 1960s is still dealing with the same issues still, only this time the administration is taking its turn at the lead. We should have been able to assume we had learned more from the 1960s.

It is appalling that this university has a math professor who used racially slanderous statements to explain story problems in a calculus class. This incident, as well as other violations of racial harassment causes me to applaud all the more the administration's attempt to protect against such acts on this campus. These violations should motivate us to categorize such behavior as nothing less than ignorant and criminal.

Racial harassment will probably never completely subside, nor will one individual ever do much to change our path towards that end. Until we see that we are all part of the same team and that we must adopt a respect and way of acting towards one another that reflects that, and that protection from racial harassment is best insured by changes in the attitudes and behaviors of individuals, we can not expect that Pres. Olum's task force will be a great success. We may very well be able to predict, on the other hand, that twenty years from now in the year 2000 we will be ushering in yet more task forces, statutes and laws proclaiming protection from racial harassment along with a new century.

Debi Lance

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