

University quality 'poor'

And 'dead last' in funding says Olum

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

Funding for the University is "poor" in terms of the quality of the institution when compared with other public universities, said University Pres. Paul Olum at a press conference Monday.

Olum drew his conclusion from a recently released report that compares the University with other American public universities. The report was compiled by Dan Weill, assistant dean of the arts and sciences college.

The report shows the University ranks sixth in molecular biology, seventh in psychology and tenth in biochemistry out of 105 American public universities.

Nine other programs received high marks in the report. Ranked in the top third among similar programs in the country are microbiology, mathematics and chemistry, while zoology, political science, physiology, geosciences, physics and English rank in the top half.

The level of state funding shows a clear contrast, said Olum. With \$1,821 per student, the University ranks 101 out of 105 universities.

State funding per student ranges from \$1,370 at the University of New Hampshire to \$12,137 at the University of California at Riverside. In other Pac-10 schools, the comparable figure is \$6,793 at the University of California at Berkeley, \$3,607 at Washington State University in Pullman, \$2,689 at the University of Washington and \$3,712 at the University of Arizona at Tucson.

Olum pointed out that when comparing the

University with public universities in the American Association of Universities, to which the University belongs, the figures are even more striking.

"Not only are we dead last in the dollars per student," he said. "But the average is more than double."

Olum said the state system is evaluating the funding formula used to allot funds to the state institutions, a positive move for the University.

"The University of Oregon is very badly served by the way it is funded now," he said. Olum said the University should receive \$9 million to \$10 million per year more than it currently does.

But the University can't maintain the same level of quality without increases in state support indefinitely, said Olum.

"We cannot maintain that over the long haul."

Olum said it was the faculty's commitment and caring about the University which keeps them at the University. He said they would not continue to do so if they did not expect conditions to improve.

"The faculty stay with us because they believe in the institution."

In other discussion at the press conference, Olum said students will be able to fill out demand analysis forms — the first step in eventually achieving computer registration — detailing what classes they want to take fall term. The University will have the whole summer to adjust courses to "do a better job" with registration.

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computer science and software engineering.

Stevens and Jacob Beck, a University psychology professor, recently received a two-year, \$282,000 grant from the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Their research will draw on contributions from computer vision and from perceptual psychology to determine how human vision works.

A National Science Foundation grant of \$112,000 will allow the department to obtain three computers that operate with LISP, a programming language.

Farley said the department has been trying to meet growing student demand throughout this year. The department has hired several visiting professors, who are paid from a special \$40,000 allocation from the State Board of Higher Education, and bought 10 Apple II computers with an NSF grant.

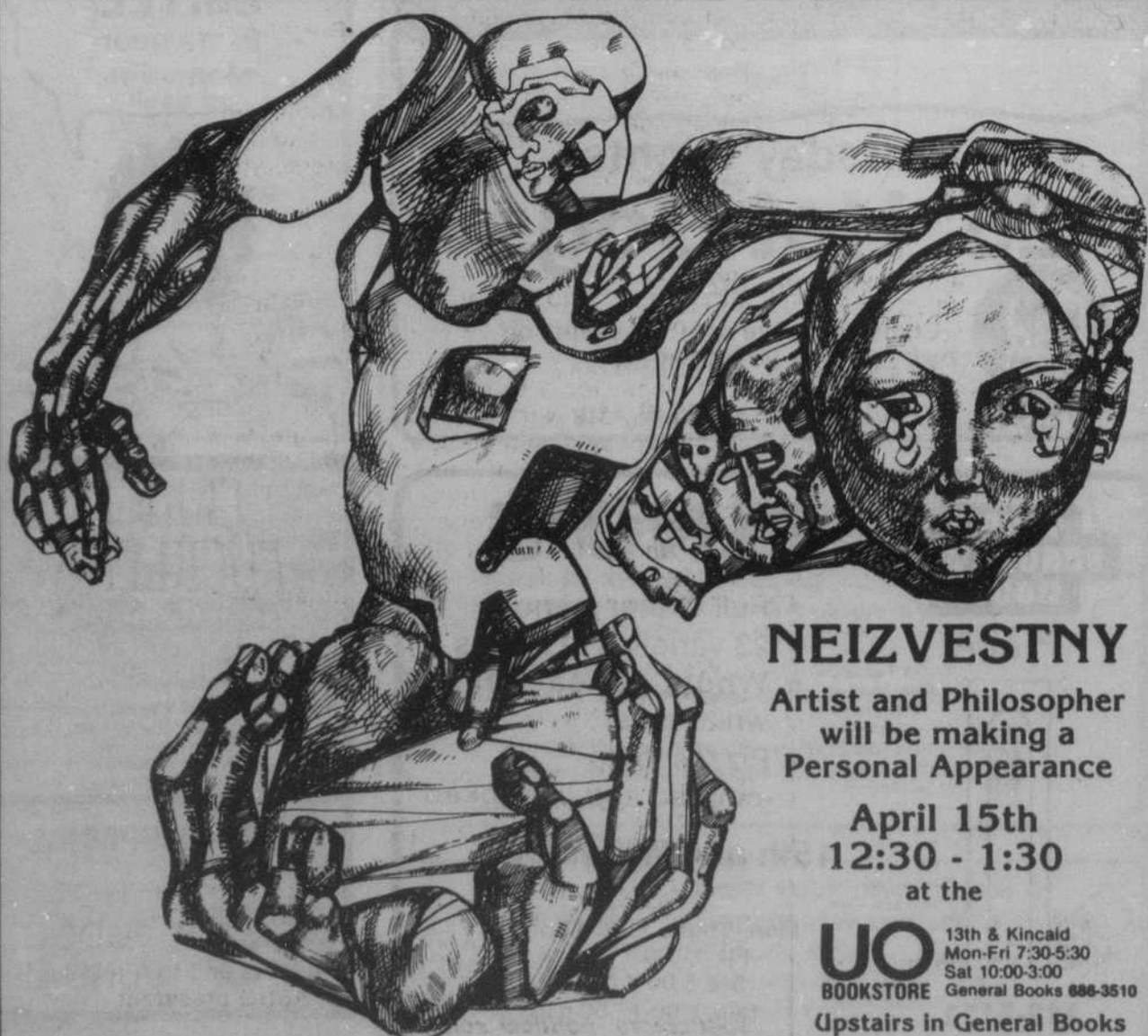
The computer science department also has limited its enrollment by increasing the admissions requirements for the undergraduate degree program.

Farley said he believes the department is meeting de-

mand for the introductory courses, although some students may have to wait a couple terms before they can get into it.

But he said the limitations may be necessary because the computer science market for bachelor's degree holders is becoming flooded.

"Now employers are more selective, and graduates need good grades as well as some work experience," he said. "Instead of the 10 job offers that each graduate of several years ago could expect, today's graduate will likely receive one or two offers."



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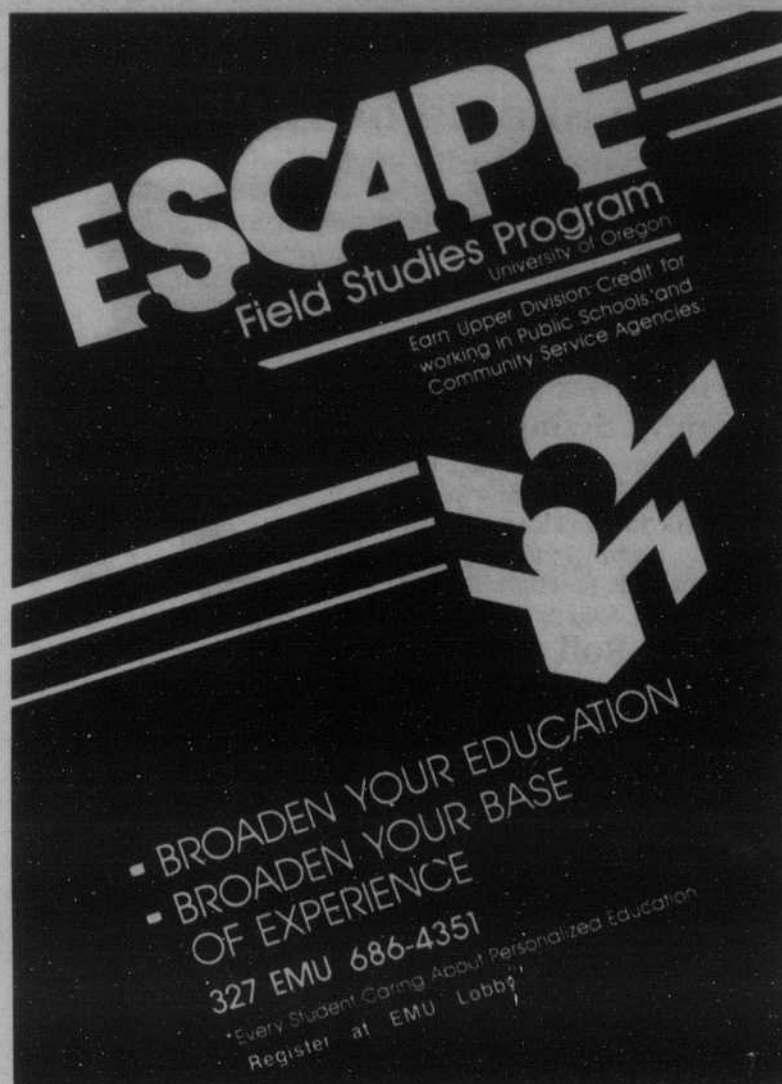
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