

## College gets \$300,000 gift for humanities

By Doug Nash  
Of the Emerald

Amherst President-elect Peter Pouncey's convocation cries for stronger interest in the humanities were answered by University Pres. Paul Olum Monday, when he revealed a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for Humanities.

Calling it "one of the largest and best grants in the country," Olum said the money would be used in a three-year project to improve the teaching of the humanities.

The new grant will allow University faculty to teach numerous introductory courses for classes of 25 students. By contrast, the average lower-division history course has 125 students, Olum said. The new, smaller classes will benefit about 10 percent of the undergraduates.

In addition, the University hopes to establish a Center for the Humanities, which Olum said would increase the University's chances for attracting visiting faculty and receiving additional grants. The proposal for such a center will be taken to the State Board of Higher Education's November meeting, he added.

Humanities include studies in literature, rhetoric, history, philosophy, religion and the arts.

The effects of the new grant will be immediate, said English Prof. Donald Taylor, who will be the center's director. Sixteen experimental sections of introductory humanities courses will be offered during winter and spring terms, he said. Four upper-division courses will be added to the program in the next two years, he said.

During the second and third years, the University will invite major humanist scholars to campus to lead faculty seminars, give public lectures and teach upper-division and graduate-level courses, Taylor said.

"The programs are not radically innovative in method, topics or approaches," Taylor said. "Our goal is that the faculty community and the students become involved together in those arts of interpretation which the humanities share."

Continued on Page 5

## Davis, Atiyeh, students fete 'higher ed week'

By Frank Shaw  
Of the Emerald

**SALEM** — In a mostly symbolic display of support for higher education, Gov. Vic Atiyeh and Chancellor of Higher Education Bud Davis signed a proclamation recognizing the contributions of all Oregon institutions of higher learning on Monday.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with Higher Education Week, which began Sunday and runs through the week to Saturday.

Before signing the proclamation, Atiyeh said that although higher education has seen some hard times in the last few years, he "admires the way (higher ed has) held on," and is pleased with the chancellor's performance.

"Education has been battling for funds," Atiyeh said. "It's not been easy."

Davis thanked the governor and the Legislature for their support of

Continued on Page 3

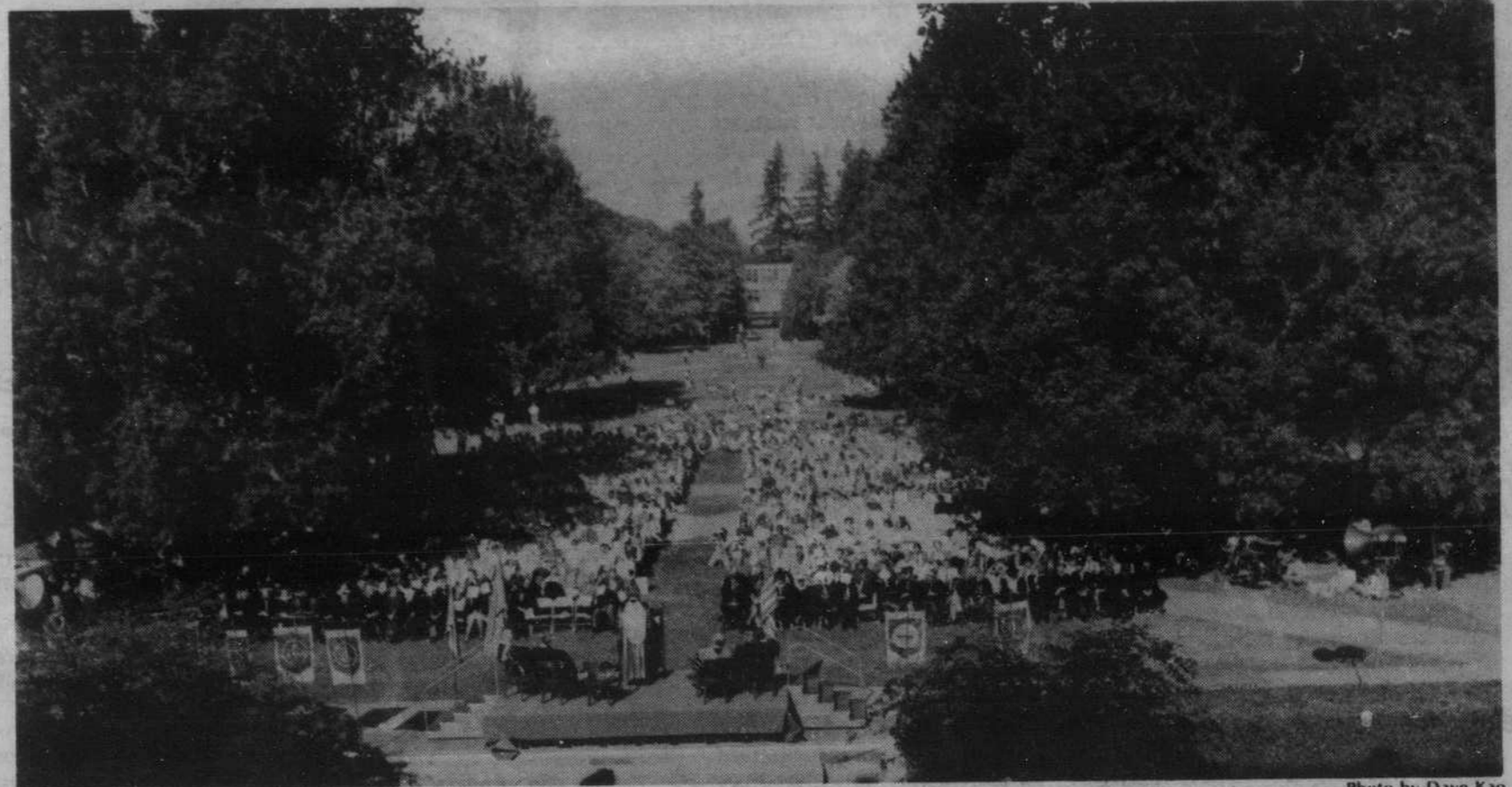


Photo by Dave Kao

The University's second annual Convocation drew hundreds of students and professors to the Memorial Quadrangle Monday on an unusually sunny afternoon to hear Columbia scholar Peter Pouncey.

## 'Inhumane' tech threatens humanity

By Melissa Martin  
Of the Emerald

More than 500 students, faculty and community members gathered Monday afternoon under blue skies and shade trees in front of the library to hear a Columbia College professor defend moral values against the inhuman side of technological progress.

Peter Pouncey wove historical quotes from many disciplines with recent nuclear issues to plead for humanities.

Pouncey, dressed in a purple academic robe, spoke after a procession by 100 faculty in colorful regalia and 10 student flag bearers.

The University Brass Choir provided the music.

The two-year-old Convocation soon may become tradition, said Robert Berdahl, arts and sciences college dean, who spoke, along with University Pres. Paul Olum, for the Platform Party.

"I hope today remains a vivid memory — at least as vivid as Mac Court registration," Berdahl said.

Speaking with a slight British accent, Pouncey said the humanities are becoming "poor, down-at-heel chamber musicians left in the wings, sounding the slightly scratchy grace-notes to the main business of life."

While Pouncey spoke, the University's recently acquired historical flag waved in the breeze on the platform.

Drawing a parallel between history lessons and the nuclear age, the Amherst College president-elect said the push for progress and new jobs sacrificed human values.

"Technological progress was achieved by concentrating on the job in hand, at the expense of considerations of human values."

Despite regrets by the people, technological change took place and the agency of the change was "somehow out of their hands," Pouncey said.

"It takes single-minded attention on the data to produce progress as a by-product." Pouncey, who was born in China and educated in England, used the example of war casualties and their futile repetition throughout history.

He referred to the Los Alamos trade-off. The scientists focused on the data and forgot to ask whether the job ought to be done until it was finally completed.

"The scientist is never exempt from having a moral, humane sense," Pouncey told

his attentive audience.

When science and progress took the spotlight, humanities dealt with its inferiority complex by toughening up the discipline with positivism and Marxism, according to Pouncey.

Pushing for hard facts, technological singlemindedness has been devastating moral philosophy, he said.

"It is not in doubt that technically, we can destroy ourselves and our world."

He compared the possibility of a nuclear explosion that would end life with the "Big Bang" explosion that theoretically began it.

But the nuclear war threat is not the only anxiety society faces today, according to

Pouncey.

Raising children in a shifting society is also a predominate worry.

"Too many parents — and loving parents at that — look on their children with great trepidation, as incredibly delicate human time-bombs waiting to explode on them, in any one of a series of great crises, beginning with finicky eating in infancy..."

"What a life! Cold war within the family, and cold war between the nations."

But Pouncey stressed pessimism is not the answer.

"We now know that the promised land is further away than was thought, and will take very careful navigation to reach."

## Seminars follow-up theme

The University's second annual Convocation attracted hundreds of students — excused from Monday afternoon classes — to both local and visiting professors' seminars that spanned many topics, from the elderly's political clout to America's fragile wilderness.

### POLITICAL CLOUT

People who believe all the myths about aging — that senility hits at age 65 — tend to become that way in reality, said Jeane Bader, director of the gerontology program.

"It is a self-fulfilling prophecy," she said. Bader spoke at a seminar on "the Politics of Aging" as part of the Convocation.

Aging is an important political issue, not only because all people will eventually become old, but because of the amount of money the government spends on old people, she said. By the end of 1983, 27 percent of the federal budget — \$211 billion — will have been spent on elderly people.

"The politics of aging commands attention because of the price tag," Bader said.

"Politicians assume older people have a potential or real political clout," Bader says. Older people do vote, but they do not vote as a bloc on very many political issues, except for their tendency to vote against local tax levies.

"Young people are less tolerant of being willing to give their money for programs for older people," said Ross Anthony, an economics professor who also spoke at the seminar. "Unless something is done, we'll see a real battle."

Changes in the system need to be made,

according to Anthony, so there will be enough money to go around.

For example, during a routine operation, something went wrong and the person ended up "brain dead." Medical technology kept this person alive for six months at the cost of over \$1 million.

Do people have the right to die? he asks.

"I think they do. There are other things we could spend that money on."

If our past ethical standards are not comprehensive enough to deal with the problem, then we need to develop new standards, he says.

### WOMEN'S ROLE

Advances in technology could affect working women in any number of ways, but unless people are careful, warned Joan Acker, director of the new Center for the Study of Women in Society, the impact will be a change for the worse.

Technological change will either create more skilled, higher paying jobs for women, or will initiate a trend back to traditional roles, agreed Acker and two of her colleagues, Steven Deutsch and Donald Van Houten, both sociology professors.

"I think negative scenarios are more probable," Acker said. The negative scenarios would eventually lead to a "decline in sex equality," she added.

The seminar, one of 13 during Monday's University Convocation, focused on the "Implications for Working Women of the New Technology."

But working women are not just the

Continued on page 5