

Audits expose misconduct

By Michael Hosmar

Of the Emerald

Federal expenditures totaling \$46.8 million have been questioned by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General because of the findings in a series of audits conducted during a recent six-month period.

In a 46-page report presented to Congress, Inspector General James Thomas, Jr. disclosed that investigations of alleged criminal wrongdoing resulted in 155 indictments and 71 convictions. The investigations resulted in \$640,000 of assessed fines and restitutions. The

audits and investigations began in April of 1984 and ended five months later, in September.

The Department of Education has already asked contractors and grantees to return more than \$31 million in unsupported or inadequate costs, according to a Department news release. Three of the "most significant examples of waste, mismanagement and wrongdoing" disclosed by Thomas' report are:

•An Office of Inspector General audit of vocational education funds in one state agency showed that \$55,000 was improperly charged, \$1.6

million was wrongly accounted for, and \$4.2 million in non-federal funds was inadequately documented. The report recommended that the agency return the \$55,000 and either provide documentation to account for the \$1.6 million or refund the portion that can't be supported.

•Another audit led to the grand jury indictment of 21 members of an "extended family" on multiple counts of conspiracy, student financial assistance fraud, mail fraud and fraudulent use of Social Security numbers.

•As a result of a joint FBI/Inspector General investigation, the president of a business college, on behalf of the institution, pled guilty to eight counts of making false statements in connection with the misapplication of federal student financial aid. The college has already paid its \$75,000 fine and made a prepayment of \$200,000 to be applied against the school's total liability to the Department of Education.

Student groups form information network

The Student University Affairs Board, Student University Relations Council and ASUO have created the Student Lobby Network, an outreach program designed to increase students' political power through the use of computerized networking.

The program will provide a way for students to receive information on legislative activity concerning higher education, including financial aid, civil rights, environmental and women's issues, and higher education funding.

Network members can then

coordinate letter-writing campaigns to target legislators and members of Congress who support students on such issues.

Students may join the Network by registering to vote and then completing a simple application form obtainable through the ASUO in Suite 4, EMU or at the organization's display table being held in the EMU Ballroom during registration today.

Voter registration forms are also available at the Ballroom table. For more information, contact ASUO at 686-3724.

Upcoming legislative session is topic of featured speakers

"Looking Ahead: the 1985 Legislature" is the topic of three speakers who will be featured at the Lane Women's Political Caucus meeting tonight at 7:30 at Jo Federigo's Restaurant.

Marcia Ohlemiller, a lobbyist for the Women's Rights Coalition, will discuss women's issues such as comparable worth, reproductive rights and insurance discrimination.

State Reps. Larry Hill, D-Springfield, and Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, will discuss their expectations for the upcoming legislative session.

The event is free and open to the public. An optional dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

For ride sharing or information, call Deborah Romerein at 345-0316.



It's at Track Town.

Look for details in Wednesday's ODE.



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NOTICE

In accordance with regulations promulgated under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (Public Law 93-380 as amended, ORS 341.065, and Section 580-13-030 (2) of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education Administrative Rules), the University of Oregon has designated the following information about its students to be Directory Information: "(The) student's full name, the fact that the student is or has been enrolled, local and permanent address(es) and telephone number(s), participation in officially recognized activities, dates of attendance, class level and academic major, number of credit hours (not grades), and degrees, honors, and certificates awarded." UOO OAR 571-20-010 (1) (g).

Directory Information may be disclosed by the institution without the student's consent. All other educational records concerning a University of Oregon student shall not be released to other persons or organizations without the student's prior written approval.

A student may request in writing, to keep confidential the information designated as "Directory Information." This option can be made by completing and filling a statement entitled "Request to Restrict Directory Information Form" with the Office of the Registrar, 220 Oregon Hall by no later than January 11, 1985. This filing will remain in effect for the remainder of the academic year, but will not affect directory information already released or published.