

University student wins national contest

By Kirsten Bolin
Of the Emerald

Although it is too early to cancel plans for this summer's Grand Canyon vacation and make reservations for a luxury trip in space, it is only a matter of time before recreational space trips become reality.

At least that's what Gary Ragner, a University physics major, wrote in the prize-winning essay he submitted to a future-of-technology contest sponsored by Honeywell, Inc.

Earlier this week, Ragner learned he was one of 10 college-student winners chosen from across the country. He

won \$2,000 and a paid internship with Honeywell, Inc. for his efforts. Honeywell, Inc. is a major U.S. defense contractor.

"What it will basically do is take off like a 747," Ragner says of the future space plane he wrote about in his essay. "At first it will be only for the rich, maybe a quarter of a million for a week."

The contest, advertised last fall in popular publications such as Newsweek, asked contestants to write three essays of 500-750 words each. Entries were judged on their creativity, feasibility, clarity of expression and legibility.

In addition, entries were supposed to incorporate fairly technical terminology and thought, he said. Honeywell, Inc. received about 450 entries.

The competition specified that two of the essays were to be on significant developments the students foresaw by the year 2010 in any two of these subjects: electronic communications, energy, aerospace, computer science, manufacturing automation and office automation. In the third essay, entrants were asked to discuss the societal impacts of the technological achievements they had predicted in the other two essays.

Ragner, who is graduating this spring and wants to become an aerospace engineer, chose the areas of aerospace and computer science.

"I predicted computers will become autonomous," Ragner says. "They'll be able to think, in other words."

Computers will soon be able to answer phones and take dictation, thereby making a variety



Gary Ragner

of jobs obsolete, he says.

"Telephone operators are an endangered species," he says.

His other predictions include: erasable laser disks, computer chips that will process information 200 times faster than today's fastest chips, external memory storage and "intelligent" programs that will be able to write programs.

Ragner is excited about the prospect of a career in the

sciences and praises recent funding allocations for the expansion of science programs at the University.

In the next several years, the University will receive about \$40 million in state and federal funds to construct two new science buildings.

"I've always been an advocate of education because it determines how well your society and economy does in the next 20 years," he says.

And in the field of science and technology, the demand for skilled workers is great.

"Already there are not enough engineers," he says. "Industry is snatching them up as fast as they can."

Ragner, who grew up in Vernonia, entered the contest while he was home for winter vacation.

"My brother told me you could never win these write-in contests," he says. "But even from the beginning, I thought I had a fairly good chance of winning"

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Et al.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

The late effects of polio — Post Polio Syndrome — is the topic of a panel discussion Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Easter Seal Building, 3575 Donald St. Panel members include Dr. Glen Reynolds, Dr. Margaret Macritchie and Dr. Kirk Jacobson. Everyone is welcome. The event is sponsored by the Oregon Polio Survivors' Association.

"Computers in the Eugene School District: Policy Realities" is the topic of a colloquium series today at 4 p.m. in Room 121 Condon School. Jack Turner, computer coordinator for the district, will discuss the history and implications of computer policy development.

"The Church and the Earth" is the topic of the 18th annual Interchurch seminars each Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at 1376 Olive St. For more information, call Campus Interfaith Ministry at 686-3597.

"The Unorthodox Church of What the Hell is Going On" meets each Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Eugene Public Library lecture room. Sponsored by the Human Dancing Company.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Valentine's Day get-together will be held today in the International Lounge from 4-6 p.m. The Foreign Student Organization invites you to come enjoy the cookies, coffee and company.

Journalism majors can preregister for spring term journalism classes Feb. 18-20. Details are available in Room 201 Allen Hall.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to a party by state Rep. Mary McCauley Burrows, R-Eugene, Saturday from 7-10 p.m. at the Downtown Athletic Club.

The Office of Academic Advising is now accepting applications for para-professional positions. Applications are available in Room 164 Oregon Hall. Deadline is Feb. 21.

Japanese Bible study every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the International House. Call 485-1780 for more information.

Interested in RIM Floor Hockey? Contact the RIM office or Dan Hart at 686-5336.

Journalism Peer Advising is now accepting applications for next year. Stop by 311-D Allen Hall to get an application form.

Attention organizations: the 1986 Oregon Yearbook is offering free coverage to student-run or student-oriented organizations on campus. Please call 342-6770 or 686-3724 (message) if

your group does not receive a letter by Friday.

Get Involved! Psychology Peer Advising is now accepting applications for Spring term '86. Stop by Room 141 Straub Hall. Applications are due Friday.

Sign up for interview times with the Career Development Internship Program in Room 221 Hendricks Hall from today through Feb. 28. Interviews will be conducted from Feb. 28 through March 7.

The Historic Review Board requests persons with any information about the MacDonald Theatre — previous building plans or owners, historic photos or events held at the theatre — to call Karen Zisman at 687-5481. The hearing on the theater will be Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the McNutt Room, 777 Pearl St.

INTERVIEWS

Submit bids for campus interviews Monday through Wednesday each week in Room 244 Hendricks Hall. The following recruiters will be on campus next week:

Feb. 18: Electronic Data Systems (systems engineering development prog.); First Investors Corp.; S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. (sales mgmt trainee) group meeting: Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; Room 101, EMU; Yellow Freight System, Inc. (mgmt training prog.) group meeting: Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; Century Room A, EMU; Xerox Corp. (sales rep).

Feb. 19: Dun & Bradstreet (business analyst), group meeting only: 7 p.m., Room 110, EMU; First Union Investment Corp. (sales assoc.) group meeting: Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Room 111, EMU; K-Mart Corp. (asst mgr trainee) group meeting: Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Room 110, EMU.

Feb. 20: Moore Financial Group, Inc./Oregon First Bank (lending officer training program); Sears Roebuck & Co. (retail mgmt trainee).

Feb. 20-21: North Pacific Lumber Co. (lumber trader trainee).

Feb. 21: Interstate Distributor Company (regional sales rep); Sav-On Drugs, Inc. (mgmt trainee/store level).

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once, depending upon space availability. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date, and campus-oriented events, will be given priority.

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