

# FEMA waits for governor's decision while lawmakers try to change law

By Scott Maben  
Of the Emerald

State representatives are trying to amend a law that may allow Congress to withhold a state's civil defense funding if it resists participating in a federal agency's nuclear war exercises. At the same time, that agency is waiting for final word from Gov. Neil Goldschmidt on whether Oregon will reschedule the exercises.

The federally mandated exercises are designed to test communication systems during events that would precede a nuclear war. In February, Goldschmidt announced Oregon wouldn't participate.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency then said it will withhold more than \$1 million in federal civil defense funding if Oregon fails to reschedule the exercise by June 30.

Regional FEMA officials in Bothell, Wash., say they expect a response from Goldschmidt sometime next week.

Meanwhile, Rep. Peter DeFazio of Eugene and Rep. Les AuCoin introduced legislation into a House subcommittee on military installations and facilities recently that would amend the Civil Defense Act to prevent FEMA from withholding a state's funds.

"It's basically a stop-gap bill," said DeFazio's press aide, Sam Adams, who added that DeFazio's aides are studying

whether FEMA can legally withhold the funds.

"Just in case it is legal... they introduced the bill to change that legality," Adams said.

But FEMA spokesman Phil Cogan said, "There's no record of that legislation ever having been entered. The Armed Services Committee has been trying to find some record of that somewhere in the congressional computer system, and they can't find it."

The Civil Defense Act requires state and local governments that receive these funds to develop "attack preparedness capabilities." Once completed, these "capabilities" may be applied to peacetime emergency planning and response, the law states.

FEMA negotiates annually with each state to decide exactly which civil defense activities must be carried out with the emergency management planning funds.

FEMA contracted with Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska last year to receive funding on the basis that part of the money must be used to conduct the exercises. State and local jurisdictions in Oregon were to receive \$1.15 million in federal funds, with Lane County budgeted to receive nearly \$32,000.

According to Greg Cantor, a

Goldschmidt press aide, a General Accounting Office opinion released in Washington, D.C., last week said no law forces FEMA to require a state's participation.

But Cogan said the copy of the opinion he saw justifies FEMA's intent to withhold funds.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, the ranking GOP member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, recently threatened to slash FEMA's budget if it follows through with withholding Oregon's funds.

"We're willing to negotiate so long as we can comply with the federal law," Cogan said. "We can't compromise on it being nuclear attack preparedness. You can't substitute a natural disaster for a nuclear attack preparedness drill. It's not negotiable. It's not in the law."

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**SPA's Fight for Childcare Reform**

The average age of students on campus is 27, and many are parents. SPA candidates recognize the dire need for university-wide childcare reform.

**SPA Recognized The Need For Childcare First**

Students for a Progressive Agenda were concerned about Childcare long before the upcoming election brought it to the forefront. In fact, with this year's ASUCO Childcare Task Force, the SPA administration shook up the complacency of the University months ago on childcare needs.

**SPA Has Helped Students Get Childcare**

The SPA/Pickney Administration began the fight for better funding of childcare facilities and services, and to increase childcare subsidies it elected. Lachkar/Mooney will lobby the State legislature for major university-wide childcare reform.

SPA is also responsible for getting Childcare information included at Student Orientation for incoming students.

**SPA Will Continue to Fight for Childcare Reform**

SPA's Presidential candidates Lachkar and Mooney will work to improve childcare facilities and services, and to increase childcare subsidies it elected. Lachkar/Mooney will lobby the State legislature for major university-wide childcare reform.

SPA's record of championing university-wide childcare reform reflects our belief that the University should be accessible to all income groups. With improved and enlarged services and subsidies, more parents could afford an education without having to compromise the growth of their children.

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## Laurels

Jeffrey Hurwit, an associate professor of art history, has won a Guggenheim Fellowship award to study the representation of nature in early Greek art and poetry. The selection committee awarded fellowships to 273 artists, scholars and scientists from 3,421 applicants.

History professor Mavis Mate has been named to a four-year term on the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The committee awards grants for cultural and educational non-profit programs. Members also present lectures, historical dramas and exhibits in cities and rural areas throughout the state.

Bean Comrada, director of the University Office of Affirmative Action, received an

April 6 award for Super Volunteer from the Lane Regional Arts Council. Comrada was one of 52 Super Volunteers honored at the 1987 Heart of the Arts Celebration.

The School of Music announced on April 1 the winners of the annual Ruth Lorraine Close awards. Scholarships varying from \$1,000 to full tuition were awarded. Winners were: Dawn Ring, Brett Anderson, Pilar Bradshaw, Bethany Klopfenstein, Shawne Melvin, Enrique Rios, Carol Whiteman, Lea Butler, Allison Wright, Nelson de Sa e Silva, Cheng-An Chi, Amanda Kelley, Lisa Fulks, Eric Moore, Jill Farver, Sharon Hack, Jennifer Cass, Rachel Barry, Thom Bergeron, Jeannine Remy, Kevin Super, Eric Benedict, Dale Hallack, Emidio Tomassetti, Ty Young and Glen Halls.

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