

Earmarking federal dollars spreads research wealth

In the course of a decade, Oregon has become the nation's leading beneficiary of congressionally earmarked federal research facilities grants.

Here, at least, is one area in the state where higher education is not lacking for money.

A study conducted by the University of California system and released last week shows Oregon's three major research institutions — the University, Oregon State University and Oregon Health Sciences University — combined to rank third nationally in grants received since 1980.

The University actually has received at least \$26 million more than the \$10.8 million reported by the California study, according to University officials. Had all the grant money been reported, Oregon's \$104 million would have placed it above Massachusetts (\$94.2 million) and New York (\$82.9 million) at the top of the heap.

The study also opened up a controversial little can of worms. It was intended to document the regional inequity in the distribution of the federal funds — and while it did this, it did a lot more. The study has renewed controversy between supporters of the current congressional review practice and those who think federal grants aren't adequately distributed around the nation.

Not surprisingly, those who have joined the bandwagon against a system they say leads to the geographic concentration of resources also point out that Oregon's Mark Hatfield has been chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which decides where those funds go, for six of the past nine years.

But for all of the debate *against* Oregon's universities, we have to agree with University Vice President for Research John Moseley, who is "not feeling guilty" about Oregon's share of grants. It has been overdue.

Oregon seems to have struck it rich because congressional representatives and higher education leaders are doing an effective job of selling the state's need for federal research facilities grants. Further, the grants still are distributed through a competitive process, and the allocations demonstrate the state is submitting proposals deemed worthy of pursuit.

Moreover, the earmarking system actually spreads the wealth by introducing new players, like Oregon's schools, to a game played previously by a few, elite institutions. New facilities attract better faculty members, who in turn compete for project grants and enhance the institutions generally.

This state need not fear the wrath of those who howl that its share of grant money is overly adequate or undeserved. New competition always sends convulsions through those most interested in maintaining the status quo and preserving their own elite status.

Cooperation necessary if racism is to be eradicated

Racism.

The very thought of it sends chills down the spines of some, and the very act of it can break the spines of others.

Yet, day to day, we hear and read stories of violence against people of color — and other minorities — around the world, nation, state, and even our own "safe" campus.

A recently formed task force at the University designed to study and hopefully develop plausible means to combat racism has come under fire from some of its own members.

There is a fear among some that the work of this task force will end up in a filing cabinet, stashed away to collect cobwebs and dust.

We fear this too.

There is criticism that more people of color should be represented on the task force. The criticism is that prominent faculty, students and staff of color have been left out, and that others from the community have been shunned.

For now, we choose to reserve judgment as task force chairman Gerry Moseley has said it "will have a much better balance" at its next meeting, to be held today at 2:30 in the EMU Gumwood Room.

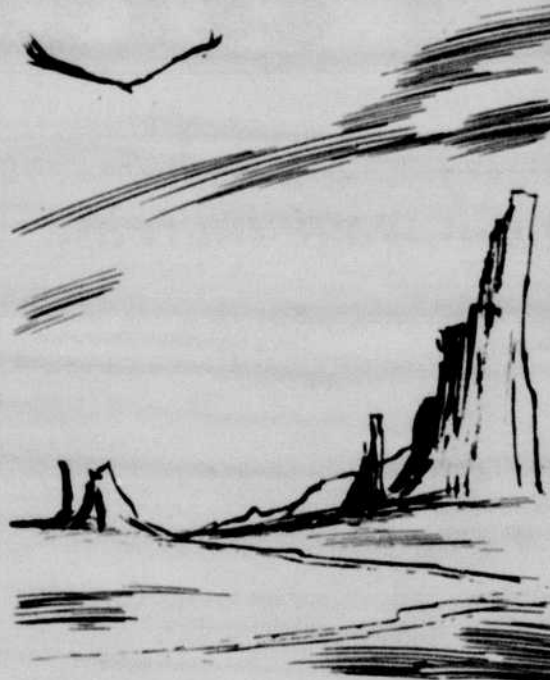
We urge the leaders of the task force to work with the faculty, staff and students of color currently on the task force to recruit more members from the University and community to aid in the cause.

We also urge the people of color who are currently on the task force to volunteer information and recommend candidates whom they believe can help the University — and possibly the community — develop means to end racism.

We also urge all who are concerned and angered by racism to attend task force meetings, such as the one to be held today, to offer comments or experiences. The meetings are open to the public.

The only way to end racism is to fight it together.

What Dry Was...



What Dry Is...



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Letters

So what?

I am sick and tired of hearing the supporters of the Oregon Commentator that their "rights of free speech" have been violated by the IFC decision to defund them. This is particularly nauseating since the effect of the IFC's decision will be to force the Commentator to rely on advertising and sales to continue publication — in other words, to actually live up to the "free market principles" they so vehemently espouse.

The IFC exists to spend the students' money. The stacks of Commentators that can invariably be seen rotting in their racks testify that the student body is not interested in the semi-literate ramblings of a tiny, right-wing clique. Those who blur the issue by bringing in the First Amendment into it should get this through their heads once and for all: if you prevent someone from communicating their point of view, that is censorship. If you decide not to pay them for communicating their point of view, that isn't.

Whether the Commentator is not read because of its unpopular opinions or merely because of its unbelievably low journalistic standards is an interesting but essentially irrelevant question. The students of this University have provided the Commentator staff with more than enough time and money to produce a publication worth reading. It's time to cut them off and watch as they sink without a trace in their beloved free market.

Eric Wilson
Sociology

Democracy

Student body elections are fast approaching and, in fact, the campaign has already begun. Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff have already announced their candidacies for President and Vice President, respectively, setting off this year's campaign. My concern is not with the candidates, however, but with the voters who will decide this year's election.

In a democracy such as ours, it is imperative that people be well-informed, politically

aware and above all else, that they vote. By voting they affirm their belief in an idea of government that in this nation has lasted 200 years. They exercise their rightful power to decide who will represent them and work for their good. Voters are the foundation and strength of any democracy. They are the essential decisionmakers and it is upon them that the responsibility of democracy falls.

Last year's turnout at the polls for student elections was approximately 17 percent. Not even a quarter of the student body took the minute required to vote. Such a turnout is an insult to our supposedly enlightened and responsible education. Voting for President and Vice President is the student's best method of having a direct effect on the programs, services and priorities of the ASUO. Thereby students also effect larger issues such as enrollment, tuition, student/faculty/administration relations and campus safety to name only a few.

So, this year I urge ALL students to vote! Make your voice heard! Don't let the decision be made for you! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Kirk Bailey
Student

Student needs

As a staff person at the EMU I am concerned that the students are being deceived (ODE, March 2).

The EMU Board is a 15-person board with 11 student seats and four faculty/staff seats that have voting rights and three other members in an advisory role. From the editorial "... students should have a major decision-making role in the operation of the building and its services," which is already true, students at all times have the majority vote. The editor states further, "... really concerned faculty staff" would urge future members of the EMU Board to hear and consider this input in an unbiased fashion. The EMU has aims and goals that need to be addressed today that reflect many years down the road. The average student participation on the

board is one to two years, while many of the staff and faculty who sit on the board have worked here at the EMU and University for 10, 15, and yes, 30 years. Their input and vote can keep the EMU in the forward direction not floundering year to year.

Can we expect a student to learn, in one year, the diversity of the EMU and its services, programs, and a combined budget of almost four million dollars, then keep up with their studies, personal lives and sleep? Let's be realistic, and honest. The best system is the student and staff/faculty working together to keep the EMU working for present and future student needs.

Susan K. Pedersen
Manager
EMU Recreation Center

Odoriferous

When I started at the University last summer I was overwhelmed by the outer beauty of much of the campus, but appalled by the disgusting filth of many interiors. In the locker room at Leighton Pool, I rued every footstep on the foul filth of scum covering the shower tiles. The rest rooms at the EMU smell as though they've never known a disinfectant. To use the restroom at the Knight Library is to be assaulted by an odoriferous nightmare.

I've puzzled about this irony, and thought perhaps the price paid for external beauty at the University was unhealthy sanitation. But after reading Chris Bouneff's story regarding Ramon Contreras' dismissal (ODE, Feb. 28), it seems likely that the reason the campus stinks is because there is something rotten at the Physical Plant.

Hopefully the apparently unjust firing of Contreras by Burns and Buckles will lead to an investigation of the policies and practices within the Physical Plant. If the people clogging the janitorial system could be flushed out, maybe we could all enjoy an environment clean from the inside out.

Cori M. Ruland
Art History graduate student
Tuesday, March 7, 1989