

Oregon Daily Emerald

Thursday, March 29, 1990

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 91, Number 119

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Lesser quality faculty risk of low financing

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

Higher education Chancellor Thomas Bartlett said on Wednesday that unless the state stabilizes and finances its higher education system it may be forced to accept a lesser quality of faculty and students.

Bartlett spoke at the fourth forum in a series sponsored by the Faculty Senate that hosts speakers of interest to the University community.

The state must replenish the higher education capital depreciated during the 1980s, he said.

"We've got to go back and strengthen very central things and people," Bartlett said.

Allocating money for faculty salaries is the most important



Thomas Bartlett

issue, he said.

After speaking to the state Emergency Board on March 15,

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Brain trust

Members of a college bowl team made up of University faculty concentrate as they compete against the team of students headed to the national competition. The student team proved victorious

Photo by Stephanie Holland

White Bird Clinic's services diversify over time

Twenty years later clinic still helps those in need

By Pat Malach
Emerald Reporter

For the past 11 years Bob Dritz has been working at "filling in the cracks."

As coordinator for White Bird Clinic, Dritz oversees a variety of different medical and social programs serving community segments that might otherwise be neglected.

"It's a handful of stuff we do here," Dritz said. "Over twenty years we have filled a lot of cracks in the community. We have ended up doing a lot of things because there are a lot of cracks."

"Just about everything we do nobody else does. That's why we're doing it," he said.

When the clinic began over twenty years ago it was truly a grassroots setup, Dritz said. The idea for the clinic came from a few University graduate students, some counter-culture activists of the '60s and a lot of doctors and lawyers from the community.

"It was sort of put together from those three corners," Dritz said. "The model that they first started with was a street medical clinic in the model of the Haight-Ashbury clinic in San Francisco."

The clinic directors soon saw a need to deal with the effects of the growing number of people experimenting with new drugs.

"Nobody knew how to handle it and the professional people didn't want to touch it," Dritz said. "We sort of jumped into that vacuum in terms of doing that."

White Bird responded in

1969 by offering a telephone hotline for drug concerns. Dritz said the drug hotline expanded into a total crisis hotline when the staff began to receive calls dealing with personal and mental health problems and suicide issues.

The original building that housed White Bird was on Lincoln Street near WOW Hall. The clinic is now composed of three separate buildings.

The medical clinic is located at 509 E. 13th St. It provides primary medical care just like a family practice doctor's office would, Dritz said.

The difference is the clinic caters to people with limited or no money, he said. Dritz said about half of the patients receive free treatment and the other half are billed on a sliding scale according to their resources.

"What's a little more extensive is we also keep a small laboratory and dispensary there," Dritz said. "With people without money, if you send them off to get medication or lab work done somewhere, they can't meet the bill there; so we've wasted our time."

The clinic is able to remain independent because of the diverse and broad based funding they receive, Dritz said. White Bird is funded through donations from churches, corporations and from local fraternal organizations. They also receive funding from Lane County, the cities of Eugene and Springfield and from the state.

"Historically part of what we have found is that it can be very complicated to get funding from a lot of sources," Dritz



Photo by Martin Thiel

Bob Dritz is coordinator of the White Bird Clinic, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Dritz has worked there for 11 of those years.

said. "But it means that nobody can pull the rug out from under you and nobody can start pulling strings. If you keep a broad base no one source has undue control over your future or how you handle things."

The counseling offices for White Bird are contained in two buildings at 323 and 341 E. 12th St. Services provided there include the drug treatment center, the acupuncture detoxification program, the homeless issues offices, the crisis prevention program, and the information and referral service.

White Bird is also a licensed state school in crisis prevention training.

"What we do with the school

is we don't charge tuition. We ask that once people are trained that they give it back into volunteer time," Dritz said. "Some of that work is real hands-on work, so we divide it between class work and actual experience."

Dritz added that about 100 volunteers per year are trained at their school. He estimated about 30 percent of those volunteers are University students.

The Crisis Assistance Helping out on the Streets headquarters are located at the 12th Avenue buildings also. CAHOOTS is one of the recent editions to the White Bird Clinic's list of services. The program is actually part of the city's 911 emergency response system.

"We get dispatched out on calls just like the police do," Dritz said. "We work with the calls that aren't primarily criminal; a lot of alcohol-substance abuse calls, a lot of mental health and emotional disturbance-psychotic episode calls, neighbor disputes, some follow-up on domestic abuse and some death notices."

Dritz said many of these calls can be handled better by trained counselors rather than by police officers. He said he sees White Bird as a facilitator between the groups they help and the professional elements of the community.

Dritz added the CAHOOTS program is the best example of

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