

It's too late to beat the hotel rush

By Dawn Paugh
Community Reporter

It all began as a simple *Emerald* assignment. My plan was to collect motel prices and vacancy information for an article about places to stay during the week-end of commencement, June 15.

Rumor has it that everyone and their dog is coming to commencement, so I wanted to make reservations for my own family as well. And I thought I was beating the reservation rush by doing it now instead of waiting until May.

Oh, was I wrong. I walked into the first motel I saw, across the street from the University, and I explained to the people at the front desk of the Green Tree Motel what I was writing about.

They took one look at each other and laughed at me.

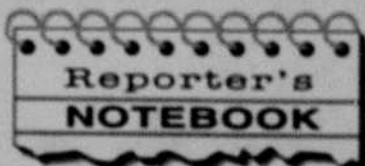
"We've been booked for months," said the man at the front desk. "People starting making reservations last year."

OK, at this point I became alarmed. Forget the story for the *Emerald*. I began to have visions of my family camped overnight on the floor of my narrow dorm room.

"And the motel next to us is full, and the one next to that, and the one next to that," he said.

I thanked them and turned toward the front entrance. I nearly ran across the street and all the way back to campus. I had a lot of phone calls to make.

When I reached my room, I picked up the *Yellow Pages* and poured over the pages of hotels,



motels, inns and bed and breakfasts. With each call I made, the response was similar and daunting.

"We're booked."

"We've been booked for months."

"We've been booked since last year."

I randomly called places as far away as Cottage Grove to make a reservation and still found nothing.

Finally, I found a vacancy down on 6th Street. After making the reservation, I had just one question to ask.

"I've never been there before, what is the place like?"

The woman who made the reservation for me paused before her response.

"It's a nice ... clean place," she said.

Having made reservations at larger, more prominent motel chains in the past, I couldn't remember having heard any of them describe their establishments as "nice" and "clean," and this gave me cause for worry.

To be on the safe side, I continued my search for a closer hotel. I finally found another vacancy at a place called the Travelers Inn Motel, near the University on Franklin Street. It's not the Hilton, but it'll do.

I guess I can consider myself

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Eugene Motor Lodge 344-5233
Travelers Inn Motel 342-1109
Motel 6 687-2395

SPRINGFIELD

Mitchell Motel 746-4644
Motel Orleans 746-1314
Motel 6 741-1105
Pacific 9 Motor Inn Inc. 726-9266

COTTAGE GROVE

Comfort Inn 942-9747
Holiday Inn Express 942-1000
Rainbow Motel 942-5132
Village Green Resort Hotel 942-2491

EMERALD

lucky that my family isn't picky about where they stay. At least I hope they won't be picky.

If you are a graduating senior who plans to participate in the commencement ceremony and is expecting family from out of town, make your reservations now.

And if you are participating in commencement next year, make your reservations now — especially if your family is particular about where they spend the night.

I'm sure some graduates don't mind some close and personal family bonding for the weekend.

On the other hand, REI has sleeping bags and tents available for rent.

OSSHE works to address public's concerns

By Jean M. Bond
Higher Education Reporter

The Oregon State System of Higher Education has created a list of areas for higher education system improvement in the first phase of its strategic planning process, said Chancellor Joseph Cox.

The three-phase planning process, which started in January, is an effort to understand what the public needs and wants from higher education and to decide how the state system can best provide those things, said Francesca Clifford, communication specialist for OSSHE.

In the first phase, four task forces spent more than three months gathering information on public concerns about undergraduate education, graduate education and research, lifelong education and professional development and community and economic development, Cox said. The task forces presented their findings to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education last Friday.

"Each chair was asked to make a presentation about the task force's findings," said John Byrne, Oregon State University president emeritus and graduate education and research task force chairman. "After that we went into session on how the task force findings related to each other."

"The first phase went really well," Clifford said.



"The task forces met with representatives from campus, business, state government and [other] walks of life, and we got a lot of information."

The task forces identified over 70 specific concerns and grouped them into themes such as diversity, student access, technology and outreach, Clifford said.

The next step is to create several temporary caucuses to decide which areas should be addressed first, Cox said.

"Some things are more immediate and necessary than others," he said. "I would predict that questions of student access, both financial and geographical, and questions about use of technology are going to rise right to the top."

In the final phase, the board will decide how to achieve the goals set during the second phase, Cox said. "We will be working closely with the governor and the legislature as they develop their agendas," he said.

Cox said the planning process is important because of the many changes the state and its economy are going through.

"We are moving away from a natural resource-based economy and into an economy based on international trade, technology and natural resources," he said. "We owe it to Oregon to bring our intellectual resource to bear."

"Change is happening, whether we want it or not," Cox said. "We can be the victims of change or the architects of change, and I'd rather be an architect."

Conference: Ticket numbers disappoint groups

Continued from Page 1
director of the Humanities Center.

Campbell, who has coordinated ticket distribution, said high demand for tickets by community members hasn't diminished the conference's commitment to students.

While Wiesel had to be moved off campus, the rest of the conference was kept at the University even after the number of ticket inquiries far exceeded the supply. This was a direct result of students on the planning committee describing students' dis-

interest if the event were held downtown, Campbell said.

"We've worked really hard and done our best under stressful conditions," she said.

Many student leaders, however, are complaining that tickets for students have been far from plentiful.

When conference organizers went before the ASUO Student Senate in November to request \$5,000 for Wiesel's travel and expenses, they said they were committed to keeping the event on campus and for students. Many students said 300 tickets

and keeping the conference at the University don't constitute a commitment.

Shorr said getting just 70 tickets for the JSU was a struggle.

"We've had to fight for every ticket we've got," she said. "We weren't given many tickets at all."

While about 200 tickets were open to all students, many said they've still had trouble getting their hands on them. April Mejias, JSU assistant director, said much of the problem lies in publicity. Many students not involved in student programs don't even know about the event.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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- Be A Part Of University Affairs
- Participate In The University's Internationalization Efforts
- Become A Member Of ISAC

Applications available at—OIEE - 330 Oregon Hall & International Student Association - 260 EMU

Application deadline:

4:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, 1996, OIEE

For more information:

Gary Koh, ISAC Chair, 343-7979

gkoh@gladstone.uoregon.edu

Ginny Stark OIEE, 346-1203

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