

ASUO: Other state campuses working to increase grants

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the kinds of programs in danger of losing funding, Dennis said.

Reauthorization also opens the possibility of changing the act to benefit students. The ASUO will lobby to expand the Pell Grant and other grant programs, continue the Oregon Need Grant and redefine the requirements for filing as an independent on tax forms.

National financial aid programs now focus on loans instead of grants, ASUO President Bill Miner said. About two-thirds

of federal aid comes in the form of loans today, according to the Oregon Student Association. Only 20 years ago, two-thirds came from grants. Students will work to return financial aid to that proportion.

The ASUO, working with other campuses in the state, will target Oregon's congressional delegation for its campaign. That will include postcards, speakers and meetings with Oregon's representatives and senators. The ASUO has pledged 2,000 postcards; the Oregon Student Association

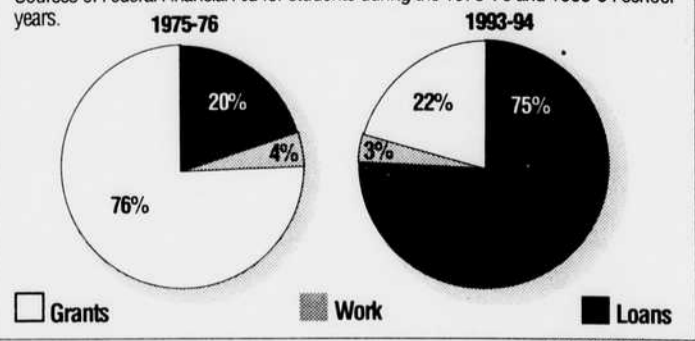
hopes to collect more than 18,000 state-wide.

Students face a fiscally conservative Congress that may look for cuts in educational spending, Cowling said. But the Oregon delegates seem friendly to students' arguments, Dennis said.

"We just want to make sure they know we're watching them," Cowling said. "If they don't think we care, they might just cut programs. It probably won't happen, but it's one of those things you don't want to take a chance on."

More students depending on loans

Sources of Federal Financial Aid for students during the 1975-76 and 1993-94 school years.



MATT GARTON/Emerald

Investment made easy: Students can learn tricks of the trade

By starting small and working your way up, you can earn money through investing

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

Before you, a poor college student, laugh at the term "investing," think about the money you might have spent on late-night pizza or that café latte in the morning. Maybe you bought the "deluxe" macaroni and cheese instead of the normal kind. A dollar here and a dollar there — after you pay tuition,

you might have a few dollars that you can sock away for a rainy day.

The first thing a potential investor needs to do is to figure out how much money is available to invest. If you have debts that require interest payments, it is wiser to pay those off first before putting your money where you can't get it — otherwise, your interest payments could end up higher than what you're earning on your investment.

The good news is that you don't really need much money to start. And if you're patient, you can start with very little and move on to riskier — and thus potentially

more lucrative — investments.

Savings accounts: Most people have these types of accounts. The great thing about them is that you don't need very much money to get one, and if an emergency comes up, you know that you can get your money out quickly and easily. The downside: a lousy interest rate. However, if you aren't a huge wage earner right now (that would be most of us), you can let your funds grow here. When you accumulate \$1,000 or more, you can move on to the riskier investments. The federal government will insure your savings account for up to \$100,000

— that covers most of us!

Certificate of deposits (CDs): A CD is a contract in which you agree to deposit a specific amount of money for a certain amount of time, usually a year. In return, the bank pays you a fixed rate of interest. The good news is that a CD interest rate is higher than the savings account rate. The bad news is that you'll have to pay a penalty charge if you withdraw the money before your CD matures. Most CDs are insured, so it can be a good, risk-free investment.

Savings bonds: This investment is pretty safe also because the federal

government guarantees full payment when the bond matures. If Uncle Sam were ever unable to pay us, not getting paid would likely be the least of our troubles. Even better, the money you make from treasury bonds is not subject to state and local taxes. You can even invest as little as \$25 to buy a \$50 bond. Don't hold your breath with this investment, however. Because the interest earned on bonds is based on fluctuating market rates, you'll never know exactly when your bond will reach face value. The good news is that if your bond hasn't reached its face value in 17 years, good ol' Uncle Sam will make an adjustment and get you there. You can pull your money out of savings bonds before it matures, but the government won't pay you the last three months of interest.

Mutual funds: When you invest in mutual funds, you're basically giving your money to a professional who uses your money to make more money. The mutual fund manager uses your money to buy a diverse portfolio of stocks. Mutual funds are slightly lower in risk when compared to stocks because 1) your money is invested in many more different kinds of stocks than you would likely be able to afford on your own and 2) professional managers are analyzing and picking the stocks. So, even if one of the companies your mutual fund manager chooses goes belly-up, you will most likely have a couple more in your fund that are doing just fine. The minimum investment on mutual funds can vary depending on which company you're going through, but generally you will see bigger gains (and losses) if you start with more money.

Stocks: When you buy stocks, you are buying shares of a company. This is the riskiest investment listed here, but it is also potentially the most profitable. Worried about broker fees? Not an issue anymore with new online trading. Trading can cost as little as \$8 per trade. You could play the stock market with just \$1,000. Let's say you find a stock that's listed at \$9 per share. Purchase 100 shares, and you pay \$900 plus the broker fees. Stocks are risky because every company can potentially go bankrupt, and you could lose all of your money. But you can even play the stock market conservatively and only choose to invest in companies that you think will still be around in your lifetime. You could purchase as little as one share of stock if you really wanted to, but if you bought one share of a \$100-per-share stock and it cost you \$16 to sell it (\$8 to buy and \$8 to sell), you would have to wait until the stock went up 16 points before you just broke even. That can take awhile. You can get your money out of the stock market fairly easily (depending on how your broker lets you access your funds), but if your stocks are down a few hundred dollars, you may not feel like "cashing in" at that time.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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So...

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- Tuesday, 1/6 UI Living Room
- Wednesday 1/7 Ramey Room
- Thursday, 1/8 Bean West Conf.
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- Tuesday, 1/13 Riley Hall
- Wednesday, 1/14 Carson Gold Room
- Thursday, 1/15 McAlister Hall

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- Applications can be picked up at any Area Desk or from the University Housing Office.
- Applications must be turned in to the University Housing Office
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