

CONTACTING US

NEWSROOM: (541) 346-5511
E-MAIL: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
ADDRESS: Oregon Daily Emerald
 P.O. Box 3159
 Eugene, Oregon 97403
ONLINE EDITION: www.uoregon.edu/~ode

PERSPECTIVES

Philanthropy might present funding problems

The good nature of donors to the University is helpful in the short run, but the University needs to find a more permanent solution to funding needs

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL

Calling the University a prostitute is not quite fair. Disregard for now the big departments with money-induced titles such as the Charles H. Lundquist School of Business. For the sake of argument, push aside the idea of dirty money and ignore the documented labor violations of Phil Knight's mega-company, Nike.

The fact is, the overwhelming majority of people who contribute money to the Oregon Campaign, a multi-million dollar fund-raising drive by the University, do not get to see their names on the front of any buildings.

The absurdly wealthy Knight family is a definite exception to the rule, and so is the current law school building, Grayson Hall, which was named after University alumni Jeffrey and Susan Grayson last June in exchange for a \$1.5 million donation.

The donors are typically University alumni who give because they feel indebted to the University. There is nothing inherently unethical about this kind of philanthropy, but it indicates a disturbing economic undercurrent.

More and more, schools around the country are turning to their wealthy alumni and friends to pay for important campus construction and common college growth. At the University of Oregon, Knight donated several million dollars for the new law building on 15th Avenue and Agate Street. Construction of this new building will loosen up campus by moving the law school to the University's periphery and will allow the law school to loosen by providing more space for students, staff, faculty and even the library.

Other campus projects paid for in part or in full by donors include: Allen Hall's phase-one renovation, the McArthur Court improvements, the 1997 Museum of Natural History addition, the Vivian Olum Child Development Center phase-one construction, the Grayson Hall renovation, the future \$7-million Gilbert Hall addition and remodel, the Esslinger addition, the Oregon

Institute of Marine Biology library project, and the \$13-million intercollegiate athletic facility improvements. This information comes from the University Planning Office.

It's true that the University campus is looking as green and fresh as ever. But what does it say about the state of higher education in Oregon and the country when the school buildings are tagged with the names of big-business CEOs?

This trend may be indicating an increasing lack of focus on education by governmental bodies. More likely, it is an indication of the increasing costs of education because of the exponential growth in technology, and students' demands to be trained on the technology.

There is little universities can do to curb the trend, and they instead decide to ride it. Why would they ignore an offer by Adobe for several free copies of its latest software?

The intimate ties of public universities to corporations are dangerous because the funding is unreliable. The philanthropy is used for long-term financial aid investments and one-shot construction projects, but if the University continues to rely on these donations, the government could decide the funding problem is solved.

Ultimately, a slowdown in the amount of money flowing into the University could be harmful to the school's growth and upkeep, and any call on the Oregon Legislature for help could fall on deaf ears. Students and the University must be vocal about finding a better way for the school to grow and improve before something drastic happens.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu



LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters must be limited to 250 words or less. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar and style.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Article missed point

I'm writing in response to the Aug. 11 Emerald article regarding the Designated Driver Shuttle. Although we appreciate the Emerald's coverage and support of DDS, the article is misleading and should be clarified.

First off, the title "ASUO Senate gets DDS rolling again" implies that had it not been for the actions of the student senate, DDS would not be operational. In actuality, this is the farthest from the truth. Had the student senate not postponed the DDS budget for the past three weeks, DDS would have been operating sooner.

Additionally, even under severe restrictions imposed by the ASUO Executive and the student senate, DDS was scheduled to run this coming weekend regardless of whether the student senate acted. So, for the Emerald to imply that DDS owes the student senate thanks is gravely mistaken.

Furthermore, due to space restraints, the article failed to portray the meeting adequately. The biggest issue between the staff of DDS and the student senate is the rate of pay for the four executive

staff members of DDS.

Over the past several years, the rate of pay for DDS staff has slowly decreased. Meanwhile, the workload has increased. Last year, the average rate of pay for the executive staff of DDS was approximately \$3.33 per hour (eg. \$200 per month director's stipend for approx. 60 hours of work). Under the senate-approved budget, the rate of pay has been decreased an additional 12.5 percent, although DDS will now be operating an additional 3 days with 10 new staff.

It has been calculated that the executive staff of DDS will now be making approximately \$2.50 per hour (eg. \$175 per month director's stipend for approx. 70 hours of work). The entire time, the requests of DDS have been simple: let us run DDS the way it was meant to operate for a fair and reasonable rate of pay.

Unfortunately, the ASUO Executive and the student senate fail to see it that way and over the past month have wasted nearly \$3,000 in student fees by preventing DDS from operating.

Brandon Lee Smith
 DDS Executive Director

DRAWING BOARD



CORRECTION

The Aug. 11 story "ASUO Senate gets DDS rolling again — for now" should have said that the ASUO Student Senate granted a \$3,250

special request to the Spencer View Co-op Family Center. The Emerald regrets the error.

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.

NEWSROOM — 541.346.5511

Editor in chief: Michael Hines
Associate Editors: Rob Moseley, Leanne Nelms
Photo Editor: Laura Goss
Webmaster: Broc Nelson
Reporters: Peter Breden, Amy Goldhammer

ADVERTISING — 541.346.3712

Becky Merchant, *director*. Rachelle Bowden, Leigh-Ann Cyboron, Dan Hageman, Doug Hentges, Andy Lakefish, Erick Schiess, Ryan von Klein, Emily Wallace.

CLASSIFIEDS — 541.346.4343

Trina Shanaman, *manager*.

BUSINESS — 541.346.5512

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Business: Kathy Carbone, *business supervisor*. Melanie Jones, *receptionist*.
Distribution: John Long, Peter Breden

PRODUCTION — 541.346.4381

Michele Ross, *manager*. Tara Sloan, *coordinator*. Laura Daniel

