

# UO boasts record year

■ Average contributions to the University nearly double in 1999-2000

By Rebecca Newell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the most successful private fundraising effort in the history of the University and the state, the Oregon Campaign received \$58.5 million in gifts and pledges during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Higher than the previous record-breaking year 1995-1996 by 12 percent, the University received a total of 37,000 different awards from 21,000 donors. The total far surpassed the goal, which was set at between \$49 million and \$50 million.

"It's one of those great examples

of teamwork," said Duncan McDonald, vice president for Public Affairs and Development. "There are so many factors which come into play."

According to McDonald, potential donors look at many factors including where money is going in the school and the efficiency of the operation. Also, he added that giving is up on a national level.

"Three years ago, the average gift was \$1,700," McDonald said. "Now it's \$2,700. That speaks volumes."

Rande Papé, who served as president of the University Foundation during the record-setting year, said in the same release that the giving is a "bold statement of support for the University's vision."

## Baseball

continued from page 1

"I don't think Portland is a viable town for major league baseball," said Bob Beban, general manager of the Eugene Emeralds. "The region is just too small. You look at the struggles going on right now with Kansas City, Pittsburgh and Montreal. You would see the same things happen here."

MLBoregon.com, however, counters such talk on its Web site by stating that Portland is the only market out of the top 34 markets in the country that doesn't have two professional franchises. Portland ranks 22nd overall with more than 1.7 million people — larger than Milwaukee, Cincinnati and Kansas City, which all have teams.

Lashbrook also has emphasized the importance of supporting the local minor league teams in Eugene, Salem-Keizer and Portland.

"It is imperative that we support our minor league clubs," Lashbrook said. "It's time to demonstrate to MLB and our public officials that Oregonians truly love baseball."

While Beban may not think the town of Portland is suitable, he did admit that he would be a supporter and said that a big-league team would "have a very positive influence on the Northwest League."

"It would boost the interest in baseball tremendously and bring

in more media to the state, along with new fans in a super-charged environment.

"I would be the first to applaud it."

The fact that the MLBoregon.com group was in Seattle trying to attract the attention of Oakland was certainly news to the A's administration, who didn't seem to be too concerned when reached for reaction on Wednesday afternoon.

"The idea that this team is going to Oregon or any other state is too outrageous to even comment on," said Jim Young, director of public relations for the Oakland Athletics.

"We don't think we're in financial trouble and there is no right to even think that the A's will leave Oakland. There is no other comment from this organization."

Such remarks won't stop Lashbrook and his troops as they embark on an intensive crusade that Lashbrook believes will help lead to the ultimate dream: Catching a big-league ball game under the sun in a fan-friendly ballpark located in the heart of Portland, near the Rose Garden.

"The pieces are all in place," Lashbrook said. "We have been assured that an owner will surface as the push for financing goes forward, and Major League Baseball has officially said relocation will occur if a club cannot overcome its difficulties in its current market."

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