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History

continued from page 12A

renown of the University's arboreal array inspired astronaut Stuart Roosa of Apollo XIV to give to the University a seedling sprouted from one of among four Douglas Fir seeds he had with him when he walked on the moon in 1971. Today the unmarked tree, which is approximately 45 feet in height and more than two feet in diameter, stands behind the bench across from Willamette Hall on 13th Avenue.

United voices

A radical shift of campus life had already blossomed in 1969 and 1970, as students opposed the University for allowing the ROTC to remain on campus during the Vietnam War. On Earth Day, April 22, 1970, students staged a sit-in in Johnson Hall that lasted 30 hours and resulted in the arrest of 63 demonstrators.

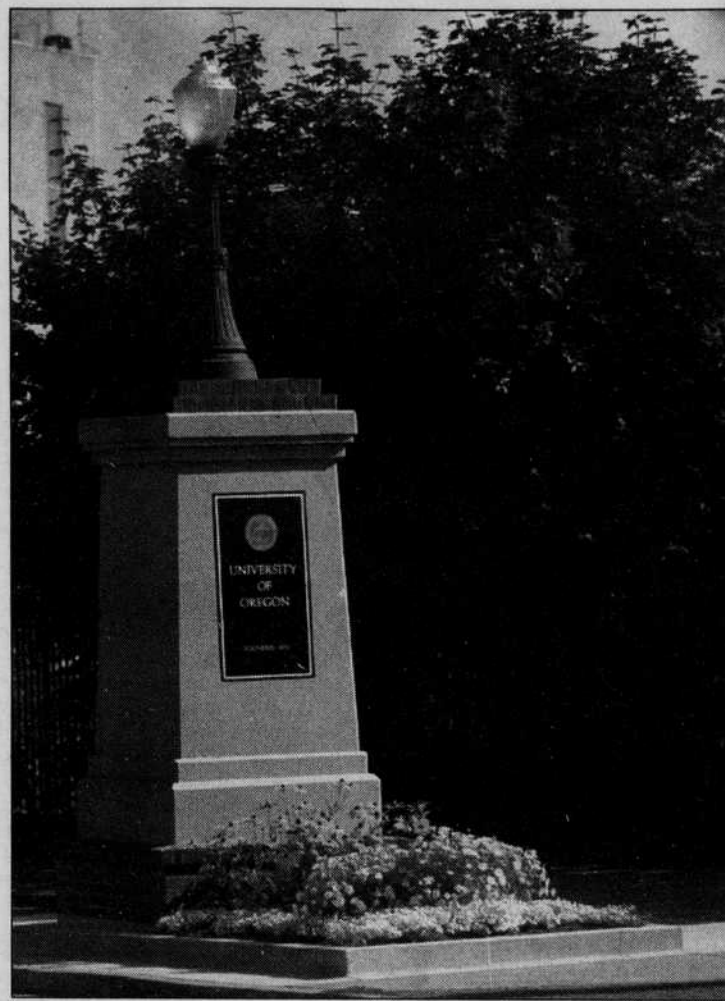
One of the detainees, Allen Cox, now 50 and an abstract painter in Eugene, said he supports the students of today in their "rights and obligations" to speak up about that in which they believe.

"That's part of what going to the University of Oregon is about," Cox said. "It has been for many, many years."

On the night that Cox and the other protesters were arrested, he said, various people on campus put together a brick barricade to block out traffic from 13th Avenue through the central part of campus, which otherwise was heavily trafficked and had been long-talked about as a danger to pedestrians.

"Obviously, the authorities came and tore [the barricades] down after a while, but they avoided a real confrontation," he said. "They kind of negotiated a dismantling, as I recall."

Within a year, however, the University and the city of Eugene agreed to close off 13th Avenue permanently at the site of the original barricades on Kincaid Street, Cox said.



Emerald

The University's history and tradition dates back to its founding in 1876.

More brain for your buck

The University has recently received national recognition in a number of ways. U.S. News and World Report this year ranked four graduate programs in its respective top 20 in the nation — education, architecture, environmental law and special education.

For the third year in a row, the University is listed in "The Fiske Guide to Colleges" as one of the nation's best bargains for students.

The guide's 2001 edition includes the University in its "best buys" list of 40 schools in the United States and Canada.

That acclaim apparently stretches far because the University had the highest percentage of international students and the highest percentage of students who participated in study-abroad programs among all U.S. public research universities for the year 1997-1998, based on data gathered by the Institute of International Education.

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