

WESTERN PIONEERS

■ Find out what 'Animal House,' 'The Simpsons' and virgins have to do with campus sculptures

By Courtney Sweet
for the Emerald

He has been in a major motion picture and on television, and thousands walk by him every day without giving him a thought. Who is he? OK, it's not a he, it's the Pioneer, the statue of a grizzled mountain man that stands across 13th Avenue from Johnson Hall.

Featured in the opening credits of the movie "Animal House" and, according to legend and the University tour manual, the inspiration for the statue of Jebediah Springfield in the cartoon show "The Simpsons," the Pioneer is one of the most famous objects on campus. Sophomore tour guide Zach Mull said he gets a good reaction when he tells students on his tours that Jebediah Springfield was modeled after the statue.

Sculpted by noted artist A. Phimister Proctor, the statue was donated to the University by Portland lawyer Joseph Teal and dedicated in 1919.

Though the Pioneer now wears the traditional clothes

of the period, this was not always so. According to a 1980 University planning office report by Stephen W. Long, Proctor used a mountain man from Burns, Ore., as the model for his statue, and he posed in the nude. The clothes were added to the statue later.

The base of the statue also comes from an older Oregon: Former University archivist Keith Richard said the statue sits on a rock from the bottom of the McKenzie River. The stone was dredged and brought to campus, and only one-third of it is above ground, he said.

Shortly after the Pioneer was erected, Teal complained about its positioning, Richard said. Teal thought the Pioneer ought to face west, instead of south as it had been placed. Teal also worried about all the trees surrounding the statue, fearing a storm might fell a tree and damage the Pioneer.

Richard said the University assured Teal the placement was only temporary, and the statue would soon be moved to a more prominent location on campus — it never was. As Richard noted, the statue has been "just temporarily there since 1919."

A short walk from the Pioneer statue, between Hendricks Hall and Susan Campbell Hall, sits the Pioneer Mother. Also sculpted by Proctor, it was donated by University Vice President Burt Brown Barker and dedicated in 1932.

According to Barker, the statue was commissioned in honor of his mother and "her life after the hardships ... and the sorrows of pioneering were past." He saw her as representative not of the battles pioneer women fought in their travels west, but of their rest and reflection following those battles.

The Pioneer Mother also has its share of legends. According to Richard, one story says that "the Pioneer Mother would stand up when a virgin walks by."

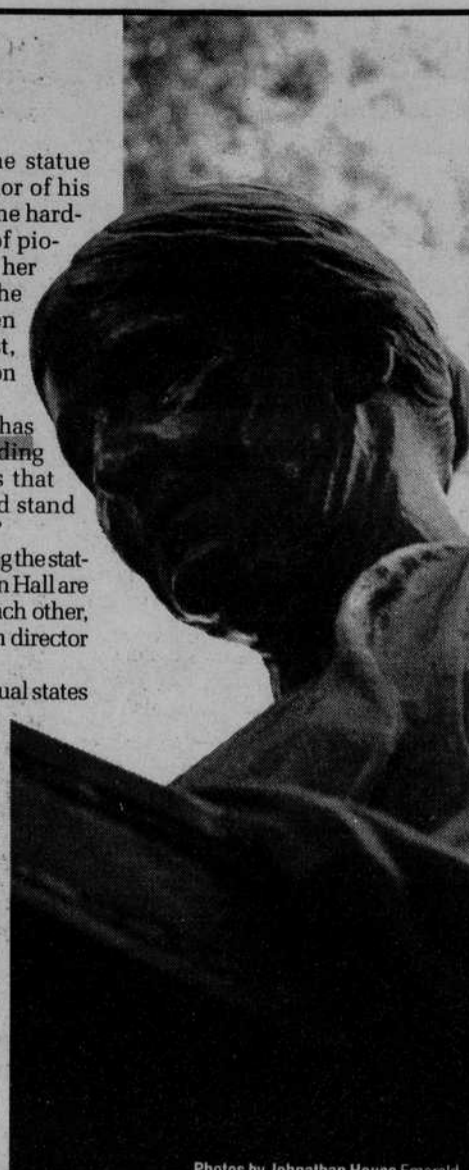
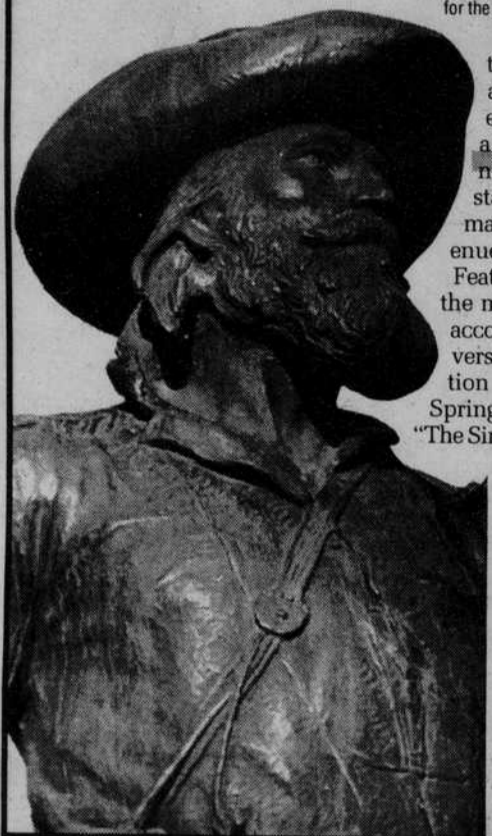
Another legend surrounding the statues is that the doors in Johnson Hall are glass so the statues can see each other, said Cora Bennett, the interim director of student orientation.

The University's tour manual states that "the two statues and glass doors are said to symbolize early thought that men and women should 'look, but not touch,'" but Bennett emphasized that the University has no idea how true that may be.

The story continues, saying that at one point students staged a sit-in to keep the glass doors when the University considered replacing them.

During the 1970s, the Prometheus statue near the

Turn to **Statues**, page 11B



Photos by Johnathan House Emerald

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Internships offer credit for volunteer program

■ The student-run Community Internship Program places volunteers in activity areas for sharing and instruction

By Courtney Misslin
for the Emerald

In the first-grade classroom where she volunteers, Jenna Rohde noticed a student becoming increasingly frustrated with his handwriting. He was near tears when Rohde came to his aid. At first, he shied away from her, but she told him they could "do it together." Soon after, he turned around, and together they mastered the letter "K."

"It was amazing to see how proud

he was of himself. Now I felt like crying," Rohde said.

Rohde is just one of the students who works in the community and earns credit through the Community Internship Program. CIP is a student-run, student-initiated program that was founded in 1969.

The program places students in local internships and grants upper-division credit based on the student's time commitment. Brooke Wadsworth, head of the Public Schools division of CIP, said, "It is a program that is so beneficial to students, and a lot of people don't even know who we are or what we offer."

At CIP, a wide range of student interests is met with a variety of internship opportunities. The program offers six divisions of internships — Building Blocks, Human Services, Leadership, Mentorship, Outdoor School and Public Schools. Students can also create their own internship or mentorship program. During their first term of participation, interns take a complementary seminar. After that, interns may continue at their placements without attending a seminar.

Wadsworth said the program "is a great way for students to relate to peers that are in similar situations." They are inspired and motivated not only by the people they work with at their internships, but also by meeting with those who share similar goals and interests, she said.

Every Tuesday night, the Public Schools interns discuss current issues, challenges and strategies that educators need to consider. Multicultural issues, special education and methods of being effective in a classroom are all among the topics they delve into during the seminar. Some of the guest speakers on their agenda include a middle school science teacher and the superintendent of Eugene public schools.

But many students in the program agree that the bulk of their learning occurs at their internships, where

Turn to **CIP**, page 11B



Since 1950, the Erb Memorial Union has been the gathering place for campus activities at the University of Oregon.

The EMU provides lounges, art galleries, a variety of food venues, a pool hall and arcade, a number of services, group meeting rooms and a staff of program consultants to assist student groups. This is where the more than 150 student groups call home, making the EMU a center for community interaction, activism and socializing.

The EMU is located on the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street at the heart of the UO campus.

www.emu.uoregon.edu



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