

# Oregon Legislature receives failing score on green issues

This year's Environmental Scorecard finds that the Oregon Legislature has 'battered' the environment

By Caron Alarab  
News Reporter

When it came to supporting environmental issues in 2003, the Oregon Legislature flunked miserably with a 39 percent rating, according to the 2003 Environmental Scorecard.

Released by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters on Oct. 21, the scorecard showed the local environment as battered after the Legislature passed more than two dozen anti-environmental bills in 2003.

Katy Daily, the Oregon league's field director and Lane County staff person, said Oregon's failing score reveals a need for more public involvement at the local level.

"A lot of people think globally when they think of the environment, but there are a lot of really local issues that affect our lives even more," she said. "We want voters to be able to use the scorecard as a tool."

The scorecard identified four environmentally harmful bills that Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed into law.

Among those were bills that weakened the state Forest Practices Act and put taxpayers at risk of covering polluters' Willamette River clean-up costs.

One bill allocated less than 20 percent of the necessary implementation funds for the Pesticide Use Reporting

System, a four-year-old effort designed to track what pesticides are used where in Oregon — and in what quantities — to help protect public health and water quality.

ly said.

Corcoran said he has mixed feelings about the results of the 2003 scorecard because 10 of his fellow senators received scores of zero percent.

"The fact that so many other representatives had bad scores shows that the OLCV is very rigid in its position," Corcoran said.

OLCV Political Director Jed Jorgensen said the 2003 scores should not be taken lightly.

"It's time to put Oregon first," he said in a recent press release. "This Legislature failed to clean up our rivers and protect our farmland. Voters should hold them accountable at the ballot box in 2004."

Besides encouraging Oregon voters to contact the state representatives included in the scorecard phone list, Daily said the Oregon league hopes to inspire young voters to be more politically active and aware of environmental issues.

"It would be great to get more students to support pro-environment candidates," Daily said. "A lot of campus people miss out on local decisions that affect our everyday life."

Although hard copies of the scorecard are not available to the general public, the 2003 scorecard and past scorecards are online at <http://www.olcv.org/scorecard>.

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at [caronalrab@dailyemerald.com](mailto:caronalrab@dailyemerald.com).



Although more anti-environmental bills became law this year relative to the last four years, fewer bills reached the governor overall because of individual senator efforts, Daily said.

As a representative of the University area, Sen. Tony Corcoran, D-Cottage Grove, received credit from the Oregon league for stopping most of the House-passed bills in Senate committee.

"He kind of played goalie," Dai-

## TUITION

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percent increase in tuition and fees since 2001.

A student taking 13 to 16 credits during the 2003-04 academic year will spend an estimated \$4,875 in tuition and fees, according to the Office of Student Financial Aid. That amount is \$800 more than what a student would have paid in 2001-02, according to the Oregon University System.

Amanda Lorts, a junior linguistics major, said the continual increase in tuition definitely affects her life as a student. Lorts said she has suffered a cut in her financial aid, and every term she gets \$200 deeper into debt to the University.

Lorts works as a cook to cover her living expenses, but her income doesn't pay for school costs. Instead she relies on federal loans and expects to owe around \$15,000 to \$20,000 after she graduates. Lorts said she hopes to get a hold on her loans after she leaves the University so she can get a job and eventually attend graduate school.

Stephanie Langenfeld, a senior majoring in psychology and journalism, said she also feels the effects of tuition hikes every year.

Langenfeld said her financial aid and unsubsidized loans used to cover the cost of her tuition and

books, but with tuition going up and financial aid going down, she now has to cover extra costs with more loans.

"It definitely adds to the stress of a student," Langenfeld said. "And we're already stressed about money anyway."

Langenfeld pays for some of the cost of her education by reading

"I get frustrated when I see tuition going up and money that was intended for students going to other parts of the state."

Stephanie Langenfeld  
Senior

and recording textbook chapters for disabled students. She recently started her own homemade soap company, Moon Flower Soap, to supplement her student income.

"I get frustrated when I see tuition going up and money that was intended for students going to other parts of the state," Langenfeld said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at [shoikeda@dailyemerald.com](mailto:shoikeda@dailyemerald.com).

## ADDRESS

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Frank Strong saying that the university must "become the center of the intellectual life of a state."

Frohnmayr described Streisinger's research as an example of a university's role in a state. He said the difficulties associated with recent statewide budget cuts do not excuse the University from this role.

Frohnmayr said in the last several years the University has seen such a decline in state funding that it can no longer be called "state supported," but merely "state assisted" or perhaps just "state located."

He said the University has continued to flourish because of motivated

faculty, such as those who were recognized at the convocation, and because of private donations, which made projects like the recently opened Lillis Business Complex possible.

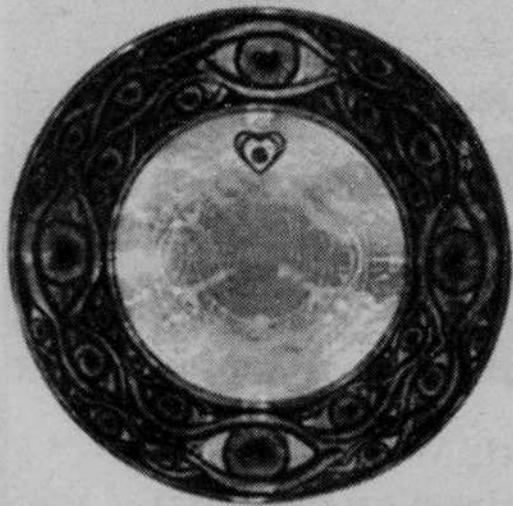
Stephanie Midkiff, a faculty member from the Knight Law Library, said the University is fulfilling its role as an intellectual center "as best as it can with the funds we have."

Assistant Professor of religious studies Daniel Falk, who was awarded one of the Williams Council Teaching Awards at the convocation, said the University is coping well with the loss of state money. He said Oregon is "renowned for getting things done with less."

Chris Potter is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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