

Two women to lead ASUO lobby effort

By CHARLOTTE STEPHENS
Of the Emerald

"We expect to act more as legislative educators than as lobbyists ourselves," says Robin Derringer, recently appointed legislative co-coordinator for the ASUO.

"We would like to project the image of an office that takes in interested people and works with them," explains Lyndia Wilt, who serves as the other co-coordinator.

Wilt and Derringer have spent the summer gathering background information on issues and legislators to help represent University students in the State Legislature this year.

Beginning fall term, they plan to take over a wider range of work, as well as continuing their extensive research. New responsibilities will include preparing testimony, public relations work, trying to improve the image of the University, and establishing educational work sessions or mini-courses in lobbying.

"The Legislature is not sympathetic to the student body," says Derringer, "principally because students have not learned to be effective as lobbyists in a broad-based way."

What priorities does the ASUO have for the two co-coordinators and other interested lobbyists this year?

"Probably the first thing is the question of incidental fees," says Bill Wyatt, ASUO president, speaking of Oregon Revised Statute 351.070. Scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1973, the statute states that the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) has the power to "prescribe fees . . . and incidental expenses deemed necessary to carry out the educational program authorized by the board."

Wyatt is concerned that ASUO agencies such as legal services, the Housing Office, and the Graduate Student Council will not be deemed "necessary to carry out the educational program" by the board.

He also objects to an addition to the statute entitled the "Newby Amendment." The amendment authorizes SBHE to collect fees for "student activities not included in the educational program," but adds, "The payment of such fees shall be at the option and selection of the student and shall not be a prerequisite of enrollment."

Wyatt feels that voluntary student funding of ASUO agencies is unlikely. "If it (the Newby Amendment) withstands, the ASUO will probably be pretty much non-existent," he says.

Other areas he hopes ASUO lobbyists will be involved in include University funding, tenant-landlord legislation, 18-year-old drinking laws, welfare rights and scholarships.

The lobbyists themselves hope to develop more ties with the community. "Student needs aren't needs affecting only students," Derringer says. "So many times issues important to students also cover a broader scale but there is no communication with others."

Both co-coordinators emphasize the need for practical political experience such as lobbying among concerned citizens. "The fact you're working in the political system is enough to give a broad background in politics," Wilt says.

The position of legislative coordinator was originally intended for one director and one secretary, but Wilt and Derringer applied to share the duties and salaries equally.

"We took the job to test a job sharing principle we both happen to believe in," says Derringer. "We didn't care about the salary and we're good at keeping each other informed."

Wilt and Derringer have had extensive lobbying experience. Both have testified before the Senate Finance Committee in Washington D.C. on social reform bill HR-1. Wilt is president of Lane County ADC (Aid for Dependent Children) Association, of which Derringer is also a member.

The legislative co-coordinators' office is located on the third floor of the EMU along with all other ASUO offices.



Miller

Photo by Phil Waldstein

Drug center offers free analysis service

By CAMERON STAUTH
Of the Emerald

A new ASUO service will answer any question about any kind of drug.

The Drug Information Center, created last spring, has struggled against meager funding and hassling from the community to become one of the most vital ASUO programs now sponsored.

One of the most worthwhile of the drug center's functions is the drug analysis service, which will tell you, for free, exactly what is in the drug that you give them to analyze.

"About 70 per cent of the drugs that are analyzed through this center turn out to be impure," said Mark Miller, center director. "Most of the time people do not get what they paid for. Most street drugs are watered down with other substances, many of them harmful."

For example, Miller said, "acid is often sold as psilocybin, and many hallucinogens contain amphetamines."

In addition to the analysis service, the drug center also has an extensive library open to the public, is sponsoring a psychoactive drug course in the fall term, provides speakers to community meetings, puts out pamphlets, does research and answers a great many phone calls from people with questions about drugs.

"We've answered about 600 calls this spring and summer that involved fairly simple questions," said Miller, "and were able to respond after five or ten minutes of research. And we've received about 125 calls that required extensive research."

The class that the drug center will be sponsoring this fall is open to any student and is fully accredited. The class will feature "a great many of the west coast's foremost drug experts," Miller said, who will speak formally and informally at the regular Thursday, 7:30 to 9:30 class, in 130 Commonwealth. There are no prerequisites and no limit to number of students for the Health 409 course.

Miller said his biggest problem so far has been getting money to pay for the center. "Right now we're operating on funds from a government agency," he said, "but that will run out by the time school starts. Then we need to get more money from the ASUO Senate."

This summer in a controversial action the senate cut about half the funds to the drug analysis service, after previously allocating them. Miller said at the time he felt his program was "singled out for personal reasons." He said the program is one of the better run and most important of all the ASUO programs.

Miller was angry at the fund cutback and said the senate's action was "hickey mouse." he is applying for a \$35,000 National Institute of Health grant, hoping to be able to disaffiliate with the ASUO.

Miller plans to ask the Senate for about \$5000 to cover the center's expenses for the 1972 school year. Last spring they were granted about \$1300.

Among the center's many expenses is the money they must pay PharmChem, the Palo Alto, Calif., laboratory that analyzes drugs for them.

In order for a consumer to have a drug analyzed he must:

- Call the Drug Information Center at 686-5411 who will ask what the person thinks the drug is. Then the consumer will be given a code number.

- Then the consumer will mail a sample of his drug to Palo Alto.

- The Palo Alto lab will tell the drug center what the drug was. The drug center publishes this information in the local media, along with the code number, so that the consumer will know what his drug is by looking in the newspaper for his code number.

About half of the drug center's activity is centered around illegal drugs and the rest has to do with pharmaceuticals. Often, Miller said, doctors will prescribe drugs to patients without telling the patient the specific effects of the drug.

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