

Republican meet student leaders

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM (Special) — House Republicans opened their doors for the first time to young people Tuesday.

Several Republican members met with Oregon student leaders and issued invitations described by former ASUO Senate President Stephanie Larsen as "incredible."

Larsen was the main lobbyist last session for a bill that would have put a student on the State Board of Higher Education and said many legislators wouldn't even talk with her about the issue then.

Tuesday, the Republicans proved they were at least willing to talk, and indicated they may well support a bill to be introduced in the House next week that would place three students on the state board.

They invited the students to use their caucus rooms for meetings at any time and offered to introduce legislation of concern to the students.

The students also testified in favor of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, vending non-prescription contraceptives, repealing abortion laws, abolishing the requirement that Oregon servicemen involuntarily serve in undeclared wars, increasing student input into tenure decisions, and developing a program for academic innovation in higher education.

The Republicans, Gordon MacPherson (R.-Waldport), Stafford Hansell (R.-Hermiston), Ed Patterson (R.-La Grande), Robert Ingalls (R.-Corvallis) and Mary Burrows (R.-Eugene), met with the eight students for

about two hours and scheduled a second meeting for Jan. 31 "to see where your legislation is and how we can further help."

During the discussion, ASUO President Bill Wyatt outlined the reasons he is lobbying for a bill to put three students on the state board.

"Though there are many arguments pro and con, the greatest argument for putting students on the state board is the one that has often been used against it," Wyatt said.

"That is the argument about constituent members."

Wyatt said he felt students are the consumers of education and in that position should be placed on the board. "Faculty and staff have a different relationship — that of employees," he said.

Wyatt said it is time students "quit talking about input and begin talking about influence."

He explained that three students are needed on the board to serve on its three major committees — academic affairs, finance, and building, and said, "At this point, a compromise position of placing one student on the board would be personally unacceptable."

Joan Eggleston, Interinstitutional Union of Students (IUS) state chairer, said that ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment "is a first priority to me."

She points out the disparity between male and female salaries in similar Oregon Civil service positions, and in the number of men versus women administrators and professors in the State System of Higher Education.

University student Greg Leo, state chairer of the Oregon Student Association, explained the "mainly informative" role OSA plans to play during the legislative session and offered

the Republicans "a vehicle to feel the pulse of students across Oregon on issues."

David Dietz, Oregon State University student body president, told the legislators that because of current tenure practices in the State System of Higher Education, "an increasing number of University professors are being forced to form unions."

"Legislators ought to be concerned with the whole question of tenure, unionization and collective bargaining," Dietz said.

He also told the Republicans that the legislature must find a new method of funding university athletic departments, because "students are no longer so socially oriented as we are interested in innovation that will affect our future."

Dietz said many students now feel athletics are more for the benefit of alumni and the reputation of the state, than for students. Students and Republicans alike seemed convinced that the age of majority should be lowered, and MacPherson said he plans to introduce such legislation.

After the meeting, Larsen, who was an observer, said she believed the Republicans made overtures to students "for two basic reasons: the 18-year-old vote, and the fact they (Republicans) are minority party."

The students plan to take advantage of the channels offered by the Republicans. "I'm going to have two or three bills that would reform tenure on Mac Pherson's desk tomorrow," Wyatt said.

They said they still plan to work closely with the Democrats in getting legislation passed, but as Wyatt put it, "The Republicans made us an offer we can't refuse."

(See related story, page eight.)

LCAA proposes land swap

By DICK SCHLAGETER
Of the Emerald

The Campus Planning Committee met Tuesday in EMU to hear a proposal from the Lane County Auditorium Association (LCAA) which would use the Alton Baker Park area as a site for an auditorium-convention center in north Eugene.

The site would be adjacent to Autzen Stadium and would share parking and cultural facilities with the University. Charles Wright, chairer of the committee, said the next scheduled meeting would determine what the University is interested in, what "trade-offs" can be expected with the county and the most negative aspects of the project.

John Amundson of Lutes and Amundson, an architectural firm drawing plans for the site, said it is more important to settle on concepts for use of this land than on agreeing on boundaries. He stated that, in a possible land swap, the county would own the park but the University would own the stadium.

The committee's findings would be reviewed by University President Robert Clark and then sent to the State Board of Higher Education for approval.

Initiation of the project would have to be approved by the voters in a special \$5 million bond issue scheduled for a May 8 special election.

The project, which will be jointly used by the University and the community, contains elements setting limitation on building size (height) and interference with the "native sense of the park area."

Elements of the project range from an auditorium, which would be used for cultural, educational and sports activities, to enlargement of parking areas there and around Autzen Stadium.

Five and a half acres are available for the project which is estimated to be completed, if approved, by 1976 — a bicentennial year for Eugene.

Some possible problems that might occur as a result of the

project were discussed by the committee members such as parking conflicts between the Stadium and the auditorium, noise level, traffic congestion around the area and destruction of "native" appearance of the park.

Committee members noted that no sound comes from the Stadium, football games are scheduled five years in advance, and the auditorium could schedule events accordingly. No major traffic study of this area has been done.

Lee Bishop, president of LCAA, said the site would be a "community center and not a convention center." He said further that it would blend with the landscape.

The Alton Baker Park site is an alternative to a downtown site located at the corner of Sixth Ave. and Olive St. Eugene voters turned down a civic center proposal and an accompanying \$5.5 million bond issue in last November's election.

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