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Newbry defends new proposal

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM (Special) — "If students ever had a friend, it is the legislature."

Such is the feeling of State Sen. Lynn Newbry (R-Talent), author of the "Newbry Amendment" regarding student incidental fees passed by the 1971 legislature.

With the controversy over that 1971 amendment and a subsequent amendment to that amendment introduced last week by Newbry, the state senator expressed his feelings about incidental fees and students in general in an Emerald interview last week.

"Students on the defensive are so tight they are convinced we are going to clobber them some way," Newbry said. He said that if the legislature was going to "clobber them" it would have done so in the middle '60's "when they were burning down buildings."

"The legislators showed unusual restraint then," Newbry said, "much to their everlasting credit."

Newbry, himself often considered by students to be a foe of

higher education, stressed that he had nothing against students or extracurricular student activities.

He said his big complaint, instead, was the manner in which one program was being funded—mandatorily through the institution.

"OSPIRG was the real thing I took exception to, without casting any reflection on OSPIRG," Newbry said. "But suppose the Students for a Democratic Society or the Young Americans for Freedom had wanted to be funded that way?"

He admitted, however, that in the haste to correct this situation two years ago "we got some language in that could have been construed to not include some programs such as athletics."

This is why he has introduced an amendment to his 1971 amendment (SB 47). "The words 'educational programs,' regarding what can be funded by student fees, is the real hang-up with the first amendment," Newbry said.

Questions arose as to what is considered part of the "educational program," he said.

Under his new proposal, "enrollment fees may include charges for programs under the supervision or control of the board deemed necessary or advantageous by the board (of Higher Education) for the cultural and physical development of students."

And Newbry believes that under this proposal, even programs currently funded by money allocated to the ASUO not directly under the control of the State Board could continue to be funded. This would include such programs as OSPIRG and the University Day Care Center,

which are not under the supervision of the State Board.

"Student government is under the control of the board," Newbry said, and therefore, anything student government chooses to fund "is up to them."

Newbry said that a strict interpretation of the existing law is stricter than the law he is proposing. And he said he hadn't heard disagreement with the new proposal from any student.

He said he was glad that students question why things are being done in the legislature, "but sometimes I get a little impatient when students close their minds," Newbry added.

Wyatt opposes new proposal

ASUO President Bill Wyatt said Friday that he does not support Sen. Lynn Newbry's (R-Talent) latest amendment to ORS.070 regarding the allocation of student incidental fees.

And Wyatt said he has two amendments to the proposal ready to introduce at the hearing on the bill (SB 47) scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday in room 315 of the Capitol.

Wyatt is concerned about the part of the amendment which reads, "The enrollment fees may include charges for programs under the supervision or control of the board (of Higher Education)."

"It is all a matter of legal interpretation," Wyatt said in response to Newbry's statement that programs such as a Day Care Center of OSPIRG could still be funded if the amendment becomes law.

Wyatt believes that such programs would be in danger of not qualifying for incidental funding under the new proposal.

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