

OSPIRG campaigns for consumer center

By MICHAEL KESTEN
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) today began a campaign to recruit student volunteers to participate in a community-oriented consumer help center.

The center, called the Consumer Education and Advocacy Center (CEAC), will start operating as soon as its volunteers are trained, probably around the middle of next month.

The center was established be-

cause of a recognized need in the Eugene-Springfield area for a citizens' organization designed to present local consumer problems to business persons and the Oregon Legislature.

"State consumer help agencies and the local Better Business Bureau are flooded with complaints which they can't deal with adequately because of inadequate staff and funding, and political red tape," said Craig Quinn, one of three student coordinators for the project.

Quinn continued, "There is a

need for a grass roots organization aware of consumer problems to mediate between consumers and business, and between the consuming public and the Legislature."

The center will operate five days a week through the OSPIRG office in the EMU. There will be a consumer phone line for direct complaints. A consumer education outreach program will be established for teaching consumers their rights.

With the phone line as their main link, combined with their fil-

ing system, operating procedure, and reference libraries, the center hopes to keep up on recurring consumer problems and existing legislation.

Dave Tobin, another student coordinator who began research for the center five months ago, has found several reasons for the failure of similar organizations. "Consumer services fail most often in the areas of follow-up, consistent procedures, and personal contact between the troubled complainant and the staff person assigned to his case," he said.

"State and federal consumer agencies are too far removed from the problems of the individual consumer, and because of pressures from business and political priorities, have a limited effectiveness," Tobin said. He added,

"There is significant consumer legislation on the books. The main problem is that the average person doesn't know about it, or how to use it."

The center is seeking dedicated volunteers willing to work for credit and experience. Becky Kuiken, also a coordinator for the center, emphasizes that "previous experience in consumer protection is helpful but not necessary. We are seeking students able to invest about six hours a week in the center to monitor the phones, write letters to businesses and state agencies, participate in consumer education programs, and present testimony at legislative hearings."

All interested students are urged to contact OSPIRG in Suite 3 of the EMU or call 686-4073 or 484-9405.

drive-n-save MARKET

2370 W. 11th
30th & Hilyard
Eugene

Cottage Grove
Oakridge

U.S.D.A. CHOICE Bone-in
ROUND STEAK \$1¹⁷ LB

Totinos Party

PIZZA 88^c

14 oz. SAUSAGE OR HAMBURGER
13 oz. CHEESE OR PEPPERONI

Chicken of the SEA
chunk light meat

TUNA 49^c
6½ oz. tin

Grocery

Coffee Mate Non-Dairy
CREAMER

16 oz. \$2⁹⁹

Purina Beef-Bacon & Cheese
DOG FOOD

10 lb. bag \$2⁵⁹

Kraft Macaroni & Cheese
DINNER

7¼ oz. 4/97^c

Viva Luncheon
NAPKINS

140 ct. pkg. 45^c

Chiffon
TOWELS

jumbo rolls 49^c

Chiffon Facial
TISSUE

pkg. of 200 49^c

Blue Mountain Jr. Mix
PET FOOD

4 lb. \$1¹⁹

Hydrox vanilla or chocolate
COOKIES

19 oz. 79^c

Cream Flake
SHORTENING

3 lb. tin \$1⁰⁹

Meat:

PORK STEAK

lb. \$1²⁷

Oregon Grown Stewing
CHICKENS

Whole lb. 33^c
cut ups lb. 37^c

Produce:

Spinach

5 bunches 99^c

Frozen Foods:

Flav-R-Pac
GRAPE JUICE

12 oz. 44^c

Variety:

Gillette Trac II
BLADES

9 cartridge \$1³⁹

Kraft Mild

CHEDDAR CHEESE \$2.49
2 lb. LOAF

SPECIAL LILT

**HOME PERMANENT
COMPLETE STYLE KIT APPLICATION 87^c**

**red radishes
green onions**

3 bunches 29^c

Centennial

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Returning to one theme of the lecture series, Toelken said he thinks the study of this kind of local folklore can breathe life into the nation's bicentennial observance. "We keep having our attention

directed at the big dull things on the horizon — to the famous people instead of to the main bulk of humanity that built the country. That's where the interesting stories lie."

Phi Beta Kappa

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10 per cent of its senior class into the organization.

At the same time higher GPA's have caused Phi Beta Kappa to raise its membership requirements and increase the number of people on its selection committee to handle the immense work load, grade inflation seems to have sparked a growth in student interest in the organization.

"Student interest is stronger now than it has ever been before," says Teresa Carp, visiting assistant professor of classics and secretary-treasurer of Phi Beta Kappa, "mainly because more and more people are becoming eligible."

Ernest Lund, geology professor and chairman of Phi Beta Kappa's selection committee, agrees. "It has always been high, but student interest waned a little during the 'rebellious' period of 1968-70 and a few students turned up their noses at it." He says interest is now growing. "In fact, recently I've been getting calls from students wanting to get in."

Carp reports she has also been contacted by students interested in membership in the organization. She says things have changed since she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1966 as a senior at Washington University, a small private liberal arts college in St. Louis.

"We considered it uncouth even to ask about the requirements or how to get in," she says. "You were tapped by powers beyond your control. Now students are actively seeking selection."

Greenfield estimates that about a hundred seniors are invited each spring to join Phi Beta Kappa. Selection is made in late May and new members are initiated at June commencement. In order to be eligible, a student must either be enrolled in the college of Liberal Arts or have taken a number of upper division liberal arts courses.

Greenfield says selection is based primarily on GPA, although the number of pass-no pass courses, I's and W's on a student's transcript will be taken into consideration. A student must have attended this University for at least five terms to be considered and only seniors are eligible for membership.

A list of students in the liberal arts college whose GPA's qualify them for membership is provided Phi Beta Kappa by the registrar's office. However, each professional school is charged with notifying the organization of its eligible students.

The growing number of students with high grade point averages has increased the work load of the selection committee in recent years, Greenfield says. Made up of faculty who are Phi Beta Kappa members, the selection committee was increased from 4 to 10 members this year.

Although student interest seems to be on the rise, Greenfield admits she had doubts about the support the University's Phi Beta Kappa had among campus faculty.

"For a time I was afraid that we would have to let it fold," she says. However, an informal poll she conducted in January showed that only two of the faculty members responding to her questionnaire favored disbanding the organization. She said the main complaint was that election comes too late in the year to be of help to students in gaining admittance to medical or graduate school and that new members are initiated too late to take an active role in the organization's business.

Once a student has been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, \$15 buys a lifetime membership and the right to include that membership on resumes and applications.

Although the national chapter sponsors lectures, gives book awards, maintains scholarships and publishes a magazine (*The American Scholar*), Greenfield says the local chapter exists mainly to recognize outstanding academic achievement. "It is still one of the most prestigious honors a student can receive for academic excellence," she says.