

Students lobby on tuition costs

Editor's note: The following story is the third in a four-part series on ASUO-AOSL legislative issues to be lobbied before the Oregon Legislature next year. The issues are on the docket for an AOSL meeting in Salem Friday. Thursday's story will deal with child care and miscellaneous issues.

By STEVE FREDERICK
Of the Emerald

Lowering the percentage of instructional costs paid by students and eliminating "excess costs" in the State System of Higher Education (SSHE) budget will be offered as alternatives to increased tuition by University representatives of the Associated Oregon Student Lobby (AOSL).

In addition, the AOSL will ask that any tuition increase "not be tied to faculty salary increases," said Mark Cogan, ASUO administrative assistant for legislative affairs.

Representatives from the seven schools in the SSHE will convene Friday in Salem to formulate legislative targets for the student lobby in the coming biennium. They will work over the summer to develop a "counter budget" to the budget which will be submitted to the Legislature by the SSHE, Cogan said.

Chief targets for lobbying will be the instructional fee and the building fee, two of the four major line items in the SSHE budget.

For the past few years, resident undergraduates have been required to pay 27 per cent of their education costs, the remainder paid through state tax revenue. The lobby hopes to lower the student-paid percentage by asking for no tuition increase. This would drop the student-paid amount to 24 per cent, thereby lessening the increased burden imposed on students by inflation.

In addition, the AOSL will ask that the Legislature change its traditional policy of requiring non-resident undergraduates to pay the full cost of their education.

"The theory is that we would be able to attract enough additional (out-of-state) students to offset the decrease," Cogan explained. Oregon's rate is higher than other states, he said, and some students are "driven away" by the high costs.

"Out-of-state students are a very large factor in the local economy and bring additional tax money into the state," he added. "We've got to provide for those students."

The lobby will also examine the budget to eliminate excess costs. The state system is "top-heavy, bureaucratically," Cogan said, "with high administrative salaries." He also cited program duplication and the building fee as costing too much.

The building fee, second of the two major lobbying targets, is pooled to provide a common fund for construction projects, mortgage payments and "we don't know what other things," Cogan said.

"When one campus has a construction project it's very easy to take from the fund without establishing responsibility for costs," he charged.

While not marked as major targets, incidental fees and health fees — the other two divisions of the SSHE budget — will have proposed increases "carefully scrutinized" Cogan said.

A student legislative issues class has been working on research for the lobby, Cogan said, but additional student input is welcome.

"There's all kinds of work to be done and we can use all the help we can get."

Speaker criticizes U.S. foreign policy

By BILL LUTZ
Of the Emerald

The United States' primary interest in Africa and the Middle East is the same as it was in Southeast Asia — a vast wealth of natural resources, said Carl Bloice, editor of the national weekly, *Peoples' World*.

Bloice, a guest of Friends of the Peoples' World in Eugene, addressed a group of about 50 persons in the EMU Monday night.

Bloice recently led a delegation to the Middle East where he met with leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Lebanese Communist Party, the Communist Action Organization in Lebanon and national leaders in the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen. He also consulted with leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf based in Yemen.

Bloice carefully explained the conflict in Lebanon as a war of the "haves" against the "have nots," rather than as a religious war. "No one will deny that religion plays a part in Lebanon, but it is a class war in the very real sense."

He explained that when the French left Lebanon in 1944, they left a socio-political system divided by religion. Government positions are divided between Maronite Christians and certain Muslim sects, but the poor and the rich are not solely divided along religious lines, Bloice said. Christians and Muslims are fighting on both sides.

"In the first 10 months of the civil war," he said, "50 per cent of the communists killed were Christians."

Bloice said that the struggle in Lebanon, like the struggle in Ireland, is misrepresented in the press. He pointed out an article in the *New York Times* describing the situation in Lebanon the day after he left. "It bore no resemblance of what was happening in Lebanon," he said.

Bloice concluded with a warning.

"There is a very real danger that people cannot find Oman or many of the African nations on the map; just like they couldn't find Vietnam on the map for a very long time."

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