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Breaking the ice

Photo by Kurt Krasne

Some moisture finally came to western Oregon this week, brightening skiers hopes and leaving a broken sheet of ice in the Lawrence Hall courtyard.

ASUO prepares bills for legislative session

By BRENDA TABOR
Of the Emerald

The 1977 Oregon Legislative session opens Monday and the ASUO is gearing up to present bills and issues to Oregon's lawmakers. The ASUO is readying legislation and support for their bills.

The legislative attack falls into two areas: financial issues and academic affairs. The ASUO has developed position papers on some issues and legislative bills on others.

The student association expresses strong concern in one financial issue: athletics. The chancellor of the State Board of Higher Education will present the Legislature with a plan that would increase athletic funding by appropriating state General Fund tax money as well as an additional student fee into intercollegiate athletics.

The bill would appropriate nearly \$1 million over the next biennium, with an additional "athletic activities fee" to be levied as part of student tuition.

The ASUO has expressed concern that the proposed bill does not address itself to Title IX compliance. "We are disturbed that the route chosen for compliance appears to be boosting the support for women's athletics through student fees, rather than using the existing fees to accommodate a more manageable men's and women's program," states a legislative issue report.

The ASUO terms the allocation of funds for intercollegiate athletics "a misstatement of the true priorities of the state." They said that the bill may place pressures on tuition increases or cut funds available for academic purposes.

Students already support athletics two ways. During the 1976-77 year, student contributed incidental fees totaled \$220,000 in addition to the \$135,000 paid

for student tickets to athletic events.

The ASUO will present a bill and lobby for additional funding to help cover the cost of child care for student parents. The State Board of Higher Education's interinstitutional task force has prepared a request for the Legislature.

A bill to allow tax credits for tuition and other fees required for enrollment is also being written by ASUO staff members. The bill is intended to alleviate the burden on middle income students who are not being served by financial aid programs.

Another possibility for legislation is a voucher tuition plan. Under the tuition voucher plan, 75 per cent of the cost of education that the state now allocates to the State System of Higher Education would be placed in the student's hand in the form of a voucher.

The voucher would be valid at any state institution of higher education. Institutions which fail to serve student needs would suffer financially.

The ASUO will ask the Legislature to set up a commission to undertake an 18 month study determining the feasibility of such a plan and developing a blueprint for its establishment.

Several of the bills being formulated by the ASUO fall under the academic area. The ASUO will attempt to gain public release of faculty evaluations through the Legislature. The Student Information Bill of Rights will be the subject of another bill.

A bill for non-discrimination against students in housing and employment will be drafted soon. In addition, the ASUO may propose legislation to apply the landlord tenant act to dormitories.

The student association also hopes to preserve the student role in faculty collective bargaining gained in the last legislative session.

Survey of teens reveals heady experience

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

More Oregon teenagers have sexual relations, get drunk, take drugs, and commit crimes than ever before. In case anyone born before the launching of Sputnik needed reassurance about the validity of that statement, the Governor's Commission on Youth has issued a 51-page Report on the Opinions and Experience of Oregon Youth.

The report details the results of an opinion survey distributed to Oregon high school and junior high school students last spring. All students surveyed were born between 1958-64. The majority of the students were white, with most students coming from families with incomes above \$15,000 a year. Fifty-three per cent of the respondents were female, 47 per cent were male.

The clearest response of the survey, the commission reports, is that "youngsters simply have no heroes in the classical sense." No one name stands out as

an admirable figure to today's youth, the commission notes, lamenting the fact that there are no more heroes like Tom Mix who "stood for some specific values: honesty, square-shootin', purity, and a number of other things."

Twenty-five per cent of the students answered they admired no one or left the answer blank. Jesus Christ topped the heroes list with five per cent, John Kennedy came in with three per cent, trailed by Abe Lincoln, Harry Truman and Clint Eastwood. Mac Tse-tung, Job, and the Fonz were cited by one-tenth of one per cent of the students. Barbara Walters, the only woman listed, fared equally poorly.

Forty-two per cent of the students said they had engaged in sexual intercourse, 60 per cent of whom reported they had sex with a steady partner. Two per cent thought of themselves as homosexual.

The most significant aspect of the sexual behavior portion of the survey, the commission notes, was that of those

students who identified themselves as sexually active, 42 per cent failed to use any form of contraception. These figures conform to the 1975 statistics on abortion in the state in which over 4,000 abortions were performed on women of high school age and younger. In addition, 48 per cent of the illegitimate births in Oregon in 1975 were among teenage women. Fifty-five such births were to women under age 15 — four of these women giving birth to their second child.

Eighty-eight per cent of the males responded they would recognize the symptoms of venereal disease, while only 66 per cent of the females felt they would.

Seventy-six per cent of the teenagers said they used alcohol, 59 per cent said they used marijuana regularly. Hashish has been used by 23 per cent of the teenagers, 19 per cent have used amphetamines, 12 per cent have used barbiturates, 8 per cent have used LSD, and cocaine. Heroin has been used by one per cent of the students surveyed.

Of the students who identified themselves as drinkers, 54 per cent drink at least once a week and 50 per cent said they get drunk frequently. Half have driven while under the influence of alcohol and 73 per cent have ridden in a car whose driver was under the influence.

Twenty per cent of the students reported they drank because of peer pressure. Sixty-one per cent because "... it makes you feel good." Fourteen per cent believed "you make out better when you drink." Twenty-three per cent drink until the bottle is gone.

The commission called keggers the most common mode of youthful drinking, describing them as "sort of a modified rock festival on a small scale."

Fifty-seven per cent of the students said they had committed a crime and 20 per cent said they had been caught. Shoplifting, drug use and theft were the crimes most often committed by Oregon teenagers.