

Pocketbook issues

The Oregon State Legislature convened Monday and began work on an estimated 1,500 bills — including many that will directly affect student interests.

Students in Oregon are going to be watching the Legislature more closely than ever before. Student governments at colleges and universities throughout the state have formed a loose confederation — the Oregon Student Lobby — to present student views to legislators.

The OSL and its member schools have been working on a list of proposals for the past year. Definite proposals have begun to emerge, and a set of priorities is being established. The OSL intends to work on two broad categories of issues: financial and academic. Today's editorial will examine the financial issues; the academic issues will be presented at a later date.

The final form and strategy of the OSL's work on financial issues is not yet settled, but financial aid is likely to top the list. The ASUO, the most dynamic and best organized OSL component, intends to supplement the OSL's work for increased funding of financial aid programs and extension of benefits to middle-income students and student parents. Both classes of students are often denied needed financial aid under the current system of allocation.

A related issue, the proposed state funding of child care, also deserves support. Work on legislation to provide state funding is well under way, and testimony from student parents may be needed at some point. People with a personal stake in this legislation can help by calling the ASUO, 686-3724.

The ASUO, and probably the OSL, will also work on a plan that would allow financial aid awards to rise with increasing costs. Students on financial aid can be forced out of school by rising prices. Some sort of adjustment plan is needed.

The idea of tuition vouchers for higher education is sure to be discussed during the current legislative session. The ASUO supports a voucher plan, and the OSL is likely to work for some sort of voucher system. Under a voucher system, each student would receive an amount of money equal to the state's contribution toward the cost of his or her education. Currently, the state pays about 75 per cent of the cost of higher education and the student kicks in the remaining 25 per cent. The voucher could be applied to the cost of education at any school in the State System of Higher Education. Such a system would transform enrollment patterns at colleges and universities in Oregon, and students should start thinking about the implications of a tuition voucher system now and make their feelings known to the ASUO.

The issue of athletic funding is also sure to be argued at this session of the Legislature. The State Board of Higher Education will probably introduce a bill that would establish a special athletic fee for students supplemented by state general fund money. This is the state board's scheme for a means of financing Title IX. The ASUO wants to implement Title IX with the existing funding system, and is especially concerned that no more money be taken from students' pockets to fund athletics. Questions of control over athletic funds and the proportion of student contributions toward athletics are involved here, and a legislative struggle is likely to ensue.

All of these issues will directly affect the cost

of education in Oregon. The OSL is a potentially effective tool for keeping that cost at a minimum. Interinstitutional squabbling must be avoided and a broad base of student support and participation must be established. The ASUO and the OSL will need people to testify, write letters and talk to legislators. During the last session of the Legislature students won the right to participate in collective bargaining. This year even more can be accomplished.

Record profits

It is not surprising that giant record companies are announcing enormous profit margins at the same time they are placing \$7.98 list price records on the market. Obviously record albums are selling fast and furiously and the megacorporations that churn them out can make even more money by raising record prices.

One need only thumb through a record industry promotional organ like Rolling Stone magazine to comprehend the amazing amount of money the record fat cats are ready, willing and able to pump into promotion. Millions of dollars get dumped into corporate coffers with the direct manipulation of the youth market through advertising and air play on radio stations, promotional spots in youth magazines and in-store displays.

The day will soon arrive when we can't touch a new album for less than six dollars. It will be less than comforting to remember that a recent record company executive's luncheon with media creation Peter Frampton cost a cool \$180.

As we must always remind ourselves in capitalist society, there is a class of people in this country who do, in fact, live by bread alone.

Letters

Bad precedent

The United Farm Workers for many years have worked hard and diligently to win from the Gallo winery the right to hold free elections on whether or not to unionize. In a "Knight in shining armor" action, the Executive branch of the ASUO has come to the rescue both morally and financially. The ASUO Executive, in the name of the entire student body of the University of Oregon, has openly endorsed the boycott by the UFW. What disturbs me is that the Executive is making a moral commitment for the entire ASUO.

This administration has made considerable gains in representing the rights and welfare of the students before the university

administration, the State Board of Higher Education and the State Legislature. Endorsing the UFW boycott, however, is a different matter entirely. The UFW-Gallo controversy does not directly relate to student rights or welfare. The overall benefits of the controversy are felt in other areas of the country, not at the University of Oregon.

The UFW boycott of Gallo products is a legitimate means of political expression, one which I fully support. Like myself, most students are informed of the boycott. To print UFW disclaimers on a per ad basis with Gallo advertising is not only a needless waste of student funds, but also morally indefensible. Expenditures by the ASUO which do not directly benefit the students of the University

of Oregon are a violation of Incidental Fee Committee budget criteria.

I do not doubt the sincerity of the Executive in offering their support of the UFW cause. However, they should not have made that kind of moral commitment on behalf of the entire student body. It could set a bad precedent. To be fair, the ASUO Executive should pay to print Blaine Society disclaimers after any mention of California, Revolutionary Student Brigade disclaimers after any mention of the Carter administration, and John Birch Society disclaimers after every RSB disclaimer.

Dave Tyler
Vice-Chair
Incidental Fee Committee

Get a horse

I was born and raised in a "terrible island" named Pendleton, where my father happens to work for United Airlines. Mr. Nick Gallo's letter, in an attempt to show his anger at United Airlines, managed to insult not only the many Pendleton people who go to school here, but also a company that has served me and many of my friends well.

When fog and ice make flights late and erratic, it is easy to blame the airlines, although I never knew they controlled weather conditions. When the baggage handlers damage luggage in their race to get fifty pieces of luggage on a flight that was supposed to leave twenty minutes ago, but couldn't because it had to wait for

some people who were late from other planes because of the weather, people who have their luggage damaged vent their frustrations on the ticket agents like my father.

As to Mr. Gallo's remarks about a testy stewardess, I can't understand that. After hours of crying babies, businessmen making passes, and the "rewarding" occupation of being a waitress, I can not imagine how stewardesses could lose that undying patience so characteristic of Florence Nightingale.

Lost and mangled baggage and packages are just another of the "conveniences" that come with modern living, such as air pollution and traffic jams. It will be with us until someone comes up with a better idea to transport bags. Until then, airlines, trains, buses, mail service, and even UPS will turn out damaged baggage.

On your next trip Mr. Gallo, remember there is one mode of transportation that is still very reliable. I'm sure you can find someone to rent you a horse and buggy.

Nancy A. Pope
Sophomore-Political Science
and French

The fact decides

When Mark Kirschmeier asked "Who decides?" who is a PRO-homo sapiens I gave the perfect answer: "The fact decides." That should feature the interview. Judges of a national supreme court, presidents, prime ministers, premiers and legislatures are to seek the fact or be capitally punished.

PRO-homo sapiens
270 S. 52nd Springfield
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