

# Grey Panthers to tackle taxes, health care

By STEPHANIE NOONAN  
Of the Emerald

Armed with six priorities and a year of lobbying experience, Lane County Grey Panthers are launching another round of advocacy and legislative lobbying for senior citizens.

Organized in September, 1975, the Panthers are "people of all ages working for social changes in care for the elderly," said Jim Davis, Grey Panther director and the group's registered lobbyist.

Davis listed property taxes, health care, dentures, probate, mandatory retirement and a bill prohibiting public officials from raising their salaries while in office as the group's top concerns.

Property taxes are apparently senior citizens' biggest problem, Davis said. The group hopes to

get those taxes reduced.

They also advocate more funds for senior health care programs like Oregon Project Independence. Project Independence, an alternative to institutional health care, enables seniors to receive care in their homes, Davis said.

Nursing homes will attract Panther attention as the group pushes for public disclosure of funds by nursing home owners.

"We also want to have a general checklist and keep records on the homes," Davis said. "We don't want to be considered policemen," he added. "Some are already scared of us, though. And the nursing homes that are scared have something to hide."

Panthers also favor licensing denturists, the lab technicians who manufacture dentures.

"We want the dentist to make the teeth on his own. Then the

patient can go directly to the lab technician, get fitted, and the teeth will cost less than one-half of what they'd pay the dentist for the service."

Panther energy also will be directed toward passing a law allowing seniors beyond mandatory retirement age to work for public employers. The law would permit senior citizens to work in any senior programs like community and senior services.

This legislative session also will see Panthers pushing to lower the cost of probate, the legal establishment of a will's validity, Davis said.

Besides Davis' work as the group's registered lobbyist, Grey Panther members are sent to the Legislature to testify and lobby. Other lobbying assistance comes from a University political science course, Politics in Aging. Davis

said the class' major assignment is working with the Panthers on lobbying projects.

In addition to legislative projects, the Panthers plan to continue work on their monthly television show, Senior Prospectus, and a weekly radio program, Senior Review.

A crime-prevention program which involves registering household goods in senior citizens' homes is planned, Davis said. They also hope to sponsor a door-to-door food drive for the poor around late winter or early spring.

A cross-generational housing project for seniors and college-age people also is near completion. Research on the joint-living

experience is finished, Davis said, and the Panthers now are searching for the appropriate house to rent.

"College students are considered on the outside of society like older people are," Davis said. "Younger people often can't relate to a lot of problems of senior citizens. This project will bring the two together, sharing a common sense about their being."

Davis stresses this involvement by both senior citizens and younger people. He urges anyone interested in senior welfare to participate. The Panthers meet Mondays at 3 p.m. at Celeste Campbell Senior Center, 155 High St. For information on participation call Davis at 345-4655.

## ZANU threatens minority regime

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN  
Of the Emerald

Ian Smith's white settler regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) used to estimate its lifespan at somewhere near a thousand years. After an increasingly successful armed struggle against its racist policies, Smith's government will be lucky to last out the next 24 months.

Tirivafi Kangai, representing the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), says the Smith government is doomed, and Kangai's organization is doing everything it can to push the regime over the edge. Speaking at a press conference Monday and again to a University audience Monday night, Kangai told of his guerrilla arms fight for national liberation.

"Only through fighting will we be free," Kangai explained. "In the '50s and '60s we thought we might get back our country by working through the colonial government. When we learned this tactic was a deadend, we turned to armed struggle to get our country back."



Tirivafi Kangai

The repeated failure of negotiations with the white minority government has been underscored by the recent collapse of the Geneva Conference and the bankruptcy of the so-called Kissinger peace plan, Kangai said.

"As far as ZANU is concerned, the Kissinger plan is a package we

were sold, and we rejected it," Kangai said. "The two-year time limit the Kissinger plan sets for the 'transition period' cannot be accepted. Our independence is long overdue. We should have been free long ago."

Kangai said ZANU is in control of some two-thirds of the countryside and has widespread support in urban areas of Zimbabwe.

"Our program of armed struggle is supported by 98 per cent of the blacks in my country. Right now a municipal transportation strike in the capital, Salisbury, is entering its fourth week. We are supported by both peasants and workers," Kangai said.

Kangai explained that ZANU's alliance with the Zimbabwe African People's Union should be continued in order to build a broadly based government after the collapse of the white regime. "This transitional period right now is critical to us," Kangai said. "The foreign interests in our land could put a puppet government in power to maintain the status quo." Kangai said a puppet government — whether black or white — would be opposed by the 80,000 ZANU troops.

ZANU allies itself with the "front line" nations bordering Zimbabwe: Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania. But, Kangai emphasized, ZANU is dependent upon no outside power to see Zimbabwe to independence.

"We are our own liberators," Kangai said, adding that ZANU's acceptance of aid from the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia and other nations is help accepted with no strings attached.

"We accept advice and suggestions from these countries but we allow no one to tell us what to do. We make the final decisions. We don't need Cuban troops or anybody else. Right now if you go to our camps, you will see no one there but people from Zimbabwe," Kangai said.

## SUAB seats available

Filing opens at noon today for four positions on the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB). The coming election will not involve the entire student body. Only students with declared majors in the four constituencies are eligible to become candidates and vote.

The constituencies with openings are: position 6, education and librarianship; position 14, undeclared, interdisciplinary and unclassified students; position 16, sociology, anthropology and general social science and position 17, music and English. The positions were vacated due to resignations.

Candidates may file in Suite 4 until 5 p.m. Friday and are encouraged to write voter's guide statements. A voter's pamphlet that will be made available at the SUAB Information and Grievance Center and Suite 4 after Jan. 25. Elections are set for Jan. 26 and 27.

SUAB members receive a monthly stipend of \$45. They are required to work in the office five hours weekly and attend three meetings per month. These include SUAB, General Faculty and University Senate meetings, all of which are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Coming issues include proposals to change to the semester system, a dental insurance plan, changes in the add-drop deadline, and a new grading system.

The SUAB will sponsor a student art exhibition Feb. 23 through 25 in the EMU. The board's next meeting is set for Feb. 9.

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