

Amendment raises sports funding issue

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — In what appears to be an attempt to make their \$1 million funding request for minor sports more palatable to the House Education Committee and the rest of the Legislature, the State System of Higher Education has proposed amendments earmarking the entire amount for women's sports.

The original version of HB 3147 appropriated the money for both men's and women's minor sports at the University and Oregon State University (OSU), but it didn't

specify who would get how much.

Currently, the men's and women's minor sports are financed by the two money-makers — men's football and basketball. Their aid to the minor sports is sizeable. According to "rough estimates" by Freeman Holmer, state system vice-chancellor, the University's minor sports will have received about \$400,000 from the major sports during the 75-77 biennium, while minor sports at OSU will receive about \$500,000.

The minor sports are budgeted for the projected income left over after the major sports meet their expenses.

Concern over whether the major sports would continue to fund the minors has been voiced by the ASUO. They said the cutoff of the major sports' support to minor sport would represent an indirect subsidy, since the major sports could put that money back into their own programs.

The ASUO hasn't taken a position on the new amendments, but according to Mark Cogan, ASUO vice-president for legislative affairs, "We're just seeking an explicit guarantee that the major sports won't cut back on their support to minor sports."

But the contribution of major sports to minor sports is impossible to predict, said Roy Lieuallen, state system chancellor. Lieuallen said Monday that policy adopted by State Board of Higher Education mandates that any income left over after the major sports meet their budgeted expenses be spent on the following priorities:

1. Building up operating and capital reserves for the major sports.
2. Providing financial support to the minor sports.
3. Providing financial support to major sports.

Lieuallen acknowledged that HB 3147 doesn't guarantee any contribution from the major sports to the minor sports since the board hasn't yet decided how much money is needed for the number one priority — building a reserve cushion for the major sports.

"And there's always a possibility that the major sports' expenses may exceed their income," said Lieuallen. "In that case, the minor sports wouldn't receive any funding from the major sports."

Also included in the new amendments is

a \$300,000 appropriation for tuition waivers for students possessing "special talents" in programs such as art, drama, speech, music and inter-collegiate sports. Also eligible with waivers are students with "extraordinary potential" in academic subject areas offered by state system schools.

The amendment says no more than \$100,000 in waivers can be appropriated for students excelling in inter-collegiate athletics.

The prospects for HB 3147 haven't looked promising. House Speaker Phil Lang, D-Portland, opposes the appropriation and has wryly suggested the Department of Higher Education finds the \$1 million in its own budget. Also reportedly lukewarm toward the bill is the education subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, which must approve it before it goes to the House and Senate.

Championing the bill is Rep. Roger Martin, R-Lake Oswego, a University alumnus affectionately referred to as "super-duck" by his colleagues. Martin told the Education Committee last month that more money must be pumped into women's sports at the two universities if the schools are to comply with Title IX.

Title IX calls for "equal opportunity" — but not necessarily equal money — "for women in athletics."

Martin warned that non-compliance could result in a cut-off of federal funds to the schools.

The House Education Committee has scheduled a work session on the amendments Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in Room D of the Capitol Building.

Legislative Issues

House majority approves rental relief tax program

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — A strong majority of the members of the House gave their approval Monday to a bill which would substantially increase refunds available to the homeowner and renter property tax relief program (HARP).

The bill, HB 2040, would not only increase the amount of refund available to individuals, but also increase the maximum income of eligible recipients of HARP benefits from \$15,000 to \$20,000, making some 145,000 more Oregonians eligible for the refund.

The bill survived an attack launched by the Republican minority last Thursday which would have limited the amount of refund increases and also would have maintained the present maximum income of eligible recipients.

Much of the opposition to the bill came from persons concerned about the total amount of general fund money to be used for the program. They argued that the money required for tax relief would cut into other, possibly expensive, state programs such as revenue sharing for cities, which have not yet been approved.

The bill, which will come to the Senate floor Wednesday, expands HARP benefits across the board for persons earning up to \$15,000, and also adds benefits for those earning \$20,000.

Under the present program, a renter earning next to nothing (\$0 to \$499 annually) is eligible for a refund of \$245, while under the House proposal, the same per-

son would be eligible for a maximum of \$328. At the top of the scale, a renter earning \$20,000 will be eligible for a refund of up to \$38, while a renter earning \$15,000 under the proposed system will be eligible for \$68, as compared to \$50 under the present system.

Part of the program is geared towards rent relief for elderly persons on fixed incomes. The bill lowers the minimum age for elderly tax relief from 65 to 58 years. Rep. Wayne Fawbush, D-Hood River, explained that under the current program, an elderly person earning \$3,000 (the current maximum for rental assistance) must pay for maximum benefits. "Currently...you may well starve before you get any assistance," he said.

The House proposal increases the maximum income for elderly rental assistance to \$5,000 and decreases to 40 per cent the amount paid for rent in order to qualify for full assistance.

Not every member of the House was enthusiastic about the bill, however. Rep. Bill Rutherford, R-Lafayette, said he supported the bill because "it is the only show in town. I regret that we have put too many eggs in this one basket," he said.

Rep. Tony Van Vliet, R-Corvallis, concurred, saying the Legislature "may well have to vote an increase in income taxes."

But Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland, said the bill represents "two years of effort in a low key, non-partisan fashion." Blumenauer called property tax relief "one of the major issues to be faced by the Legislature."

Straub sends emergency request to Carter, seeks drought relief

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — With state precipitation levels remaining below normal and Gov. Bob Straub's plan for emergency cloudseeding programs apparently going down the drain, Straub is now trying to find a way to compensate for damages which may occur as a result of the drought — and in some instances already have.

Straub has sent an appeal to Pres. Jimmy Carter for a declaration of a state of emergency for the state. Straub has called for federal assistance for southern and eastern Oregon counties for agricultural damages expected as a result of the drought.

Citing damage to the state's winter wheat crop on the order of a 40 per cent loss, Straub said "early action to compensate for wheat losses will prevent a deepening depression in several counties."

Straub also said a strong California demand for Oregon hay has placed a strain on southern Oregon hay supplies, resulting in increased prices. He also pointed out that drought-stricken grazing lands will mean inadequate grazing in summer pastures.

"These conditions have already forced some ranchers to liquidate their beef herds at a time when prices are badly depressed," he said, adding that this will also cause a depletion of the base herd needed for future

cattle production.

"Severe economic depression is the inevitable consequence of our failure to act now," said Straub, calling for relief from the Small Business Administration, the Farmers Home Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Straub urged the President to respond favorably to his proposal, which he called "the only means by which the effects of the most severe drought in Oregon's history can be blunted."

The state's drought has also prompted Straub to call for reduction in energy use. Early in February, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power Pool called for voluntary cutbacks in energy use, aiming at a 10 per cent reduction. But the drive to reduce energy consumption has been largely unsuccessful, according to reports from the industry.

On Friday, Straub urged a 10 per cent reduction to avoid the possibility of mandatory energy rationing.

In an effort to get the conservation momentum going, Straub planned a symbolic gesture involving a voluntary blackout in the Portland area Monday night. During the blackout businesses were requested to turn off their lights for 20 minutes.

Springfield Mayor Vern Meyer also called for a 20-minute blackout in that city Monday to help call attention to the importance of energy conservation.

Oregon aerosol ban affects Washington

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — A new Oregon law aimed at protecting the earth's ozone layer is forcing Southwest Washington residents to learn to live without aerosol hair and deodorant sprays.

And a spokesman for at least one Washington state beauty and barber supply firm says a similar ban on pressurized aerosol sprays will someday be imposed in this state.

A recent check of several area drug stores, beauty salons and

cosmetic distributors indicated Vancouver and the surrounding area are following closely on Oregon's heels when it comes to doing without spray cans propelled by chloro-fluorocarbons.

Although Washington did not ban the sale of these sprays as Oregon did March 1, many Southwest Washington stores are switching to pump or hydrogen-propelled sprays. Those products are supplied from Portland.

It is too expensive to ship the banned sprays from Seattle, store

managers say, so they will take what they can get from Portland.

That means no more sprays here propelled by the fluorocarbons.

Mark Dillon, manager of Portland Beauty Supply, Inc., estimated Portland supply houses provided the non-fluorocarbon sprays as far north as Centralia.

The Oregon Legislature enacted the ban because of concerns that fluorocarbons in the sprays destroy the earth's protective ozone layer.

The fluorocarbons, by laying waste to the ozone layer, could expose persons to dangerous levels of ultra-violet radiation and change temperature distribution in the stratosphere, thus altering weather patterns, environmentalists say.

There are no bills in the Washington State House Ecology Committee to ban the chloro-fluorocarbon sprays, according to research analyst Kenneth Hirst. However, a memorial — a petition on behalf of the citizens of

Washington — supporting the Federal Drug Administration's move to ban all nonessential uses of fluorocarbon sprays, has been drawn up by the committee.

If the Senate and House vote to approve the memorial, it would be sent to Congress and Pres. Carter, but would not ban anything.

Exemptions have been made in the Oregon law for those who require a very fine mist, which fluorocarbons make, for such respiratory ailments as asthma and emphysema.

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