

Demos propose student aid cuts

SALEM — A \$2.6 million appropriations for financial aid to middle-income students, strongly backed by student groups, looks like it may be headed for trouble.

It's on a list of proposed budget cuts recommended by the House Democratic leadership this week. The Democrats have suggested eliminating \$118 million worth of Gov. Straub's new programs to provide funds for increasing the homeowner renter relief program and basic school support.

Opposing the cut is Jeffrey Lee,

director of the State Scholarship Commission, which administers Oregon's student financial aid programs.

Lee told the Education subcommittee Joint Ways and Means Committee students with family incomes above the \$12,500 level are ineligible for federal and state financial aid programs.

Also supporting the aid to middle-income students is the Education Coordinating Commission (ECC), which says that the State Scholarship Commission's

current distribution of need grants among income groups is inequitable.

According to an ECC report on student aid in Oregon, students with family incomes of under \$7,300 could finance more than half of their education costs through federal and state financial need grants, while students with family incomes of \$13,500 or more, would receive little or no grant support. The report said middle-income students are often forced to take out loans, shift to less expensive forms of education, attend school part-time or drop out all together.

The \$2.6 million appropriation is part of the governor's budget, but was also introduced as a separate bill — HB 5557. After several amendments, the bill now earmarks \$3.59 million for middle-income students and \$870,000 for part-time students, who are also presently ineligible for financial aid.

If the Democrats axe the \$2.6 million recommendation, it is expected that the entire financial aid program outlined in HB 5557 will go down the drain.

Dope display disappears

CORVALLIS (AP) — Two ingenious — and daring — robbers made off with two kilograms of marijuana from a display at Oregon State University here, but authorities said it probably was a wasted effort.

According to campus police: On Monday night, two men wearing ski masks and enveloped in a yellow chemical cloud discharged from a fire extinguisher broke into the campus security office.

They threw a homemade in-

cidental bomb with a lighted fuse against a wooden wall, but it failed to ignite further.

They broke into a display case and removed two kilograms of 10-year-old marijuana. One kilogram crumbled onto the floor of the office in Gill Coliseum.

They ran with the other, escaping a security guard who pursued them.

But security officials said the marijuana probably had lost its potency over the intervening years.

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

Carter gets reorganizing power

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter armed himself Wednesday with fresh powers to reorganize the federal bureaucracy. However, his budget director cast doubt on whether Carter can carry out a campaign promise to chop the number of departments and agencies to 200.

Carter signed a new law giving him broad authority to undertake a reorganization drive, which he termed "the most consistent commitment" he had made to the voters during his 1976 campaign.

Handicapped leave HEW office

WASHINGTON — Faced with staying and starving, or leaving as a group, a band of about 50 blind, deaf or otherwise disabled demonstrators gave up their occupation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) headquarters Wednesday.

Sporadic discussions between demonstration leaders and top HEW officials which had gone on throughout the 28-hour occupation of the secretary's outer office had broken off shortly before the decision to leave was made.

Wash. dope bill passes House

OLYMPIA — A bill to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana passed the House Wednesday on a second try.

With the vote of 52-43, the bill goes to the Senate where its future is at best uncertain.

The measure, HB257, failed to get the necessary 50 votes last week and was kept alive on reconsideration.

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