

Poor women's right to abort decided today

By MARY BETH ALLEN
Of the Emerald

Supporters ask for state money

Women could experience a return to the days of coat hangers and knitting needles if the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board decides today to discontinue state-funded abortions for poor women, according to testimony presented by a coalition of Eugene interest groups. Women's groups and other community organizations presented humanitarian, constitutional and economic arguments in support of continued state funding at a press conference held Wednesday at Gertrude's Cafe.

The burden of funding abortions for women on welfare and Medicaid fell on the state when Congress passed legislation in December restricting federal funds for abortions to very rare cases. The federal law virtually wiped out Medicaid money for non-therapeutic abortions.

In a compromise decision this fall, the state legislature voted to take up the financial slack of Medicaid abortions until this

month, when the Emergency Board must decide whether or not to continue funding through the 1977-79 biennium.

Barbara Corrado Pope of the New American Movement, said, "We are concerned with the trends of events against women's control over their reproductive capacity. We are particularly concerned today with how the new federal law blatantly and cruelly discriminates against poor women. Because of these concerns, we are joining with our sisters in the state to protest against all backsliding on the issue of reproductive freedom."

Mary Simon, spokesperson for the Eugene chapter of the National Organization for Women, (NOW) said her group supports free abortion on demand. She said, "as stated in a nation-wide news conference, the spectre of illegal back-alley abortions still haunts the lives of all women because an extremely vocal and emotional

minority has been successful in restricting the access of low income women to medically safe legal procedures.

"We cannot allow this to happen in Oregon," Simon continued. "It is a woman's right to control her own body, not a politician's to impose his morality."

Sandy Gill of the Feminist Theory Collective, explained that in the long run, it would cost taxpayers as much as 10 times more in welfare and Medicaid dollars if abortion funding is halted.

"While the average abortion would cost Oregon \$240, the tax costs for birthing a child and supporting a child and mother for the first year is \$2,200," she explained.

Gill stressed that "parenting should be a freely chosen responsibility which women and men assume. It should not be coerced by the state. Clearly, cutting out abortion funding not only restricts the freedom of

poor women, but it is also an added burden on the taxpayer."

Several women presented testimony written by women who have had devastating experiences with self-induced and illegal abortions. Representing a physician's viewpoint, Sarah Hendrickson, a Eugene doctor, said "I want to keep medical decisions between my patients, myself, and my colleagues. Please preserve my freedom of choice."

In remarks after the press conference, Pope said the emergency board is "really split." According to her, seven members are strongly in favor of state-funded abortions and the other seven are just as strongly opposed.

Pope said Jack Ripper, North Bend Senator who is still undecided about the issue could be the deciding factor in the outcome of today's session.

Supporters of the abortion funding are urged to call or send telegrams to the emergency board expressing their support.

ESCAPE program seeks volunteers by Friday

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Tomorrow is the last day to sign up for ESCAPE programs in the EMU main lobby and ESCAPE director Susannah Malarkey says

there are still "lots of needs out in the community not being met."

As well as fulfilling a need in the community, being an ESCAPE volunteer "is a good opportunity for students to get involved," Malarkey says.

ESCAPE programs are divided into three areas, elementary schools, secondary schools and community services. Malarkey says several openings are available in each area.

Tutors are needed for a blind first grader, children in alternative schools, and trainable mentally retarded children in elementary schools. In secondary schools, ESCAPE needs tutors for metal work, drama, language, P.E. and journalism students.

In the community, volunteers for Switchboard, a referral service, Harmony House, a social program for ex-mental patients, and the Amity Foundation, a house weatherizing service, are needed.

These are only a few of the posi-

tions left. More information is available at the ESCAPE desk in the lobby or in the office, Room 327, EMU. Malarkey says ESCAPE "reaches people on a lot of different levels because it's such a diverse program. We help students find a placement they want to do."

Malarkey says ESCAPE is very popular with the community, "we always have more placements than we can fill. ESCAPE volunteers are valued people, they're really appreciated. Most schools and agencies are willing to give the student as much responsibility as they're willing to handle."

Students work in schools or with community groups on a volunteer basis, but University credit is available. Volunteers receive one credit for three hours weekly work.

A weekly seminar is required for first-time volunteers. The seminar enables new workers to meet with a student coordinator to discuss problems and other occurrences during the week. "The coordinators are also resource persons. We don't put someone out in a field and then abandon them," says Malarkey. Tutors receive one credit for the seminar.

Also required is a field placement-related project. Malarkey says in the past the projects have usually been designed to help the institution for which the volunteer works.

Malarkey feels the program is worthwhile because "about 50 percent return for a second term. It really makes a statement. They know there's something to gain."

IFC appropriates \$3,500 for women's symposium

The IFC Wednesday night allocated \$3,500 on reserve for the Women's Symposium which will take place April 10-15. The money will come from the IFC's unallocated funds which had totalled \$7,000.

The funds will be released by the IFC upon presentation of actual dollar expenditures consistent with the goals of the program. All events during the symposium which charge admission are on a 75 percent payback plan to the IFC. All publicity on the symposium will carry the phrase "sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon." The measure passed the committee by a 6-1 vote with Tyler and Benson casting the dissenting votes.

Occupation (Continued from Page 1)

"when it's time to leave and you don't, you'll be arrested."

Just after 5 p.m. ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman set up a conference between Vice-Chancellor Freeman Holmer and the occupants. The protestors issued a "modified" demand that Holmer put the divestment question on the State board's agenda for this Friday.

Holmer decided he could not comply with the group's demands, reasoning it would be inappropriate for the board to further discuss the issue since they are simply waiting for Redden's opinion.

At 6 p.m. Bob Bowlin, custodian of Student Record's acting on behalf of the University, informed the protestors that they were violating state, city and University trespassing codes. Eighteen protestors decided to leave the premises.

After waiting for 30 minutes, Sergeant John Parsons and Detective Jack Cater of the Eugene Police department locked the protestors in the office and waited for officers to arrive.

Almost two hours elapsed before fifteen policemen and two vans arrived to take the protestors into custody.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Captain Larion of the EPD informed the demonstrators they were violating trespassing ordinances and gave them the option to leave the premises without being arrested. The protestors refused, chanting "A people united will never be defeated."

Persons arrested for occupying Johnson Hall are: John Kaiser, 111 N. Garfield, Renee Romanoff, 717 Highway 99N, Mansoor Ehsan, 2140 16th Way, Monica C. Lazano, 941 Almaden, Cheryl Stroll, 158 E. 14th St., Michelle M. Bobzien, 3830 SE 64th, Portland. Others arrested without known addresses at press time are: John Lanier, Richard Wenraub, David Miller, Fereydoon Partovi, Abdol Hossein, Farhad Lankrani, Patrick J. Zurcher, Falamak Bardaei, Teresa Dach, Ilene Gusfield, and Kelley L. Cameron. Two others arrested were unidentified at press time.

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