

OSL sets legislative priorities

By DANA TIMS
Of the Emerald

SALEM—Some old goals were reaffirmed and some new ones clarified at a meeting of the board of directors of the Oregon Student Lobby, Saturday.

The board was getting its priorities in order and readying for yet another battle with a Legislature that, as one member said, "Gives us half of what we ask for and budgets us less than anyone else."

Some key issues from last session will again be main areas of emphasis for the OSL, whose board of directors is comprised of student body presidents (or their appointed representatives) from the state's seven universities.

Child care, public release of course evaluations and low tuition levels—all points of emphasis last session—will again receive top priority in the OSL's attempt to persuade legislators that students aren't, as another board member intoned, "the second-class citizens we've been made out to be."

New goals include opposition to voting law changes, a tax clarification that would save each member of a fraternity, sorority or independent living organization \$100 and support of minimum wage for students employed by universities.

In dealing with growing conservatism among legislators, however, the OSL must face some hard realities. University representative Jeff Warren told the board it may be difficult to find a sponsor to introduce the child care legislation proposed last session, when it flopped badly. He echoed the thoughts of Rep. Mary Burrows, R.-Eugene, who termed the bill's chances, "dismal."

The board also opposed elimination of the Johnson Plan, a tuition offset grant program that provides aid to 6,000 full-time students. Elimination of the plan would channel funds to part-time students—who are supported by the OSL, but to a lesser extent than full-time students.

In keeping with the board's desire to stem such cutbacks, staff member Dan Garner explained, "We want to bring the bottom up before we start expanding."

Additionally, the board agreed to continue to support aid for students with dependents, voted to send a board member to meetings of the state's community college student organization, COSAD, and reaffirmed the work plan upon which the OSL was founded.

The work plan outlines basic goals, such as reducing financial, informational, procedural and environmental barriers to higher education. Yet, board members realize that all the goals in the world won't make dealing with the new legislature any easier.

"It's going to be conservative," said Warren. And, he admitted, "It's going to be a problem for us."



FSO emerges with higher goals

By DAGMAR OBEREIGNEN
Of the Emerald

The Foreign Student Organization is being lifted from dormancy and molded into an involved, coordinating force that will unite foreign student organizations on campus, says its new director, Ahmed Gubartalla.

Gubartalla outlined plans for the FSO at a meeting Friday afternoon with representatives from foreign student organizations and members of the ASUO.

The main business in the office will not be "Scheduling rooms and paying postage," as was the case before, but the "Cultural and social interaction between all groups," Gubartalla said.

"Without your contribution, the office can't function properly," he added. Gubartalla wants to establish contact and stimulate involvement from as many of the approximately 25 foreign student organizations on campus as possible. The organizations represent about 600 students.

"I want to change the direction of the FSO from merely sponsoring cultural activities to taking stands on issues," he said.

Gubartalla says he wants to make the office accessible to all foreign students.

"The office has been hidden in both the physical and the psychological sense," he said.

ASUO representative Jag Yellesetty read a report outlining FSO's "performance of duty" before Gubartalla's appointment. The report stated that maintenance of the organization had been "poor by general standards," with no system of accountability.

The office had been used for "purely clerical purposes," said Yellesetty, and functions of the office were not clearly defined.

"I found it extremely difficult to perform my duties when I took office," reported Gubartalla.

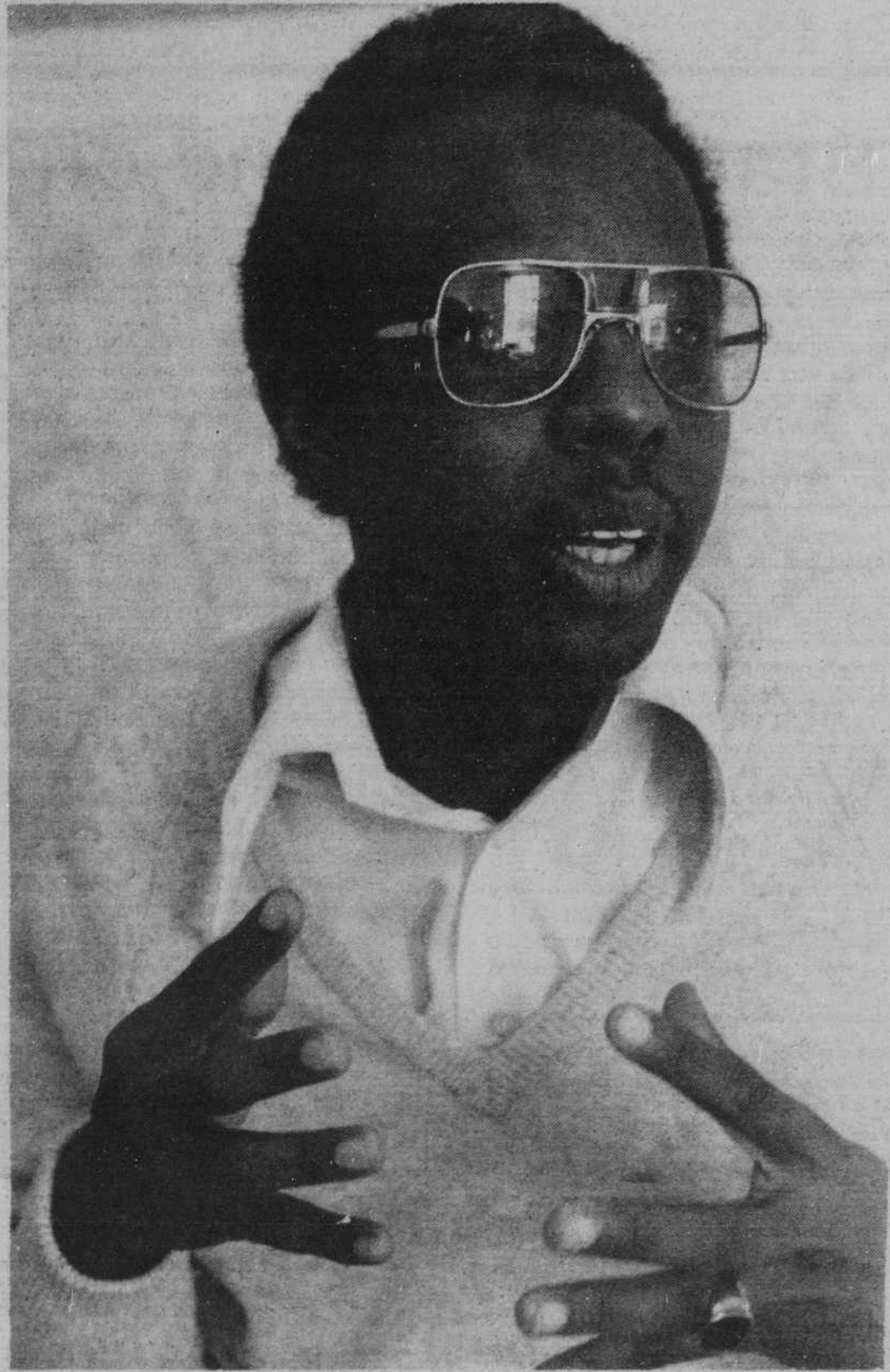
He said that no documented procedures for the office and no proper filing system existed. A lack of guidelines for dealing with the budget, which had been run on a "discretionary" basis, Gubartalla said, made his position difficult to assume. He said he would have probably "run away from it," if he hadn't had office managerial skills.

Gubartalla said he has opened, with the aid of his assistant Chris Watkins, new files on foreign student organizations at the University, and will maintain specific rules for procedure.

One new rule requires all scheduling of rooms for foreign student group events to go through the FSO office. This method will enable the FSO to see what organizations are using the rooms, and how frequently, said Gubartalla.

The group's current budget is \$6,876, but representatives felt that with the more ambitious outlook of the group and the large body of students represented, more IFC funds should be allocated to the FSO. Budget proposals for the 1979-80 fiscal year will be submitted in January.

The office will provide "any assistance within our means to coordinate events for



Emerald photo

Ahmed Gubartalla, the new director of the Foreign Student Organization, discussed his ambitious plans to revamp the office to a meeting of representatives from foreign student organizations and the ASUO. Asserting that the office has, in the past, been "hidden," he said there is a need for the communication between foreign organizations and that the FSO should facilitate it.

foreign student organizations," said Gubartalla.

The FSO staff encouraged joint events involving as many of the foreign student organizations as possible, and ASUO member Greg Halquist encouraged interaction with American students, so that the diverse groups get to know one another on a per-

sonal basis, instead of "reading about each other in newspapers."

The office should perform as an active body, said Gubartalla, who encouraged individuals to come in the office, "even if they have no official business."

The FSO office is located in EMU room 275, and is open weekday afternoons.

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