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Ed panel favors an 'intact' budget

SALEM — Senate Pres. Jason Boe last week predicted the higher education budget would be "pretty chopped up" when it emerged from the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

The education subcommittee voted unanimously Friday to refer the \$393 million budget — still relatively intact — to the full committee with a "do-pass" recommendation.

That figure includes general fund support for the 1979-81 biennium and represents a reduction of \$5.07 million from the governor's revised recommendations.

The budget assumes resident undergraduate tuition for next year will be \$636 raised to \$699 for 1980-81, or an increase of 9.8 percent and 9.4 percent respectively.

The subcommittee dropped a special tuition rate for foreign graduate students, as well as a \$615,000 allocation to the foreign graduate fee remission program.

The cuts include a \$450,000 subsidy for women's athletics to insure Title IX compliance and a \$250,000 allotment for off-campus educational programs.

Most of the reductions came in the program improvement section of the budget. But even with the paring, program improvements will receive more funding than during past sessions, prompting student lobbyists to call the budget a "victory" for higher education.

"Given what's happening with other budgets this is very good," says Jim Bernau, executive director of the Oregon Student Lobby. "The improvement fund will give the state's universities a little money to repair accumulated damage from inflation."

Bernau confessed he would have "settled" for a tuition increase that matched the cost of living index — 13 percent.

Earlier in the week, the budgeting process presented some obstacles — like getting committee members to agree on where the money should be spent.

Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, in a strategic maneuver moved that the committee accept the recommendations of governor's assistant Bill Barrows, whose suggested cuts totaled about \$12 million. At the same time, Fadeley moved that library and computer programs be funded according to priorities.

Other committee members realized that under this system, all of the \$600,000 allotted to improving academic computing could be spent at the University alone, benefiting only Fadeley's district.

Fadeley then suggested that \$400,000 be taken from increases in professional schools' tuition, \$250,000 from the off-campus education reduction and \$300,000 from the general tuition fund (totaling \$950,000) and that this amount be plowed back into library and academic computer programs.

The motion passed, meaning libraries will get an additional \$600,000 while \$300,000 will go to the computers.

During Friday's meeting, University Provost Paul Olum told the committee that an amount twice what they got wouldn't cover the cost of needed computers. "It's a matter of desperation," Olum declared. "We need to amortize the cost."

Chancellor of Higher Education Roy Lieuallen added to the mood by noting that the University's library is rated 70th out of 94 nationally, and that the University Health Science Center is ranked 126th out of 127 in Canada and the Western U.S. in net volume.

OSL misses again

SALEM — The end of the legislative session may be only four weeks away. As the time shortens those who don't have much to lose begin taking chances.

Friday, members of the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) were in that position during a meeting of the education subcommittee of Ways and Means. It was a chance for yet another round of maneuvering on House Bill 2831, the faculty course evaluation measure.

It was also another indication that nothing about the bill was likely to be accepted without a fight.

During a meeting on the higher education budget, that Vera Ketz, D-Portland, unexpectedly moved to include a budget note with HB 2831

stipulating that no general fund appropriation could be used to finance the bill, which provides student access to course evaluations.

Katz's motion matched the language of HB 2831 and would have been the first step toward removal of a subsequent referral to Ways and Means the bill was hit with last week by Senate Pres. Jason Boe. A budget note spells out legislative intent.

But opponents of the bill were there to counter the move, one arranged by Jim Bernau, executive director of the OSL.

Sen. Cliff Trow, R-Corvallis, chair of the Senate Education committee and Rep. Tony Van Vleet, R-Corvallis, both instructors at Oregon State University, objected to the motion.

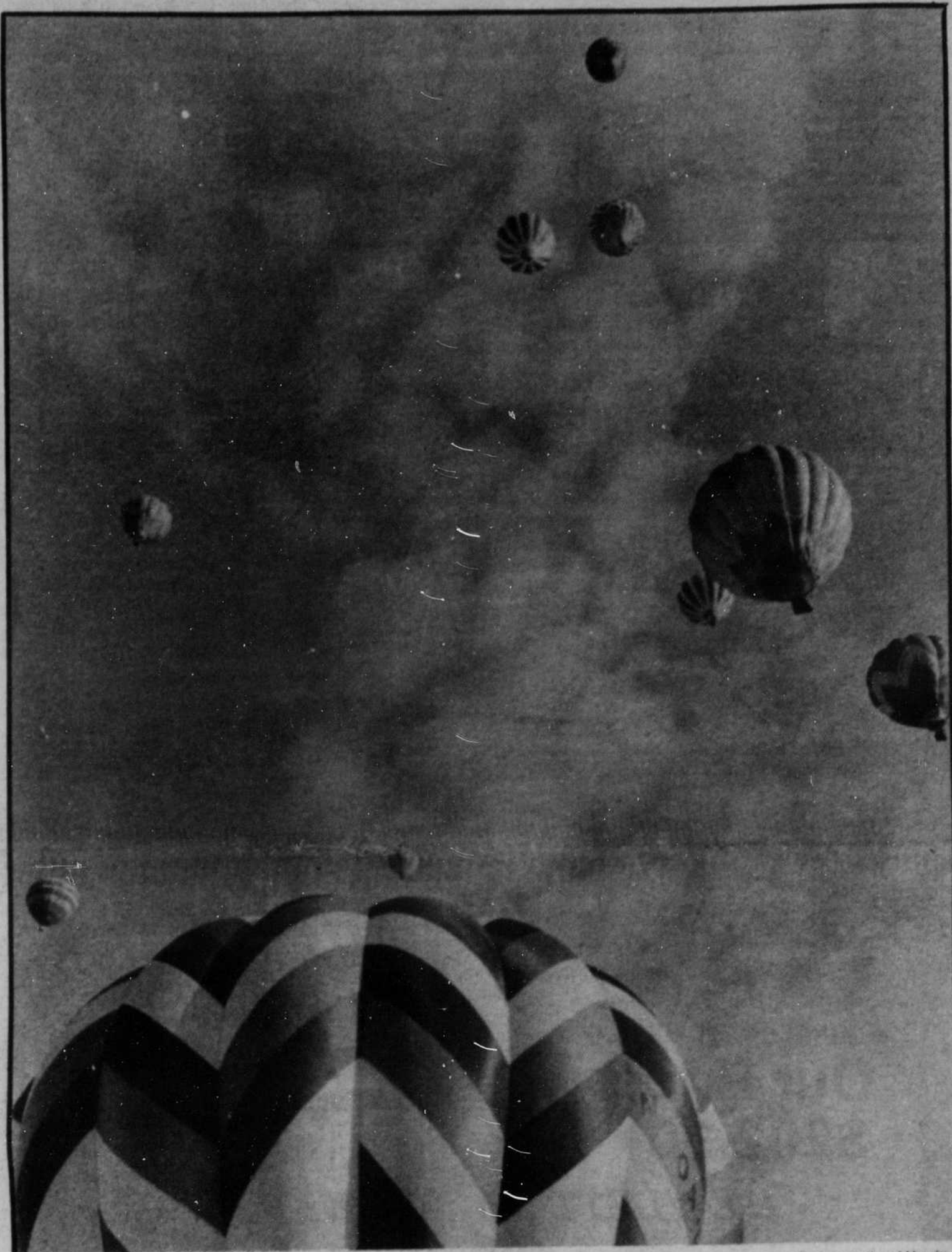


Photo by Jimmi Harris

Floating high

Under Eugene's partly cloudy skies, a new movement rose up over the Memorial Day holidays. Hot air ballooning came of age this past weekend as a dozen multi-colored

vessels drifted skyward from Autzen Stadium's parking lot. For an in-depth look at the extravaganza, turn to pages 6 and 7.

Board votes increase

Dorms up rental rates

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

PORTLAND — The State Board of Higher Education has voted to increase dormitory hall rates at each of the eight state system schools, and has postponed action on a proposed administrative rule change that had attracted the ire of ASUO and Oregon Student Lobby leaders.

Board members Friday approved a staff proposal that will hike University dorm rates 6.4 percent next academic year, despite projections of a 9 percent increase in the costs of services and supplies and a 12

percent increase in food costs.

At the request of Office of Student Advocacy director Don Chalmers, who represented ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett at the

Portland meeting, board members deleted a staff recommendation to reserve the right to modify dorm rates during the session.
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today

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation has elected to reduce the number of votes needed to go on strike. See page 3.

EWEB is proposing to harness the elemental force of the wind with windmill power generators on the Oregon Coast. See page 8.