

### ASUO opens meetings to public; policy allows input participation

ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett and the Vice Presidents for Administration and Finance, State and University Affairs, and Student Programs and Community Affairs have begun a new policy of open meetings.

These meetings are held each Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in room A of the Erb Memorial union.

There is an open chair at all meetings, which allows anyone to add input into decision and policy making. The public is welcome to participate or comment on any agenda topic.

Agenda items may be submitted to Sue Frisbie in the ASUO office, Suite 4 of the EMU. Items will be accepted until 5 p.m. on the day before the scheduled meeting.

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### Eugene group to resettle boat people

While the U.S. Navy tries to aid the Indochinese refugees in the Pacific Ocean, a Eugene group wants to help resettle nearly 6,000 of the boat people in Oregon before next August.

Dave Morse, a representative of the Oregonians to Save the Boat People, says his group is working to help 100 refugee families settle in Oregon in the coming year. But before that number can be helped, more citizen and civic organizations must become involved.

"Our primary purpose is to increase the number of churches and other civic organizations who can help sponsor the families as they come to Oregon," Morse says. Under the current U.S. government resettlement plans, refugees must be sponsored by either private citizens or organizations before

they will be admitted to the United States.

To better aid the refugees the group is divided into three action committees to help the boat people with housing, jobs and medical aid once they arrive in Oregon. So far only about 75 people have joined the organization, but Morse expects more as the group becomes better known.

The group plans to bring 6,000 refugees into Oregon in a year, Morse says. There are already 6,500 refugees living in Oregon now, with most of those living in the Portland area.

"We want to distribute them more evenly across the state," Morse says.

In order to do that, the group will ask each sponsor to make a six-month "moral" commitment to the project, he says.

"That is not a written contract, but it is a moral commitment to help the boat people while they are here."

Without church and civic organization help, that commitment could be very expensive, he says. To help four persons for the entire six months would cost nearly \$2,000 for a private individual sponsor.

"It is a bit of a financial commitment and a large time commitment to sponsor someone," Morse says.

The Eugene group is a companion group to a Portland organization that was formed earlier this year to aid the boat people.

Persons interested in becoming a part of the group can contact Morse at 485-4239 for more information.

### Student loan finance charge dropped

Students scheduled to start repayment of Guaranteed Student Loans after Aug. 1 won't have to pay the one and a half percent finance charge usually tacked on to the first regular payment notice.

Oregon Student Lobby Executive Coordinator Jim Bernau announced Friday that the Oregon State Scholarship Commission has eliminated the finance charge, which used to be added on for administrative costs. He said the OSSC has received additional funds from the federal government, which allows them to eliminate the extra charge.

"That doesn't amount to much money saved," Bernau said, "but it's enough to pay the utilities or buy a lot of beer."

After a student has finished attending school, explained Bernau, he or she doesn't have to start

repayment until nine months later. At the time of the first payment, students used to have to pay a finance charge computed to one and a half percent of the total amount loaned.

"Sometimes, if you had a big loan," Bernau explained, "it could be extremely hard to come up with that much money."

"I'm extremely pleased with the progress the lobby has had with the scholarship commission. Next, we're going to try and get a deferment clause for the pre-paid finance charge."

Bernau explained that the pre-paid finance charge is the amount of money usually charged before a student can receive his or her loan.

"A lot of students can't come up with the money for this charge," Bernau said. "We want the commission to allow students to defer the charge until they receive the loan after registration."

## oregon daily emerald

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