

Boycott Libby's, pickers say

Campbell and Libby products should be boycotted, says the founder and president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Baldemar Velasquez was in Eugene to speak at a monthly Peace and Justice Forum Thursday night sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned.

Velasquez is advocating the boycott after negotiations and a three-year strike failed to bring better pay and better working conditions to farmworkers in the Midwest. Low wages, no benefits,

poor housing conditions and health dangers due to chemicals used on crops have sent farmworker organizations seeking collective bargaining agreements with growers and companies. A successful boycott might enable farmworkers to "feed, clothe and educate our families," Velasquez said.

Velasquez says the strike failed because companies can obtain tomatoes and cucumbers from California, while larger growers can use mechanical harvesters in lieu

of pickers if they produce a drier, less nutritious tomato. But Velasquez says most of the 3,400 union members are still on strike.

The FLOC's effort in the Midwest is part of the nationwide effort to change the agricultural system by creating a national organization. Currently, legislation for worker's rights specifically excludes farmworkers. "We're talking about a public policy that has gone unchanged since the Civil War," Velasquez says.

IFC gives group lawsuit funds

The Incidental Fee Committee Thursday allowed the Physically Limited Union of Students to pool most of its 1981-82 funds to pursue a lawsuit alleging higher education system violations of equal access laws for disabled students.

PLUS director Chester Faller initially asked for a hearing next week for additional funds but was told by IFC members and ASUO budget director Alan Con-

treras funds are unavailable.

"Even if there is money, we wouldn't be able to give it to you. It would be vetoed by the exec (ASUO Executive)," vice chairer Xavier Romano said about an alternate request for funds.

Enrollment is down and probably will not be up winter term, meaning less incidental fees coming in, Contreras explained. "Extra" funds would reimburse 2 percent cuts in ASUO program

budgets announced Tuesday.

The committee also approved 1982-83 goals for PLUS and the Undergraduate Economics Association. Representatives of the University chapter of American Advertising Federation failed to appear for its hearing.

In other business, the committee approved a resolution calling for complete financial disclosures by ASUO-funded organizations.

Hearing set on WOW Hall fate

Eugene's WOW Hall, famous for its performing arts activities, has reached a sink or swim situation.

WOW Hall, which became the publically controlled, non-profit Community Center for the Performing Arts in 1975, has been "in a hole" financially from the beginning, says CCPA board chairer Jan Bohman. But operating losses in fiscal year 1981-82 and the resignation of executive board director Carol Caulk have forced the CCPA's directors to consider several options - including the possible sale of the WOW Hall building.

Before the board takes any action, however, it is holding a public hearing to discuss options. The hearing will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the hall, located at West Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street.

Options include leasing or selling the hall and raising the \$22,000 balance of the WOW Hall's \$220,000 mortgage.

"We need to raise between \$22,000 and \$50,000. That would definitely do it," Bohman says.

"No arts association expects to operate without a deficit," Bohman says her

group is not able to meet monthly expenses and staff operating costs. "We're just not able to make it all."

The general poor economy is forcing fewer people to attend concerts or to promote them, she says. The end result is fewer dollars coming in to meet costs.

Bohman says the WOW Hall has provided a "wide variety of low-cost performances," and the CCPA would like to do "even more."

"I think it would be a real loss," she says of the sale or lease of the building.

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