

harry esteve

# OSPIRG's example

IN OCTOBER, 1974, the University branch of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group called an organizational meeting for the new academic year. Nearly 100 people showed up.

The 100 broke into groups of 20 to study health agencies in Eugene, rental cleaning deposits and telephone deposits.

Later in the year OSPIRG published a "Health Services Directory" for Eugene and Springfield, listing all services available and the average cost for each. It also established a renters' "hotline" that fielded between five and 15 calls a day.

Later that year the group attempted to bring Pacific Northwest Bell to court for overcharging on phone deposits for students.

It was working with a total state budget of well over \$100,000. More than \$30,000 of that was from the University.

It got better. The same year, the group discovered a mistake the Oregon Department of Revenue had made on their renter rebate forms and uncovered more than 100 violations of state laws regarding the sale of dangerous toys.

And better. In March, 1980, the Incidental Fee Committee granted OSPIRG a \$7,800 budget increase. That brought their total funding from the University to over \$45,000. OSPIRG was sitting pretty.

**BUT BY FEBRUARY** of last year they were sitting ducks.

OSPIRG had its biggest operating budget ever and at the same time its smallest membership. Student support was at an all-time low, and the IFC — in an effort to lower student fees — was in a budget-cutting mood.

The major criticism of OSPIRG was that it did not perform enough of a service to students to warrant such a high level of funding. In fact, the same criticism had been leveled at the group since it first was granted student funds in 1971.

But this time the criticism had basis. The single issue OSPIRG was concentrating on was a state ballot measure to increase safety standards

for new nuclear energy construction.

The ballot measure passed, but OSPIRG's funding request didn't. Acting on a recommendation from then-ASUO Pres. Dave Eaton, the IFC cut 73 percent from the budget.

OSPIRG was left with \$10,000, the lowest level of funding since 1971.

**THIS YEAR 10 PEOPLE** are part of the local OSPIRG. The research group is working diligently and quietly to regain stature.

Under the direction of Michael Matteucci, OSPIRG has turned its attention closer to the hand that feeds it.

"The University is going to be our primary focus," says OSPIRG member Michele Miller, and their latest projects reflect the new attitude.

Last week OSPIRG published a survey of 23 issues currently confronting the University and asked students to check which they felt were most important. Miller says OSPIRG will use the results to determine topics for a series of "educational forums" scheduled for next term.

About 400 students took the time to fill out the surveys and return them to OSPIRG's office, a response that took both Miller and Matteucci by surprise.

OSPIRG's major project at the moment is to involve students in producing television shows for a forthcoming Eugene public access TV station. OSPIRG has opened seven different positions worth University credit through the telecommunications department.

**MATTEUCCI WON'T SAY** how much funding OSPIRG will ask for when it goes before the IFC this spring, but he says it probably will be close to their current level.

"I see it as not dying," he says, "and I see it as possibly gaining strength."

If OSPIRG does gain strength, and it is showing signs that it will, it could serve as an example to other student groups who rely on student funds. Student fees — hardly "incidental" at \$44 per term — must be earned or they will be taken away.

OSPIRG took the hint.

## Draft non-signers spared

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department said today it has decided not to prosecute young men for failing to register for the draft until the White House decides whether to recommend ending the mandatory sign-up procedure.

The decision was announced only a day before some U.S. attorneys were scheduled to go before grand juries and seek indictments of men who refused to register.

Justice Department spokesman John Russell said 161 cases were "in the pipeline" although only a handful of cases

were to be presented to grand juries today.

Young men are required to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Last month, Selective Service Director Thomas Turnage said that 307,000 men who were required by law to have registered by Sept. 1 had failed to do so — a non-compliance rate of 23 percent.

Of the 1,336,000 men born in 1963 who were supposed to have signed up by Sept. 1, only

1,029,000 had registered.

But Selective Service officials said they expected 98 percent compliance with the law after warning letters were sent to men who refused to register.

There is no draft now, but registration was instituted last year to provide a list of eligible in the event a national emergency required reinstatement of the draft.

Pres. Ronald Reagan is considering asking Congress to drop that requirement.

Imported  
**Coffee & Tea**  
by the pound or by the cup

**KINKO'S**

344-7894 764 E. 13th

Bean of the Month

**Viennese**  
**\$4.55 lb.**

Compare our Prices  
University West

**Sears**  
Tire and Auto Center

**Free Vacation Safety Inspection**  
with this coupon

**WE WILL CHECK:**

Transmission Fluid	Brakes
Anti-Freeze	Exhaust
Tire Wear	Shocks
Front End	Oil Level

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"*

183 10th Ave. W. on the Downtown Mall

Appointment suggested. Call 687-7095  
Offer expires December 31, 1981

(Clip Coupon)

**Rib It Up Tonight!**

**Save \$3**

Your Choice **\$5.95**

This coupon entitles you and your party to a complete barbecue beef or pork ribs dinner for only \$5.95 per dinner (reg. price \$8.95). Offer not good with any other advertised special.

Offer Expires Thursday, Dec. 17, 1981

**BRANDING IRON**

579 East Broadway, Eugene Phone 344-3201  
(Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

(Clip Coupon)

**LOOKING FOR INVOLVEMENT?**

Our College Ministry is growing, both in character and size. This year we can honestly say that if you want to develop yourself or your role in the Lord's family, we have a place for you. You will be ministered to and have an opportunity to minister. Our goal is full fellowship with the entire church family in order to promote personal growth and to honor the Lord. Come find out what FBC is all about.



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Broadway & High 345-0341

College Class - 9:00 am  
Worship Service - 10:30 am  
Evening Service - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Pastor Bob Luther Senior Pastor  
Pastor Richard Cook Associate Pastor

Ed Mach Director of College Ministries  
345-0341 (Church)  
484-6938 (Home)  
345-6777 (Way Inn)