

'It's a damn shame'

State cuts cripple KWAX

By **DAVE BANKS**
Of the Emerald

KWAX will lose about \$25,000 annually in state funding for the next four years, says Denny Guehler, promotion and development director for the on-campus radio station.

"This year we had our budget cut about 25 percent (from \$130,000 to \$100,000), and we're looking at a similar 25-percent cut for fiscal 1982-83," he says.

The station's \$180,000 operating budget includes not only the state funding, but also about \$45,000 from the federal government through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and additional funding from listener contributions.

"Currently we do 10-day fundraisers during both the fall and the spring, where our goals are to raise \$20,000 each time," Guehler says. "Next year, since the maximum amount of state funding we can expect is \$75,000, our fundraising efforts will have to be more extensive."

Prior to the 1981-82 fiscal year, the Legislature had planned to cut KWAX entirely from the state's 1981-82 budget, he says.

"Due to intensive lobbying efforts on the part of our lis-

teners, in the form of phone-calling and letter-writing, we were able to reduce a \$130,000 cut to only \$30,000," Guehler says.

The KWAX budget pays the salaries of six full-time and two part-time staff members, \$5,000 yearly affiliate dues to National Public Radio and costs for equipment, repair, expansion, and other incidentals.

KWAX began broadcasting April 4, 1951, primarily as a student extracurricular activity. In the 1960s, the station began serving the community-at-large and during the 1970s, when KWAX became one of the first members of NPR, the station became more community oriented.

The station operates at 20,000 watts with an antenna and transmitter located atop Blanton Heights. KWAX serves the area from just south of Portland to Roseburg and from the coast to the Cascades with over-the-air and cable broadcasts.

"It's a damn shame," Guehler says of the cuts. "The station is on its way up. If we can make it through the next couple of years, and if the economy looks better, we should be in good shape."

The station will have to work harder and harder to stay even, he says.

"It's going to be a battle just to keep it (the budget) where it is now."

Guehler fears that community programs — besides KWAX — such as the athletic program, the theater, the Art Museum, and the Labor Education and Research Center, will be among the first to lose state funding.

"KWAX reaches a lot of people," Guehler says. "We have a strong, very unique audience."

"The University is going to have to look at some more fund raising," he says. "We're going to have to look to community and alumni donations as a more permanent part of the budget rather than just icing on the cake."

KWAX is running a 26-week-long radio drama of The Lord of the Rings, the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy. It airs Saturday at 7 p.m.

"America hasn't done much in radio drama in a long time," Guehler says. "But it's coming back in this country now. TV has killed much of radio drama in this country. Radio drama never died in England. Instead of radio drama in America, the U.S. went whole-hog for TV."

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Ed Mach
Director of College Ministries

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Enrollment drops slightly

Winter term enrollment this year is down only 1.5 percent from last year's enrollment for the same period.

By Wednesday afternoon, 15,915 full and part-time students had paid fees, compared to 16,149 on the same day last year, according to Registrar Wanda Johnson.

The 1.5-percent decline includes a 10.2-percent drop in community education enrollment. Regular University enrollment is down 1.1 percent, compared to a nearly 3-percent de-

cline this fall term.

"We're always surprised by students — they're so fickle," Johnson says. "I'm really happy about the students coming back."

She says late fees aren't as big a problem this term as last term and that petition requests to pay fees late have declined. The late arrival of many Guaranteed Student Loans was a main cause of late fee payments last term, officials say.

Students "grumbled" about the \$49 tuition increase when

they had their fees assessed, Johnson says, but most seemed to understand the reasons behind the unprecedented mid-year tuition hike.

Larry Tergeson, accounting supervisor in the business office, says his office expected some "ill will" from students paying the higher tuition.

But he says he's heard few complaints about angry students.

"I think everybody took it with the understanding that higher education was in trouble."




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