



Photo by David Corey

Disabled citizens gathered in front of the Federal building Thursday to protest changes in handicapped discrimination laws.

Handicapped rally for rights

Chanting "We shall overcome," handicapped citizens gathered under cloudy skies outside Eugene's Federal Building Thursday afternoon to voice their concern for the future of human rights for the disabled.

"You can't win this battle sitting on your duff," said Dave Kleger, a member of Independent Living Programs Inc., a local organization of disabled persons, while speaking to a crowd of about 30 people.

The battle Kleger spoke of concerns the federal Office of Management and Budget's plan to change regulations established in 1973 dealing with discrimination against disabled people.

Peter DeFazio, of Rep. Jim Weaver's office, says the congressman is "strongly in opposition" to the Reagan Administration's policies towards disabled people's human rights, adding that the OMB changes were a "back door attempt to dismantle something that works very well."

According to a release by ILP, the revision effort by OMB would result in "a civil rights law that is totally ineffective and virtually impossible to enforce."

Michael Goldhammer of ILP said the tax dollars spent on benefits for the disabled is "a miniscule amount" compared to the billions spent on defense, yet the public gains from the amount spent since the hand-

icapped pay taxes.

"This isn't just a one-shot deal," said Goldhammer, referring to the rally, adding that he would continue to speak to disabled groups.

"We're here to make a statement — a positive statement — that we're here to live independent lives," Goldhammer said.

Disabled persons do have a lobbying group — Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund — which is against the changes in legislation. But Goldhammer said the fund is dealing on a community-wide basis, which will make the battle a tough one.

"We just need to get off our butts to get anything done."

ASUO fills executive positions

All but two positions on the ASUO executive staff have been filled, according to ASUO Pres. C.J. Balfe.

The only remaining vacancies are for two administrative assistants, Balfe says.

Working for Balfe as acting executive assistant will be Paul Rudinsky, a former member of the Student University Affairs Board and vice chair of the University Senate.

Adam Rittenberg, a member of Balfe's transition team, was hired to be the new president's administrative assistant.

Sheila Schain, a former Incidental Fee Committee member, has been hired as budget director in the office of Dave Gibson, vice president for administration and finance. Gibson is expected to also hire an administrative assistant at the end of the summer.

Working for Ann Portal, vice president for state and public affairs, will be Dave Berns as director of state affairs and Debi Lance as director of University affairs. Berns is a former ASUO legislative assistant.

Portal is also expected to hire

an administrative assistant, Balfe says.

Amira Mansour has been hired as administrative assistant for Vincson Green, vice president for program development. Katcha Phinney, a former member of the Incidental Fee Committee, has been hired as director of University events.

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