

Committee holding session to decide fee bill's fate

The House Education Committee will hold a work session today at 8 a.m. in Hearing Room D at the State Capitol.

The original bill, sponsored by Rep. Dick Springer, established voluntary fees.

If the amendments are adopted, the bill sets up a statewide system similar to the fees process at the University, says David Gomberg, committee administrator.

Under the new amendments, the State Board of Higher Education would establish incidental fees, and the institutions' student governments and University presidents would administer them.

If the president and the student government disagree and cannot resolve their differences by June 30 of any given year, then the previous year's budget will be adopted.

Gomberg says the major difference for the University will be that the Incidental Fee Committee and the University president would have to agree on the fees. Currently, the IFC recommends the fees to the president, and the president sends recommendations from the board.

"The key is that it is different at every University," says Gomberg. The bill would set up a statewide policy, he says.

The Oregon Student Lobby supports the proposed amendments. A OSL-sponsored bill was tabled at a committee work session last week, but OSL Director Bob Watrus expressed support for the amendments.

Speaker raps media on nukes

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

The American press is too light-handed when it comes to covering nuclear weapons issues, said Norman Solomon, a freelance investigative reporter specializing in nuclear issues.

"U.S. news media have been very soft on the nuclear weapons establishment, especially in ecological concerns," Solomon said in an interview Wednesday.

He accused "most mass media" of acting as friends of the Pentagon, "white-washing" the nuclear news.

Solomon, who also discussed "Catching Up with the Arms Race" Wednesday night as part of Earth Week, said a possible reason for the media soft touch is "vested financial interests in nuclear industries."

Solomon co-authored the book "Killing Our Own: The

Disaster of America's Experience with Atomic Radiation."

The book, published last year, reflects six years of research by Solomon and co-author Harvey Wasserman — years spent talking with government officials, "atomic veterans" and widows of victims.

Solomon learned while dealing with the government that "they're gregarious but not forthright, verbose but not honest."

But he admits "they're just doing their job." Solomon visited atomic test sites in Utah and Nevada, where he "found a very militarized facility masquerading as a very benign activity for protecting the peace."

"The Nevada test site conducts dry runs for global holocaust," Solomon said.

He also conducted late-night radio shows that allowed

listeners to call in looking for an escape from the dangers of nuclear attack and radiation.

But "there aren't a lot of places to run," Solomon said, pointing to a map with symbols representing nuclear sites.

The map was more black than white.

"Every region is targeted with nuclear warheads by some country," Solomon said.

In 1978, he met Ron Quigley, a Marine who helped clean up Nagasaki after the atomic explosion there. Meeting Quigley, who later died of bone cancer, sparked the journalist's interest.

How does Solomon deal with all that he has learned since that day in 1978?

"It was in the long run both depressing and inspiring. Depressing to realize that our own government is willing to exterminate citizens in the service of the nuclear arms race.



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