

opinion

Lobby: Now or never

There are two views of student lobbying efforts in Salem this session: One view, expressed by the Oregon Student Lobby and backed by Wil Post, Vice-chancellor of Public Affairs, finds the student lobbying effort adequate.

The other view of student lobbying efforts, expressed by many legislators and Oregon State Board of Higher Education President Robert Ingalls find student lobbyists "conspicuous by their absence" in the direct effort to pass the higher education budget.

The OSL, a group of two professional lobbyists and a staff of student volunteers, represents the students of Oregon's public colleges and universities in Salem.

If the University lobbyists throw up their hands at the passivity of student participation in Salem, perhaps it is because of the four issues they have chosen to concentrate on: a truth-in-testing bill requiring standardized testing services to reveal the answers to test question, more student control of IFC funding, funding for handicapped coordinators, and the private right of legal action for students.

The bills, while important, miss the focus of most student worries and concerns.

The Emerald and many others involved in the crucial passage of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed budget for higher education feel student lobbying efforts would have been and could be more effective if they concentrated on the main issue to all Oregon college students: increased funding for higher education, the tuition freeze and faculty salary increases.

According to Ingalls, there are legislators in Salem who would like to see the state system smaller and think students should finance more of the cost of tuition. Ingalls has seen no evidence of "student lobbying in student financing."

Vice-chancellor Post has seen the OSL. However, during the first three days of testimony before the Joint Ways and Means Committee he said no student had testified and the chancellor's office would "invite" students to testify on the tuition freeze and other issues.

The testimony for higher education's fate began last week and will continue this week. During May the ways and means and revenue hearings will determine the budget.

Last week the governor told members of the Student University Affairs Board that they should be lobbying for higher education. He suggested applying "political pressure" to members on important committees, such as Rep. Vera Katz, D-Portland, and Sen. Jack Ripper, D-North Bend, co-chairers of the ways and means committee and Rep. Tom Throop, D-Bend, chair of the House Revenue Committee.

Students would do well to ignore the cautious approach of the OSL and directly lobby the legislators representing their hometown districts — they are not all convinced higher education can't suffer more cuts.

The ASUO could aid the effort by lobbying on this campus to inform students of the issues in Salem.

Regardless of OSL feelings, legislators would respond to a display of student concern for higher education. In the words of the governor, "Students can do it. They've done it before."

Where to write:

Rep. Vera Katz
H-486
State Capitol Bldg.
Salem, OR 97310

Sen. Jack Ripper
S-205
State Capitol Bldg.
Salem, OR 97310

Rep. Tom Throop
H-488
State Capitol Bldg.
Salem, OR 97310

Post offers use of the chancellor's Salem office to student lobbyists.

State System of Higher Education
Public Affairs Office
790 Winter Street
Salem, OR 97310



letters

Attitudes

In response to Dan Goulet's letter (in which he says Mary Hotchkiss is "nothing more than a warmed up 60s protester and sympathetic to the communist cause"), I would like to know if Goulet feels we should still be supporting American policies in Vietnam — policies which anyone with a conscience can see were (and still are) completely immoral and without regard for human rights (that's right, Goulet, the gooks were humans too).

I am very pleased that Hotchkiss won, and relieved when I see the attitudes of the people opposing her.

There will always be small-minded and ignorant people like Dan Goulet. American history proves it, but there will always be people with morals and a conscience to oppose him and all his ignorance.

Philip Mitchell
religion

Insist or revise

There are only two sensible ways to deal with the question of whether the ROTC must abide by the University's equal access rules. The University should either insist that all of the University, including ROTC, abide by the same rules, or it should revise the rule to formally grant the ROTC an exemption. Avoiding the basic issue by deciding not to enforce the rules in certain cases is a dangerous precedent to set. What program will be the next to be granted an informal "exemption?"

Let's not be padding on catlike feet around this issue. The University governing bodies should decide on the merits whether the rule should be changed. If it shouldn't, don't look for weaseloid ways to avoid enforcing it.

Alan Contreras
law

Tolerated

The University Assembly will vote Wednesday on Prof. Cheyney Ryan's motion to enforce University equal opportunity policy in the ROTC program. Such a vote on its face seems ridiculous. Would discrimination be tolerated in any other department on this campus?

Would it require the faculty to take the initiative to enforce University policy? Sadly, that is the case with ROTC.

Faculty members have argued that ROTC shouldn't have to abide by the same rules, due to its unique purpose. In fact, this is all the more reason University policy should be enforced. The University has allowed the military science department to be controlled by an outside agency. When, however, that outside agency can determine which student may enroll in the program and which cannot, the University must sever that relationship.

That ROTC motion is not an attack on the professors and staff of the ROTC program. They are caught in conflict between University rules and army policy; a policy they would undoubtedly prefer not to enforce. But as long as the army dictates to the University

that ROTC cannot abide by University rules, then the University should not abide ROTC.

Doug Marker
director, campus ACLU

Dynasty

I mourn the fall of the dynasty. Even in my high school days, I longed for the opportunity to go to a major university and study business so I could learn the intricacies of becoming a Neo-Nazi.

I quickly joined a Sorority, so that every fall and winter term I could devote my life to the mindless (yet untiring) pursuit of sex, alcohol and random pleasure.

Then, every Spring term I fall to the task of promulgating the dynasty. When I consider the importance of the University to the existence of our society, I know it's my responsibility as a money-loving capitalist to keep the Greek-machine powerful so that the dynasty may never fall. But alas, many dreams die.

Now that the female SPA leader has crushed the dynasty, my very existence at the University is threatened: No more M-16 practice on the IM field; I'm sure they'll cancel my Stealing from the Handicapped class; and you can bet they won't be giving upper-division credit for Fundamentals of Napalming anymore.

It may be the end of an era here, but I hear they still offer Strip Mining for Fun and Profit and Elements of Unbearable Working Conditions at University of Pittsburgh.

Chris Wesely
junior

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.

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