

Student challenges OSPIRG's funding

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

A case tentatively scheduled to be heard by the ASUO Constitution Court next week strongly resembles recent efforts by the College Republicans, the group that used less-than-ethical tactics in the 1972 presidential campaign, to drive Public Interest Research Groups from college campuses.

But Richard Burr, the University student who raised the question of OSPIRG's funding at this campus, says he is acting as an individual and, although he now has knowledge of the College Republican strategies, that information was provided after he initiated action.

However, OSPIRG's new project coordinator Ann Moorman, who fought a battle with College Republicans in Colorado as

However, Burr says he would not have raised objections if the OSPIRG incidental fee funding, which is \$1 per student, per term as voted by the University students last spring, was changed from its current status of being in effect for two years to being voted on annually.

"I have no problem with them getting their first year of money," he says. "It's the second year of funding that's the issue."

OSPIRG representatives Moorman and Daniel Malarkey have not elaborated on Burr's contentions other than to say the charges follow the College Republican pattern and they are confident in their position.

They are curious, though, why no questions were raised last spring, before the student vote, and are upset that they have had to devote so much time to prepare a



president of COPIRG, says this situation is indicative of what happened in Colorado and in other states in the past year.

The College Republican National Committee has produced an information packet with a strategy manual for ousting PIRGS and halting their formation and offers certificates of recognition to the College Republican groups that "rid their state of this pestilence".

Two of the strategies outlined in the packet, calling PIRGs unconstitutional and gathering grassroots support by involving other groups so the battle does not appear to be the right vs. left, are similar to complaint's filed in Burr's brief.

But Burr, a senior majoring in political science and journalism, calls the similarity a coincidence and says the guidelines offered by the Republican's "fit in with my overall views," adding that he is opposed to any group taking political stances with public money.

"Political, in my mind, is taking stance on public issues," he says.

defense of something that is now part of the ASUO constitution.

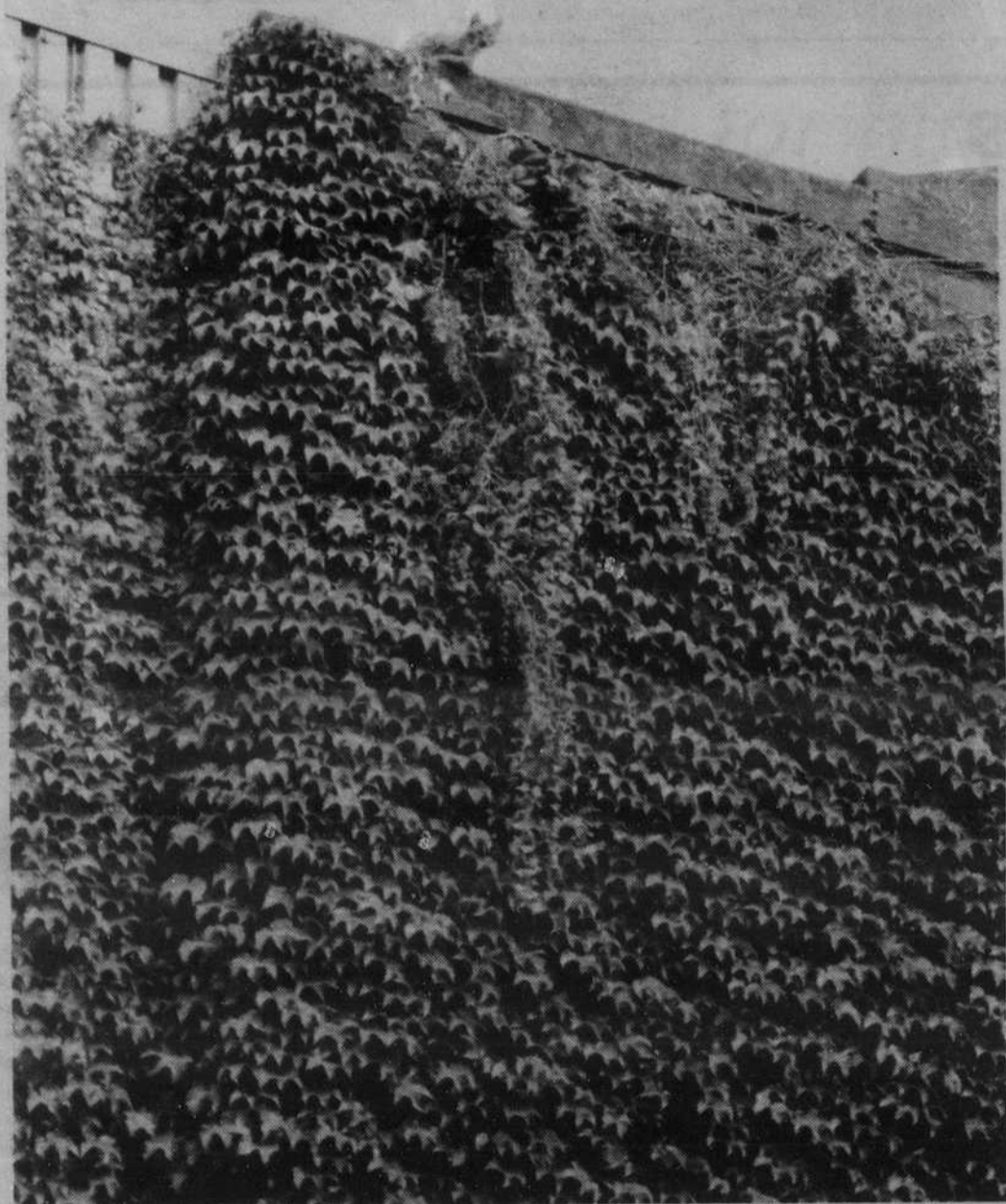
"We've had to spend a significant amount of time in the past three weeks preparing for this case," Moorman says. That time would have been better spent working on student-related issues, she says.

Hidden within the language of the case is a much larger issue, at least regarding the University.

The ramifications of the case cover a spectrum of possibilities, the impact of which could be the termination of OSPIRG on this campus or an end to student activism, at least where any student fee money is involved.

"The root issue is to what extent mandatory student fees can be used to advocate political issues," ASUO Constitution Court Chair Alan Contreras says.

And the unenviable task of defining a political issue may fall on the Court's shoulders if they can sort through the "jurisdictional" entanglements, Contreras says.



Cat on a high tin roof

This poor cat seems to be in a precarious position as it looks down from atop Mac Court. But in reality, this feline has been in similar situations many times before, according to campus security, who received four calls about the little lost kitten.

Perhaps it likes the view or maybe just the attention.

Photo by Dave Widder

Results called 'chaotic'

Course request activity elicits mixed reviews

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

Last spring's course request activity has received mixed reviews from some deans and department heads who question its overall usefulness in the registration process.

"The results were pretty chaotic," says English Department Head Thelma Greenfield of the process, in which only those students who participated in the activity were allowed to register the first day.

"Thursday registration was far too light, and Friday registration was far too heavy," Greenfield complains.

Associate Registrar Herb Chereck agrees that the time slots

could have been better allocated. One hour for seniors on the second day "would have been more appropriate" than the two hours that were scheduled, he says. Likewise, the second-day period for freshmen, sophomores and juniors who failed to preregister was "exceptionally busy," and could have been allotted a larger time slot, Chereck adds.

In general, the request activity seemed more successful in projecting demand for smaller, upper-division courses within the major than for lower-division, University-required courses, the deans say.

"There was more participation on the part of upper-division people — seniors, especially — so it

turned out to be a better indicator for upper-division courses than lower-division," says Economics Department Head James Tattersall.

Indeed, many department heads say not enough students participated last fall to make the projections accurate. Those that did take part failed to stick to their requested class schedules, they say.

"From what I have heard, the projections did make a problem because not enough students who were supposed to respond did respond," Greenfield says, noting that her department was forced to open up eight sections of Writing 121 and various lower-division literature courses in the

final hour and a quarter of registration Friday.

But even Greenfield was reluctant to criticize the experiment too eagerly.

"I hate to see anything that resembles preregistration done away with."

Greenfield suggested the activity "needs something real firm" in order to make more students participate and remain accountable.

"I don't know what it would take, though," she admits.

Journalism Dean Everette Dennis, who was highly favorable of the process, suggested nevertheless that students do course request activities during fall and winter terms, rather than spring term.

"You do lose some students between spring and fall. I think fall and winter are a better indicator (of course demand)," Dennis says.

Chereck says the experiment was definitely worthwhile in that it provided advance warning of many classes that were in great demand, and allowed time for additional sections to open. Still, he indicated that he would wait until he has received evaluations from department heads and personally reviewed the process before making any decisions on the future of course request activities.

"Because of the new procedure it (registration) was a little different," Chereck says. "By and large it went as well as it can under the circumstances."