

Lobbying group 'democratic,' organizer says

By Paul Ertel
Of the Emerald

The political views of the United States Student Association reflect the views of the member campuses and not a rigid ideological stance, says Bob Bingaman, field organizer for the national student group. Bingaman was on campus to

help plan the group's national congress, which will be held in Eugene in August.

University students voted to subsidize USSA to the tune of \$3,989, though the organization has been criticized by some conservative students as having a leftist orientation.

But Bingaman says the USSA's

platform is rewritten every year in a democratic process. Delegates to the group's national congress are selected by the student governments or by student vote on the member campuses.

"Our underlying philosophy is that no student should be denied education because of a barrier such as finances, sex or race discrimination," Bingaman says.

The conservative opposition stems from the group's criticism of Pres. Ronald Reagan's policy in Central America and his cuts in financial aid. Financial aid has been cut 23 percent during Reagan's administration, despite the rise in the cost of a college

education, Bingaman says.

"We're not saying that about Ronald Reagan because Reagan is a Republican, but because we are concerned about these issues," he says. "Ronald Reagan has been a disaster on these issues."

Bingaman says the USSA provides many important services for students, including employing a full-time legislative director to lobby for student issues in Wash., D.C. The group also employs three full-time field organizers for women, minorities and state student associations and a part-time organizer for the disabled.

The group also offers leadership training for student leaders

and internships in Wash., D.C., for students of member campuses, Bingaman says.

USSA was formed in 1979 with the merger of two student organizations, the National Student Association and the National Student Lobby.

The NSA was founded in 1947 by veterans of World War II who were concerned about their access to a college education. The focus of that group was research on educational and other issues, Bingaman says.

NSL was formed in 1972 after 18-year-olds were given the vote, and its focus has been on lobbying. USSA now represents more than 400 campuses in 35 states.

SURC wins award for campus service

The Student University Relations Council has won a national "Word of the Exceptional Achievement Award" for its service on campus.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education gave the award to SURC, a 35-member group responsible for organizing Springfest activities.

"I think it's a really nice pat on the back, not just for SURC, but for University Relations as well," says Gery Peiss, vice president of SURC.

The national council selected SURC from among 22 student relations organizations across the country. SURC will receive an award certificate in June.

SURC was awarded for activities such as 1983 Homecoming weekend, Campus Kids Day, Parents Weekend and Springfest, which included the John Belushi Memorial Jello-Eating Contest.

Physicist set to speak on weapons

Physicist Freeman Dyson, author of the book, "Weapons and Hope," will speak tonight at 8 p.m. in a forum sponsored by the Faculty Arms Control Group.

Dyson, who also wrote "Disturbing the Universe," was on the faculty at Cornell with University Pres. Paul Olum, and is a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, N.J.

Dyson is the guest of The Faculty Arms Control Group, whose chair, Biology Prof. Dan Udovic, categorizes tonight's program as the most important the group has sponsored this year.

"We feel Dyson's talk could be our most significant program of the year," Udovic says.

Dyson will also speak Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in 150 Geology on "The Origins of Life."

Oregon frog wins contest

ANGELS CAMP, Calif. (AP) — "Weird Harrold," an entry from Sweet Home, took the big leap Sunday, setting a world record of 21 feet, 1½ inches in the Calaveras County Jumping Frog contest.

The 4½-inch frog, owned by Janet Seiber, broke a record of 20-3½ set at the contest last year by "Johnny Jumper," owned by Bruce Hamilton, said contest spokeswoman Kay Airola.

The winner picked up a \$1,500 prize. Taking second with a jump of 20-9½ was "Froggies Friend," owned by Lee Giudici of Santa Clara.

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SURC also publishes a New Student Record, a yearbook for freshmen and transfer students, and helps with the University Foundation Telefund.

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