

Student network develops to lobby state Legislature

By Scott McFetridge
Of the Emerald

Many of the 3,000 bills introduced during each session of the Oregon Legislature directly affect students, and with the formation of the Student Lobby Network, students now have an opportunity to become more involved, says SLN director Rebecca Roby.

Since the beginning of winter term, group members have asked students to fill out forms indicating what areas of the Legislature they are concerned about, says Roby, who is also ASUO state affairs coordinator. The names and specific interests of students responding to the forms are then listed on the ASUO computer, she says.

The SLN soon will be mailing a legislative update to the 200 students who have filled out the forms, she says. The updates will enable students to become

better informed with bills directly affecting higher education and will help coordinate student campaigns for certain legislation, she says.

"It's imperative for students to understand how they can effect change," Roby says. "We want a broad voice for students."

When students fill out the forms, they are asked to indicate how they would be willing to aid education legislation, Roby says. Although those registered with the network are under no obligation to contact legislators, Roby believes most of them will still do so.

Because many groups besides the ASUO Executive lobby at the Legislature, the network will be valuable to many ASUO organizations, Roby says. Minority, environmental and women's organizations are expected to become active because

the Legislature will be considering a variety of issues that concern them, she says.

This will aid lobbying efforts for a wide variety of groups, agrees Scott Jones, SLN assistant director.

"The ASUO has priorities, but that doesn't mean students can't work for other legislation," Jones says.

Jones is pleased with the interest shown in the network, and he expects the number of participants to grow as the service becomes better known.

"This is just getting formed, and it's going to take some personal contact on our part before it really catches hold," Jones says.

The Incidental Fee Committee recently allocated \$500 to the network for the 1985-1986 academic year, which will help the network continue to grow, Roby adds.

Fora address U.S. budget

Steve Johnson, researcher with Decision Research-Eugene and director of the Pacific Northwest Research Center on campus, will discuss the proposed \$314 billion defense budget tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room 214 EMU.

Johnson's speech is the first part of "The Reagan Budget: Guns, Butter, Education," a presentation on the defense and education portions of the budget President Ronald Reagan recently proposed to Congress.

Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 167 EMU, Myrnie Daut, legislative assistant for the Oregon Student Lobby in Salem, will discuss the proposed federal education and financial aid budget, which includes a \$2 billion cut.

At the same presentation, Jim Gilmour, University assistant director of financial aid, will discuss the effects the Reagan financial aid cuts will have on University students.

Workshop participants will have the opportunity to write letters to influence the budget process now going on in Congress, says Sherri Schultz, coordinator of the Student Campaign for Disarmament, one of the workshop sponsors.

Students for a Progressive Agenda and SCD members say they planned the workshops to show the "striking" contrast between the defense and education budget proposals.

"President Reagan makes a 25 percent cut in financial aid, but asks for a \$30 billion increase in defense, which already represents over 30 percent of the federal budget," Schultz says.

The workshops, sponsored by SCD, SPA and Catalyst Films, are free and open to students and the community. For more information, contact SCD at 686-4248.

Callers Continued from Page 1

Kerras says that the average customer has a bill of \$40 per month, so discounts are commonly applied to bills.

Sprint charges callers by the minute. Also, Sprint has a minimum charge of \$5 a month in long distance calls, with no set-up fee or service charge beyond this.

Another feature Sprint offers is a travel card, enabling customers to make calls from outside of their home without having to go through a middleman or an operator.

Sprint customers have access to the service in 360 different cities in the United States, and Kerras says that the company soon will be extending across the globe, to the United Kingdom, Australia and

Canada.

AT&T, which previously dominated the competition, is still in the competition, since it offers the widest range of long-distance service — anywhere in the United States and in 250 other countries, says Dave Underhill, AT&T public relations manager for Oregon and southwestern Washington.

AT&T also offers a calling card, but unlike Sprint customers, AT&T customers must go through an operator to complete their calls.

Underhill says that billing does not begin until the connection is made, however, and then rates are applied per minute.

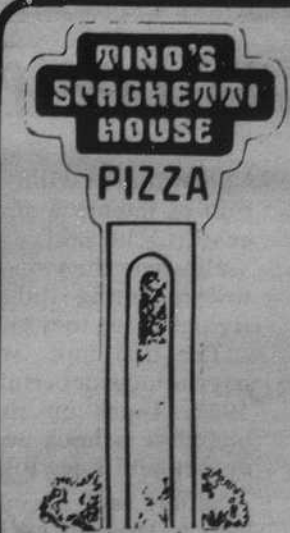
Proto-Call Corp. is the newest of the four companies operating in Eugene but is challenging the

other networks, says Lois Ikeda, Proto-Call's marketing representative in Eugene.

Proto-Call charges callers by the minute. But unlike other companies, the cost of the first minute of a telephone conversation through Proto-Call is the same as the cost for additional minutes.

Although Proto-Call is in operation throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the system only works on touch-tone phones, Ikeda says.

Since all four companies offer different features, the company representatives encourage callers to research their options to find which will best accommodate them.



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