

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Veterans to feel effect of cuts to government aid

By Andrew LaMar  
Of the Emerald

Veterans will soon become the latest group to feel the effects of the Gramm-Rudman Act.

About 3,400 students in the state and more than 300 University students, who receive aid under the GI Bill or Dependents Educational Allowance will be directly affected by the Veteran Administration's plans to cut benefit payments.

Benefit cuts have been made in order to comply with budget reductions required by the Gramm-Rudman Act, said Tom Furukawa, the veteran services officer for the VA's Oregon regional office.

*We don't really know what kind of budgetary constraints will be imposed upon us next year.*

— Tom Furukawa

These reductions will include a 8.7 percent cut in the Dependents Educational Allowance.

The cuts to veterans and their dependents and survivors eligible for the GI Bill and the Dependents Educational Allowance will be realized in checks sent out April 1, Furukawa said.

This means the rate paid to a full-time, single student without dependents will be reduced from \$376 to \$343 per month. The reductions are effective for the rest of fiscal year 1986, Furukawa said.

Benefits, however, should return to their previous levels for fiscal year 1987, which begins Oct. 1, 1986, Furukawa said.

"We're just taking it as it comes," Furukawa said. "We don't really know what kind of budgetary constraints will be imposed upon us next year. It's all dependent on that," Furukawa said.

If Gramm-Rudman is proven constitutional and takes effect, the VA will undoubtedly have to make more reductions, he said.

"The bottom line is everyone is going to feel the pinch," he said.

Because federal law only allows veterans to receive student aid from the VA, the Guaranteed Student Loan program and the Pell Grant program, many veteran students live on a tight budget.

Most veterans are really going to school on a shoestring, said Hilda Young, director of the University's Office of Veteran Affairs. "It's a killer, especially for people living very close to the subsistence level," Young said.

The suspension of advance payments will make paying tuition harder for many veterans who need to pay several fees at the beginning of a term, Young said.

"It may cut into my groceries," said Steve Hildebrandt, a veteran attending the University full-time. "It's real tough to get by now."

Another veteran, Sheramy Barry, said she currently works three jobs while attending school full-time. Barry said while she won't be starving, she will find it very difficult to make ends meet.

"It may make attending school next year impossible," she said.

## Budget overruns force ASUO to freeze funds of seven groups

By Linda Hahn  
Of the Emerald

The ASUO froze the funds of seven student groups today for nonpayment of 1984-85 budget overruns. Twenty groups were notified Feb. 3 of the deficits and were asked to clear the books before an Incidental Fee Committee meeting Thursday evening.

"We're willing to work out problems with groups," said Caitlin Cameron, ASUO finance coordinator. The deficit can be paid all at once or in installments. But if the payments aren't made on time, the group's funds will be frozen again, Cameron said.

Thirteen groups contacted Cameron before the deadline and arranged payment. However, the following still are in debt: People and Oregon Coast; Drug Information Center; Rape Crisis Network; Chinese Student Association; MEChA, an organization of Chicano and Hispanic students; AVENU, a Architecture and Allied Arts student publication; and AIESEC, an international association of economics and business students.

One complication in the deficits problem was a slow bookkeeping process for stu-

dent groups' budgets. Budget adjustments for the 1984-85 school year were not completed until the 1985-86 Christmas break, Cameron said.



Caitlin Cameron

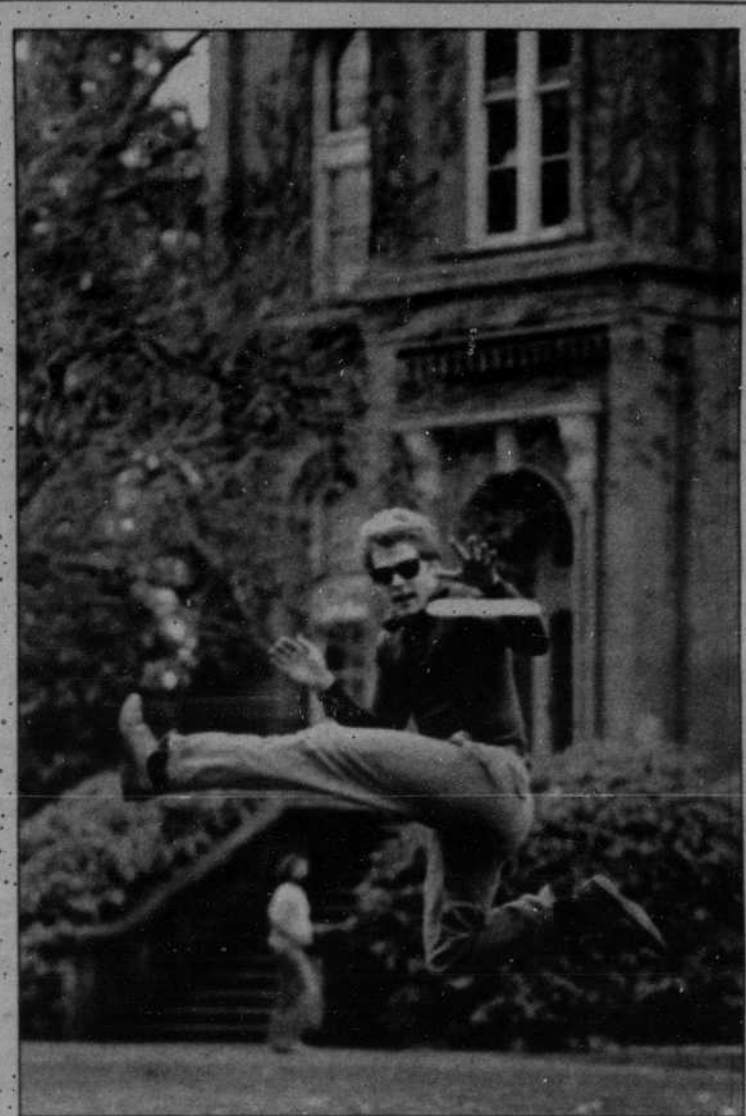
Another problem is that there had not been a standard way for student groups to get estimates for services on campus. Because estimates had been taken over the phone or written down informally, the final cost of a service often turned out to be higher than the estimate. The ASUO hopes to alleviate the problem by developing a standard written form for taking estimates, Cameron said.

But the biggest problem was discovered at the beginning of the 1985-86 school year. Cameron found that costs for services were being grossly underestimated, and an ASUO rule, stipulating that bills for costs that are 10 percent more than the estimate should not be paid, was overlooked by EMU Accounting Office.

The bills were getting paid, however, the organizations weren't notified that the actual cost was considerably more than the estimate, Cameron said. The organizations were balancing their accounts based on the estimates.

"This has been happening a lot. Either the groups didn't know it was happening, or they didn't think they could do anything about it," she said. "These bills can destroy a group that only has \$400 budgeted to them."

She contacted the accounting office and the problem has since been cleared up. To handle underestimated costs, the ASUO recently instituted a new system requiring that representative of the student group sign a release before a bill for services that is more than 10 percent over the estimate can be paid.



### Here comes the sun

A long-overdue glimpse of the sun was enough to convince Scott Bolen to leave class, grab his Frisbee® and take a study break. Bolen, a marketing and french major at the University, claims his class was let out early for the occasion.

Photo by Karen Stallwood

## More poisonous Tylenol found in New York area

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Two more bottles of cyanide-laced Tylenol were found in stores in the New York area on Thursday, prompting the manufacturer and the FDA to issue nationwide warnings not to use the painkiller in capsule form.

Federal officials said the tainted bottles found in Westchester County on Thursday were not from the same batch that figured in the death of a woman last weekend.

The state health commissioner banned the sale of Tylenol capsules throughout New York, and a commissioner for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a nationwide warning against taking any Tylenol capsules. Tylenol in other forms was not affected by the ban.

Last weekend's death prompted thousands of stores nationwide to pull the painkiller from shelves and recalled the 1982 deaths of seven Chicago-area residents who died after taking cyanide-tainted Tylenol.

"We found cyanide in it," FDA Director George Gerstenberg said about a second bottle. "It was taken off the shelf; it had not been sold."

One tainted bottle found Thursday had been taken from a Woolworth's store in Bronxville, a few blocks from the A&P where the first poisoned bottle had been bought. Another had been taken from an A&P grocery store in Shrub Oak, in the northern part of the county, officials said.

"Even though this still appears to be a local occurrence in the greater New York area, all consumers should as an extra precaution remove all Tylenol capsules from the medicine cabinets to avoid use by any family members or children," said FDA Commissioner Frank E. Young.

Johnson & Johnson, the maker of Tylenol, said in a statement, "while the area of immediate concern is New York, we are issuing a nationwide warning in the interest of giving the public the widest possible protection."