

# ASUO plans awareness week on proposed financial aid cuts

By Linda Hahn  
Of the Emerald

The ASUO will sponsor a Financial Aid Awareness Week beginning Monday to inform students of proposed cuts in the 1987 education budget and to encourage a student write-in campaign to lobby against those cuts. The event will be held simultaneously at the seven other colleges and universities in the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

ASUO members will set up a table in the EMU lobby Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., said Debra Kester, ASUO state affairs coordinator. Stamped postcards will be available for students who want to write to their representatives prior to the budget vote.

The best way that students can have an impact on what their representatives decide is by writing letters and making them aware of the impact that they, as students, will feel when the budget is cut, said Sherry

Oeser, director of the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL).

President Reagan's proposed budget would slash federal student aid by about \$2 billion below the current appropriations, according to figures from an OSL newsletter. Nationally, more than 1.3 million students would be eliminated from federal financial aid programs.

The proposals include reducing the Pell Grant program by more than \$182 million. Reagan proposes combining the College Work-Study and SEOG programs and reducing funding by 55 percent. The State Student Incentive Grant Program would be completely eliminated.

Reagan also would make major changes in the Guaranteed Student Loan program. Currently, the federal government pays 8 percent interest on the loan while students are in college, but under Reagan's new plan, students would be responsible for paying most of the interest on their loans while they still

were in school.

All of these proposals must first be approved by Congress before going into effect. Kester said. It is at this level where students can affect changes in the final version adopted by Congress.

"Congress isn't happy with Reagan's proposed budget either," she added.

The ASUO will stress three points that other Oregon schools also will stress in their letter-writing campaign. Kester said. First, because education spending did not cause the deficit, students shouldn't have to bear the weight of the cuts, she said.

Second, education is an investment in the future and society as a whole, and cuts will affect everyone. Finally, Kester noted that proposed program reductions and changes in financial aid will hamper access to higher education for some students.

"If the proposed cuts go through, they will hurt women and minorities more because they are poor," Kester said.

Kester expects thousands of Oregon students to send letters to representatives in Washington, D.C. She hopes that a large number of letters will carry some weight for the ASUO delegation when it attends a Spring Lobbying Conference in the nation's capital from March 14-18.

Along with workshops, the ASUO will lobby the Oregon representatives concerning proposed financial aid cuts.

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**ASUO sponsors raffle**

An ASUO Campus Co-op Drawing raffle to benefit the ASUO Project Saferide and Non-Profit Food Store will take place Monday. Tickets will be sold for \$1 at the ASUO Office, the University Bookstore and the EMU Main Desk, said Michael Easton, ASUO fundraising coordinator.

The first prize includes two nights for two at the Inn at the Seventh Mountain ski lodge and two days skiing at Mount Bachelor. Other prizes include a \$150 textbook credit at the University Bookstore, four one-hour sessions at Onsen Hot Tubs, brunch for two in the Encore Room at the Eugene Hilton and two nights for two at the Portland Marriot Hotel.

Raffle drawings will be held April 4 at the EMU Beer Gardens.

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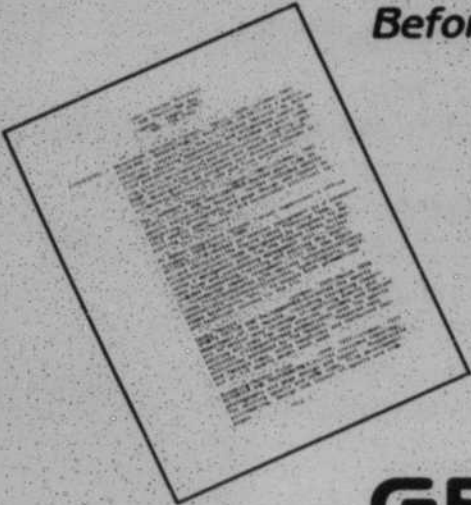
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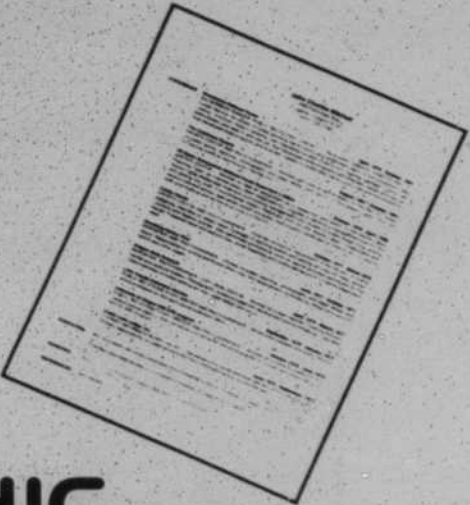
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