## Student leaders to visit El Salvador

## **By Sarah Kitchen** Of the Emerald

Two student government members will travel to El Salvador next month as part of a national student delegation.

Randy MacDonald, Student Senate chairman, and Lisa Loving, editor of The Record, were selected by the United States Campaign for the University of El Salvador in Washington, D.C., to join a delegation to El Salvador with students from campuses across the country.

MacDonald and Loving applied for the delegation in November and heard at the beginning of December that they had been selected. The delegation will leave Jan. 11 and stay in El Salvador for five days. Both Loving and Mac-Donald will attend as members of the Sister University Project, a University project to establish ties between the University of Oregon and the University of El Salvador.

MacDonald said he hopes to achieve four goals as a result of the visit: to take earthquake relief to the University of El Salvador: to witness what is happening within the country. particularly at UES; to educate students at the University about the conditions at UES; and to develop deeper bonds between the University and UES Loving said she believes it is

important to keep the ASUO aware of the issues within Central America. "To me, and to a lot of others

on campus, Central America is important because if a war were to start in Central America, there is a good chance that students would be called on to fight." she said.

However, the main purpose of the delegation is to gather news and information on UES' status since the earthquake, Loving said.

'This is a critical delegation - the situation in the country is possibly at the highest crisis state it has been in for years.' Loving said.

"Some guess that maybe a popular revolution could succeed now because one of the factors that worked in the revolution in Nicaragua was the earthquake destabilized the nation and especially the military." she added. The ASUO Executive is

donating \$300 from a fundraising account for medical supplies for El Salvador.

"We hope to take as much earthquake relief to the University of El Salvador as we can.' MacDonald said. In addition to the ASUO's donation, the Sister

University Project has raised money by asking University faculty and staff for contributions and by holding bake sales.

And response has been good. MacDonald said. "At the bakesale, people would offer to pay more than we were asking for the food we were selling. Also, we had a lot of donations from local companies and individuals for the bake sale," MacDonald said.

The delegation will focus on UES, but the delegates also will meet with people who aren't related to the university as well as visit hospitals and other buildings off-campus, Mac-Donald said.

When MacDonald and Loving return, they plan to give slide shows, make presentations and discuss their trip through the media, MacDonald said.

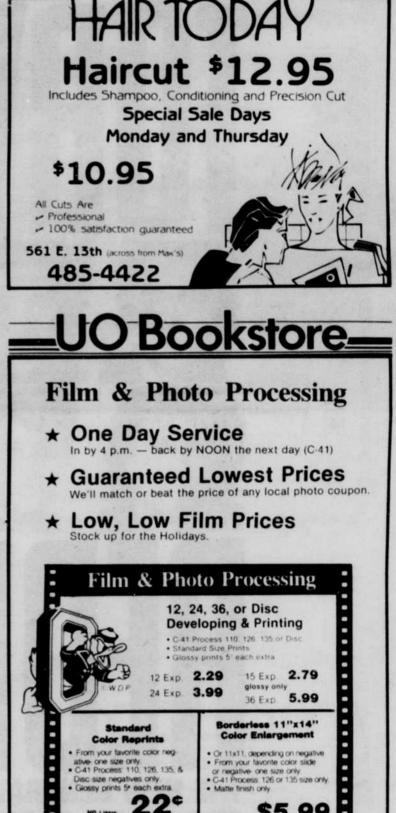
"We will share our experience here for the purposes of raising the awareness about the UES, and to start a longterm fund-raising campaign so we can send supplies to the UES," MacDonald said.

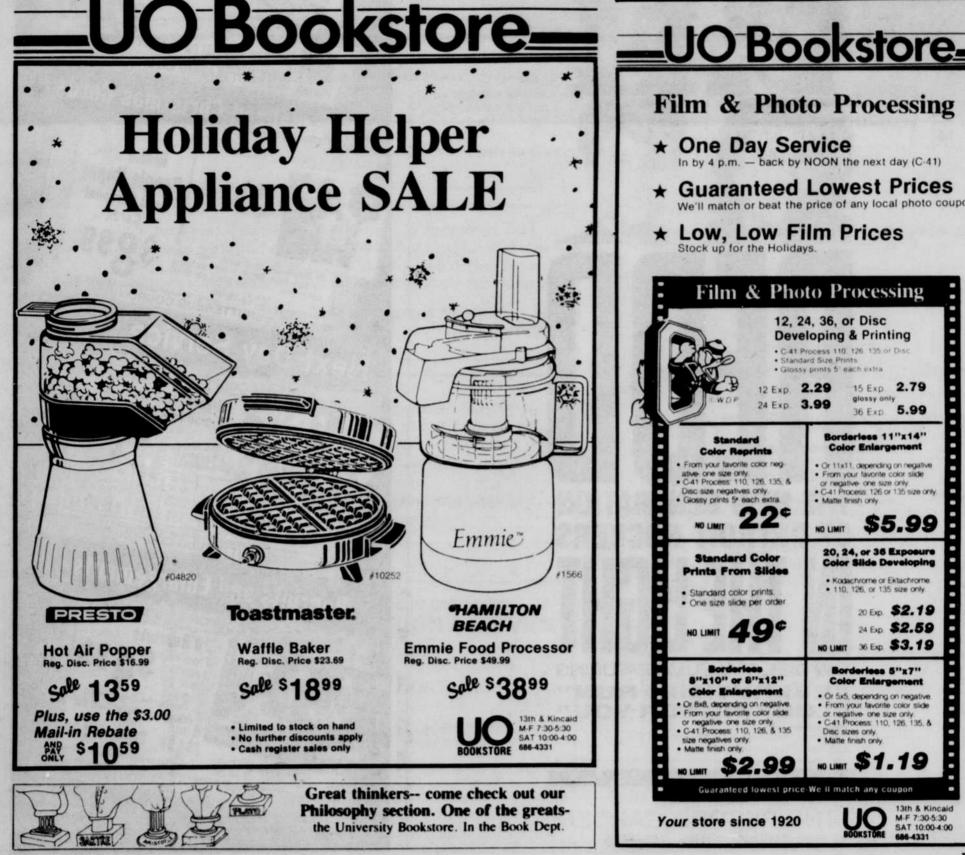
Loving hopes to help establish more UES project committees within the state when she returns from El Salvador, she said.

In addition, she said she hopes to encourage faculty, staff and local union representatives to visit El Salvador in future delegations.

"It is important to have information available for those who are interested, and also to have it available for those who will become interested when something happens in El Salvador; it is inevitable that something is going to have to give when the United States is supplying \$11/2 million a day in military aid," Loving said.







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