

Pilot program promotes fitness; benefits University staff, faculty

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

University employees will be healthier and more aware of their physical well-being if the new Employee Health Enhancement Program proves successful.

The program recently was made available to employees by the University's Personnel Benefits Office in conjunction with the Department of Physical Education and Human Movement Studies and the School of Community Health.

A 1985 survey conducted by Cathlene Zavala for the benefits administration found one-third of the University's permanent employees would take part in a health-enhancement program.

Zavala conducted the survey as part of her doctoral thesis.

Largely because of the survey, a health program now has been made available to all University employees but was limited to the first 100 who enrolled, said Lynn Jacobsen, co-author of the program and a graduate teaching fellow in the physical education department.

"We have had an overwhelming response from University faculty and staff to the program," said Mike Ellis, director of the physical education department. "The slots filled up within about 25 hours of when they became available."

The program will be expanded to include all University employees after a six-month

pilot program, dubbed "First Step," is completed and if everything goes smoothly, Jacobsen said.

Participants paid a \$20 fee to participate in and help fund the pilot project, Ellis said.

The remainder of funding for the project, which will total about \$8,000, will come from University administration funds from the office of Vice President for Administration Dan Williams, said Linda King, associate director of the benefits administration.

After the initial six-month program, which will include fitness and lifestyle-management classes, health-

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Panhellenic selects new members

By Julie Paul
Of the Emerald

In addition to enforcing new alcohol policies, the main goal of the 1987 Panhellenic Executive officers is to become a "service" for sororities to utilize and to increase communication with others outside of the Greek System, according to Panhellenic President Karen Neuburger.

"We've had an excellent transition; we are going full speed ahead and I don't see us letting up in the future," Neuburger said. "Greeks used to have a lot more power, and we're getting to that point again by becoming more involved in campus politics, among other things."

The relations between Panhellenic and the Inter-



Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Panhellenic President Karen Neuburger (left) and Vice President Michelle Castano hope to increase communication with those outside the Greek system.

fraternity council are already strong because of the immense amount of respect and support that the two organizations have for each other, said Linda

Williams, sorority activities chairwoman.

Both Panhellenic and IC take

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Bill seeks reinstatement of helmet law

By Janet Paulson
Of the Emerald

SALEM — The scent of leather was in the air as dozens of bikers gathered Thursday to protest the proposed reinstatement of Oregon's motorcycle helmet law.

Rep. Mary Alice Ford, R-Portland, announced the proposed reinstatement of the helmet law at a Capitol press conference.

House Bill 2851 would reinstate the law making it a Class C felony to ride a motorcycle without a helmet. Mopeds and scooters would not be included in the bill.

Oregon repealed its old helmet law in 1977 following a 1976 decision in the U.S. Congress to revoke federal sanctions against states not complying with the motorcycle helmet

standard.

Currently motorcycle riders less than 18 years of age must wear a helmet in Oregon.

Motorcycle-related deaths increased by 84 percent in the year following the repeal of Oregon's helmet law, according to statistics cited by Ford.

Since the repeal of the helmet law, there have been increases in both serious injuries and fatalities in motorcycle related accidents, she said. Society must pay for these accidents in the form of increased taxes and insurance premiums, Ford said.

Following Ford's announcement, opponents of the bill spoke to reporters.

Butch Arbaugh, a lobbyist representing A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments, said motorcycle helmet laws have not worked in the

past and will not work now.

"The answer is education, not laws creating criminals out of riders," Arbaugh said.

John Goff, representing the American Motorcycle Association, Oregon District 28, said he wears a helmet by choice. The issue is a constitutional one, not a safety issue, he said.

"You hear a lot of percentages on this issue — ask for the raw numbers — they're a lot more realistic than the statistics," Goff said.

One ABATE member at the press conference wore a T-shirt with a slogan stating his group's stand on the helmet issue: "Let those who ride decide."

"Let those who pay have the say," Ford answered in rebuttal.

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