

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Student Activities Bill clears House; faces governor next

By Peter Meier  
Of the Emerald

Students of Oregon's public universities and colleges may ultimately pay lower fees as a result of a bill overwhelmingly passed by the Oregon House of Representatives on Tuesday.

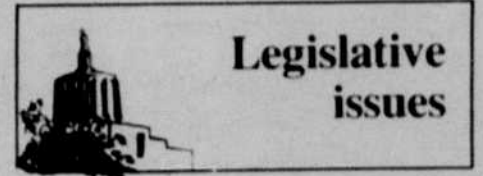
Known as the Student Activities Bill, Senate Bill 400 may provide the University with an extra \$30,000 a year for student activities. The measure is sponsored by the Oregon Student Lobby and was passed by the House 52-6.

SB400 grants students the interest from student incidental fees they must pay each term to support athletics and university services and programs. This interest is currently deposited into the State General Fund.

Rep. Ron Eachus, D-Eugene, said the bill will provide students of the Oregon State System an extra \$340,000 a year for the support of activities. This should help reduce fees for students, Eachus said.

"This should probably tend to reduce fees, as more money will be available to students," Rep. Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, said.

Both Hosticka and Eachus said they believe that Gov. Neil Goldschmidt will not have any problems with the bill.



Legislative  
issues

However, Sherry Oeser, director of the Oregon Student Lobby, said she does not share that confidence, having heard rumors that Goldschmidt has difficulties with the bill. Oeser will meet the governor's staff members to discuss the issue on Thursday.

Turn to Bill, Page 3

## Research Park forum canceled as planning falls behind schedule

By Andrew LaMar  
Of the Emerald

Planning of the Riverfront Research Park has fallen behind schedule and has yet to answer vital questions about different phases of development, said Cathy Briner of the Eugene Development Department on Wednesday.

Planning also fails to show how the different phases will work together, Briner said.

Briner made her comments at the Riverfront Research Park Commission's monthly meeting.

As a result, the third public forum that was to be held tonight has been canceled. The forum will be delayed until July

at the earliest, Briner said.

The third forum will be held so University students and faculty members could give the commission feedback on the master site plan that will define what the park will look like, Briner said. The master site plan cannot be completed until the development department decides where the different phases of development will be located, she said.

The commission discussed possible dates for the third forum. Commission members expressed concern about whether a summer forum would be fair to students interested in the project who

Turn to Research, Page 3



## Beauty Cum Laude

Darsi Neff of the Delta Zeta sorority (left) was crowned Miss Greek in the second-annual Miss Greek University of Oregon Scholarship Pageant before a crowd of more than 700 people in McArthur Court on Wednesday.

Also present are Radona Howard of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority (center) and Erin Hogan of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority (right).

Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

## Task force reveals plan to upgrade workers' compensation

By Will Holbert  
Of the Emerald

Three members of a task force formed by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to study Oregon's worker compensation system revealed their plans to overhaul the system at a public hearing Wednesday night.

Oregon Secretary of State Barbara Roberts, Stanton Long, director of the state's Commerce department, and Ted Kulongoski, commissioner of the state's Insurance Division, outlined seven recommendations they will make to Goldschmidt for improving workers' compensation in the state.

"It is a system in terrible need of repair," Roberts said.

Goldschmidt formed the task force two weeks after his election to the Governor's office last November.

The task force recommended the following changes:

- More emphasis would be put into preventing injury on the job. According to a sum-

mary of the recommendations, Oregon ranks in the top 10 states for the number of accidents for its population. The Accident Prevention Division of the Workers' Compensation Department would be revitalized, and given authority to impose larger fines upon employers who violate safety codes.

- The vocational rehabilitation programs that attempt to help injured workers return to the job market will be upgraded, and incentives will be offered to employers who hire injured workers. According to Roberts, 67 percent of injured workers never return to the job market. A Preferred Employment Fund would reward those who hire injured workers by paying for the workers' insurance for two years.

- Increased auditing would cut down on medical costs. Roberts blamed much of the problem on health care practitioners who profit from prescribing unnecessary

treatments. The state would punish professionals who abuse the system by taking away their right to work on patients under the system for two or three years.

- Several measures would go into effect that limit administrative cost and streamline the process by doing away with certain litigation procedures. Sanctions would be imposed upon attorneys who bring up "frivolous" appeals in compensation cases. Also, claims would be closed within five years, instead of staying open indefinitely.

- Compensation for mental stress claims would be limited. Claims of this nature are "threatening to overburden the entire system," Roberts said.

- Private insurance carriers would come under increased regulation from the Insurance Division.

Roberts, the chairperson of the task force, said she hopes the recommendations will be incorporated into a bill and



Photo by James Marks

Ted Kulongoski (left) and Stanton Long (right) listen to Oregon Secretary of State Barbara Roberts outline plans to improve Oregon's workers' compensation system.

passed during the present legislative session. There is a current bill in the legislature dealing with workers' compen-

sation, but Roberts doesn't believe that it goes far enough in alleviating the system's problems.