

# Action alliance helps students lobby issues

By David Rauzi  
Emerald Contributor

Students have concerns on various issues from toxic waste disposal to financial aid but more often than not they don't have the time or resources to pursue all the issues they would like to.

Now help for the active yet time-hampered student is close by with the Legislative Action Alliance, a student-run lobbying group co-sponsored by ASUO and OSPIRG.

According to Assistant Coordinator of State Affairs Justin McKenna the LAA attempts to "harness the voice of students and channel it into political action." Students fill out interest cards, provided at registration or at the ASUO office, with their issues of interest. Issues offered on the card are child care, toxic waste clean-up, higher education/financial aid, good government and consumer protection. Students also state their level of support by writing legislators or attending

legislative hearings to organizing others in the community.

"We have got a lot of positive responses from students (to the program)," McKenna said. More than 200 interest cards have been returned with 17 people volunteering to help with phoning, he said.

Once the cards are filled out they are entered into a computer database. When a particular issue or interest is to come before the Oregon Legislature, the LAA contacts those respondents who showed interest in that particular issue and tells them who to write to and how they can help according to what they marked on their card.

"There's a myth that students or people don't have power," said Tim Goss, ASUO state affairs coordinator.

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Men's Int. Al Sieradski

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Men's Novice Gobi Nair/Chin Lin  
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Men Theta Chi

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Women's Int. Taunya Brood/Colleen Cormack  
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