

# Lobby fights gambling revenues

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Associate Editor

Representatives from the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) will present statements to a host of media organizations today in the EMU Forum Room to show their discontent with the state's use of lottery money to fund Oregon's higher education system.

The statements from OSL representatives of six Oregon universities and colleges will be read to television and print media representatives at 1 p.m. The lobbying organization hopes to draw attention to problems the group anticipates from the state's use of lottery revenues to fund professor salaries and student scholarships.

According to ASUO Vice President and newly elected OSL Chairman Scott Wyckoff, the problems stem from the use of unpredictable, unreliable lottery revenues to fund higher education costs.

"I feel we've created a state system addicted to gambling," Wyckoff said. "It's an easy way out and very short sided."

He also said that the inherent instability of the lottery and other state-run gambling attempts will discourage top professors from coming to the University if they have to depend on the success of those programs to fund their salaries.

"What happens if you don't get enough mon-

ey to cover those costs?" he said. "What if the revenues fall short of their expectations?"

Wyckoff explained that OSL is tackling the issue early in the off-legislative year so that the group can better lobby for more stable higher education funding when the Oregon Legislature reconvenes in 1991.

He said that because a flourishing higher education system benefits the entire state, the burden for financing the system should instead be placed on the citizens through a more stable tax initiated by the Legislature.

"The lottery is an excuse for the legislators not to give the citizens a fair and equal burden to support the system," he said. "They need to back up the services the system provides with stable money we can count on."

Although Wyckoff said he is not opposed to one-time lottery allocations for construction or expansion projects on the state's campuses, he feels the lottery and gambling revenues are not stable enough to support the system's base budget.

The OSL is a non-partisan student lobbying group that acts as a representative to the state on issues affecting students and higher education in general.

The 12 member group consists of two representatives from six Oregon colleges and universities. University representatives are Wyckoff and senior Angela Muniz.

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