

USSA representatives leave today for capitol

Meetings run three days

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Associate Editor

Three University students are leaving today for Washington D.C. to represent the United States Student Association's Northwest Pacific Region.

USSA Affirmative Action Officer and Northwest Pacific Region chairman Tim Hughes, International Student Representative Kelvin Wee and Northwest Pacific Region vice chairman Armando Morales will arrive in Washington later tonight and will attend a series of board meetings Friday through Sunday.

The student association is composed of over 200 student governments and state student associations, representing the needs and concerns of over two million university students on the national level.

The executive board meetings held this weekend in Washington will be oriented toward setting the non-partisan

association's goals and priorities, deciding on the year's platform and identifying problems to bring to legislators in the spring, Wee said.

In addition, the group will discuss recruitment and member services.

Each region of the country will send executive representatives from colleges and universities in those regions to the meetings. All three Northwest Pacific Region delegates are from the University.

Among the group's federal lobby interests will be financial aid, minimum wage laws, increasing education access for people of color and child care.

"One of our goals this year is to increase financial aid in the form of grants rather than loans," Wee said. "We're also going to try to increase the standing for international students on the country's universities."

In addition, USSA will be addressing issues such as student insurance, tuition and rent levels and job market security.



Tim Hughes

After prioritizing and researching these education issues, the group will lobby Congress in the spring with its findings and recommendations.

"These are the issues we want to take to Capitol Hill next March," Morales said. "And these issues are of concern not only in Oregon, but on a national level."

Morales stressed the importance of national student lobby organizations such as USSA for maintaining the quality and



Armando Morales

costs of higher education in the U.S.

"These are issues we can talk about with our legislators and express student problems," he said.

He also criticized the national government for what he called a lack of attention to important education and student needs.

"The U.S. government says education is a priority, but it's not," Morales said. "They are not defending the rights of students, but somebody else they



Kelvin Wee

don't tell us."

According to a USSA press release, education was only 1.7 percent of the total federal budget for the 1989 fiscal year.

The group will sponsor a campaign to promote educational access on the local level Oct. 23-27. The "Week of Action" will focus local activity on education issues in an attempt to "demonstrate the national consensus in the student population for increased educational access," according to a USSA release.

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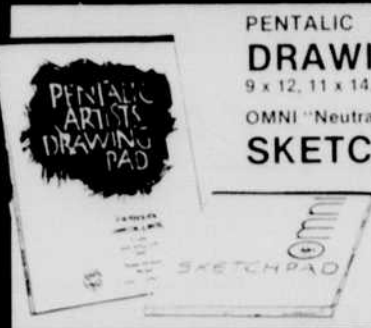


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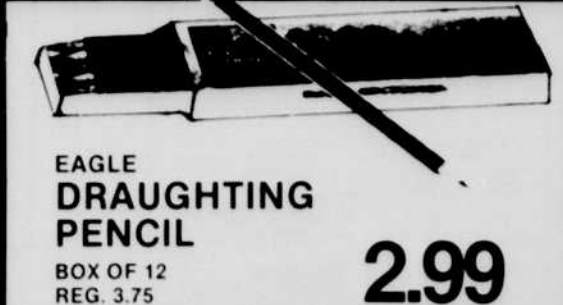
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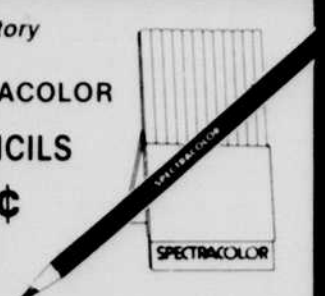


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