

- Dupe talks on apartheid, Page 3
- Netters end their season, Page 6
- ASU win puts men 2-0, Page 7
- Women lose tourney final, Page 8

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## SHIC urges required student health plan

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Associate Editor

Facing drastic premium hikes and dwindling benefits, the Student Health Insurance Committee responded to ongoing cries for affordable health care Friday with a call for mandatory ASUO insurance coverage for all students.

The 4-1 decision to recommend to the University administration a mandatory ASUO health insurance requirement for the 1990-91 school year came at the end of a heated SHIC meeting called to examine solutions to the currently troubled insurance program.

The four committee members who voted in favor of the requirement maintained that a mandatory enrollment policy would reduce student premiums while increasing benefits.

The recommendation will be passed on to the University administration for consideration, and a final decision will be made sometime in April or May.

About 1,500 students covered under this year's optional plan are facing rate hikes of up to 100 percent, increasing deductibles and lower claim payouts from insurance carrier The Prudential Co.

Prudential officials maintain the premium hikes are due to higher numbers of claims compared to incoming premiums.

"We processed more claims than we received in premiums during the last two years," said Carol Newman, Prudential account executive. "We couldn't cover our expenses for the ac-

count at all."

Andy Clark, committee member and ASUO president, said the mandatory requirement would create a larger funding pool, thus lowering and stabilizing the rates and increasing coverage.

"If we can offer an insurance company 100 percent participation by 17,600 students, then I can guarantee premiums of of \$300 a year (single student)," Clark said. "One hundred percent ASUO insurance will give us the cheapest premiums and the best coverage."

In addition, he and ASUO vice president and committee chairman Scott Wyckoff maintained that a universal insurance requirement could eventually eliminate the insurance carrier company and permit control of the program solely at the University level.

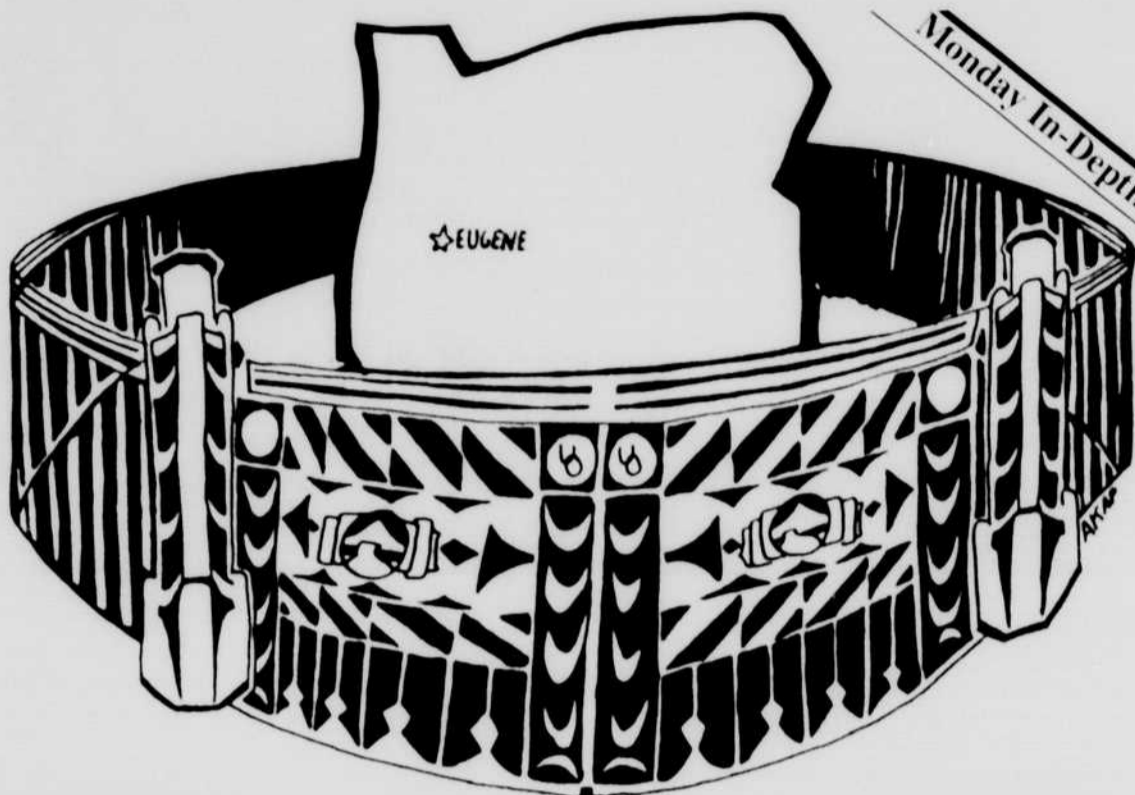
"As we increase our numbers, we increase our input," Wyckoff said. "We will no longer be at the mercy of Prudential."

Some who favored the requirement also stressed the need for spreading the cost of insurance over a greater number of students rather than allowing a higher financial burden to fall on student-parents, those with families, and foreign students who are required to carry the policy.

"This is a social problem we all face, and we should spread the expense," said one student at the meeting.

The committee chose the universal ASUO requirement over two other options that would

Turn to Insurance, Page 5



## Rolling up the welcome mat

*The University's plan to cut back enrollments has led to fewer international students on campus — and their numbers may continue to shrink in disproportionate numbers.*

By Denise Clifton  
Emerald Associate Editor

Cuts, cuts, cuts. It seems like everything has taken its turn at the University's chopping block.

Entire departments, such as gerontology and religious studies, have been placed on the line. Faculty positions have not been filled and many class sections have disappeared.

And students have been cut from the University as well. After fall term 1988, when the University's enrollment tipped the scales at more than 18,500, the administration announced it would cut the number of students down to about 17,500, the University's official maximum capacity.

The plan is to cut 500 students each year during 1989 and 1990 so the optimum enrollment level could be reached by fall 1990. But to cut enrollment by 500 students, the admissions office has to reject more than 1,500 qualified applicants.

This fall, the admissions office denied enrollment to 1,900 potential freshmen and transfer students. Of these, 300 were Oregon residents and 1,600 were out-of-state and international students.

In addition, between fall 1988 and fall '89, while the 500 students were trimmed (a 3 percent decline), international student enrollment dropped by 15 percent, to 1,263 students. International students now make up only 7 percent of the total University student population.

### Valid Concerns

Audun Runde, Norwegian graduate student and the director of the University's Association of Norwegian Students Abroad, said his concerns about enrollment cuts stems from the already depleted Norwegian enrollment at the University.

"When I was here last time in '85 getting my bachelor's degree, there were over 100 Norwegian students," he said. "Now there are less than 60."

Tom Mills, director of international services, partially attributes this drop to new higher requirements for international students, particularly students from Norway and Great Britain.

"We're actually getting a better-quality student than we've had in the past," he said.

But Runde disagreed the new standards caused the drop in enrollment because "most students don't think about it (studying abroad) much until they have the requirements anyway."

And Runde warned the University's assumption that it can attract higher-quality international students through more stringent requirements may be dangerous.

"The University must remember that people who are accepted here may also be accepted somewhere else ... like in California, and everybody knows more about California, or some 'famous' East Coast school," he said. "And these people are more likely to go to these other schools."

If the University gains a reputation in Norway of rejecting a lot of international students, "the really qualified Norwegian students may stop applying," Runde said.

Turn to Cuts, Page 4

## ABA claims spark fee hike for incoming law students

By Chris Bouneff  
Emerald Associate Editor

The University's law school has responded to concerns from the American Bar Association by charging higher fees for incoming law students to pay for improvements in the law program.

The ABA threatened in October to revoke the law school's accreditation because of low funding and gave administrators until Dec. 1 to respond to ABA concerns.

Among the ABA's concerns were the law library budget, faculty pay levels and the lack of an externship program, where students work for a community law firm.

"The increase in fees will generate revenue, and the revenue will be maintained in the budget of the law school," said Maurice Holland, law school dean.

Holland, University Provost Norman Wessells and representatives from the Oregon State System of Higher Education have been meeting since the October letter from the ABA to draft a response to the problems raised in that letter.

Holland said the fee hike was one short-term method of providing additional funding to address the ABA's concerns over computer equipment and the library budget.

University and law school administrators will decide during the normal budgetary process this spring which programs the additional funds will go into, Wessells said.

Turn to Fees, Page 5

## Life abroad nets valued experience

By Polly Campbell  
Emerald Reporter

Despite distances far from home, the cool Oregon weather and a foreign culture, students come from all over the globe to study at the University.

One of the biggest problems international students experience is being misunderstood, said Naomi Tateishi, an international studies senior from Tokyo.

But Tateishi said people within her department are always willing to help out.

"There have always been many students who would help me, because in the international studies department, students are interested in learning about foreign countries and cultures," she said.

Fahad Al-Meliky, a graduate student from Saudi Arabia, agrees there are often misunderstandings about international students, but through the help of students and faculty, no big problems exist.

"We have a great faculty that helps me to develop my schedule, help me with research, and overall they help me to develop my skills," Al-Meliky said.

Turn to Students, Page 4