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UNIVERSITY

Students see budget cuts as sexist



Sheila Stickel, ASUO co-president, talks to students yesterday about how to fight back against budget cuts.

By Christopher Blair **Emerald Managing Editor**

About 50 women students gathered at a rally Thursday in front of Johnson Hall, insisting that planned program cuts are sexist.

Holly Stegner, co-director of Women in Transition, said the rally was organized to call attention to the numbers of female students hurt by the cuts in the colleges of education, human development and performance, among others.

According to Stegner's statistics, the programs the University intends to cut will affect far more women students than men. For example, the ratio of women to men in the soon-to-be-eliminated elementary education program is 5-to-1; in the entire education program, there are twice as many women students as men.

The pattern continues in other doomed pro-- the ratio approaches 2-to-1 in the College of Human Development and Performance, 4and 5-to-1 in individual disciplines such as human services and health education.

Stegner took issue with the fact that the law school, facing accreditation problems for shortcomings in its programs, was not touched by the proposed cuts and has twice as many male students as women. Art education, one of the few architecture programs with a majority of women students in an otherwise male-dominated school, was cut as well.

"We're doing this to bring to the attention of the administration the effect on women's lives these cuts are going to have," Stegner said. "I think it's basically an oversight. It involves racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, those kinds of

Sheila Stickel, ASUO co-president, told those in attendance that the only way to fight the program cuts is to write letters to legislators and administrators.

"Attending rallies is an important thing," she said. "But everyone here needs to take this as a challenge and take the extra half-hour to write their legislator and tell them about how you feel.

"Ask them if they're as mad as we are and why we're not seeing that."

Tonija Swires, a student art education major parent with three children, said the cuts are but one way poor and minority students are being forced out of school. Swires cited cuts in financial aid and increases in tuition and fees as other barriers to education.

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Tickets for the event are \$10. For more information, contact the theater at 683-4368 or call Whitebird at 342-8255.

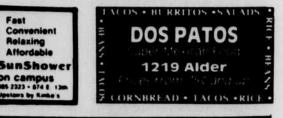


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