

UNIVERSITY

AuCoin accents trade, education

By Gerrit Koepping
Emerald Reporter

America has lost its way, said Rep. Les AuCoin, at a speech Tuesday in the EMU Gumwood Room.

AuCoin blasted the past two Republican presidencies for a skyrocketing national debt, the S & L scandal, rising health care costs and a stagnant economy.

"The median household income is today what it was 23 years ago," AuCoin said.

Bush's trip to Japan was an embarrassing AuCoin said, and is symbolic of the entire Bush presidency.

"An American president, hat in hand, all but begging for economic concessions," AuCoin said. "A Japanese prime minister offering his compassion over America's economic plight, as if we're a charity case."

AuCoin said in light of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States should cut military spending by 60 percent, which he said would save \$1.1 trillion dollars.

With that money he said we could commit ourselves to two critical areas: trade and education.

On trade, AuCoin said the administration needed to attack foreign trade restrictions that were unfair to American industries abroad and protect American industries from foreign countries dumping their products in the United States.

AuCoin also condemned the Mexican Free Trade Agreement, which would allow for easier trade between the United States and Mexico. "It's just a quick way for corporate giants to pull their manufacturing jobs out of the U.S. and exploit low-wage workers and lax environmental laws in Mexico," he said.



Photo by John Stoope

Rep. Les AuCoin criticized the United States' lack of commitment to trade and education Tuesday in the EMU Gumwood Room.

On the educational front, AuCoin said one-third of educational money should come from the states, a third from local government and a third from the federal government.

AuCoin proposed transferring as much as a \$100 billion a year from defense to education. "We can spend \$2.6 billion on three B-2 bombers, or we can spend \$2.1 billion on providing Head Start (a pre-school program) to every kid that needs it," AuCoin said.

At the higher-education level, AuCoin advocated expanding the Pell Grant program and creating tax-free savings accounts for college.

"This country can't settle for public colleges that close departments, cancel classes and see their educators bought off in a bidding war with private industry," AuCoin said. "We need to build the best minds in America, and we can't do it by destroying our colleges and ignoring our educators."

• A man was arrested for public indecency on Jan. 10. A University student told police she was crossing the street at E. 15th Avenue and Agate Street when she saw the driver of a car looking at her and masturbating within her view, according to police reports.

The man told police he was attempting to get dressed for work. He said he was just tucking in his t-shirt and denied masturbating at any point in the University area, according to police reports.

The student told police that when the man drove by she had seen his penis and that he had an erection. She also said the man wasn't wearing pants. Police reported the man had an erection when they approached him.

• Police arrested a 19-year-old University student for shoplifting from the University Bookstore on Jan. 14. Bookstore security observed the man enter the bookstore carrying a guitar case. The man was then seen

taking a fanny pack, a bag of chips and a can of pop and putting them in his coat pockets and the guitar case, according to police reports.

Bookstore security saw the man leave the store without offering to pay for the merchandise, according to police. A security officer identified himself and asked the man if he may have forgotten to pay for some merchandise. The man said, "What stuff?" When asked about the pop, the man took it out and gave it to security. He told security that was all he had taken.

The man was taken into the bookstore for questioning. Security searched the man and found the fanny pack and bag of chips, according to police. The man said he had intentionally and knowingly taken the merchandise because he needed it and he didn't have any money. A Eugene police department officer issued the man a citation and University security banned him from the bookstore.

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POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the Office of Public Safety from Jan. 9-15.

• A University student turned himself in for robbing the Alder Street Market, 798 E. 11th Ave., on Jan. 10. The man told police he had been drinking at a party and was intoxicated at the time of the robbery.

According to police reports, the man took merchandise totaling \$24 and left the store without paying for it. He said he took the items as a prank and became scared when the store owner started running after him. The man said he fought with the store owner until he got away. He told police he turned himself in because he knew if he didn't "it was only going to make things worse."

The stolen items were damaged during the fight and had no recovered value. Police said the store owner was in a lot of pain after the incident and was taken to Sacred Heart General Hospital by his wife. The extent of his injuries is unknown.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Hey! Hey! Hey! ... Who's the wiseguy that just turned down the thermostat?"