UNIVERSITY

Students elected to board posts

By Tammy Batey Oregon Daily Emerald

Two University students were elected to the United States Student Association Board of Directors at the student lobbying organization's annual conference in Washington, D.C., during spring

Ebon Brady and Erika Armsbury were among 16 University students to attend the conference. The University's delegation was the largest at the conference, which was attended by 500 students from

Brady and Armsbury were named to the positions of Students of African Descent Caucus cochairman and regional chairwoman, respectively. Armsbury's post covers USSA colleges in Oregon, Alaska, Washington and Idaho. Brady will oversee colleges across the nation.

The Students of African Descent Caucus is part of USSA's National People of Color Student Coalition. Brady's position ends in July. He said he will make a directory of phone numbers of black student unions and similar college organizations and produce a membership list.

I was really surprised no one (in the people of color student coalition) really knew each other. especially on the East Coast," he said. "I want to facilitate people getting to know each other and having access to other schools for events or just for information.

While at the nation's capital, ASUO President Bobby Lee was one of only seven students to speak at a hearing on the National Student Trust Fund, which would allow students to repay loans through community service.

University students met with senators and Congress members to discuss nine federal issues ASUO members chose to focus on

These issues included the Military Freedom Act, which would lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military; the Violence Against Women Act, which would increase sentences for repeat sex offenders; and the National Service Trust Fund.

"We were so organized in our lobbying that other students tagged along with us," Lee said. "In fact, a Newsweek reporter tagged along with us."

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> Ebon Brady, USSA board member

Some meetings with legislators were encouraging. Troy Shields, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance co-director, and several other students met with Sen. Sam Nunn to voice support for the Military Freedom Act.

"We didn't change his mind, but he heard what we had to say," Shields said. "There was a dialogue. We weren't yelling at each other.'

Other legislators were less communicative. Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood didn't show up for his meeting with ASUO Safety Coordinator Caitilin Twain, Lee and other students

The students hand-delivered about 950 letters to Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield, Congressman Peter DeFazio and Packwood's aide, voicing support for

"At this point I'm very frustrated," Twain said. "We hand-delivered 670 really heartfelt letters to Packwood's aide, and he hasn't made one noise

But Lee said students weren't in Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators who shared their views on the issues

We weren't going there to lobby our friends,' he said. "We were going there to butt heads with the strongest members opposing these acts.

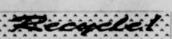
Pronita Gupta, USSA legislative director, said the University delegation was one of the most prepared groups attending the conference

They came ready to lobby," she said. "They had the information down. They were prepared

University students met for two hours every Friday for two months to prepare for the conference.





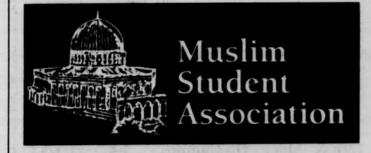


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