

USSA

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"If you're a single parent with 12 credits," Parks said, "you have to give up something, and that something should not be your child."

Many single parents say it's very difficult to maintain a good grade-point average while also working and caring for children.

Currently, Parks is writing an amendment to the federal higher education act, the operating document for federal aid funding, so single parents could take fewer credits and still qualify for aid.

Concerning minority issues, Parks said many schools, including the University, emphasize minority recruitment but have no system set up to make sure those students graduate. Universities emphasize recruitment because high levels of minority recruitment help gain more federal funding, she said. But there are no federal incentives to retain minorities to make sure they graduate.

The result, she said, is fewer services directed to special minority problems that could keep students from dropping out or graduating with low grades.

The group advocates more multicultural classes and services designed to help retain the minorities already recruited, Parks said.

"I already know what the first response will be and that will be academic freedom," she said. "What about student education? This is not a business, besides what Myles Brand thinks."

The USSA also wants to focus on lesbian, gay and bisexual students to make them less "invisible" in the eyes of the universities, said the official.

Many gay students study under fear of harassment or violence, just like people of color, Parks said.

By not offering support services for gay students, or even occasional programs and recognition of family status in student housing, Parks said universities demonstrate a desire to rid their schools of their gay students and staff.

"America is a racist, sexist, homophobic, capitalistic regime just as the forefathers designed it to be. USSA is designed to combat this image," she said.

The four delegates plan to return Monday and hold a public conference to review action taken at the meeting. A meeting time has yet to be announced.

The newly elected USSA board conducted its first meeting last June to identify group goals. The upcoming meeting will set strategy to implement those goals and to set strategy and issues for their March lobbying session with Congress, Parks said.

CHALLENGE

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Yet Ritchie and most team members said that Ranger Challenge is not strictly for ROTC members.

Former high school athletes Erica Ungern and Aaron Lamb said they were drawn to Ranger Challenge because it was unlike any other sport.

"Ranger Challenge is a combination of sports all rolled into one," Lamb said. "It's physically demanding, but at the same time it's a lot of fun."

But there is more to being a part of Ranger Challenge than early morning runs and racing to put an M-16 rifle together, Lamb said.

"There's a lot of team unity, and for me it's more than just a club sport," Lamb said.

Second year team member Bob Bennett also spoke about the importance of the team's solidarity.

"The whole concept of the team is very important," he said. "It's about surviving physical strain, not for ourselves, but for our teammates."

"For people like me," Bennett said, "being athletic is really important, but you have to have some kind of mental well-being to push yourself every day further and further."

Desmond will lead Ritchie, Unger, Lamb, Bennett, Damien San Miguel, Kain Anderson, Todd Wickman, Rishi Ostrowski and alternate James Lindseth at the Reno competition.

If the team places first or second in the field of 12 teams, it will advance to the brigade competition at Ft. Lewis Nov. 19 and 20.

The 1992 team placed second at the brigade competition and seventh out of more than 150 teams at the regional competition.

SCHOOLS

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A solution has been offered to offset the effects of Measure 5. The 1993 Ballot Measure 1 proposes a 5 percent sales tax, guaranteeing the proceeds of the tax to public schools and implementing the Oregon Education Act.

If Measure 1 does not pass and no alternative revenue is found, the district will have to close small schools and begin double-shifting students — scheduling some students for the first half of the day, and the other half for the afternoons, said Kathryn Dysart, director of public affairs for the 4J school district. Schools will also continue closing non-mandated classes such as art, music and foreign languages.

Some of the programs and services in the 4J school district that have already been eliminated or reduced include business education, night school, school nurses, music and art teachers, athletics, field trips and special education teachers.

Other programs that will be under consideration for budget cuts if the proposed sales tax does not pass are school lunch programs, student transportation, student health clinics, and equity and minority liaison programs.

"South Eugene offers six foreign languages — Spanish, French, German, Russian, Japanese and Chinese," Vaughn said. "It's pretty clear in my mind that if we have to cut programs, we can't continue to offer six languages. As I think about the kind of impact there will be if the measure does not pass, these are the kinds of decisions that will have to be made."

Elizabeth Gerot, director of Yes on 1 Lane County, calls Measure 1 a "broad-based measure. There's something that everyone does not like, but it does not penalize any one group of people."

Support for the sales tax seems to come largely from pro-education organizations. Although these groups may vary in ideologies and short-term goals, they have a common focus — ensuring that free, quality education is available in Oregon.

"By and large, those who are involved in the education process and parent groups are in support of Measure 1," said Randy MacDonald, director of the Campaign for Oregon's Future.

One of the advantages of Measure 1 is the guarantee that all proceeds from the 5 percent sales tax would go to public schools, including kindergartens and community colleges. It also ensures that at least half of lottery proceeds, which currently must be used for economic development, be redirected toward education and the needs of Oregon's children.


The sales tax would also only be imposed on a trial basis. In the November 1998 general election Oregon voters will have a chance to repeal the tax.

Registered voters can cast ballots on the sales tax at the Nov. 9 general election. If passed, the sales tax would take effect May 1, 1994, and is expected to net \$351 million for Oregon public schools in the 1994-95 year.

This \$351 million translates into \$472 per student restored in school district 4J in 1994-95. In spite of this increase, however, the proposed tax proceeds still fall short \$629 per student, per year of what the district would have had available without the effects of Measure 5.

"If Oregon does not pass Measure 1 and there is no additional revenue and if there is full implementation of Measure 5, Eugene school district will lose 30 percent of its purchasing power," Dysart said. "The district has already lost 10 percent over the last two years, and over the next two years it will lose another 20 percent."

Vaughn said that even if Measure 1 passes, the proceeds from the sales tax will merely stabilize funding. It will not replace money already lost.



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