

OSPIRG

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interpreting the law the way they want to interpret it," Rhinard said. "Individuals who are not lawyers are trying to interpret the law."

After last Thursday's budget hearings, the finance committee gave von Carp and OSPIRG representatives 10 minutes each to present their cases to the committee.

Von Carp told the committee that OSPIRG is illegal because it is primarily an off campus organization "instigating social change in the state as a whole."

OSPIRG volunteers, however, assert that their power statewide is one of the group's strengths.

"We educate students on how to affect policy on larger issues," OSPIRG's University Chapter Chair and University student Katy Anthes said. "We're developing student leaders. Because we're a statewide organization we can effect things on a statewide level."

"OSPIRG is the most effective student group in this state in lobbying for student legislation," said OSPIRG's University Organizer, Matt Rabin.

OSPIRG is a student organization with chapters on several Oregon campuses, including Portland State University, Lane Community College and Lewis and Clark University. Volunteers learn to work on public interest issues. This term OSPIRG student volunteers voted to work on issues including the environment, hunger and homelessness, recycling and consumer protection.

The OSPIRG chapters in Oregon pool their budget money, which Anthes said allows the groups to operate more efficiently. The money is used in part to hire a professional staff that teaches OSPIRG students throughout the state to work on issues.

"OSPIRG does have an educational component," von Carp said, "but it's not open to all students unless those

students are willing to abrogate their ideals and beliefs."

Volunteers at OSPIRG disagree.

"Anybody can get involved with OSPIRG," Anthes said. "Students at the University make decisions. OSPIRG runs as a democracy."

In last spring's campus election, University students approved a ballot measure to fund OSPIRG's \$137,775 budget. OSPIRG's budget is put to a campus election every other year, and was approved last year by 65 percent.

Von Carp wants OSPIRG to receive funds through the optional fee process, which has never been used at the University. Students would be asked if they want to fund OSPIRG on their University bill, said finance committee member and Student Senator Chris Kantrowitz, who feels that instituting the optional fee process would hurt other campus groups and student government.

"The optional fee opens up that Pandora's box," by bringing other student groups under scrutiny, Kantrowitz said. "It will just ruin the incidental fee process. The option we use now is the best one because it makes for a strong collection of student groups."

Students for Legal Government was started about three weeks ago, said von Carp. Von Carp, a senior English major, said that the 44 students who co-signed his letter to the ASUO Executive are members of the group.

"The piece of paper that they signed says 'the following people are members,'" von Carp said. "If you're talking about really active members, it's basically me. We're not very strict with membership."

The Oregon Commentator has also been active in the fight to end OSPIRG's use of incidental fees. In the student publication's recent "Hate Issue," OSPIRG ranked fourth on its "first official hate list."

At least seven Commentator staff members signed von Carp's letter to the ASUO Executive. Commentator co-signers include Publisher Owen Brennan Rounds, Editor

Thomas Schoenborn, Assistant Publisher and Student Senator J. Edward Good and Circulation Manager and College Republicans President Harrison Lynch.

Students for Legal Government, which is not registered with the ASUO Executive, had its "first and only meeting" in the EMU sponsored by the Commentator, von Carp said. Only groups recognized by the ASUO Executive are allowed to request rooms in the EMU.

EMU Director Dusty Miller talked to Commentator representatives about requesting a room in the EMU for an unaffiliated group and determined that the Commentator's sponsorship of the meeting was appropriate.

Students for Legal Government is focusing its efforts on the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and OSPIRG, von Carp said.

"We freely admit that there are groups that probably are illegal, but we can't do everything," von Carp said. "We're gonna stick with these three, and that's just the best that we can do."

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils, which serve as the governing bodies for the Greek system, both had their budget hearings Tuesday. On behalf of his group, von Carp argued at the hearing that under the 1985 Attorney General's opinion, the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils may not receive incidental fees.

The finance committee heard arguments from both sides and passed both group's goal statements. The two groups also got the money requested in their budgets.

Students for Legal Government has not worked with any off campus organizations in its work and research, von Carp said, but he has talked with a Los Angeles legal foundation that may litigate for the group if the battle ends up in court.

"Fighting OSPIRG is like fighting city hall," von Carp said. "We'd love to take it to court, but we can't do it ourselves."

WHEELER

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community participation is critical. It also instills a sense of empowerment to the people, and they have a stake in their own self-development."

As a result of his work in Zaire, the American Refugee Committee then asked Wheeler to spend the next two months in Rwanda to investigate how ARC could respond to the human needs of returning refugees living in "resettlement zones" in Rwanda.

Consequently, in December, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees approved Wheeler's \$2.6 million proposed plan to create uncontaminated water supplies, build new schools and health centers, and train medical personnel.

While it was difficult for him to leave Rwanda, he said he already has plans to return with his wife and 17-month-old daughter in the spring. He will further his

work on the two projects, which are both in progress under the teams he created.

At the University this term, Wheeler shares his vast knowledge of appropriate technology in a graduate seminar called "Tools, Techniques, and Technologies for Rural Self-Development and Sustainability in Developing Countries."

While Wheeler plans to return to Rwanda in the spring, he said he hopes to teach at the University again in the future.

"It's important to continue to bring these ideas home to the University community, and to provide a link to graduate, international studies and environmental studies students," Wheeler said. "... not only about the possibilities of appropriate international development, but to ignite a spark and to demonstrate there's hope to contribute to helping in development."

Wheeler seems to have ignited more than a few sparks with his students.

Archana Singh, a graduate student

"This is the best class I've ever taken and the most useful tools I will bring away from graduate school."

— ARCHANA SINGH
Graduate student

from Nepal, plans to implement technologies she's learning in Wheeler's class into village life when she returns to her homeland.

"This is the best class I've ever taken and the most useful tools I will bring away from graduate school," Singh said. "We're learning the philosophy behind appropriate technology — that you should use grassroots methods, and respect and be very sensitive to the culture first."

Another graduate student, Joe Franke, plans to travel to Rwanda with Wheeler

where he said he hopes to create a documentary video of Wheeler's program for potential grant funding.

Franke said small projects, such as the Improved Cookstove Program, tend not to have access to video means, which attract potential grant providers.

"I want to make sure projects such as [Wheeler's] get as much attention as possible," he said. Franke added the video could possibly lead to additional programs in other parts of Africa.

Most aid organizations merely bring in their own technology and "dump" it on developing nations, resulting in dependence on rich nations, Franke said. In contrast, Wheeler's unique approach to addressing development is inspiring, he said.

"[Wheeler] uses a simple idea that you have faith in peoples' abilities to accomplish what they need to accomplish," Franke said. "His focus is completely on utilizing grassroots means to motivate the people."

The Vietnamese Student Association presents



A Passage to Vietnam A Night of Vietnamese Culture



Time: March 5, 1995 Place: EMU Ballroom

5:00-6:00 p.m.: Vietnamese cuisine

6:00-7:45 p.m.: Culture performance

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Dance

Adults: \$7, Children (under 12): \$4, Five and under FREE.

Tickets available at the EMU Ticket Office

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J417/517: Public Broadcast and Culture

Criticism of TV programming featuring a comparison of public television with commercial networks and cable with an emphasis on social values and how they are treated on television. No prerequisites. Open to all university students. 1530-1720 UH, Allen 216. CRN 36545/36546

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Basics of advertising layout, including computer techniques. Advertising

For further information, contact Greg Kerber at 346-3738

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