

Oregon Daily Emerald

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 1995

EUGENE, OREGON

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 120

Students influence Senate to keep federal aid

Loans: Senators want \$10 million cut from direct loan administrative costs instead

Mara Stine

Oregon Daily Emerald

A group of seven University students who traveled to Washington, D.C., March 17 to lobby for higher education funding may have influenced the Senate not to cut federal student financial aid.

The group was among 30 Ore-

gon students who traveled to a rally as part of the United States Student Association's National Lobby Day. Seven of these students met with Sen. Mark Hatfield, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"We talked to them before the Senate rescission bill got to the appropriations committee," said Jennifer Williamson, the federal affairs coordinator for ASUO. "We had influence on the fact that the financial aid was not included in the Senate's version of the rescission bill."

"Basically the Senate was looking at the House bill and then drew up a different version of it that won't cut student aid," Williamson said.

The Senate's revised rescission bill, which they will vote on today or Thursday that cuts existing program funding using the money instead to cut the federal deficit, recommends that \$10 million be cut from direct loan administrative costs instead of from student aid.

"Hatfield made a promise to us that there would be very few

cuts to federal student aid," said Ed Dennis, field director for the Oregon Student Lobby.

Dennis described the bill as tame compared with the one passed by the House, saying "the Senate one [bill] is definitely better for financial aid."

The House rescission bill eliminated the \$63.4 million State Student Incentive Grant Program and \$104 million in Pell Grants, according to Julie McGregor, Hatfield's press secretary.

"The Senate doesn't agree

with the House cuts from the State Student Incentive Grant Program," McGregor said. This program is need-based and includes work-study programs.

A bill in the House and another in the Senate are proposing a limitation on participation in the direct lending program, said Edmond Vignoul, director of student financial aid.

For its first year, the direct lending program operates in 104 schools across the nation. The

Turn to **LOANS**, Page 4

Video poker tax receives approval

Money: Voters decide to support a 10 percent tax on video poker proceeds

Ben Moebius

Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene residents voted overwhelmingly to support a 10 percent tax on video poker proceeds approved by the Eugene City Council last fall.

Unofficial results from the Lane County elections office last night showed 12,158 votes for the tax, Measure 20-41, and 5,594 votes against it. The vote-by-mail election drew a total of 18,528 responses on the measure.

The council plans to use the money raised by the tax to finance an expanding community policing program. The tax would have raised about \$450,000 if it had been in effect last year, according to city officials.

The measure was placed on the ballot by a referendum petition campaign supported by the Oregon Restaurant Association. Opponents claim the measure will severely cut profits from video poker that are already taxed by the state.

Numerous school board, park district, port commission and fire and water races were also decided by last night's election.

Many of the races were uncontested. Jim Pitney took a Lane Community College director's position in an uncontested race. As did Roger C. Hall, who won a director-at-large position at Lane Community College unchallenged.

Sunny skies



Dan Clifford, Brian Chamberlain and Andrew Pridden of the Chi Psi fraternity didn't want to miss out on the sunshine Tuesday so they just brought the furniture outside. The sunny weather is expected to continue throughout the week.

GOOD MORNING

► **LOS ANGELES (AP)** — In an Oscar show with few big surprises and not one O.J. Simpson joke, TV viewers were plentiful: Nielsen ratings showed the biggest audience in more than a decade.

ABC estimated Tuesday that the Oscar broadcast was seen by 81 million U.S. viewers — the most since 1983. The show was especially popular with young and middle-age men, part of host David Letterman's core TV audience.

Ratings for adults ages 18-49 were up 12 percent over last year while the ratings for men ages 18-49 were up 26 percent over last year.

The show earned a 32.5 rating and 53 share. One ratings point equals 954,000 television households and share is the percentage of TV sets in use at any one time tuned to a particular broadcast.

It was the largest audience

Just a Reminder

Today is the last day to process initial registration without a \$50 late registration fee. The number for Duck Call is 346-1600.

EMERALD

since 1983, when Liza Minnelli, Dudley Moore, Richard Pryor and Walter Matthau were hosts and *Gandhi* won best picture. That year, ABC's telecast got a 38.0 rating and 59 share.

Before the show started, Oscar producer Gilbert Cates said he preferred no jokes about the Simpson trial but was unable to bar them.

"I hope they've very few,"

Cates said. "But you never know what anybody's going to say." As it turned out, no one said any.

Judge Lance Ito had decided earlier Monday that jurors would be allowed to see the broadcast after it was edited to delete references to the trial.

The show, which lasted 3 hours, had little drama. As expected, *Forrest Gump* won for best picture, actor, director, adapted screenplay, editing and visual effects.

Newspapers advertisements trumpeting Oscar wins were published Tuesday, and ticket sales for *Forrest Gump* are expected to improve this weekend.

There were mixed opinions over new host Letterman, however.

"Everyone was expecting so much from David Letterman that he couldn't possibly live up to the billing. And he didn't," said TV critic Howard Rosenberg.

Students for Choice set to receive budget increase

Approval: The group was awarded a 9.6 increase over 1994-95 budget Tuesday night

Patrick Minford

Oregon Daily Emerald

Students For Choice cleared the next hurdle in the group's bid for a budget and a place on the University campus next year.

The Programs Finance Committee, Tuesday night, approved a \$1,142 budget for the group, which works to secure and maintain reproductive rights for women throughout the University community. The new 1995-96 budget is a 9.6 percent increase over this year's.

"I'm happy that it was an increase," said Mandi Hood, one of the group's co-directors. "The direct heat on Students For

Choice is dimmed for the moment."

The group's future funding was put in jeopardy after its initial Jan. 17 budget hearing, when the committee rejected the goal statement because it failed student group requirements. Without approval of a goal statement, student groups cannot receive incidental fees.

The Student Senate reviewed the group's goal statement Feb. 20 and approved a revised version. The senate's approval of the goal statement meant the group could resubmit its budget request.

Students For Choice requested a budget of \$1,393, but the committee trimmed money from several line items, including the director's stipend, printing and advertising.

Turn to **BUDGET**, Page 2