

Budget cuts may kill health care coverage

Proposal: Full-time students may be ineligible for Oregon Health Plan

Mara Stine

Oregon Daily Emerald

If the Oregon Legislature passes Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposed budget, full-time college students could be eliminated from the Oregon Health Plan,

cutting \$7.2 million over two years from his budget.

If students have dependents who are eligible for Medicaid, the dependents will not be cut from the plan but the students will, said Mark Gibson, policy adviser for the health division of the Department of Human Resources.

The Senate Health and Human Resources Committee and the Ways and Means Sub-

committee on Human Resources heard testimonies Tuesday.

Sixty University students and 4,600 students from other schools are on the Oregon Health Plan, said Bob Petit, medical administrator for the University's Student Health Center.

If the budget passes, the gap between "health care 'haves and have-nots'" will widen, said Jane Lesser, legislative director

for the Oregon Student Lobby.

Some students could be forced to choose between paying for health care coverage or going to school because some can't afford both, Petit said.

"[Students] would become bad debts in the medical community and then we're right back into what the Oregon Health Plan is trying to avoid," he said.

If Kitzhaber's budget passes,

full-time college students would be cut to minimize adverse impacts that might result from changing eligibility requirements, Gibson said.

College students are usually young, healthy and have access to primary care coverage through school insurance policies, he said. Therefore, they would not be as adversely affected as other groups that could

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Harassment grievances rose at University, report indicates

Complaints: Increased awareness may have contributed to the rise

Brian Womack

Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of informal discrimination grievances rose by 11 last year, with sexual harassment cases showing the biggest increase, while the number of formal grievances didn't change, according to an Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity report.

Human rights investigator Mark Zurich said the rise in informal grievances is hard to interpret, but could be attributed to the ombud officer now working in the office and increased awareness of discrimination.

"There are higher numbers [partly] because I'm [more] available," ombud officer Janet Wentworth said.

She said she moved to the Office of Affirmative Action in January 1994 from Deschutes Hall. She started reporting to the office in the summer of 1993.

Sexual harassment showed the greatest increase in informal grievances, with 15 last year compared to six in 1993, according to the office's report.

Aside from Wentworth's move, Zurich said this could be happening because awareness of the issue is increasing. He said the issue "keeps coming up like with Packwood and Clinton."

Informal grievances can be brought forth by anyone on campus, but around two-thirds of those who do are students, he said.

With an informal case, Wentworth

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Study stream



Ryan Kuhn, an English major, soaks up rays by the Autzen footbridge.

Head-on wreck kills student during break

Tragedy: Passenger Geoffery Wright died with friend Ka Man Wong near Las Vegas

Amy Columbo

Oregon Daily Emerald

University student Geoffery Wright, 22, died instantly in a head-on car crash on March 19 on his way to Las Vegas, Nev., during the spring break vacation.

He was a computer and information science major set to graduate in June. His parents have requested he receive a posthumous degree, a degree granted after death.

Mary Hudzikiewicz, from the Dean of Students office, said the degree is in the process of being granted.

He was traveling with his friend, also a computer and information science student, Ka Man "Carmen" Wong at the time. Wong also died in the car accident.

Wong was passing another vehicle on U.S. Highway 395 when the accident occurred. Both passengers had seat belts on and there was no alcohol involved.

Geoffery Wright is survived by his parents Sherri and Gary Wright and his brother Brian, a freshman at the University of Puget Sound.

His mother said she has been contacted by several of her son's professors and received a personal letter from University President Dave Frohnmayer.

"For a big University, we really need to thank the staff and everyone that has contacted us," Sherri Wright said.

His mother said from the time he was 12 he loved computers and focused his attention in the computer field. He worked as an employee of the Dynamix computer software company.



WRIGHT

GOOD MORNING

SPRINGING AHEAD

Daylight-savings time is achieved by advancing the clock one hour. Since 1987, daylight-savings time in all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions begins at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in April and ends at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday in October.



SOURCE: 1995 World Almanac

► **DETROIT (AP)** — Water found in Martian meteorites that landed on Earth shows the red planet is a lot wetter than previously thought and makes it more likely that life once existed there, a scientist said Thursday.

Mars has enough frozen water beneath its surface that it would be 80 to 920 feet deep if it melted, according to Thomas Donahue, whose research was published in the British journal Nature.

In the past, Mars was even

wetter, with enough water to cover it to a depth of 620 to 7,200 feet, Donahue said.

"If there was a lot of water on the planet early on, there would have been time ... for life to develop," he said, noting that earlier estimates have put the amount of water on Mars at less than 2 feet.

Donahue, a University of Michigan professor emeritus of planetary science, compared traces of water in the rock from the meteorites to measurements

of water in the planet's atmosphere.

In particular, he looked at the ratio between two forms of hydrogen — common hydrogen and the rare heavy form, deuterium. Because it's lighter, common hydrogen is more likely to escape from the atmosphere than deuterium.

Over time, the proportion of deuterium in the atmosphere would increase, unless the hydrogen were regularly replenished from water on the surface, Donahue said.