

Testimonies relay concern; budget cuts loom closer

Funding: The governor's proposed budget and tuition increase may further reduce higher education funding

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students and representatives drove home the need for higher education funding to legislators Thursday, but it looks unlikely that the testimonies will translate into more dollars for the starving system, said Randy MacDonald, director of legislative and community relations for the University.

Legislators on the state Senate Ways and Means Committee heard two hours of concerns from a packed crowd in Salem on the only day of scheduled public testimonies on the higher education budget.

"It looks like legislators will probably not add back more numbers to the governor's proposed budget, which would be a loss to higher education of tens of millions of dollars," said MacDonald, from Salem, adding he heard the information from "legislative sources" whom he preferred not to name.

Oregon schools face budget cuts totaling \$85 million over the next biennium, which could translate into an \$8 million to \$10 million annual reduction to the University.

Gov. John Kitzhaber proposes an additional 4 percent tuition increase annually. He plans to spend \$602.8 million on the state's four universities and four colleges, which is about 15 percent less than in 1993-95.

If the governor's proposal passes, the cuts and tuition increases will further cripple a system that has already suffered under a \$130 million drop in state funding since 1989-91, MacDonald said.

However, it's not too late for students and others to call and/or write their legislators to push for more higher education dollars, especially legislators in their hometowns, MacDonald said. It's the representatives in areas besides the Eugene-Springfield area that absolutely need to hear students' concerns, he said.

The hearings were crucial because the Legislature will be winding down in the next two weeks to decide on a budget for state schools, MacDonald said.

Several University students and area representatives, including Mayor Ruth Bascom, testified to stress the importance of higher education to the state's economy and well-being.



Ryan Wilson, 6, displays his artistic talent by drawing his favorite planet, Saturn, at Magnet Arts Elementary School. On Wednesday, Wilson earned the points needed to create his space project through the First Steps program.

Program targets at-risk kids — early

Education: Designed by a University Professor, the First Steps program targets at-risk kindergarteners

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

When 6-year-old Ryan Wilson continued disrupting his kindergarten class and negatively influencing the other kids, his teacher and parents were at a loss.

That's why when Magnet Arts Elementary School teacher Katie Craven heard about the new First Steps program, both she and Ryan's parents saw some hope for this intellectually gifted yet troublesome child.

Designed by University Professor Hill Walker, also the director of the Center on Human Development, First Steps aims to curb behaviors like Ryan's before they may lead to more serious problems including dropping out of high-school or even future crimes.

While the term "at-risk kindergarteners" may sound excessive, Walker said this is the crucial age when behavioral problems need to be addressed, if there is any hope of correcting the problem.

"There's a manifestation of behavior problems that are happening at younger ages now," he said. "If you don't address the behavioral problems by the age of 8, the chances are you

probably won't be able to turn them around."

Walker said various studies have shown that if not addressed at a young age, negative behaviors can, and often do, transform into eventual social deviance and violent crimes.

"They have not learned a behavior pattern that allows them to get along with teachers and peers," he said. As a result, these children are often rejected by their peers and teachers, he said.

CLASS, which stands for Contingencies for Academic Social Skills, and Home Base make up the main components of the 2-year-old program. CLASS consists of a consulta-

Turn to **PROGRAM**, Page 4

■ GOOD MORNING

► **GREENSBURG, Pa. (AP)** — A Roman Catholic congregation asked a judge Thursday to forbid three of its own parishioners, known as the "rosary women," from shouting prayers and splashing holy water during daily services.

The women have terrorized children, frightening them to tears. Their yells have drowned out Communion instructions and even the choir, the church says.

Common Pleas Court Judge Bernard Scherer said he would rule Friday on the request by Holy Cross Church in Youngwood, a former industrial town of 3,400 about 30 miles from Pittsburgh.

Church members said Cecelia Miscovich, Joan Sudwoj and Cynthia Balconi have been

loudly praying and at times yelling at the Rev. Angelo Ciuffoletti nearly every day for the last two years, including Thursday.

"We had microphones, but they were louder than the choir," said Carol Soctarich, the choir director.

Members of the church, which has a congregation of 800 families, say the women are so loud they can be heard on the street.

Ciuffoletti said the women have ignored repeated requests to quiet down, both verbally and in the weekly church bulletin. The women even ignored letters from Bishop Anthony Bosco urging them to stop yelling in church, the priest said.

Ciuffoletti read a passage he wrote in one church bulletin: "It

is characteristic of vulgar people to shout and make a noise. God hears hearts, not voices. He hears our thoughts."

Miscovich sat quietly through the hearing and had no comment afterward.

Sudwoj (pronounced SOO-wodge) and Balconi, who usually sit together in the left back corner of the church, were not at the hearing and did not answer their home telephones Thursday. Balconi received a subpoena, and a constable said he was unable to give a court order to Sudwoj.

James Falcon, a church lawyer and member, said Holy Cross only wants the women to pray more quietly and restrict their audible prayers to brief periods on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Committee suggests upgrading technology

Demand: 10,000 University Gladstone users expected by June

Abe Estimada
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

When Gladstone, a University computer system that allows students to send E-mail and gain access to the Internet, first became available, it was originally designed to handle about 2,000 user accounts and 80 interactive participants.

Gladstone currently has 8,000 accounts and averages 200 active users. To meet this burgeoning demand for campus computer resources, the Education Tech-

nology Coordinating Committee made preliminary recommendations Thursday to allocate \$600,000 in general University funds for upgrades.

The money would upgrade Gladstone, EMU computer lab equipment, additional modems, and make other computer-related improvements next year.

A final recommendation on how the money will be spent will not be decided until this summer, said Pam Daener, associate viceprovost.

However, committee members were concerned that their recommendations may not be enough to meet student demands.

Turn to **COMPUTERS**, Page 4