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**April 22,  
1995**

## ASUO

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could choose the seat with fewest candidates, said Sean Martin, a candidate for seat two. "I was disadvantaged for filing somewhat early."

Five candidates are running for seat two, while two are running for seat one.

Susan Anderson, who filled to run for seat one several days before the deadline, said elections coordinators instructed her to choose a seat, and explained that she could switch seats any time before the filing deadline. There was no early advantage, she said.

Sen. President Pro Tem Martin Fisher, who argued the case

before the court on Lyons' behalf, told the court that combining the seats provides the most people with the most access to the senate.

"It makes the election process most fair and most efficient for the students," Fisher said.

Because the court's decision designates senate seat two as a two-year seat, Lyons has filed another petition asking the court to combine senate seats two and three on the ballot, even though seat two has only a year left. The court's decision that seat two is still considered a two-year seat means that it must be voted, under the ASUO Constitution, with seat three, which is also a two-year seat.

## FUNDING

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The recycling program is doing well, she said, but can't continue without the support of student fees.

"It is one of the places on campus where people join together in a community effort to make a difference. We are working hard together to make a change in the general world," she said.

More than 30 students are employed through the recycling program, four full-time coordinators and interns who receive academic credit for their work.

The program began when Kaplan, who was a University student, started organizing recycling as a Survival Center project.

Recycling was allocated \$25,000 for the first two years of its existence on campus, and funded at \$100,000 through a ballot measure last year.

With last year's additional funds, the campus recycling program was able to expand its services in several areas, including residence halls and family housing, as well as making recycling services available at greek houses and the Lawrence Hall architecture studios.

## STUDENTS

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istrar.

Of 1993's entering class, 23 percent of Caucasian students left the University within one year compared with 39 percent of Native Americans, 33 percent of the African-Americans, and 30 percent of Latino students.

These percentages do not indicate whether these students transferred to another school or dropped out entirely.

The only ethnic minority students to continue at the University at a continuously higher rate than Caucasians were Asian students. Of 1993's entering class, only 16 percent of Asians left within one year.

According to 1990 enrollment and retention statistics, Latino students had a lower four-year dropout rate than Caucasian students, but received fewer degrees in that time period.

While 39 percent of Latinos discontinued their educations at the University compared with

43 percent of Caucasians, only 27 percent earned degrees, compared with 32 percent of Caucasians.

Many Latino students help support their families as well as pay for school, which forces them to take fewer classes each term, said Dean of Students Jane DeGidio. This can result in later graduation dates than most Caucasian students, she said.

Others look to national economics as a factor for high numbers of minorities leaving some universities.

"Look at the general federal income level of people of color and that'll give you an idea of who is participating in higher education," said James Garcia, advising coordinator at the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Mitch Wilkinson, co-director of the Native American Student Union (NASU), said he agrees that money is a factor.

"We're not here on scholarship; that's the biggest stereotype there is," he said, adding he has taken out \$30,000 in loans.

Cuauhtli Hernandez, also of

## OPEU leaders say strike probable

(AP) — Oregon Public Employees Union leaders say a strike vote scheduled this week appears to be a sure bet on a walkout because worker discontent is running deep since Measure 8 cut wages.

"I think we haven't seen this degree of anger and militancy in a long time," says Tim Nesbitt, the union's chief contract negotiator.

The 18,000-member union votes Wednesday on whether to authorize its leadership to call a strike. If authorization is granted, the earliest workers could go on strike is May 6.

"I really believe people are ready," said Ron Stockman, a plumber at the University of Oregon's physical plant. "They've had it, and they're going to strike."

State workers say they are taking a 6 percent pay cut because of Measure 8, which requires public employees to pay 6 percent of their salaries to their own retirement accounts.

They also are upset the

state refuses to give them their first pay raise since 1993, even though an independent fact-finder recommended an immediate 6.5 percent pay increase.

In addition, they accuse state legislators of making self-serving attacks on union pay, pension and health benefits, and collective bargaining rights.

"We've sort of been the target of public sentiment about state government," said Lucy Lahr, an OPEU district director who works at the Adult and Family Services office in Eugene.

"We've been the scapegoat," Lahr said. "We're easy to kick around and some people have built their political careers on our backs, you might say."

State officials say there is nothing they can do about Measure 8, approved by voters last fall. They also point out that no other state workers' union received a raise in 1993-95, and they have no control over state lawmakers.

NASU, agreed.

"People say that Indians and other minorities are draining scholarship money and not giving money back to the school, ... but that's simply not true," Hernandez said.

Increasing tuition rates may also contribute to students either dropping out, taking time off to work or transferring to a less expensive institution.

"More and more students are taking out loans and having to work longer hours to afford educations," said Marshall Saucedo, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Some minority students transfer to different universities because of the curriculum.

Kenya Luvert, Black Student Union (BSU) member, said the curriculum needs to change.

"The curriculum doesn't do anything to target the needs or the histories of students of color," Luvert said.

Zeenab Johnson-Fowlk, BSU director, said that all students should be required to take

sequences in African-American, Native American, Asian or Chicano studies because the University's race-gender-non-European-American requirement isn't enough.

"We're still trying to justify ethnic studies as a major," said Garcia, who added that other Pacific-10 universities have already included an ethnic studies major.

Johnson-Fowlk said more minority recruitment and hiring of minority staff members would motivate minorities to come to the University. This would ease the adjustment to the predominantly Caucasian campus.

"You go into a classroom and you stand out," said Johnson-Fowlk, who grew up in an African-American community. "I think a lot of times the atmosphere and the environment are not comfortable."

Garcia agreed. "The culture that exists in this institution is more compatible with the Euro-American cultural mainstream," he said.

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