

## Hotline available for students

Mara Stine  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Free direct calls to express views on proposed federal financial aid cuts can be made to Congress members in Washington, D.C., until May 15, a federal education official said.

The hot line number is 1-800-574-4234 (4AID).

"This (the call being free) provides good reason for students to make the call," said Laura Wilcox, assistant director of the Public Affairs Office of the American Council on Education.

The hot line is intended to warn Congress that cuts in financial aid won't be made without a fight because people care about possible cuts in financial aid, Wilcox said.

In addition, an e-mail address on the Internet provides background information on financial aid issues and a list of congressional e-mail addresses.

The address is student-aid@nchemail.nche.edu.

Students who aren't exposed to financial aid information can be educated through the hot-line and e-mail address, said Rob Nosse, director of the Oregon Student Lobby.

He also said the resources make Congress members more accessible to students.

Congress is considering the elimination of the interest exemption on guaranteed loans while students are in school, as well as cuts in State Student Incentive Grants. The House has proposed cutting \$63 million from SSIG. However the Senate, which proposed no SSIG cuts, must also vote on the issue Wilcox said.

In addition, Pell grants, Perkins loans and Federal work-study programs could be cut when Congress meets next week to begin hammering out budget resolutions, Wilcox said.

Wilcox said students should continue to be aware of possible financial aid cuts during the summer.

"That's when it's really going to heat up because that's when the major work on the budget will be done," Wilcox said.

## B-day



MELODY CONROY/Emerald

In celebration of William Shakespeare's birthday, scenes from *A Midsummer Nights Dream* were performed by Mame Pelletier, Sydney Folts, Shelley Douma and John Harrison in the EMU Breezeway Monday afternoon.

## Police kill gang member

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — The death of a 17-year-old Medford gang member shot by police illustrates the danger of gangs, even in a small city, police said Monday.

Police said Oscar Arthur Aguilar was killed Sunday when he grabbed a loaded .22-caliber rifle and threatened to kill two officers who went to his home to arrest him on an assault charge.

He was shot once in the chest with a 9 mm pistol. An autopsy was scheduled Tuesday.

"It is a strong and shocking reminder to law enforcement officers locally that this sort of thing can happen here," Sgt. Mike Moran said. "It can happen instantly."

"A simple arrest for assault turns into a life and death struggle when the suspect arms himself and indicates he is going to kill you," Moran said.

Aguilar was the first gang member to be killed by police in Medford. State police are conducting a routine investigation.

Meanwhile, Aguilar's cousin was arrested on charges he interfered with police. Paul Hector Perez, 26 was charged with hindering prosecution and resisting arrest, Moran said.

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