

# University delegates seek student fees

Patrick Minford  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A measure asking students to contribute an extra 16 cents per term to send seven University delegates to Capitol Hill to work for educational access will be on the ballot today and Thursday.

The United States Students Association, which represents 3.5 million students nationwide, brings college and university students from all over the country together in Washington D.C. to preserve access to higher education.

"We need our voice to be heard in Washington D.C.," said USSA Northwest Region Codirector Kevin Easton, who went to Capitol Hill over spring break with several other University students and students nationwide to fight cuts in student loans, grants, and other educational aid programs. "Right now is just an important time to be active on a national level," Easton said, because nearly all forms of federal financial aid are on the chopping block.

The University's USSA delegation currently receives no student fees. The students who went to Washington D.C. over spring break had to privately raise the money to go to the Capitol, Easton said.

The time that USSA delegates spent raising money this year could have been

## ON THE BALLOT

**WHAT:** Measure to provide the University's seven USSA delegates with \$7,000 to cover the expenses of working in Washington D.C.

**COST:** 16 cents per term



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spent letting students know what is happening to student aid programs, Easton said.

"We've had to spend most of our time fund raising," he said. "It's hard [to work] when you don't have a budget."

With guaranteed funding, the University's USSA delegates will be able to focus on student awareness, legislative issues and would save students thousands of financial aid dollars, Easton said. The \$7,000 the measure would raise would be used primarily to cover travel expenses for seven University USSA representatives, he said.

The University's USSA members have earned the respect of several congressional representatives, including Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield, who visited the University Friday. Hatfield has stepped up to protect financial aid, in part because of the work USSA has done, Easton said. "We're respected by the legislators."



The University's Outdoor Program offers kayak expeditions and several other outdoor activities.

# Outdoor enthusiasts organize trips

Jennifer Carr  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Outdoor enthusiasts searching for fun and adventure need to look no further than the University's Outdoor Program.

For more than 20 years, the Outdoor Program has brought people with different skill levels together in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits and environmental settings, providing a diversity of rich experiences for University students, staff and community members.

Students started the Program in 1967 with a bulletin board in the Erb Memorial Union. Students posted three-by-five index cards looking for ride shares or for people to go with on adventure trips.

Eventually the Program was expanded, a coordinator was hired and it evolved into the first university Outdoor Program in the country.

The three main arms of the program include trips, which vary in length from one day to weeks, a wilderness resource center and

on-campus events such as slide-shows, clinics and video showings.

Although most university outward bound type programs are leader lead with a coordinator who decides what trips to offer students, the University's Program is primarily run from the bottom up, said Dan Geiger, assistant coordinator.

"We ask the students what they want," Geiger said. "Students come to us with ideas for

trips, they fill out the information about what they want to do and we provide the space and give access to vehicles and equipment. It's a very participant driven, empowering program."

Outdoor Program coordinators do organize some programs, but mostly coordinators help student make their trips happen, and there is no upper limits on what those trips may be.

"We've helped organize world-class expeditions," Geiger said. "We've done hiking in the Himalayas, sea-kayaking in various places in the world, Grand Canyon River Trips and bike trips from the capital of Tibet to Katmandu. The sky's the limit. We help students pull off any trip they want."

The University's program is also unique in that it started the notion of cooperative adventure wilderness trips, Geiger said. That is still the program's philosophy today.

"All participants share the costs of the trip from gas to equipment rental and share in the planning processes and execution of the trip," he said.

The Program's Wilderness Resource Center, which is the largest in the West, contains a library of books, guidebooks, the latest outdoor magazines and a complex computer data base about the outdoors.

The Oregon Trail database allows hikers to select which region of the state they wish to hike in and what type of hike they want. The system matches hikers' wants to actual trails and

provides a printout of maps and necessary hiking information.

Geiger strongly believes that those who participate in outdoor pursuits should be the ones who are most concerned about the environment, and therefore, the Outdoor Program participates in environmental action projects and provides educational presentations.

"Environmental protection is a big part of the Program," Geiger said. "People who recreate in the outdoors should have more of a responsibility in protecting the natural environment and heritage. A lot of people use the outdoors but don't put anything back."

"These things go hand-in-hand. We hope to instill this responsibility in our participants," he said.

The Outdoor Program has organized an upcoming Spring Equipment Swap, April 26th. It is the largest gathering of outdoor enthusiasts in the Eugene area.

Geiger said participating in an outdoor program trip is much more meaningful than having a cup of coffee with someone.

"These programs have a profound effect on someone," Geiger said. "Careers and lives are changed profoundly by some of these trips. There's more to education than academics, and you can learn a lot about yourself outside of the classroom."

The Outdoor Program organizes approximately 225 student initiated trips per year. For more information about trips, clinics or programs call 346-0636.

## CORRECTION

The Emerald printed the wrong number for the Financial Aid Hotline in Monday's paper. The number is 1-800-574-4243. The Emerald regrets the error.

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