

Dead wood



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Tracey Burnside, a member of Gamma Phi Beta and a pre-business major, helped out the community on Monday by cutting down a dead tree for the Acorn House, a Eugene HIV and AIDS hospice.

SPEECH

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that is critical... against the Israeli government, which leaves us no choice but to say ... that there is a blind support of the Israeli government in the United States," he said.

The agreements of the Oslo Accords are not being followed in the majority of the Palestinian areas. Al-Asi said, including those that said the Palestinian state would be allowed to hold elections and a lessening of Israeli occupying troops.

Al-Asi named members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who were "warm Zionist," saying that the large representation of Jewish interests was not equitable.

Numbers of Jewish and Muslim populations in the United States are roughly similar, he said.

He named four Cabinet members, six National Security Council members, nine senators and 24 representatives who are "warm Zionists."

"[They] are making sensitive decisions about the people of the Middle East in absence of the people of the Middle East," he said.

FUNDING

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John Kitzhaber's proposed \$586 million for higher education plus the \$14 million for Oregon State University's veterinary schools and its cooperative extension, Ag Experiment Station and forest research programs.

The proposed figures for the higher education budget still amount to about \$55 million less than in 1993-95. Higher education officials have told the legislative leadership it needs at least \$66 million in add-back funds, still falling short of about \$38 million.

University officials said even with the budget cuts, programs will remain intact. However, a four percent tuition increase is expected over the next two years

"We can certainly make a strong case then for the inordinate and lop-sided influence that these people have," he said. "Wouldn't you say that there's a certain amount of bias just because of the make-up of these groups?"

During the question and answer period following the speech, M. Reza Behnam, an independent scholar from Eugene, blasted the University's lack of Muslim representation as well.

"The University is extremely pro-Israel," Behnam said. "It is not coincidence, it is intentional. The students are denied a fair representation of issues of the Middle East. Students are ignorant of realities of the Middle East."

Behnam said he resented that there were no Muslim professors on the University's faculty.

Members of the Jewish Student Union also voiced their concerns and questioned Al-Asi's motives and generalizations.

"I fear and question why you did your talk this way," said Zach Hochstadt, former director of the JSU. "It stirs up anti-Semitism and breeds discontent, rather than working together in the peace process."

statewide.

If OSSHE does see some add-back money in the next week or two it is expected to go toward restoring faculty salaries, which have been frozen for two years.

There is a remote possibility that OSSHE will use any extra money to lower the tuition increase, said OSSHE lobbyist Grattan Kerans. However, he said OSSHE's first priority is to restore faculty salaries for recruiting and retention.

"We're going to continue to press for what we consider to be the largest unmet need in the state," Kerans said.

The reconciliation bill, or Christmas Tree budget, will come at the end of the legislative session and will determine what identified areas the extra money will go to fund. The Legislature plans to adjourn in three weeks.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Student Senate will meet tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

Student Strike Support will have an organizational meeting tonight at 6:30 in the Survival Center, EMU Suite 1. For more information, call 346-3716.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will sponsor an office orientation today from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks.

Orientation sign ups will be available in Room 244 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will begin sign-ups today in Room 244 Hendricks for interviews with the following organizations: UPS, Active Voice, Precision Cast Parts, Coffee People, Ferrellgas, Merix Corp. and Colgate Palmolive. For more information, call 346-3235.

Vietnamese Student Association will have a bake sale today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in front of the book store, 895 E. 13th Ave. For more information, call 346-9999.

STRIKE

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returning OPEU-represented employees. Koepp said the first day back went smoothly in the area she manages, and she had witnessed no problems between returning strikers and OPEU-represented

employees who had crossed the picket line.

Koepp also said the dining halls would be operating under the full menu starting with lunch Tuesday.

The reduced hours at the University's libraries and all other offices during the strike have returned to normal hours.

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