

Don't fall



Woody Carey, a freshman computer information science major, experiments with the Crux rock climbing wall at the Greek Week Health and Fitness Day on the EMU lawn.

Packwood inquiry will proceed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Ethics Committee has concluded its preliminary review into allegations that Sen. Bob Packwood sexually harassed women and found probable cause to proceed further, congressional sources said.

The committee of three Republicans and three Democrats is filing a bill of particulars — the legislative equivalent of a formal complaint — and planned to make it public on Wednesday, the sources said.

The Oregon Republican, who chairs the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, will be given a chance to respond and will be offered a hearing on the charges, the sources said. In the past, such hearings have been public.

The sources said the document makes no final judgment or recommendation.

Neither the committee nor Packwood's office issued any statement about the nature of the six-member panel's deliberations.

Packwood's press secretary, Bobbi Munson, had no comment. But Packwood has apologized for "terribly offensive" conduct toward women in the past.

The committee first announced more than two years ago that it would conduct a preliminary inquiry into charges that Packwood made unwanted sexual advances to more than two dozen women, including Senate employees, and that he or his staff members tried to intimidate some of those women.

The panel later broadened its inquiry to include two additional allegations.

One was that Packwood was involved in procuring job offers for his wife from lobbyists and

business people who had interests in legislation. The offers allegedly were made when the Packwoods were in the middle of divorce negotiations and an increase in his wife's earnings would have lowered his alimony payments.

The job offers came to light as the committee reviewed Packwood's personal diaries. Finding mention of them led the committee to look into its second expanded area of inquiry — whether Packwood may have altered the diaries.

It was not clear Tuesday whether the ethics panel's bill of particulars would deal with all of the allegations that it set out to explore.

In recent weeks, the committee has been studying an extensive report, compiled by its staff from evidence it gathered over the last two years.

Adult bikers may ditch helmets

SALEM (AP) — Motorcycle riders over 18 no longer would be required to wear a helmet under a measure that won approval Tuesday in the Oregon House.

The bill passed on a 52-7 vote and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

"We have plenty of evidence to suggest that our helmet law is not working," said Rep. Bryan Johnston, D-Salem.

The measure would require that only people under age 18 wear protective head gear while riding motorcycles or mopeds.

Voters passed the mandatory helmet law in 1988 by a margin of more than 2-to-1.

But backers of the partial repeal say better education for

motorcycle riders and auto drivers is needed — not state mandates on motorcycle safety.

"The American Motorcycle Association has always encouraged the use of helmets as part of a comprehensive safety program," said Rep. Lonnie Roberts, D-Portland, the bill's main sponsor. "But helmet use alone is insufficient for motorcycle safety. Helmets do not prevent accidents."

Rep. Bob Tiernan, R-Lake Oswego, agreed.

"I am a motorcycle rider," he said. "The greatest protection you have out there is awareness."

Motorcycle groups have frequented the Capitol during this legislative session, asking law-

makers to support the measure and nullify the mandatory helmet law.

Rep. Terry Thompson, D-Newport, said the government should not be regulating the use of helmets.

"This bothers me where the state comes in and says, 'Hey, we're going to make you wear a helmet,'" he said.

Opponents of repeal argued that helmets save lives and reduce the likelihood of head injuries.

Rep. Sharon Wylie, D-Gresham, said the measure also would save taxpayers money in costs of treating head injuries for people receiving government-paid care.

Legislators may wind up workers' comp debate

SALEM (AP) — Gov. John Kitzhaber and Republican legislative leaders are very close to a final agreement on a bill to reform the state's workers' compensation system, a Kitzhaber aide said Tuesday.

"We're at the point where we're working out some of the details," said Kitzhaber spokesman Bob Applegate. "We're very optimistic."

Kitzhaber had threatened to veto SB369, which has passed both houses in different forms, on grounds that it is unfairly weighted toward management and against workers.

Senate Republicans intended to send the bill to a joint conference committee to work out amendments to reflect the agreement.

Sen. Gene Derfler, R-Salem, chairman of the Senate Labor and Government Operations Committee and the bill's sponsor, said the measure would help preserve reforms passed by a special legislative session in 1990 that led to a major decrease in workers' compensation insurance rates.

"It will stop rates from going back up again," he said.

Frank Biehl, a Pulp and Paper Workers' Union lobbyist who was involved in negotiations, said he supported the bill as the best that labor could get.

"A lot of labor folks are still going to fight the bill," he said.

Business interests have sought to reverse the effect of a series of court decisions they claim make it too easy to qualify for benefits. Labor wanted a new bill because the higher benefits for injured workers in the 1990 reforms otherwise would expire this year.

The latest agreement came after Kitzhaber put together a business-labor working group to advise him on what changes to accept.

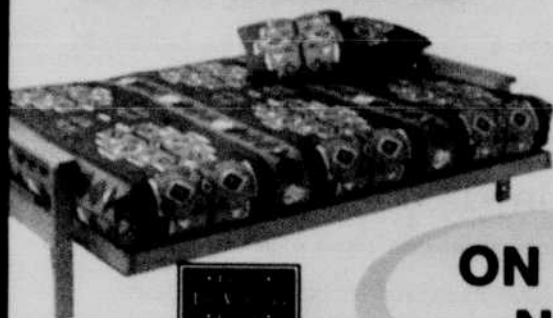
In the end, the two sides agreed to further raise benefits for newly injured workers but to delay these benefits to those hurt on the job until after Jan. 1, 1996.

In addition, they agreed to a five-year expiration date on these new benefits and some provisions sought by business.

Applegate said the latter "sunset" provision is a key to getting the governor's support because he objected to having only benefit provisions automatically expire.

"We were trying to ensure that if portions of the new law 'sunsetted,' no party would be at a disadvantage," he said.

Great Futons Unbeatable Prices



ON SALE NOW

ROCK SOFT FUTON

- Handmade Futons
- Covers
- Pillows
- Tables
- Lamps
- Delivery Available

VENTURA
Full Size Frame and Futon
\$299⁰⁰



CALGARY
Unfinished Pine Full Size Frame
\$149⁰⁰

236-0921
1231 Alder • 686-5069

RIGHT ON TARGET

Oregon Daily **Emerald**
CALL OUR ADVERTISING
DEPARTMENT: 346-3712