

Beall Hall nears fiftieth birthday, hosts wide variety of music

■ **CONCERT:** The School of Music's auditorium is considered one of the best in the country

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

Tucked away in the southwest corner of campus, the School of Music's Beall Concert Hall offers a continuing series of musical events throughout the year.

The auditorium is approaching its fiftieth anniversary this year with a blend of student and faculty performances as

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School of Music
Public Relations Officer

well as a wide array of nationally-known touring musicians.

The hall, which hosts six different concert series this year aimed at a variety of audiences,

is considered one of the best in the country, said Scott Barkhurst, public relations officer for the University's School of Music. “It has incredible acoustics, particularly for small ensembles,” he said. “It's just a real outstanding facility,” he said.

The hall is especially renowned for its handling of chamber music which has its own series featuring nationally-known ensembles. “It [the chamber series] is a high profile group,” Barkhurst said. The series' tickets, sold by subscription, are nearly sold out but he

said students can purchase any remaining tickets available the night of each concert.

University students can buy tickets for \$2 to see their fellow students perform in the UO Ensemble series. Twenty-four active student groups in the School of Music perform at least once a term, making for a consistent schedule of concerts. Each group practices regularly during the term, preparing for each performance.

Matt Turner, a junior majoring in music composition, is a member of the Oregon Jazz

Ensemble and the University Symphony and a regular performer in the series. “We're showing everybody what the School of Music is,” Turner said. “It's our chance to really show what we can do.”

Beall Concert Hall, located at 961 E. 18th Ave., also plays host to a variety of dance theater productions and lectures as well as private student recitals which aren't put on the official schedule. “The hall is used every day of the week. The diversity of what goes on here is incredible,” Barkhurst said.

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Protesters refuse to eat until U.N. acts

■ **TIBET:** The Chinese-controlled region is targeted as an oppressor to its people

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Reporter

They haven't had anything to eat or drink since they sat down across from New York's United Nations building on Oct. 14. Eleven days later they're still striking — one member short — due to severe malnutrition that put her in the hospital.

The hunger strikers, six Tibetan-Americans from across the U.S., said they would fast until they die or until the United Nations implements its 1959, 1961 and 1965 resolutions on Tibet, one being the right to autonomy because the country is controlled by Chinese.

On Saturday, strike supporters in New York held a demonstration in front of the U.N.

On Wednesday, strike supporters in Eugene held a letter-writing campaign in front of the University's bookstore.

Organizers estimate that more than 40 students stopped by the information table, sponsored by the Committee for World Peace. The Committee began last year to raise awareness on campus about inter-

national events and their implications.

The Committee encouraged students to write letters calling on the U.N. to acknowledge the strikers and their demands.

Tashi Tsering, the Committee's program director for Tibet, said the campaign was being held to raise student awareness about Tibetan-related issues. “I think people are generally aware of what is going on in Tibet; but I don't think people know about this particular issue.”

On Sept. 19 Tibetan supporters first presented the demands to the U.N., and supporters began an indefinite relay hunger strike on that day. The U.N. did not respond to their demands and the strikers began the current hunger strike, the Hunger Strike Until Death, in its place.

Tsering said the purpose of the hunger strike is to call on the U.N. to act on its old resolutions with Tibet and China. “The Tibetan people are simply asking the government of China for basic human rights like the rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion,” he said.

Tsering said Tibetans currently do not enjoy these freedoms and have been put in prison for talking about a free Tibet and the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual and political leader.

Cuts: Banks would profit at students' expense

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said Easton.

The direct-lending program was created two years ago by President Clinton to reduce government spending for student loans. The University was one of the first schools selected for the direct lending program, which now accounts for about 40 percent of new borrowing from the federal government.

“This program has been an absolutely wonderful success project at this University,” Vignoul said. “We don't want to see it go away.”

If direct lending is eliminated, between one-third and one-half of schools currently in the program would be forced out, according to the Alliance to Save Student Aid.

Direct lending is more financially efficient than is taking out loans through banks, Vignoul said. The government no longer has to pay fees to banks and no longer has the responsibility of repaying loans on which students default, he said.

Direct lending has also reduced costs for the University, he said.

“I really believe the direct lending program is the best thing to happen to financial aid in the last 29 years,” Vignoul said. “If we were forced to go back to the old way of doing business I would need a significant increase in the staff we have [in order to process the additional paper work].”

Lobbyists are to blame for the proposed changes in direct

lending, say those connected with financial aid.

Ending this program would generate profits for banks, said Representative Peter Defazio, D-Ore. The reduction in direct loans is a gift to lobbyists from republicans, he said.

“It's a payoff to those who helped the new majority [get elected],” Defazio said.

Citibank was given a “Hog of the Month” award by Campaign for an America that Works, a group that supports financial aid. The group claims that Americans paid more than \$170 million in taxes in 1994 to big banks who administer student loans.

Changes in direct lending aren't the only things that will hurt students, said those connected with financial aid. The bills before the House and Senate would also eliminate the interest-free grace period students receive for the first six months after they graduate, said Eastman. The House bill would eliminate the grace period for all students, while the Senate bill would cut it only for those who borrow after Jan. 1, 1996.

Students cannot pay off their loans so soon after graduation because most do not find jobs right away, Easton argued.

Nobody's going to be able to pay their loans the day after they graduate,” Easton said. “It's ridiculous to expect students to do that.”

The Senate bill would also impose a .85 percent tax on the total loan volume of colleges

and universities. This would cost the University \$650,000 and the Oregon State System of Higher Education millions, Easton said. This could result in increased tuition, he said.

“Even though we're a public school we will need to pay more to the government,” Easton said. “Any time we pay more tuition is going to go up.”

Since 1990, in-state undergraduate tuition has gone up 66 percent and out of state tuition has raised 88 percent, Bobby Lee said. He worries that any additional increase would make higher education inaccessible to most Oregonians, he said.

Changes to financial aid proposed by the House and Senate would also affect the way Pell Grants are distributed. Although the maximum amount a student can receive would be increased by \$100 to \$2440, the minimum category of \$400 would be raised to \$600, Easton said. As a result, 3,000 University students would no longer be eligible for Pell Grants he said.

All of these cuts combined would could cause the cost of higher education to skyrocket, Easton said. Oregon students who receive financial aid would owe an average of \$2,111 more to the federal government, Easton said.

“Students need to know that if this passes it will affect them and that they will not be able to pay for their education at the University of Oregon,” he said.