

Budget: ASUO Finance Committee allocates \$70,000 this week

Continued from Page 1
was \$1,241 less than requested. However, members said they were satisfied with the 5.68 percent increase from this year's budget.

"We were very pleased," said Joseph Swinehart, ESCAPE public schools coordinator. "It's good that they recognized the importance of ESCAPE on campus and in the community."

LGBA co-director Rebecca Brookes said her group needed a 13.3 percent increase because it plans to bring more speakers to campus next year and because of insufficient office supplies.

"We've found that buying things for the office comes in waves," she said.

However, PFC board members lowered the proposal by a \$100, approving a \$9,708 budget — a 12.2 percent increase.

The board approved a budget recommendation by ASUO finance coordinator Robert Carichoff that lowered the LGBA's

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

The seven-member ASUO Programs Finance Committee, which includes three student senators, recommends how incidental fees are to be allocated to student groups next year.

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Committee for Musical Arts	\$ 4,490	+ 7.16%
Literary Society	\$ 4,961	+ 13.1%
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$ 668	No budget
Young Women's Christian Association	\$ 2,355	+ 7.5%
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance	\$ 9,708	+ 12.2%
Lesbian & Gay Law Students Association	\$ 2,599	+ 92.5%
ESCAPE	\$14,385	+ 5.68%
ASUO Student Senate	\$15,543	No change
MEChA	\$15,265	+ 6.88%

Money given this week: **\$ 69,974**
Money given to date: **\$ 83,281**

DENNIS BOLT/ Emerald

amounts requested for postage and printing, among other categories.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters received \$668 because the organization failed to propose a budget last year and did not receive funding, said BB/BS executive director Merrie Garoutle.

"It's a small budget, but it can make a big difference," Garoutle said.

Because it does not have a campus office, BB/BS relies entirely on advertising to spread its message, said Chris Kantrowitz, a PFC member.

"Their entire existence on this

campus is based on advertising," he said.

Laird Kirkpatrick, a BB/BS board member, said the program has been extremely successful and should receive funding to allow it to remain.

"It is one of the most effective private sector programs in the country," he said. "It seems to me now it should be expanded."

The Committee for Musical Arts received \$4,490, to be used to attract performers to the University. The group requested \$4,500, but did not receive the whole amount because the PFC declared that some of the figures in their request were arbitrary.

The Literary Society, which publishes the University's literary journal, *Timberline*, had its budget increased by 13.1 percent.

"This is the only student-run literary journal," PFC member Shamus Lynsky said. "I think it serves a very important purpose."

The YWCA received \$2,355, much of which will go to campus presentations, such as speakers

and films. This group had requested a budget of \$3,438, a 57 percent increase.

"I have quite a bit of concern because there was a lot of transfers going on last year," PFC chairwoman Susan Anderson said. "But there was a lot of money that didn't get used."

The Student Senate received \$415,543, the same amount allocated to it last year.

The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) received \$15,265, a 6.88 percent increase. But a paperwork technicality shortly delayed the budget hearings. The PFC required Mujeres, a sub-group of MEChA, to submit a separate goal statement.

"We're just trying to deal with the wording in the rules," said PFC co-chairwoman Skye Brigner.

A 181 percent increase proposal by the Lesbian & Gay Law Students Association was lowered to \$2,599. This is a 92.5 percent increase for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

YouthBuild: 'Coming out and working is a break from school'

Continued from Page 1

before. Ages 16-24, YouthBuild participants spend a year alternating one week of building houses for low-income and homeless families with one week of being taught in class. At the end of the program in November, members will be placed in construction-related jobs or enrolled in college.

In addition to gaining construction experience and an education, participants earn minimum wage for 75 hours of construction work, plus a \$50-per-week stipend for two weeks spent in classes each month. Upon completion the program, members will also get a \$2,350 AmeriCorps tuition voucher.

They also gain a sense of pride and ownership in the program, YouthBuild Director Diane Page said. "We are always looking for opportunities to promote leadership within the program," she said.

At the construction site, participants work in small groups with construction instructors, who encourage them to ask their peers for help and to also come up with ideas of their own.

"The main goals of the program are leadership and peer teaching," said Wendy Stanley, one of the instructors. "We usually pair up someone who hasn't done a certain construction job with someone who has."

So far, two of the six planned houses are almost finished, except for carpeting, painting and finish carpentry, which participants will also do. The houses are in the River Road area.

In the classroom, participants not only study for their GEDs or prepare for college, but also learn about construction, conflict resolution, cultural history and current events.

"The participants are surprisingly receptive to the classroom part of the program, given that they have had negative experiences with school in the past," said Robert Sposato, one of the two YouthBuild teachers.

Jeremy Larson, 17, said this is the only school he hasn't quit. "A week of work and a week of school is good for me because it's not too much school. Coming out here and working is my break from school."

Another way participants build their leadership skills is through the Youth Policy Committee, a group of six elected members who meet weekly with Page to discuss such issues as program policies, resource allocation, and even the selection of participants.

"The idea is to involve them in real decisions, not just who plans the group party," Page said.

Yet another component of the program is counseling. Every member participates in weekly therapy sessions, both privately and in a group, to deal with issues including abuse, drug addiction, criminal activity and anger management.

Claire Manning, the YouthBuild counselor, is familiar with the participants' problems because she said she also came from an abusive home that made her run to the streets. Pregnant at 15, a drug abuser and frequently arrested, Manning said her past is her best asset with the participants.

"That's the most important part of my counseling — that they feel there is someone they can talk to," she said.

While Page said she is pleased with the program's first three months, she is worried about the program's future. "Federal funding for next year is looking dismal, which is too bad," she said.

In the meantime, Page is looking for college interns for various positions: a researcher to evaluate the program, students in landscape and design to help tutor, and students interested in teaching computer skills.

Small stipends and/or school credit may be arranged. For more information, call the YouthBuild office at 689-2474.

Despite the future uncertainty of the program, at least for now 31 young people have a chance at something other than daily survival on the streets. Jayson Wilson, 18, said the program has shown him a way out of gang activity in Springfield.

"I got to turn things around in my life, and I'm going to do it with this program," he said. "With my past history with the police, nobody would give me a chance like YouthBuild has. It's opened a lot of doors for me."

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