

Student government affects pocketbooks

■ **LEADERSHIP:** The ASUO governs the student body with students in both elected and appointed positions

By Carl Yeh
for the Oregon Daily Emerald

Decorating the cafeteria for the prom is not what the student government does at the University of Oregon.

The student-body government at the University is called the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. It is composed of three major groups: the Executive, the Senate and programs, which includes over 60 student groups.

So if prom decoration is not on the agenda, what does student government at the college level do?

"We spend your money," said ASUO Senate President James Boyd. "We allocate incidental fees, which are taxes charged to every student as part of their tuition."

The amount of money these students control is no small amount, Boyd said.

"This year's incidental fee is about \$137 [a person]," he said. "That means the Senate allocates approximately \$5.8 million every year."

Meanwhile, the Executive has a myriad of roles.

"Every position on the Executive has a different focus, whether it be the environmental



SCOTTEN

advocate working with environmental student groups to create a more sustainable university or the Federal Affairs Coordinator lobbying to save federal financial aid programs," ASUO President Matthew Scotten said.

Both the Senate and the Executive also work with University administrators on projects to improve the University.

"Our primary goal is to create a better environment for students on campus," Scotten said.

The Senate is made up of elected students.

"The Senate is an 18-member body composed of nine academic senators and nine finance senators," Boyd said. "They were elected early spring quarter by UO students."

Meanwhile, the Executive is made up of both elected and appointed students.

"The ASUO Executive is composed of elected and appointed students who represent UO students to the administration, the community and the state and federal governments," Scotten said.

Even though many positions in the Executive and Senate have

been filled, students can still get involved in their government as interns or just as concerned students.

"There is an internship for everyone," said Scotten, who encourages students to enter the ASUO office and talk to the staff. Interns have the opportunity to work closely with Executive members.

"We've worked really hard this summer to expand credit options for interns," he said. "As an intern, you can pick and choose the issues you want to work on."

Those interested in the Senate can attend Senate meetings and talk to ASUO Senators during their office hours. Senate meetings are held every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the EMU Boardroom.

"Students should come just to be aware of how your fees are being allocated and to make your representatives responsible by giving your input to them," Boyd said.

Boyd explained that one of the best reasons to get involved with student government is to help control how much money is spent and where it is allocated.

"Too often students are unaware of our purpose and the impact we have on their pocketbooks," he said. "By being silent, certain special interests have been allowed to have too much influence in student government and therefore cause unacceptable increases in the incidental fee."

ASUO fosters student government participation

By Shu-fen Hsu
for the Oregon Daily Emerald

New students who were involved in student government in high school or at other colleges may have some idea what the Associated Students of the University of Oregon is like.

The ASUO is a network of agencies, activities and programs designed to serve student needs and interests. Its purpose is to give students the opportunity to plan and direct their own programs, to become involved with every aspect of University life and to influence the decisions that affect the quality of education and student life at the University. All students who pay in-

cidental fees — all registered students — are members of the ASUO.

ASUO provides funding for 120 programs, ranging from ethnic student unions to publications, from environmental organizations to service associations. These programs do everything from skiing to picketing, from children services to campus radio.

The Summer 1996 issue of the ASUO newsletter reported the University was selected as the top-ranked school in student activism by *Mother Jones* magazine.

ASUO will sponsor the 1996 New Students Welcome at Mac Court on Sep. 29 as a way to introduce new students to what the

ASUO does. In October, the ASUO will sponsor a Programs Fair on the second floor of the EMU to share information about ASUO programs. ASUO President Matthew Scotten and Vice President Glen Banfield will give introductory speeches. The fair will also host games and live music.

"In addition, [getting] an internship is a good way for students to get involved with student government, as a bridge between students and administrators," Outreach Director Glenda Marshall said. "ASUO offers two credits and chances in various aspects for students to do whatever they want."

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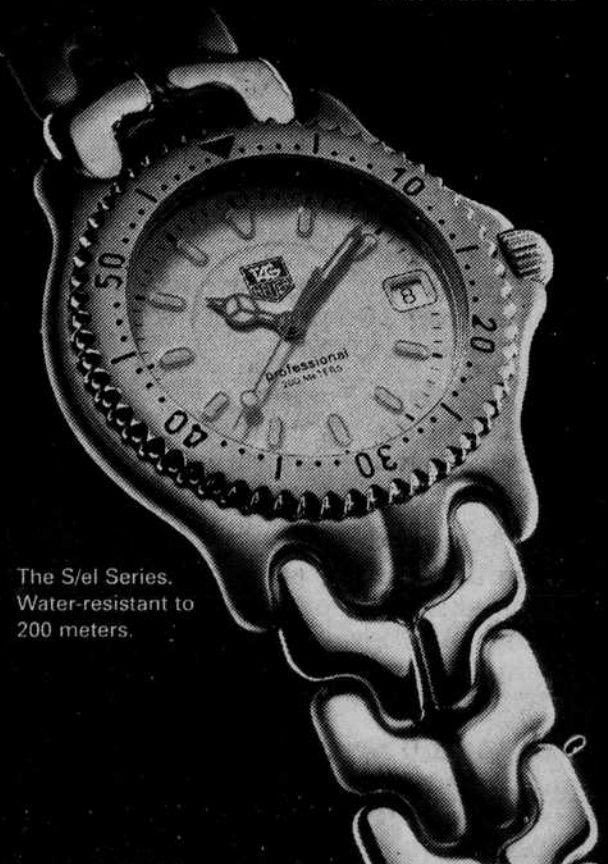
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