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TODAY

VOTE TODAY! Election booths are located in Carson Hall, the law school, the library and on E. 13th Ave. Today is the last day to vote.



INSIDE

Kaarin Knudson has emerged as one of Oregon's premier middle-distance runners

Eugene officials chose to fund public safety while other areas suffered major cutbacks

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WEATHER

Warmer.
High 65. Low 45.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Oregon Daily Emerald

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Amphitheater gains support from Senate

■ **FEES:** The amphitheater will provide a place for rallies and events on campus without distractions

By Dana Williams
Multicultural Issues Reporter

The Student Senate approved the use of Over-Realized student fees for the amphitheater project spearheaded by the ASUO Executive office.

The amphitheater project will use \$335,000 from the Over-Realized fees account, which is an accumulation of left-over student fees. The new amphitheater will not cost students any extra money, but it will add to next year's massive reconstruction of the EMU.

ASUO Executive Matthew Scotten and Glen Banfield requested \$305,000 from the senate but received an extra \$30,000 which will be used to make all areas of the EMU accessible to wheelchairs.

Scotten and Banfield, along with representatives from the campus community, said they felt the new amphitheater would benefit the University.

"It tackles some of the major problems of the first [EMU Courtyard] space, because it's just a dead space," Scotten said.

The current courtyard space was labeled inadequate by amphitheater supporters during the meeting.

Some reasons given for the need for the new amphitheater include inadequate room for groups to rally together and distracting traffic through the walkway during events.

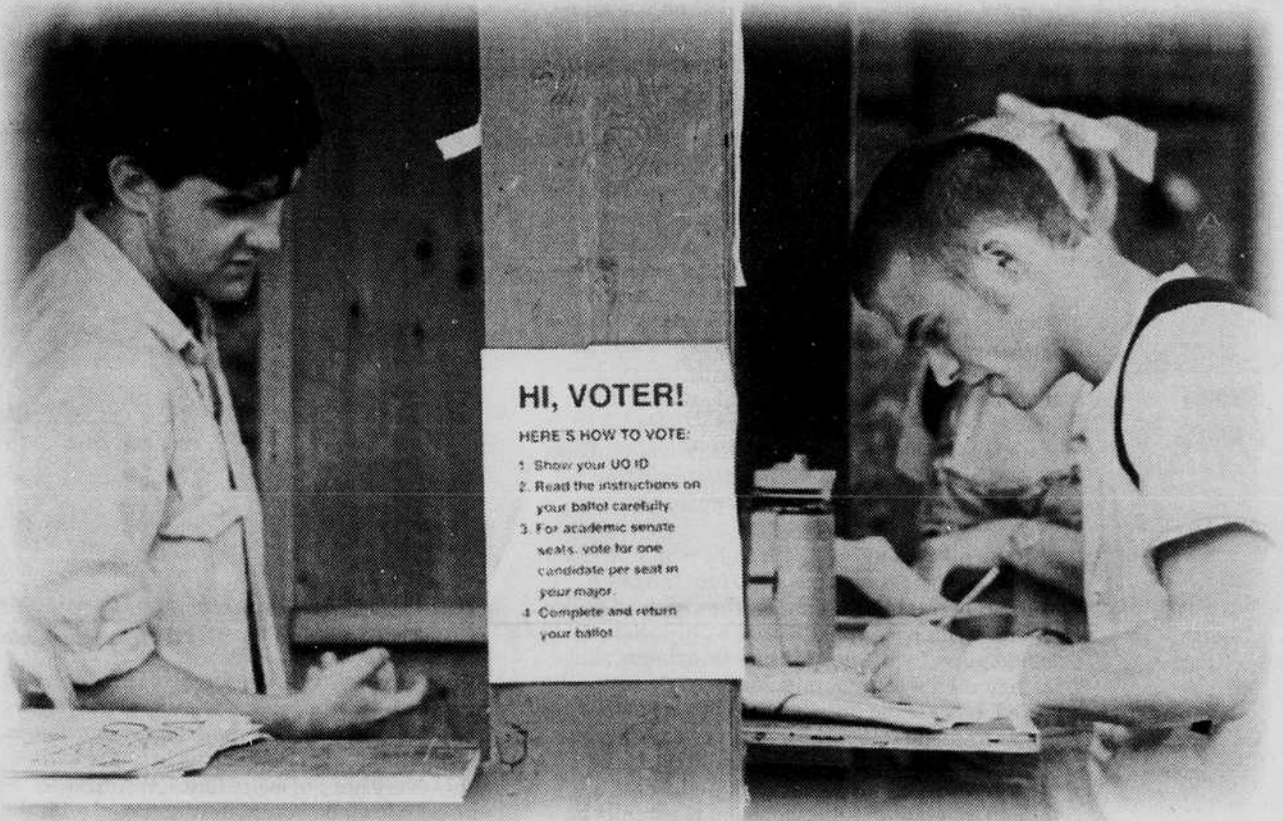
Some students who objected to passing the ASUO's request for the amphitheater felt that the general student body should have voted to decide where the Over-Realized funds would go.

"I don't feel like it's my place to make this decision," said Student Senate president Kalpana Krishnamurthy. But Banfield argued that the University will miss a chance to save money on the project if they wait to send it to the ballot.



Turn to **FEES**, Page 6

Primary Colors



The ASUO plans to target students who historically do not vote

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

Today marks the second day of the primary election, and if the ASUO Elections Board has its way, more than 20 percent of the student body will cast its vote for the campus leaders of the upcoming school year.

And this year, there are even more ways to check out candidates and ballot measures. The Elections WebGuide (<http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~asuoelec>), the candidates' fair in the EMU, additional copies of the voter's guide supplement and the annual debates are all simple methods for students "to learn more about candidates and ballot

measures than the paragraphs on each from the voter's guide statement," said Dave Whipple, ASUO Elections Board publicity coordinator.

"It's hard, as a voter, to make the decisions in the voting booth," Whipple said.

In order to combat the difficulties of both low voter turnout and uniformed voters, the ASUO Elections Board is targeting the people who historically haven't had a high turnout — primarily freshmen and seniors who are graduating, Whipple said.

By directly contacting students who

fall in these groups via e-mail messages, a phone bank and fliers in many of their specific departments, the turnout is likely to be higher.

"A lot of issues that affect students don't require they be involved, but decisions are still being made," Whipple said. "This is a chance for the [elections] board to say that students' voices can be expressed by voting."

Student apathy is a continuing problem in general. The national average for university student body voting is between 16 and 17 percent, but the Oregon State System of Higher Education schools have consistently fallen below

Turn to **VOTE**, Page 6

Proposed bill gives working students tax break for tuition expenses

■ **SENATE:**

Sen. Randy Leonard sponsored the bill after University student Jef Green requested it

By Sarah Keech
Higher Education Reporter

Working students may soon get some relief if the Oregon Legislature passes Senate Bill (SB) 1158 during the current session.

Sponsored by Sen. Randy Leonard, the bill would allow full-time students to subtract tuition costs from their federal taxable income.

"There is currently legislation at the state level that will allow parents of students to deduct college expenses, but no one is addressing the students who pay for their college education themselves," said Jef Green, a University student who works in Sen.

Leonard's office and who requested the bill.

The bill is currently in the Senate Revenue Committee and is waiting for a hearing.

Green explained not enough people know about the bill yet, and the fact that it will take revenue away from the state makes the bill somewhat unpopular with certain legislators.

"In reality, legislators have little to worry about," Green said. "This is really a progressive tax and won't affect all students."

The bill and pending legislation would not affect students who do not

work. Also, the amount of the tax credit would change according to how much the student works.

"The more the student works to pay for tuition and expenses, the bigger the tax credit," Green said.

How much of a credit depends on several factors.

The most important is the cost of education. Each year colleges and universities determine an average amount that it costs a student to attend that institution for a full year. The legislated tax plan will use this as a base number to begin subtracting other factors, such as financial aid and parental contributions.

After the subtractions, the remaining number, or the amount the student contributes, is subtracted from federal taxable income.

As written, the bill states that educational expenses include, and the average total cost of attending a particular institution, are based on: tuition, books, fees and room and board.

"Students should not have to pay taxes on their education," Green said. "With this bill, we hope to make a college education tax-free."

If SB 1158 does pass this session, the tax credit will apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1998.

Photo by CHAD PATTESON/Emerald