

ASUO: Parliamentary procedure replaced

Continued from Page 1A

er of students," Gabbe said. "There are issues on the state and national levels that directly affect students."

Through coordination with the Oregon Student Association, the ASUO is especially concerned with statistics regarding access to a quality education. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac, the average faculty compensation in Oregon currently ranks in the lowest quarter in the nation.

One item on the ASUO agenda is diversity through faculty pay increases, Gabbe said. The ASUO Multicultural Center hosts mock awards called "Zero Awards", for

University departments that show a lack of racial diversity.

The diversity team is planning their "Weaving New Beginnings" program for October. The reception of people of color is forecasted as an important multicultural event. In a similar effort, the outreach team is assisting with IntroDUCKtion, a summer program that welcomes freshmen. At the same time, the ASUO is beginning recruitment for ASUO positions among new students.



COWLING



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Chainlink fencing marks the construction of a new police facility in the Sacred Heart Medical Center parking lot on the corner of 13th Avenue and Alder Street.

Teachers say results of state tests too slow

SALEM — Teachers are complaining that the Oregon Department of Education is too slow in distributing achievement test results for students.

State education leaders promote the tests as the centerpiece of Oregon's school reform program.

But critics say by the time 1998 state test scores showed up in mailboxes early this month, many students had already finished school.

"They're going to have to do something about their turnaround time," if schools are to use the tests effectively, Charleen Hurst, Salem-Keizer school testing coordinator, said recently.

"As we mail them home, teachers are no longer on duty."

Educators say it's tougher to convince students to treat the tests seriously when results reach them months later. Half the students who took the tests — the fifth- and eighth-graders — are off to new schools in the fall.

"There's no reason (the scores) shouldn't be there to schools by the end of May," said Bernard Somdah, a parent leader at Judson Middle School in Salem.

Educators in other school districts voice frustrations.

The state sent Beaverton its scores on June 9, two days before school let out. Eugene sent scores to schools on June 8, three days before summer vacation.

Like other Oregon districts, Salem-Keizer schools gave the tests in February and April to students in the third, fifth, eighth

and 10th grades. Tests covered reading, writing, math and science.

The Salem-Keizer district didn't receive all the scores until June 5, Hurst said. For next year's 10th-graders, the tests are crucial.

Those students must pass each test to earn the state's new certificate of initial mastery, which ultimately could be more important than a high school diploma.

Part of the problem is the state uses revised tests each year to cut down on cheating, said Stephen Slater, evaluation specialist for the state Department of Education.

"We have to go through a lot of checks before we send out the data," Slater said.

A California company machine scores tests, and that takes a week or so to complete, Slater added. This year, the education department revised the reports that explain test results to parents, and that added more time.

Ron Houser, the Education Department's testing manager, said major revisions are under way to decrease turnaround time.

State School Superintendent Norma Paulus plans to announce the test results by school, grade level and statewide after July 30.

Paulus has criticized Salem-Keizer schools for still using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, which she calls "worthless."

The state agency has been emphasizing state tests over such national tests on grounds that local testing is expensive and time consuming.

Police: Building will be finished in mid-August

Continued from Page 1A

mitted when you know the people and businesses," she explained.

The new station will be completed in mid-August. The larger building should be more noticeable than the 7-Eleven trailer, Mason said.

"We arrested two bank robbers that had just robbed U.S. Bank and they didn't even know that

there was a police station here," she said in description of a recent campus crime. The building will have a permanent staff of three — Mason, a patrol officer, and a coordinator — and their efforts are directed towards community policing. The new building will better instill safety by building relationships with business owners and people in the area, Mason said.

"I've got people all over the city that would love to volunteer in a police station."

Beverly Mason

Eugene community service officer

Pain reliever recalled after four deaths

Use of Duract for more than 10 days can cause severe liver damage, the manufacturer says

By John Hendren
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The potent painkiller Duract was recalled by the manufacturer Monday after four people who had been taking it died and eight others required liver transplants.

All but one of the patients had been using Duract for longer than the government-recommended maximum of 10 days, Wyeth-Ayerst said. The person who used it for a shorter time already had significant liver disease.

"While we continue to believe that Duract is safe and effective when used for 10 days or less, rare but serious adverse events have been associated with Duract when used for longer periods," Dr. Philip de Vane, head of clinical affairs for Wyeth-Ayerst's parent, American Home Products Corp., said in a statement.

The company concluded that keeping the product

on the market with a stronger warning against using it for more than 10 days "would not be feasible or effective," de Vane said.

Doctors have written 2.5 million prescriptions for Duract since it hit the market in July 1997 as an alternative to narcotics for short-term pain relief after surgery and for other acute pain. Duract is not intended for arthritis or other chronic pain.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Duract for use up to 10 days, but doctors are free to prescribe it for longer periods. The agency warned that the drug can lead to potentially fatal liver damage in patients who use it for longer than 10 days.

Wyeth-Ayerst sent letters to more than 600,000 doctors in the United States, urging them to stop prescribing the drug immediately and suggesting that they contact patients who may be using Duract for longer than 10 days or have a history of liver disease.

American Home has already been dazed by lawsuits from thousands of dieters who claim they were harmed by the anti-obesity drugs Redux and fenfluramine — half of the popular "fen-phen" diet cocktail. The company recalled the two drugs in August.

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