

Act could mean big changes for UO

Officials don't yet know what issues of the new Higher Education Act they will consider first

By Teri Meeuwsen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students may face new issues at the University now that President Clinton has signed the Higher Education Act into law.

But they won't see a majority of the changes until University officials get a chance to meet and decide what to tackle first.

In the act, signed into law Oct. 7, the University will have to deal with and possibly make policy on a few major issues. There were many changes to financial aid requirements, campus crime issues, distance and international education, campus child-care and many others.

"This legislation marks an important step forward in my effort to help more Americans enter the doors of college," Clinton said in a statement from the Office of the Press Secretary. "...This bill will make it easier for millions of Americans to get the higher education they need to succeed in the global economy."

The act is so new that there has not been a lot of time to discuss what issues the University will even tackle, said Elaine Green, student life coordinator. Each part of the act will be looked at by separate departments of the University.

"The University will take a strong look at it," Green said. "It won't be an all or nothing thing. We, as a University, have to define what's our mission and what would be good for the University."

Creating a sound policy is impor-

Higher ed changes

Some of the issues that received changes or reauthorizations in the Higher Education Act of 1998 that may affect the University:

Student financial aid

- decreased loan interest rates
- more Pell grants and financial aid programs

Campus crime

- faster statistics reporting and crime prevention

Distance education

- more financial aid to distance education students

International education

- new program to make grants to use electronic technologies to collect and distribute information on world regions and countries.

tant in making decisions that affect students, said C.J. Gabbe, ASUO federal affairs coordinator. Some parts of the act were created in part by student involvement, he said.

"There are definitely some aspects that are beneficial," he said. "We didn't win everything, but there are aspects we are excited about."

While some of the changes in the act may be adopted now, others will need to wait for the next few days until appropriations to receive funding, Gabbe said.

Financial aid decisions must wait until appropriations to receive funding, but they also make up a large part of the act. Pell grants, work study and programs aimed at increasing student enrollment and financial aid eligibility will increase through the act.

The interest rate on loans was reduced to approximately 7.46

percent — down from 8.26 percent. For now, students who have graduated may consolidate their loans into a single pot under a lower interest rate of 7.43 percent. This rate will only be available until Jan. 30, 1999.

The campus crime parts of the act require schools to report crimes, except where prohibited, on and around campus within two business days. The list of crimes that colleges must report must now include manslaughter and arson and requires colleges to keep records of hate crimes. If a college is found to be withholding crime statistics, the act allows the Secretary of Education to impose a fine on the institution.

The crime statutes also include permission for colleges to inform parents or legal guardians if their students under 21 have violated laws on alcohol or drugs possession, and a grant program to combat violent crimes against women.

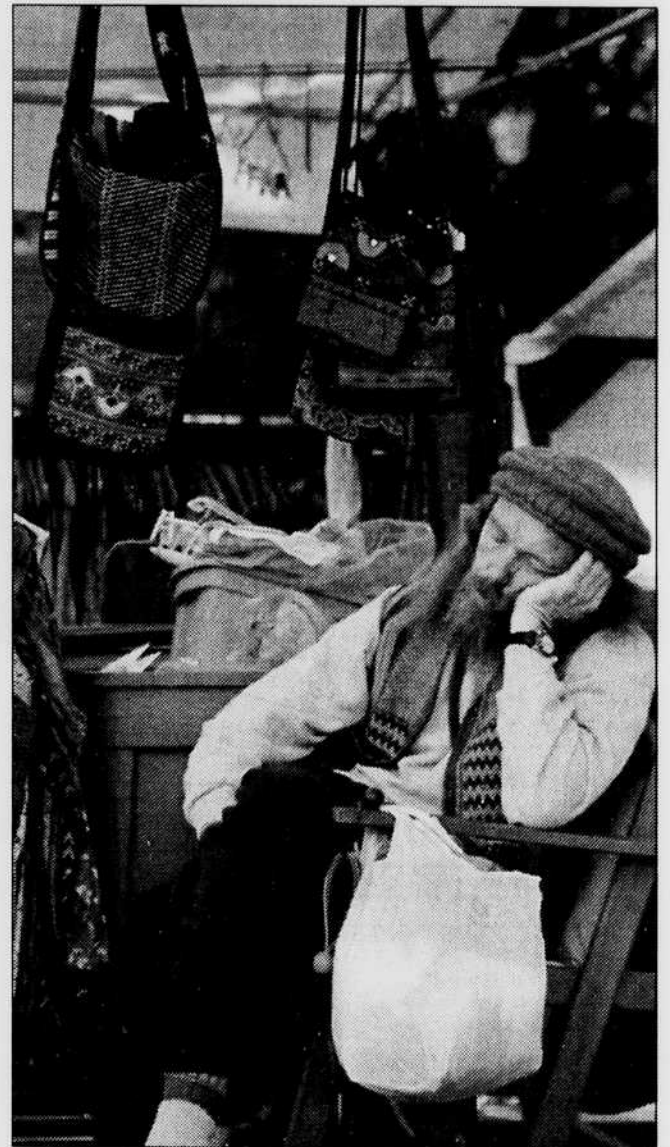
Campus child care provisions received authorization for \$45 million to support current campus-based child care programs or for the creation of new programs.

Eligibility requirements for financial aid to those in distance education programs are waived in the act. The waivers will take effect at 15 colleges to be chosen for the 1999 fiscal year.

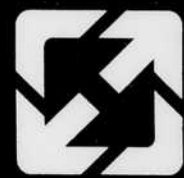
Colleges and universities are also now required to widely distribute and make available voter registration forms to students on-campus enrolled in their institutions.

Teri Meeuwsen covers the University administration and the Oregon University System for the Emerald. She can be reached via e-mail at meeuwsen@gladstone.uoregon.edu

CATCHING ZZZZZS



Amanda Couvan/Emerald
Jerry White, owner of Kashi, dozes off at the ASUO Street Faire Friday morning.



Affordable TECHNOLOGY

we build computers **your** way



all Microsoft systems standard with **Windows 98**

OREGON'S LARGEST WHOLESALE COMPUTER MANUFACTURER IS NOW IN EUGENE

visit

1142 WILLEGILLESPIE RD SUITE 25

call

685.1302

hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 / Sat & Sun 10-4

surf

www.beat-that.com

We are an authorized **Microsoft OEM**

© 1998 Affordable Technology, Inc. All trademarks property of their respective owners. *OAC

SCANNERS
PRINTERS

P-266 MMX

17" DIGITAL SVGA MONITOR INCLUDED • 32mb SDRAM • 24x CD-ROM

- 4.3Gb UltraDMA HardDisk
- 4Mb S3 VIRGE64 3D Card
- 56k kFlex Fax/Voice Modem
- 16bit Yamaha Sound Card
- 170w Multimedia Speakers
- Windows98 w/CD/Manual

\$799!



ACCEPTED

P-266 MMX
NOTEBOOK

12.1" TFT SVGA COLOR DISPLAY

- 4Gb HardDisk • 32mb RAM
- 2Mb 128bit PCI Video
- 20x CD-ROM • 1.44 Floppy
- 56k Flex Modem
- 16bit Stereo Sound
- PCMCIA Slot • NiMH Battery
- Windows98 Preloaded

\$1599!

SERVICE



UPGRADES

0%

FINANCING AVAILABLE

P-400 MMX

int'l Pentium II
17" DIGITAL SVGA MONITOR INCLUDED • 32mb RAM • 36x CD-ROM

- 4.3Gb UltraDMA HardDisk
- 4Mb S3 VIRGE64 3D Card
- 56k kFlex Fax/Voice Modem
- 16bit Yamaha Sound Card
- 170w Multimedia Speakers
- Windows98 w/CD/Manual

\$1299!



ALL SYSTEMS INCLUDE TONS OF FREE, REAL SOFTWARE!

- OFFICE SUITE FOR WIN 95, QUICKEN, CHESSMASTER 4000, COMPTON'S 3-IN-1 REFERENCE SET, BODYWORKS 5.0, MAVIS BEACON TYPING, COMPLETE U.S. & WORLD ATLAS SET, KIDS' ZOO EXPLORER, AND OVER 1,000 MORE!

FREE



INTERNET

Teleport
INTERNET SERVICES

P-450 MMX

int'l Pentium II
17" DIGITAL SVGA MONITOR INCLUDED • 64mb SDRAM • 36x CD-ROM

- 6.4Gb UltraDMA HardDisk
- 4Mb S3 VIRGE64 3D Card
- 56k kFlex Fax/Voice Modem
- 16bit Yamaha Sound Card
- 170w Multimedia Speakers
- Windows98 w/CD/Manual

\$1599!