

OSPIRG initiates winter campaigns

■ Renter's rights and hunger prevention are key goals for this term

By Simone Ripke
Oregon Daily Emerald

About 45 students gathered in Lawrence Hall Thursday night to kick off the Oregon Students Public Interest Research Group's winter term campaigns.

This winter, OSPIRG will focus on campaigns concerning renter's rights, hunger and homelessness, clean water, earth day and eliminating ATM surcharges.

After a brief introduction by chapter chair Erin Pursell, a junior environmental studies and political science double major, guest speaker Randy Shaw, author of "Reclaiming America" and "Ac-

tivist Handbook" applauded students for their efforts.

"I think you all made a very wise decision to come here," Shaw said.

Students had a chance to break into groups and learn more specifics about the campaign of their interest.

The hunger and homelessness group received the most attention with many new volunteers hoping to make a difference in the community.

Krista Petricka, an undeclared freshman, said she was interested in working on hunger and homelessness issues with OSPIRG because she has been looking for opportunities to volunteer since she moved to Eugene.

Specifically, the hunger and homelessness group hopes to find

a way to donate wasted food and food points from the residence halls to those who cannot afford meals. Further initiatives of the group include fixing up soup kitchens and shelters and fundraisers for charity.

The renter's rights group, which works in conjunction with the ASUO housing advocate, is currently one of OSPIRG's biggest campaigns, Pursell said.

Greg Bae, a freshman political science major, is an intern for OSPIRG this term and heads the renters' rights campaign.

Bae said Eugene is one of the few cities in the country without a housing code. For renters, this means that they have few rights and no legal basis for fighting evictions and claiming security de-

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Programs Financing

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee has committed \$2,539,182 so far this term.

ORGANIZATION	1999-2000	% CHANGE 2000-01	FROM LAST YEAR	\$ CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
ASUO Executive	\$217,821	\$222,197	2.01%	\$4376
Coalition Against Environmental Racism	\$12,158	\$12,158	0.00%	\$0
Childcare Subsidy	\$246,861	\$233,952	-5.23%	-\$12,909
Designated Driver Shuttle	\$72,872	\$50,876	-30.18%	-\$21,996
Solar Information Center	\$5,007	\$0	-100.00%	-\$5,007
Total	\$554,719	\$519,183		\$35,536

PFC

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parently benefit all students where actually it would really benefit the people working in the ASUO Executive."

But before the PFC members approved the ASUO Executive budget, Mary Shope, a law student who supported the ASUO Childcare Subsidy, interrupted the meeting.

Shope requested that Rice temporarily table the ASUO Executive budget to continue the hearing of the child care budget first, which was tabled at Tuesday's meeting.

Shope's request was supported by Kathleen Workman, ASUO non-traditional student advocate,

and about 40 student parents and their children who were present at the meeting.

After a short discussion and debate, PFC members approved a budget of \$233,952 for the Childcare Subsidy, 5 percent less than what the group requested.

In addition to the ASUO Executive and Childcare Subsidy, the PFC approved the budgets of another three ASUO programs, including the Designated Driver Shuttle.

Brian Rise, co-director of the DDS, attributed its request for a budget increase to compensation of the increased demand from students and to reflect a payroll increase so more navigators and drivers shifts could be added to

the service in the next fiscal year.

After discussing the DDS budget for more than an hour, PFC members approved the \$50,876 budget. Last year, the group received \$72,872, which was funded solely through a ballot measure.

The budget for the Coalition Against Environmental Racism will remain unchanged in the coming fiscal year.

At the end of the meeting, PFC members voted to hear the appeal filed by KWVA, to not fund Solar Information Center and to recall the budget of the Athletic Department Finance Committee. Because of the long delay, the budget hearing for Students for Choice was rescheduled for next week.

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