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ASUO ELECTIONS 2000

Generals:

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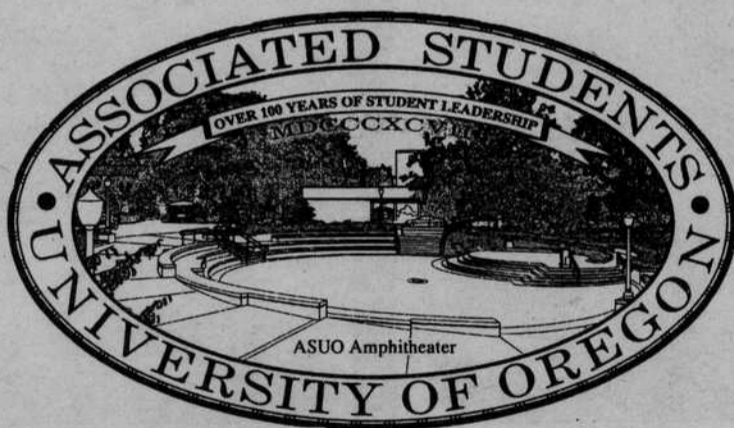
During this year's elections you can:

A) Take Control

or

B) Be Controlled

You Decide.



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Senate denies funds for ASUO exec trip

■ Senators say that the ASUO Executive should pay for its own transportation to a national conference

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

In a quick meeting before adjourning for dead week and finals week, the ASUO Student Senate denied a \$1500 request from the ASUO Executive and began deliberation on a pledge of respect for the University.

The ASUO request was to fund student government members attending the United States Student Organization Legislative Conference in two weeks. Sen. Peter Watts told the senators that, in the past, the executive has paid for the conference and that senate shouldn't have to bear the burden this year.

Many of the senators agreed that although they support the USSA and the conference, it should be the executive's responsibility.

With fund-raising money, the executive will still have the necessary funds to pay for the conference.

Before the senate adjourned for the term, Sen. Jerome Grzybowski introduced for debate a draft of the University of Oregon Pledge of Respect. The pledge came out of the Summer Diversity Internship Program and includes six statements such as "I will promote a culture

of respect throughout the University community" and "I will not tolerate bigotry, discrimination, violence or intimidation of any kind."

The final, approved policy will be adopted by the University on a general scale. It will not be something



Student Senate

students or faculty have to sign before attending the school.

Sen. Emily Owens Sedgwick said even though she supports the pledge's statements,

she worried the pledge might violate First Amendment rights protecting hate speech.

"If I want to say 'fuck the police,' I'm going to say 'fuck the police,'" she said.

Senate President Jessica Timpany decided to postpone discussion and encouraged senators to e-mail Grzybowski with their opinions in the next weeks.

The Student Senate is the legislative branch of the ASUO and handles financial issues regarding student programs. The Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday night in the EMU Board Room, third floor. All students can attend these meetings.

Bridge

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Bridge can be a wearying experience, bike commuters would have to go out of their way to use the new bridge to get to the University or downtown.

Paul Nicholson, owner of a local bicycle shop and past city council member, said the DeFazio Bike Bridge is just a pedestrian bridge with bicycle access to Alton Baker Park.

"It's not a bike bridge," Nicholson said. "The bridge was never part of any bike plan, nor did any bicycle person or organization request such a bridge. The city received a certain amount of federal money, and they were determined to use it."

The original federal contribution to the \$30 million Ferry Street Bridge project was intended to fund construction in the area near the Ferry Street Bridge. Sue Malone, public information specialist for the Eugene Department of Transportation, said that was just one of the reasons for the chosen location.

"A citizen's advisory committee recommended that a bike bridge be built as part of the Ferry Street Bridge renovation, but the bridge needed to be built near the Ferry Street Bridge in order to qualify for [federal] funds," Malone said. "We also chose the location because of

its proximity to Alton Baker Park and the fact that we would not have to take down too many trees during construction."

Engineer Jiri Strasky designed the bridge with the concept of suspending the frame without the support of pillars in the water, using a combination of cables, pipes and metal rods. Malone said she expects the bridge will become a Eugene landmark.

"It's a masterpiece of engineering and architectural design," Malone said. "It's unique and pretty to look at, as bridges go. It's also very functional."

Susan Kelley, avid cyclist and owner of Blue Heron Bicycles on 13th Avenue, said the bridge has a unique design that will probably encourage people to ride bicycles, but that the bridge was not necessary for experienced bicycle commuters.

"For novice riders it may alleviate fears about going over Ferry Street Bridge, and in a lot of ways that's a good thing," Kelley said. "But the bridge is not necessary for avid riders who've used the Ferry Street Bridge for years."

Nonetheless, Kelley said she was impressed with the design and thought the bridge offered a new twist for recreational riders.

"For those of us who have used Ferry Street Bridge for years, it's a fun little change," Kelley said. "I know quite a few people will find it very useful."

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