

Senate applies DDS payroll to pay bills, repair shuttle

■ The senators stay snagged on the summer session situation but fix funding for a few functions

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

The summer senate issue remains unresolved for the second straight week.

The Senate Rules Committee, which met briefly during a recess Wednesday night, could not resolve a variety of concerns about how the senate functions during the summer, including the number of people on the smaller summer body, quorum and stipend payment.

The rules committee has to present a draft to the senate for a vote before summer senate can even exist. The ASUO Constitution Court ruled the summer senate unconstitutional earlier this year.

On the financial side, despite its momentary controversy, the senate approved to the Designated Driver Shuttle an \$11,000 transfer from the payroll part of

its budget to fix a van and recover debts in the gas and telephone bill parts of its budget.

In last year's election, students approved a DDS budget increase. The lump sum was split into specific areas, including payroll.

But with the specific guidelines for spending voted by students, senators and court Chief Justice Robert Rashio, who was at the meeting representing the court for its own special request, weren't sure if the allocation would break any ASUO rules.

After approving the first part of the transfer, \$1,000 from payroll to gas, Sen. Peter Watts questioned whether to postpone a vote until next week's meeting so the senate could be sure they were moving funds legally.

"It will impair us a lot more if we set a dangerous precedent ..." he said. "This is something we really need to investigate."

But the other senators felt certain enough that they were not breaking the rules to continue with a \$547 transfer to phone bills and \$9,453 to van repair.

"We're not touching the spirit of the student vote. We're just hammering out the details," Sen. Jerome Grzybowski said. "We can do this tonight. It's completely legal. If not, impeach me."

Senate President Jessica Timpany agreed and the money passed with Watts dissenting on the other two transfers.

"We're doing a greater disservice if we don't transfer this money ... and they can't drive our drunk butts home," Watts said.

The senate also approved a total of \$968 to the court to help it start its new office in room 20 in the EMU and \$1,047 for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, which 11 students from a variety of multicultural student groups will attend.



India's population now 1 billion strong

By Ramola Talwar Badam
The Associated Press

BOMBAY, India — Meena Pawar spends all day in crowded shanties cajoling women not to have more children. But India marks a milestone Thursday that shows just how strong the tide is against her: The population officially reaches 1 billion people.

Pawar, a municipal nurse, works in the slums of Bombay, on the front line of efforts to reduce population growth, but she faces deeply entrenched attitudes against birth control. If India doesn't curtail population growth, experts say that in 50 years it will overtake China and end up with 1.5 billion people.

Deciding when India reaches the 1 billion mark is tricky in a nation where 42,000 children are born every day and medical records are scanty. The United Nations Development Program said India joined China in the exclusive club on Aug. 15 last year. The government's Census Board projected it for May 1 of this year.

In a program to promote awareness of population growth, the government decided to mark the milestone May 11, calling it "a moment of celebration, a moment to ponder."

At New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, doctors are zealously watching over several dozen pregnant mothers. The first girl delivered after noon Thursday will be designated the one billionth baby.

The spiraling population has swamped every measure of progress India has made since independence 53 years ago. Food production has tripled, yet many people go hungry; literacy has increased, but so has the sheer number of illiterate people.

Nowhere is this problem more clear than in Bombay, a

city where more than half of the 15 million people sleep on sidewalks or live in mud-and-tin huts. For many of its poor people, every child is a potential wage earner: a servant in a house, an understudy in a motor garage, someone to do odd jobs.

Health workers try to explain the harsh realities.

"We tell them how expenses will increase and detail health complications due to so many deliveries," said nurse Vimal Bhagwat. Half a million women die each year in South Asia from complications arising from childbirth.

Pawar said men must be better educated on family planning.

"We must motivate the family members, especially men. Women don't have the guts on their own to say that they want to be sterilized," Pawar said.

But family planning has never recovered from the stain it received from a 1975 mass sterilization campaign launched by the government. Police, teachers and government officials were ordered to round up people for vasectomy and tubectomy operations. Many illiterate people were sterilized without their knowledge.

Nurses such as Pawar now approach the topic of birth control cautiously, talking first about general health and hygiene. Critics want a more assertive approach, promoting the benefits of smaller families and offering people incentives, such as cash, for limiting births.

Others say birth control projects will succeed if more women get jobs, low-cost houses and better education.

"If I had been working before my third pregnancy, I wouldn't have had a third child. I would have realized two children are enough," Pawar said.



Rally & March 8:00 pm
Thursday, May 18th
U of O Amphitheater

Come early to see the Clothesline Project and make your own sign! Music begins at 7:00 pm. This event will be ASL interpreted and child care scholarships are available, call 72 hours in advance 346-4095. Organized by the ASUO Women's Center & co-sponsored by the Eugene Weekly. Men's discussion at 6:45 pm & 9:00 pm in the Walnut Room.

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