

CNN plans to visit campus

■ "Ask CNN" will film people asking questions and CNN will find experts to answer

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

The election season is ending and cable television station CNN plans to replace the faces of political pundits with those of University students.

CNN producers will be on campus Thursday for a new program segment called "Ask CNN." The show's basic premise is that people ask questions — any questions — and CNN finds experts to answer them.

Dave Nuckolls, executive producer of the show, said the questions don't have to be political. He said he hopes people tackle a variety of subjects, from entertainment to public policy.

"I want more than just political

questions," he said.

Nuckolls said the show will air in January, probably in 15-minute segments during CNN shows and on the station's Web page. Right now, the plan is to rerun some of each week's segments during the weekend as well.

Tim Gleason, dean of the journalism school, said Nuckolls contacted him via e-mail about two weeks ago in regard to filming at the University. Students, faculty and community members with burning questions can visit the journalism school in Allen Hall anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday. The school is letting CNN use one of the television studios near the Aaron Lounge in the basement of Allen Hall.

"I'm going to ask why there's an interstate highway in Hawaii," said Warren Pease, an electronic media professor at the journalism school who is coordinating the filming. He

All About "Ask CNN"

Who: "Ask CNN"

What: A new show, airing in January on CNN, where people ask a variety of questions and CNN finds experts to answer them.

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Outside the Aaron Lounge at the journalism school in the basement of Allen Hall.

said he expects thousands of people to come and ask questions.

But some people filmed will not end up on CNN. Nuckolls said he and his staff are traveling the world to get a cross-section of people ranging in age, geographic location and background.

He said he picked the University because CNN wanted to make sure the West Coast is represented on the show.

Student workers demand pay-offs

■ Giving students work study pay as opposed to stipends has raised financial problems

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time in history, student groups can fund workers through the work study program instead of using stipends they receive from the ASUO.

Groups have asked the ASUO Student Senate to make the switch for some of their positions, but the practice may not continue for long.

As soon as the senate assumed responsibility for the transfers from the Executive this year, problems bubbled to the surface. A group sponsoring a work study student must pay the federal government back 3 percent of a student's earnings at the end of the year.

The senate decided that groups must have the 3 percent available in other parts of its budget before a stipend is changed to a work study.

Working in the ASUO, students sometimes have to spend money — for example, the price of a dinner eaten while on the job. To help defer incidental costs such as this, the ASUO provides students with stipends.

However, some students eligible for work study salaries have claimed the stipend is not enough to cover the time commitment of their positions. They want to be able to use their stipends for work study — in which the federal government provides 75 percent of work study pay while the stipend provides the other 25 percent — allowing them to earn up to four times as much money, EMU Director of Student Activities Gregg Lobisser said. Previously, groups just took the 3 percent from other places in their budget, which sometimes put the group

into a deficit. ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert said money was taken from the general surplus to cover the loss.

The surplus is a general pool of money not used by student groups at the end of the year.

Although groups will now spend more money covering the cost, there should be no impact on the incidental fee, Senate President Peter Watts said. There is often money left over in groups' leadership accounts, where stipend funds are held, which means there is often enough to cover the 3 percent kickback.

But resolving the kickback dilemma was only the beginning of a significant probe into the transfer of stipends into work study.

"I didn't understand the underlying issues," Watts said, such as whether it is fair for one student who is doing the same job as another to earn more pay through work study.

It also may be illegal to change positions back and forth between work study and the stipend.

Should that be the case, Watts said, "it would preclude anyone who didn't have work study from running for the position."

Monitoring the number of hours students work per week also poses a significant problem.

Sen. Mary Elizabeth Madden, chair of the Programs Finance Committee, said that, in the past, "there wasn't any control" of the number of hours students logged onto their timecards after the change.

The senate may or may not have that control in the future.

"There's really no way we can," Madden said. "Legally, if they turn in a timecard for more [hours], we have to pay them."

More broadly, the stipend system as a whole may be in question.

Watts said that stipends "can't be

connected in any way with the hours" a student works. When the senate changes stipends to work study, which revolves around hourly wages, the work study students receive pay for things such as office hours. Stipend students don't get paid for holding office hours, and some people, like senators, are required to hold posted office hours.

It is unclear whether the two can be placed on the same level — whether some students can work based on hourly rates while others simply receive a flat sum each month.

If the senate's investigation finds that the stipend system is invalid, Lobisser said, the ASUO can do one of two things: It can eliminate stipends altogether and make programs positions be volunteer positions, or it can convert them all into paid hourly jobs. Either way, there would be an impact.


Creating a volunteer-only system may prevent some students from participating because they cannot afford to spend the time without compensation, Lobisser said. Making all jobs paid hourly would have an enormous effect on the incidental fee, he added.

For now, the senate continues to take work study transfer requests on a case-by-case basis. Watts said that, despite the questionable legality of the process, the senate will continue until the administration tells them to stop.

"In fact, they've told us to proceed with caution," he said.

Students who want to convert their stipends into work study pay must sit down with a senator and plow through a stipend-to-work study conversion worksheet.

The senate will form a committee to decide what should be done, either this week or next.



Society of Professional Journalists

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EMU River Rooms
Presented by: ARAMARK

For more information contact the Career Center at 346-3235
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