

An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald



A guide for brides

The annual wedding supplement offers tips and tales for that special day. **Inside Section**

Bus a move

LTD proposes a super rapid shuttle between Eugene and Springfield city centers. **PAGE 3A**

WEATHER
TODAY



RAIN POSSIBLE
high 50, low 35

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Who's who in the PFC



Lawrence Gillespie
junior
psychology



Randy Newnham
senior
anthropology,
linguistics



Mary Elizabeth Madden
junior
political science,
business



Arlie Adkins
junior
history



Jackie Lynn Ray
sophomore
journalism



Marie Brink
sophomore
pre-education



Aaron Weck
junior
general science

Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

The budgetary Power Elite

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee controls funding for student groups, but the members of the committee are simply students — with some power

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

Seven people make up the ASUO Programs Finance Committee — seven distinct personalities that ultimately determine how more than \$2 million is divided among more than the 100 student programs on campus.

INSIDE
The ASUO Executive's \$228,056 budget is approved Monday by the PFC **PAGE 4A**

Here, the Emerald explores the members of the PFC: their backgrounds, their involvement and how all this comes into play in budgeting decisions.

PFC Chairwoman Sen. Mary Elizabeth Madden began her student-government resume in high school and continued it last year as an intern for the ASUO Executive. The 20-year-old junior's experience outside student government ranges from her enrollment in the Clark Honors College to the positions she occupies on sev-

eral student scholar and University boards.

Madden, who said she ran for the PFC senate position because she felt it was a good combination of her political science and business majors, said the strongest asset of the PFC this year is its balanced and diverse nature.

But as all but one member is new, Madden said the seven-member committee has had to educate itself while also trying to educate programs about the budget process.

"We had a pretty steep learning curve, and all of us kind of had to find our way," Madden said.

Two-year at-large member Aaron Weck — the only returning member to the PFC — was appointed earlier this year after resigning from his position late last year. Weck, who said he attends probably 25 percent of all the events put on by student groups on campus, said he re-joined

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WRC works to gain UO's participation

The monitoring group and Nike disagree about a recent strike at a Mexican factory

By Andrew Adams
Oregon Daily Emerald

While a team of investigators from the Worker Rights Consortium compiles a report on a current labor dispute in Mexico, leaders in the organization are also trying to assuage the University's liability fears about the monitoring group.

The University administration views the organization's recent work as positive steps. Yet they maintain the group must tackle the legal issues raised by University President Dave Frohnmayer at the end of fall term that he said made paying the WRC membership dues impossible.

Added to the disagreement between the University and the WRC is a labor dispute in Atlixco, Mexico, at a Nike-contracted factory that produces some University apparel.

The WRC has issued a statement that details various violations of labor codes at the Mexican factory, but a Nike spokesman questioned both the "veracity and objectivity" of the report and said Nike has played a key role in getting more than half of the 800 strikers back to work.

University administrators said they are keeping tabs on the situation in Mexico through various monitoring groups. Here in Eugene, work is still being done to determine if the University should become a full paying member of the WRC.

Melinda Grier, University general counsel, said the University received a letter from the WRC last week addressing the liability issues, which was a chief concern at the end of October.

"It doesn't change anything immediately," she said.

Grier said the letter essentially is another statement from the WRC's lawyers claiming that the University is immune from any liable lawsuit because of what the organization might do while investigating labor issues. She said she is continuing to research the issue until she can come to her own decision, but said the letter was a welcome communication from the WRC.

"It was a letter that was trying to be helpful," she said.

The letter in question came from the WRC's new executive director Scott Nova, who has been in Mexico investigating the Atlixco labor dispute.

In an earlier interview with the Emerald, Nova said he was confident the letter addressed the University's concerns and expressed hope that the two institutions could come to a working agreement.

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"I'm optimistic about it; most of the concerns have been addressed."

Scott Nova
WRC
executive director

Local restaurant targeted in health department probe

A fecal borne virus was discovered as the cause for several cases of digestive illness

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Spaghetti Warehouse reopened for business late last week after closing for five days in response to reports of food poisoning.

Customers reported an outbreak of viral gastroenteritis at the restaurant, located at 725 W. First Ave. Spaghetti Warehouse owner Jay Zink said his restaurant has undergone extensive cleaning and is back to business as usual.

"We're excited to be back open," Zink said.

But the Lane County Health Department predicts more flare-ups

of the virus in other areas in Eugene, department sanitarian Richard Coots said.

Coots said the exact cause of the Spaghetti Warehouse outbreak hasn't been determined yet. Once the cause is determined, health officials can stop further contamination. The virus is spread by fecal contamination, meaning those who have the virus are only contagious through their fecal material. It is usually passed on when infected people pass the virus from their hands to food, said Martha deBroekert, a nurse for the Lane County Health Department.

"It is extremely important for

people to be washing their hands," Coots said.

The health department took stool samples from Spaghetti Warehouse employees, patrons who came down with the virus and patrons who did not get sick to determine where the virus originated.

"We're still crunching the numbers, but we're pretty sure the virus was spread through an uncooked food," Coots said.

DeBroekert said what needs to be determined in situations like this is whether a restaurant's practices or its food is responsible for the outbreak.

"We try everything we can to pinpoint the cause of the virus," deBroekert said. "In some cases, we can never determine the exact cause."

DeBroekert said that by having those involved in the outbreak fill out questionnaires, and by comparing those who got sick to those who didn't, the health department can possibly prevent others from getting sick.

Coots describes this virus as a "hardy" one that can survive freezing and heating of up to 140 F. Only boiling can kill the virus, so foods like salad, which are not heated at

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"We try everything we can to pinpoint the cause of the virus."

Martha deBroekert
Lane Co.
Health
Department