

Students lobby in Salem, learn legislative ropes

University students will head to the capitol Tuesday to address higher education funding with state legislators

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

When hundreds of students convene in Salem for the Oregon Student Association lobby day Tuesday, they will speak with legislators about everything from racial profiling to the amount of tuition University students will pay next year.

But they'll also be learning a few things for themselves.

It is a "chance for students who are not necessarily political science majors to see the legislative process firsthand," said Brian Tanner, the ASUO state affairs coordinator.

ASUO President Jay Breslow added, "it's a leadership development tool. It's taking people up to Salem and letting them get a little touch [of the lobbying experience]."

But while learning to navigate the legislative ropes, the students are also looking to change the way those ropes swing.

"We're there to impact the legislative process," Tanner said.

To do that, students will bring up four different issues, the foremost of which is the Oregon University System budget and the probable end of the tuition freeze.

"We're going to go up there and make sure the tuition hike is a real hot-button issue," Breslow said.

Tanner said students want to garner as much money for higher education as possible, not only to keep

tuition low, but also to retain the quality of education and programs.

Gov. John Kitzhaber's state budget proposal for the next two years not only fails to set aside enough funds for higher education, Tanner said, but it also takes away funds from programs that need the money.

"We have a problem with that," Tanner said.

Secondary issues for the students include increasing funds for both the child care block grant and the Oregon Opportunity Grant, formerly the Oregon Need Grant. The students also plan to discuss racial profiling.

To accomplish their goals, the students have planned an early start: Training sessions about the issues and how they should be discussed begin in Salem at 8 a.m.

After that, groups of students

will head into legislative meetings, and Tanner said they hope to speak with each legislator in the capitol before the day is through.

"Legislators typically really like these events," former ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Matt Swanson said. "It's powerful for them to see a large group of constituents come through."

A rally is scheduled to take place on the capitol steps between the meetings, and afterward the students will make an appearance on the floor of the State House and Senate, Tanner said. The last afternoon meetings will probably take place around 4 or 4:30 p.m.

In past years, about 300 students have participated in the lobby day, Swanson said. This year, he said, he thinks there will be far more.

Tanner estimated between 300

Lobby Day information

What: OSA Lobby Day
Who: Oregon Students Association, including students from the University of Oregon
When: Begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday
Where: The state capitol in Salem

and 500 students will attend, including about 50 from the University. People can still sign up to go by calling Tanner at 346-0628. Tuesday's event is the first of two major days students have scheduled in the capitol. The second is an Oregon University System rally, to be held March 6, that will include not only students, but faculty, administrators and alumni.

Japan's post-catastrophe reaction currently unknown

More than a week after the Navy submarine collision with a Japanese fishing boat, the investigation is underway

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the United States continues to investigate the reason a Navy submarine hit and sunk a Japanese fishing vessel off the coast of Hawaii Feb. 9, some University members remain shocked, and others discussed how the incident might affect this country's relationship with Japan.

The news of the collision especially hit close to home for some international students and members of cultural student unions at the University.

For Shigeo Murao, a senior international studies major who moved from Japan to the U.S. about five years ago, the occurrence triggered a personal connection, not only because it involved Japanese residents, but also because his own family is in a fishery-related business.

"I think about what if my family had been involved and how that

would affect me," he said. "I put myself in the situation of the victim's families... it must be devastating."

Murao said that after hearing about the accident, his biggest question was how such a disaster could even occur in the first place.

"I want to know how this happened," he said. "This is such tragic news to me, and I'd really like to know how it could have been avoided... This brings attention to Japanese people about America's Navy."

The Japanese ship belonged to a high school in Ehime Prefecture and sank about 18 kilometers south of Oahu Island Feb. 9 after being struck by the submarine. Twenty-six people, including nine students, were rescued, but the remaining nine - four 17-year-old students, two teachers and three crew members - are still missing. With the recent discovery that civilians were at the controls of the submarine when it smashed into the Japanese vessel, some students are questioning the Navy's policies and procedures and what part they played in the accident.

Zafreen Ali, secretary of the Asian-Pacific American Student Union,

said that if the civilians hadn't been supervised as they should have been, then this incident will reflect badly on the Navy, especially in Japan.

Ali added that when more definite conclusions are made about the accident's cause, it will be easier to determine how this will affect U.S.-Japanese relations.

"It depends on the outcome of why this happened," she said.

University students and staff have also paid close attention to how the governments from the two countries have dealt with the catastrophe, and how these actions will affect the countries' relationship.

William Baugh, a political science professor who teaches foreign policy, said that in the long run, this incident may not have a big impact on U.S.-Japanese relations, depending on how the situation is handled.

President George W. Bush, along with Navy officials, have made several public and private apologies and are working on Japan's request to recover the ship, although no promises have been made. The U.S. also hasn't stopped its efforts to find the missing boaters and develop a thorough ex-

planation of what happened.

Baugh said that so far, the U.S. has dealt with the situation appropriately. He said U.S. apologies have been one of the most vital steps in keeping good relations, especially because Japanese culture places emphasis on admitting mistakes.

"In our society, we many times try to find scapegoats," Baugh said. "In Japan, high-level apologies are huge."

He added that if recovering the Japanese ship is technically feasible, he doesn't think monetary costs would stop the U.S. from retrieving the ship, because of the chance of finding the bodies of the missing people.

"The recovering of bodies would help bring closure to families involved and governments involved for that matter," he said.

In Japan, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori has been under fire for continuing a golf game more than two hours after hearing about the submarine accident. Mori's reaction stirred surprise and dismay among students such as Murao.

"He neglected the criticalness of the incident," Murao said. "It was a

Collision update

The commander of the Pacific Fleet said Saturday that the Navy would soon convene a court of inquiry, the Navy's highest form of administrative investigation, to learn about the accident's cause.

Source: Associated Press

big disappointment."

The submarine collision has also angered Japan's Defense Agency Chief Toshitsugu Saito and the principal of the high school that owned the boat, Ietaka Horita, who were especially concerned about the civilians who were apparently at the controls of the sub.

Professor Baugh added that despite some angry responses from Japan, it's still too early to tell how seriously the incident will affect foreign relations.

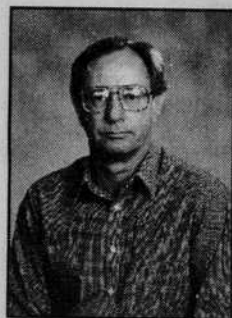
"The Japanese reaction will depend a lot on what the investigation actually shows," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

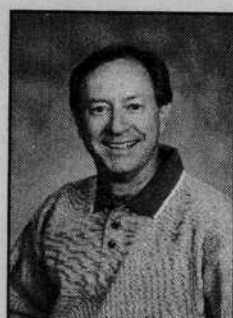
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