

# Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



## Still under review

The investigation of basketball coach Jody Runge by law firm could end soon. **PAGE 13**

## Shaken, not stirred

Our new entertainment editor gives her picks for sip-pin a little sumpin' sumpin'. **PULSE SECTION**

WEATHER  
TODAY



PARTLY CLOUDY  
high 55, low 40

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

## Students must make return trip to Salem

Business leaders and high school students speak to legislators about the budget process, but college students are told to come back

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

SALEM — A group of approximately 25 University students expecting to influence state legislators on the Oregon University System budget Wednesday will have to make another trip to Salem to accomplish their goal.

The University students, along with students from Portland State University, Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon University, traveled to the Capitol to show their support for higher education funding. The OUS budget is facing cuts that will likely lead to an 8 percent tuition increase over the next two years.



BRESLOW

Five students, including ASUO President Jay Breslow, were scheduled to speak before Oregon legislators on the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee.

But the legislators only had time during the two-hour hearing to listen to testimony from one college student — the vice president of the student body at Southern Oregon University, Erin Watari.

During a March 29 legislative work session geared toward discussing the budget, legislators directed questions about the student incidental fee to Breslow. It was those concerns Breslow said he wanted to address Wednesday, but wasn't given the time to speak.

Breslow said he has three "guiding fundamental principles" about incidental fee distribution that he plans to speak about when given the opportunity, which could come Monday. He said the fee provides for a marketplace of ideas, is an integral part of the mission statement of the University, and supports campus democracy.

"The incidental fee is a small, localized democracy," Breslow said. "We just want to maintain local control."

But Breslow said students will still have the opportunity Monday to voice their concerns about the budget.

"There are a lot of people who care about the issues, and everyone will probably get their chance to talk," he said.

Sen. Cliff Trow, (D-Corvallis), said although members of the college panel did not get a chance to speak this time, he was glad to hear they would be coming back today and Monday to participate in and listen to the proceedings. Thursday and Monday are work sessions for the committee, and the first hour of Monday's session has been set aside for all those who wished to speak Wednesday but were unable.

"I think [Wednesday's hearing] would have been enriched to hear from the students," Trow said. "They are important customers to what we do."

Some of the students and University representatives who attended Wednesday's hearings expressed frustration that the panel did not have the chance to speak.

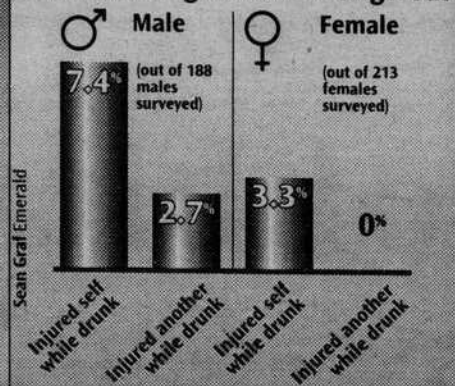
"It certainly should have been [Wednesday], but they would have rather heard from businessmen instead of the people who are actually benefiting from funds that they are allocating," Multicultural Center Director Erica Fuller said.

But University student Matt Swanson said even though the panel of college students did not have a chance to speak, the number of students at the hearing did make an impression. The hearing room was so full that many students were forced to wait outside, and Swanson said such a showing validated the issues the students wanted to address.

While the majority of higher education students did not speak to the committee, the legislators did hear from a student panel consisting mostly of middle school and high school students. MEChA Director Eddy Morales said he was

Turn to Salem, page 5

### When drinking becomes dangerous



SOURCE: 2000 University Health Center Survey, from the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

## Binge drinking a painful lesson

Doctors say that weekend drinking parties often involve a visit to the emergency room

By Brooke Ross  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Robyn Hilles, a sophomore German major, celebrated Halloween her freshman year, she did what many college students do at parties: socialized, drank too much and stayed out late.

But she also lost part of her front tooth. "I was raging sloppy when some nearby guy was in the midst of telling a story," she said. "While tipping my bottle back to take a drink, he flailed his arms wildly, hitting my bottle."

The next day Hilles had to go to the

dentist and have her tooth evened.

"I didn't realize how much of a chunk was gone until the next morning," she said. "I told my parents it was a bike accident, and now they make fun of me because they think I'm so accident prone."

Hilles is just one University student who has suffered an injury while under the influence of alcohol. According to the 2000 University Health Center Survey compiled by the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory, more than 7 percent of surveyed University males and more than 3 percent of females had physically injured themselves while drinking too much. Nearly 3 percent of surveyed males also admitted to injuring someone else

while under the influence of alcohol.

Dr. Gary Young, medical director of the emergency department at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene, said intoxicated University students are no strangers to the emergency room. He said although the medical staff does not categorize its patients, about one in every 10 is a student.

"Every weekend night we get more than one University student who's had too much to drink," he said. "Friday night we might have a patient, Saturday night — it's routine."

Young said the most common types of drunken injuries include cuts, head injuries, sprained limbs and fight wounds.

Turn to Injuries, page 5

## Bill aims to reduce alcohol liability

A new Senate bill would further regulate injury protection for liquor-serving establishments

Aaron K. Breniman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon legislators are attempting to send the public a message: If you get drunk and hurt yourself, you're on your own.

Senate Bill 925 would limit the liability that restaurants, bars and other licensed social hosts incur resulting from injuries self-inflicted by an individual after being served alcohol while visibly intoxicated. The bill is currently making its way through the Legislature.

Sponsored by Sen. John Minnis (R-Fairview), it would reverse precedents recently set by two Oregon Supreme Court cases. The Oregon Restaurant Association requested the bill be intro-

duced to the Legislature after recognizing the potential financial implications the court rulings could have.

"Basically, what this bill does is put the law back to before these rulings," Minnis said. "It would exclude third parties from being named in lawsuits where people hurt themselves."

Under what are commonly known as Dram Shop laws, establishments that serve alcohol may be named as third parties for accidents that happen on or off their premises. Establishments can only be named in lawsuits if they are negligent by serving alcohol to visibly intoxicated customers.

The Oregon Supreme Court recently reversed two lower court decisions that exonerated establishments from being held responsible for the injuries incurred by such individuals.

Communication director for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, Jon Stubenvoll, said the OLCC has not taken a position on the bill and that it has drawn virtually no opposition in the Senate.

He used an example to describe how the bill might apply. An intoxicated individual who fell down a set of stairs while exiting a bar would have no grounds to sue under SB 925. However, if that person fell while walking down stairs that were broken, that person could still claim negligence in a lawsuit.

But then if an individual was served alcohol while visibly intoxicated and caused damage to a third party, the es-

Turn to Liability, page 5

