

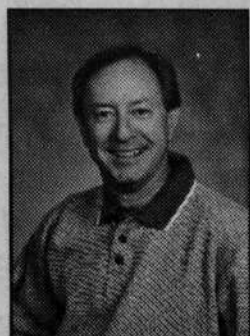
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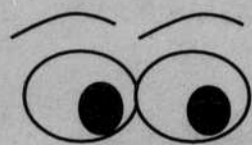
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P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

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shouted their approval as the man known as the "Crutchmaster" performed two hip-hop dances so fluidly acrobatic that the crutches under his arms appeared to be mere extensions of his limbs.

When Shannon spoke about his work, which he said combines elements of breakdancing, skateboarding and his disability, his passion for dance was evident.

"The dance is a feeling, a sensation. It's a place as much as it is a move," Shannon said.

Crowd reaction to Shannon's performance was positive. Freshman Haben Woldu, who is originally from Ethiopia, said she had never seen anything like it.

"It was really, really awesome. I have never seen disabled people do anything like that before because I come from a country where disabled people are unable to lead a normal life," Woldu said.

ASUO Diversity Recruitment and Retention Director Joy Nair, who helped to organize the event, said Shannon's speech raised many important issues which are not often discussed at the University.

"He hit a lot of the concerns of able-bodied people, and how we look at disabled people, and how we react toward the disabled community," Nair said.

Crutchmaster

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tasks such as picking up a bottle while on crutches. In other clips, he was shown falling or having difficulty walking.

The significance of these performances lies not in what he is doing, Shannon said, but in how people react to him. Throughout the clips, bystanders rush to Shannon's aid, even when he doesn't need help.

"No matter what I do, how far I go in terms of what I represent, there's still people who look at me like 'that kid needs help,'" Shannon said.

Shannon said his own creative adaptations allow him to do things on crutches many would consider impossible.

Because of his disability, walking long distances, even on crutches, can be very painful, Shannon said. But rather than using a wheelchair, Shannon gets around by traveling nearly everywhere by skateboard. He uses his crutches to propel himself along in what he calls "cross-country urban skiing."

What he is best known for, however, is the unique dance style which has earned him respect and recognition among the hip-hop and dance communities.

Audience members clapped and

Student fee

continued from page 1

"Students work very hard to make the most of the dollars we have, and we take that responsibility very seriously," he said.

The only committee member to respond to Breslow's testimony, Sen. Cliff Trow, (D-Corvallis), said his wife used to work with students as they divided the incidental fee.

"It's amazing the interest they exhibited over the years," he said. "It's one of the important activities of student government."

Mary Cunningham, chairwoman of the board of the Oregon Student Association, took a different approach when speaking with legislators. She said increasing tuition by 8 percent over the next two years is a move in the wrong direction.

Cunningham, who is also the state affairs coordinator of the Portland State University student body, said that in the 1980s, the state provided about \$2 for every dollar students paid in tuition.

With the proposed increases, Cunningham said, students will end up contributing more money to higher education than the government will.

The budget "asks students to pay

more, but receive less," Cunningham said. "Unfortunately, this budget says higher education is not enough of a priority to meet student contributions dollar for dollar."

Much of the student representation at legislative work sessions has been pre-emptive rather than reactive, OSA Legislative Director John Wykoff said. Students want legislators to know where their concerns lie before the issues become too big. After Monday's session, Wykoff said, the situation did not look too grim.

"The fact that there were no negative questions is a testament to how good a job [the students] did in representing the needs of students in both tuition and student fees," Wykoff said. "It also shows that the committee members seemed to understand the important role student fees play in the university experience."

About 15 University students attended last Thursday's committee work session, and students will travel to the Capitol for another session today. Legislative Organizer Melissa Unger said that if questions about the incidental fee are going to come up, it will be during today's session, which has been scheduled for discussion of policy issues.

Classified

continued from page 1

added that by this summer, when the budget will be completed and the financial picture will be clearer, classified employees and the OUS should be able to reach an agreement and avoid a strike.

Zunich did not want to give any hint of the University's position on any issues prior to the opening of re-negotiations.

James Jacobson, a bargaining table representative for University classified employees, said one of

the first issues that may be tackled in opening sessions will be health benefits and insurance. Like Zunich, however, Jacobson did not give details about the union's stance.

But he did say that University classified employees need raises to maintain quality of life standards and parity with other state employees.

"We're working for hourly wages that are less than Lane Community College, Lane County or the city of Eugene," he said. "If the UO wants to retain good people, we need some raises."

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