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## PFC holds up 'Commentator' budget request

■ The Programs Finance Committee objected to words in the publication's mission statement

By Danielle Gillespie  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee postponed a decision on the Oregon Commentator's 2002-03 budget because the campus publication's mission statement contained words and phrases that demonstrated a political bias.

PFC member Joe Streckert said, according to the ASUO rules in the Green Tape Notebook, no student group can be affiliated with a political party if it receives student funding.

The mission statement states that the journal provides "students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by the other student publications, professors and student groups."

The PFC board, in a unanimous decision, made a motion to strike the words "left-wing," "political" and "conservatism" from the Commentator's mission statement.

"I feel that their mission and goal statement is simply provocative for its own sake and not appropriate for PFC to approve," Streckert said.

The Commentator has until Wednesday to re-submit a budget to PFC, which is barred by ASUO rules from passing a budget before it approves a mission statement.

Representatives from the Commentator said they were displeased with PFC's decision.

"Every group on this campus has a political view. We are not aligning ourselves with any political structure. This mission statement has been approved since we started," Commentator business manager Justin Sibley said.

OSPIRG received \$120,819 Thursday for 2002-03. In 2001-02, OSPIRG was funded at \$144,426 via ballot measure.

Streckert said he believed the PFC didn't have enough information to make an accurate budget account for this academic year because OSPIRG failed to turn in its audit report for 2001-02 and did not supply any other evidence about its spending habits.

"Staff and salaries are not explicit. We do not know who makes what? How much? When did they receive their money? I would like to see more information. This is a difficult decision to make," Streckert said.

The PFC moved to estimate OSPIRG's funding needs at the state level for staffing and operating expenses, and then divide this estimate by the University's expected contribution to the budget. PFC Chairwoman Mary Elizabeth Madden said she felt this method would be the best way to calculate a fair budget.

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## How to SPEND \$4 MILLION

■ PFC members are hard at work allocating student fees to more student groups than ever

By Kara Cogswell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With more than \$4 million in student incidental fees to distribute to student groups in 2002-03, Programs Finance Committee members have more money at their fingertips than ever before, and they're setting budgets for an unprecedented number of new groups.

The five people who constitute the PFC this year say they have good reason to care that the committee allocates money wisely — as students, they also pay fees and benefit from the programs and services the fee funds.

This year, the PFC members have the added responsibility of deciding bud-

gets that students previously voted on, such as OSPIRG.

To accommodate these extra groups, the ASUO Student Senate set PFC's benchmark for 2002-03 at \$4,036,698 — more than \$1 million higher than PFC's allocation to groups last year.

Over the course of PFC's 2002 budget hearings — which began Jan. 7 and end Feb. 4, PFC members will decide how much each student group will receive. The amount of money they allocate now will help determine how much students will pay in incidental fees next year.

PFC members vary in their interests and financial experience. But all members say they can put their personal feelings about groups aside and decide budgets objectively during hearings.

And despite a job description that includes attending meetings that can last

seven hours or longer, three to four times a week, for a stipend of just \$150 a month, PFC members each have their own reason why they say the job is worth it.

PFC Chairwoman Mary Elizabeth Madden, the only returning committee member, brings nearly three years of ASUO experience to the group. Last year she was a PFC senator; the previous year she was an intern for the ASUO Executive.

A 21-year-old junior, Madden said she ran for a PFC senate seat last year because she thought the position would complement her majors in business and political science.

Madden, who helped prepare rookie committee members before budget hearings began, said she advised the

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## Olympic torch to stop in Eugene

■ Torch bearers, selected because of their inspirational lives, will carry the flame through town before it heads to Portland

By Marty Toohey  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The spirit and symbol of the Winter Olympics will arrive in Eugene a little after 10 a.m. today.

The Olympic Torch will make a brief stop at the Eugene Amtrak Station during its transnational journey, where Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey will light it and give a brief address at 10:15 a.m.

The torch's first Eugene carrier, Amy Feinberg, will take the torch after its lighting and carry it on the first leg of its route. The complete route runs through downtown, past Franklin Boulevard to Glenwood Boulevard, where carriers will load the torch into a motorcade and transport it to Portland.

"The torch is a symbol that we can keep the light of friendship alive," Torrey said. "It symbolizes what people can accomplish."

No University students will carry the torch, but former Duck quarterback Joey Harrington will carry the torch in Portland at 6:15 p.m.

Olympic Torch Relay spokesman Mark Walker said Chevrolet, Coca-Cola and the Salt Lake City Olympics Committee selected torchbearers whose experiences inspire others and fit with the theme of the games: "Light the fire within."

Eugene resident Shannon Scott, a 1979 graduate of Sheldon High School, will carry the torch from 7th Avenue and Oak Street to Broadway and Pearl Street. He said the theme of the games is fitting.

"Unless you have that inner fire, you can't achieve your goals," said Scott, who was training for the 1980 Olympic swim team before the United

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## Enrollment in Arabic jumps

■ The University's self-study program has more than tripled this term

By Katie Ellis  
for the Emerald

The events of Sept. 11 have sparked a national interest in the Middle East, and University students are moving that trend into academia.

Enrollment has more than tripled in the Yamada Language Center's Arabic Self-Study Program. Seventeen students are currently enrolled in the three classes, compared to the five who participated in the program fall term.

"I believe the rise in the number of students is because of Sept. 11," said Wed Abdul-Jawad, an assistant instructor for two introductory Arabic lan-

guage classes. "People are realizing they do not know much about that part of the world, and so they became interested in the language."

The Self-Study Language Program began in 1997 with the goal of teaching students less-common languages, Yamada graduate teaching fellow Chris O'Connor said. With small classes and an emphasis on developing communication skills, the program is an opportunity for students to learn both the language and culture of a particular country, he said.

"Self-motivation is key to succeed in the program," O'Connor said.

The program offers eight other language classes, including Shona,

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