



OSPIRG appeal results in increase

An Executive recommendation prompted a PFC vote to increase OSPIRG's original 2003-04 budget

Ali Shaughnessy
Freelance Reporter

Accusations and controversy filled the EMU Rogue Room Tuesday night at the ASUO Programs Finance Committee meeting.

Standing in the center of it all was OSPIRG. The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group went before PFC to appeal its original budget allocation of \$82,320.

ASUO Executive recommended PFC allocate more money than originally given to OSPIRG, which would have changed its budget decrease from 31.87 percent to only 18.7 percent.

PFC programs appointee Joy Nair disagreed with the ASUO Executive recommendation to raise OSPIRG's funding to \$98,223.

"It's sad to see the committee really debate with \$20, but you're just letting \$17,000 go right now," she said.

PFC senator Mike Sherman, seat No. 3, responded to Nair, saying she needed to justify the use of Oregon State University numbers in the University of Oregon's OSPIRG budget. Sherman pointed out that Nair had not addressed that issue at the hearing.

PFC at-large member James Tilford agreed with Nair, and made a motion to keep OSPIRG funding as it was. The motion died for lack of a second.

After Tilford's failed motion, PFC called to question and voted on the Executive recommendation. It passed 4-2-1, allocating OSPIRG \$98,223 — an 18.7 percent decrease from last year.

Concerned students and community members attended the appeal hearing to lend their approval or disapproval. Bret Jacobson, publisher for the Oregon Commentator, said that his main concern was OSPIRG's fiscal unaccountability to the student body.

"I think the board is being responsible in looking at the principle of not wanting to fund activity at another campus," he said in support of PFC's original decision to cut OSPIRG's budget to \$82,320 for the 2003-04 year.

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod made a brief appearance to give support for OSPIRG.

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House passes service relief bill

The Oregon House of Representatives passed a bill that will relieve some budgets strained in the wake of Measure 28's failure

Jan Montry
City/State Politics Reporter

The Oregon House of Representatives voted 51-8 on Monday to approve a bill that would restore \$15.5 million in human service programs and state police during the next five months. The bill will now go to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

The bill, which would be implemented using mostly one-time reserve funds, was developed after public outcry on the failure of Measure 28. Since then, legislators

have been torn about whether to re-open the current budget or to focus on the next biennium's impending shortfall.

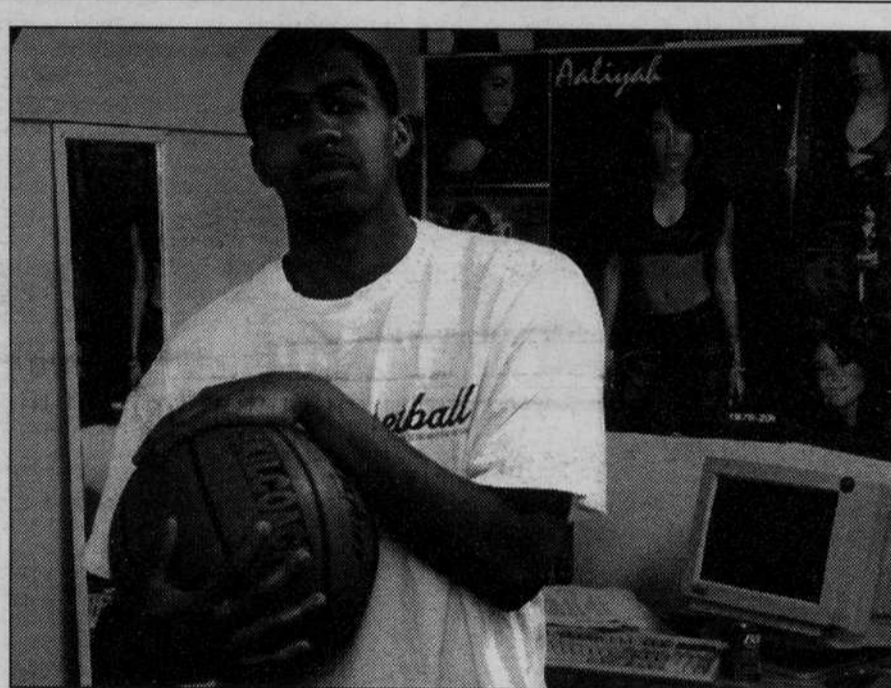
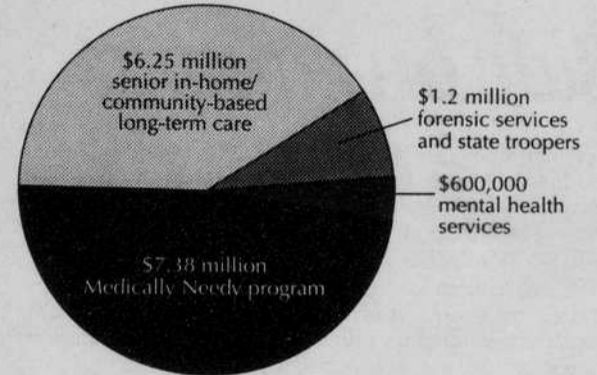
If the Senate approves the legislation, House Bill 5075 would restore some funding for programs and staff in police and health services, including the Medically Needy program, state police forensics services and long-term care for elderly and disabled people.

But the bill faces scrutiny and the possible veto of Gov. Ted Kulongoski because it could put Oregon deeper into debt for this budget and the next.

Kulongoski spokesman Scott Ballo said the governor wants to see programs and services restored, but is worried that a short-term fix would mislead

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House Bill 5075
Plan to restore some Measure 28 cuts



Off the court, freshman guard Brandon Lincoln enjoys pastimes popular with many college students: relaxing to music and hanging out with friends.
Mark McCambridge
Emerald

A time of transition

Freshman Brandon Lincoln attributes his success in school and basketball to his family, friends and teammates

Brad Schmidt
News Editor

To the untrained eye, freshman Brandon Lincoln's transition from high school basketball to college ball may look effortless.

Well?

"It wasn't that easy," Lincoln stressed.

"Things are getting better."

The Portland native has seen an ample amount of playing time this season as a first-year player. Looks can be deceiving, however. Lincoln is getting accustomed to a faster, harder level of play, and that's proven most difficult for the versatile guard. More demanding, even, than adjusting to a new city, new friends and new classes.

"My focus (in high school) was hoops," Lincoln said. "My parents made me keep my focus on school and I think that helped me to come in here."

All of Lincoln's immediate family — his two

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Assembly members petition for official response to Iraq war

Members of the University Assembly announced Wednesday that they have successfully collected enough signatures to call a special legislative session of the University Assembly to discuss the University's official response to a possible war in Iraq.

Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice, the group that circulated petitions, has finally collected more than 508 faculty signatures, which represents one third of faculty who are eligible to vote for faculty senators.

Senate President Greg McLaughlan said once Senate Secretary Gwen Steigelman verifies each signature, University President Dave Frohnmayer will set the time and date of the assembly session.

The University's response to such a war has been an ongoing debate since Professor Emeritus Frank Stahl proposed that the Faculty Senate take a stance on the issue at their regular December meeting. Senators decided that the issue was not something the group had the authority to vote on, and at a January meeting the senate voted to convene a non-binding session of the more than 2,000-member assembly solely for discussion purposes.

However, only about 200 people attended the Jan. 31 assembly meeting, prompting Stahl and others to suggest that most assembly members were done with discussion and were waiting for an assembly session where they could actually vote on something.

Resolutions against a war in Iraq have already been approved by other state universities, including Oregon State University, the University of Montana at Missoula and the University of Wisconsin.

— Brook Reinhard

MFT interns offer relationship check-ups

The Marriage and Family Therapy Program is offering free Relationship Check-Up consultations this week

Kira Park
Freelance Reporter

The December 1999 Surgeon General's report on mental health found that half of the people who would benefit from therapy were not receiving it.

Now, with budget cuts resulting from Measure 28's failure, the mental health community in the Eugene area fell into a "tailspin," according to John Miller, clinical director for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the University's College of Education.

To provide services for hard-to-reach populations that need mental health treatment the most, the Center for Family Therapy, located at 720 E.

13th Ave., Suite 304, is offering a free Relationship Check-Up from noon to 8 p.m. today through Saturday. The event includes a free one-hour private therapy consultation for couples, families and individuals. The center will also serve refreshments.

Organizers said clients can expect therapists to help identify both strengths and areas to improve in the relationship. The consultation "is not designed only for people who have problems, but also for those who seek to enrich their relationships," Miller said.

"We want this event to be an opportunity to celebrate relationships," event supervisor and Assistant Professor Jason Platt said. He added that positive, practical changes are always possible and can improve even the healthiest relationships.

Appointments are available but walk-ins will also be accepted, as the event seeks to reduce the stigma of therapy and to cultivate a positive percep-

tion of the experience, pre-doctoral intern and event supervisor Rohini Vira and Platt said.

Jessica Champion, an MFT student and graduate intern at the center, said she wants people to feel good about the session and gain improved perspectives on therapy. However, she cautioned that participants should not expect major changes from a single one-hour session.

The Center for Family Therapy allows graduate interns in the MFT program to gain "direct exposure to clinical work," according to the MFT Graduate Specialization brochure. Champion said the result is an effective exchange between therapy interns and the community as the students get valuable experience and clients have access to an important, low-cost service.

Platt acknowledged possible concerns about the gap in training levels between graduate interns and

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WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 38, morning fog, chance of rain

Friday: High 52, Low 35, mostly cloudy, rain possible

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday
The Compassion Center helps marijuana patients grow their own

Monday
The Asian Celebration returns to Eugene for "The Legends of Asia"