



Groups aim for a change in FAFSA

A coalition of organizations wants to scrap a question on the FAFSA that denies aid to some students

Aimee Rudin
Family/Health/Education Reporter

Question No. 35 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid causes some University students to stumble, then stop.

The question, called the Higher Education Act Drug Provision, asks about past convictions for possessing or selling illegal drugs. Students must answer the question, and a lingering conviction can potentially affect one's ability to receive financial aid.

But the Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform is working with Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and 44 national organizations to remove the drug provision from the FAFSA. Frank introduced the bill to Congress last week; a voting date has not yet been set.

Coalition Coordinator Ben Gaines said question 35 has kept more than 90,000 students from receiving federal funding since its inception.

"Students have already suffered the criminal consequences. To have a sanction restricting education is just sickening," he said.

Congress added the drug provision to the Higher Education Act in 1998 when it revised the act to ensure adequate funding and access to college for low-income students. The provision blocks federal aid from being distributed to any student with past drug convictions on their permanent record. Convictions before age 18 are not included on permanent records.

"Someone who looks at question (No. 35) and would have to answer yes may make the decision not to fill out the application, much like a person will not apply for a Visa card because they know they have bad credit," said Elizabeth Bickford, University director of the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

But Bickford urges students who would answer yes to former convictions to fill out the application and then investigate their options with the U.S. Department of Education.

"People make the assumption that because they would have to check yes there is just no way they would ever get aid, and that is just isn't correct," she said.

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Assembly opens Iraq dialogue

The University Assembly acquired enough signatures to hold a meeting Feb. 28 for discussion of a University Iraq war resolution

Aimee Rudin
Family/Health/Education Reporter

Members of the University Assembly succeeded Tuesday in gathering 33 percent of Assembly member signatures — the amount necessary to enact legislative authority concerning the University's

stance on an Iraq invasion.

University President Dave Frohnmayer has scheduled an Assembly meeting Feb. 28 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the three-court basketball area of the Student Recreation Center. The meeting will focus on the petitioners' request for a University resolution against the invasion of Iraq, and the body could vote on the issue at the meeting.

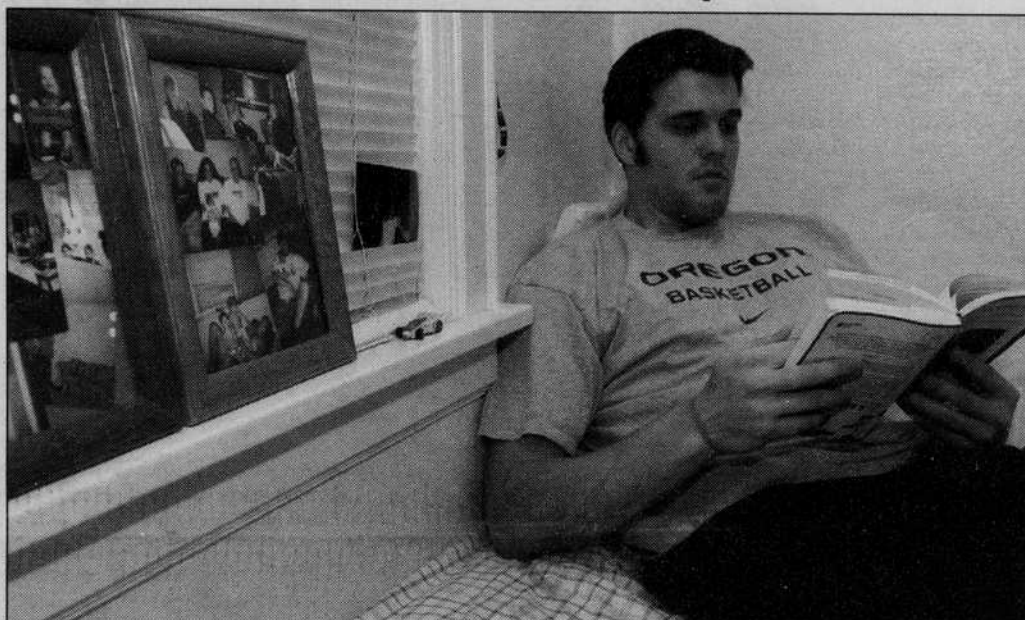
In December, the University Faculty Senate voted against hearing a similar resolution condemning a war in Iraq after Frohnmayer sent letters to all senators asking them to rule the resolution unfit

business for the senate. Since then, members of the assembly have been working to gather the signatures required to reopen discussion on a new resolution, which would instate an official University stance against the war in Iraq.

The University Assembly consists of instructional faculty, librarians, officers of administration, ASUO Student Senate members, 25 members of the ASUO executive, ASUO Constitution Court justices and all emeritus faculty. It is the largest representative body of the University, and all

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Keeping up with Bebop



Adam Amato Emerald

Senior Brian Helquist studies psychology prior to celebrating a Football game victory over roommate and basketball teammate Robert Johnson.

Nobody's baby

Florida native Brian Helquist brings his family values and easy-going attitude to the Oregon men's basketball team

Off the hardwood

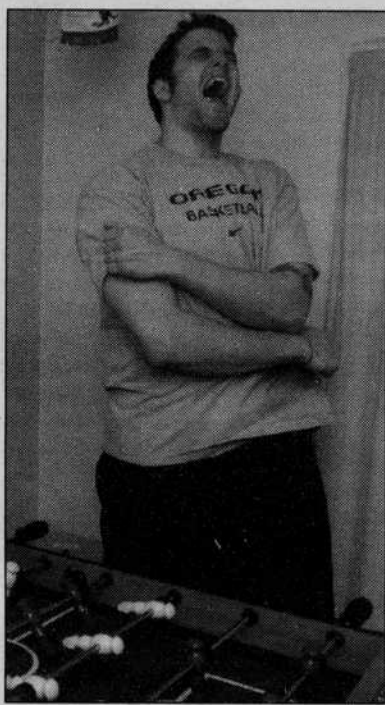
Caron Alarab
Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

When Duck men's basketball center Brian Helquist was a baby, his mother would sing him to sleep with the Gene Vincent song "Be Bop Lula," leading to a nickname that has followed him since childhood.

"I'm a momma's boy," he admitted, flexing the "Bebop" tattoo on the inside of his right bicep.

Helquist has been described as a dog person, a Simpsons

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Emerald challenges PFC recall protocol

Emerald editor in chief Michael J. Kleckner challenges PFC protocol again in a bid to halt budget approval recalls

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee filed an extension with Student Senate on Wednesday to present its budget on Feb. 26, one week after its original deadline.

PFC members postponed their presentation to have time to recall the Career Center's and the Oregon Daily Emerald's budgets. The Emerald made several attempts by phone to contact the committee for comment, but was unable to reach PFC at press time.

The Career Center's budget recall hearing is today at 5 p.m. and the Emerald's budget recall hearing is at 6 p.m.

The committee had been unable to hold recall hearings until now because of an injunction issued Friday by the ASUO Constitution Court, which was lifted Tuesday. The court had halted PFC's recall process in order to consider a petition for review filed by Emerald editor in chief Michael J. Kleckner. In the petition, Kleckner alleged that the committee had no procedure in place that governed recalls, and asked justices to rule that PFC's vote to recall the Emerald's budget was unconstitutional.

Justice Michael Harris said that after careful consideration of the evidence, the court unanimously voted to dismiss Kleckner's claim because he had failed to first submit his grievance to the ASUO Programs Administrator.

Although the court did not rule on the grievance, it did make a constitutional

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WEATHER

Today: High 50, Low 43, rain, light winds

Friday: High 52, Low 37, rain likely, slightly breezy

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday
The law school hosts a conference to remember Japanese internment

Monday
State legislators propose a beer and wine tax to fix budget woes

MIUSA empowers, educates disabled women

Mobility International USA promoted its book on campus and provided information on various workshops and classes

Wendy Ardolino
Freelance Reporter

Representatives from Mobility International USA visited campus Wednesday to promote the second edition of "Loud, Proud and Passionate," a book focusing on issues affecting disabled women around the world. Based in Eugene for the past 20 years, the nonprofit organization has become a leader in global development, education and empowerment for women with disabilities internationally.

Executive director and co-founder of MIUSA Susan Sygall said a disability is "not a medical issue,

not a charity issue — it's a human rights issue."

Women from around the world apply to the organization in hopes of gaining education, leadership and other skills to help them succeed.

International development project manager Susie Grimes said this summer MIUSA will again offer the International Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability, or WILD, which is a workshop on how women with disabilities can strengthen their lives.

The workshops also include physical activities such as rafting, tree climbing and other sports disabled women may not usually take part in.

"I did things I never dreamed of," said Ingrid Ioan, an international intern from Romania. Confined to a wheelchair after an accident in 1989, Ioan attended MIUSA's International Youth Leadership Exchange in Eugene almost 10 years ago, where she went horseback riding

for the first time.

She said she believes that an obstacle only exists if a person recognizes it as one. She has been an advocate for many disability organizations and is now a student at the University's American English Institute.

Sygall said MIUSA helps to change disabled women's perceptions of what they can do.

According to Sygall, 80 percent of people with disabilities live in developing countries. The program has helped these women gain jobs and access to education, as well as overcome the double discrimination of being both a woman and disabled.

"Loud, Proud and Passionate" also has information on other disability organizations and ways to get involved.

Upcoming opportunities for people interested
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