



Grant money may cease for students

The elimination of the Oregon Opportunity Grant may harm some needy students unless Legislature takes action

Jan Montry
News Editor

About 3,350 students are set to lose their Oregon Opportunity Grant next year unless the Legislature can rescue

the declining need-based program.

Lawmakers passed a package last week to rebalance the state budget shortfall, and it included a bill that drained the remaining \$112 million in Oregon's rainy day education fund, which uses interest to subsidize programs like the Opportunity Grant.

The raided endowment fund resulted in a loss of \$1.1 million in the next biennium for the grant, which is the

way Oregon provides need-based financial aid. The loss is compounded with \$3.4 million in additional losses — \$2.2 million from a decline in general funds for the grant and \$1.2 million from the loss of federal matching funds, according to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission officials.

Despite the bleak outlook for needy students in the 2003-05 biennium, however, grant money is still secured for

spring term of this year. The Legislature replenished about \$290,000 to keep the grant active until the biennium ends.

University student Gabe Kjos, a legislative intern with ASUO, said about \$1,026 of his tuition money comes from the grant — a lot to make up considering he's already working 10 hours a week and taking 18 credits.

"Right now, I'm at the max I can be at," he said. "It's going to make

my life harder as a student and as a student leader here on campus."

Kjos said he thinks the state needs to make education a bigger priority, especially for students who come from Oregon.

"The Legislature is just sweeping it under the rug," he said.

This week, lawmakers in the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Turn to **Grants**, page 3

God's squad?

The Oregon men's hoops team fights the idea that athletes can't be strong in faith and strong on the court

Faith on the field

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

After every game — home, road, win, lose, tie, whatever — the Oregon men's basketball team meets at center-court. The players grip one another's shoulders and lean forward. They sway from side to side, a rocky sea of prayer as short players stand next to tall ones, starters next to scrubs.

For this, some would call the team weak. Some already have, including one writer in a national magazine who insinuated Luke Ridnour and Luke Jackson will be swallowed up by the demons of the NBA when they get there.

When you thump a Bible, the critics say, you can't possibly thump the hardwood. When you read scripture before a game, you can't possibly read a defense.

But faith doesn't weaken this team, the Ducks say.

Faith strengthens it. "That's all perception," Kent said of the faith-weakening stigma. "Particularly with men, any time you can get them to share their hearts, share their true feelings, share emotion, some people think that's a sign of weakness. But in reality, it's a sign of strength, because men have a

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Adam Amato Emerald

All 14 members of the Oregon men's basketball team say a prayer after the Ducks' last home game of the season, against UCLA. The Ducks perform the same circle at all games.

Supreme Court Justices visit UO law school

The Oregon Supreme Court heard arguments for three state cases at the law school Tuesday to give students a chance to see attorneys in action

Jan Montry and Caron Alarab
Staff writers

Students and community members caught a glimpse of the highest court in the state at the University School of Law on Tuesday.

The Oregon Supreme Court visited the University and heard arguments for three state cases as part of the legal research and writing curriculum at the law school. The Court visits the University each year to allow law students to see it in action.

Joan Malmud, a legal research and writing instructor, said the event is beneficial for law students in the legal writing program because they will have to produce their own oral arguments for a fictional case before the class ends.

"For us, we see a tremendous benefit in having our students watch attorneys in action," she said. "The decision to come to the University begins with the Supreme Court in that they want to reach out to the public, and they want to reach out to law students."

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Oregon's judicial branch and can be superseded only by the U.S. Supreme Court. Justices in the court have the powers to review decisions either from the Oregon Court of Appeals and or lower courts.

In one of Tuesday's cases, defense attorney Andy Simrin was appealing a trial court decision to exclude evidence in *State v. Davis* because of its remoteness.

In the case, Cornelius Key Davis, the defendant, was convicted of shooting his girlfriend, Carrie Hammock, in the forehead after a heated argument. Davis contends Hammock committed suicide in front of him.

Simrin argued that evidence showing Hammock's depression and threats to kill herself months before her death should not have been thrown out.

Kaye Ellen McDonald, the prosecuting attorney, argued the lower courts should be able to say whether old evidence is irrelevant or not. She also said the exclusion applied to "harmless error" law in that the defense was able to show ample evidence, and the excluded evidence would not have swung a jury.

The final of three cases reviewed "the requisite specificity" of search warrants in regard to a 1996 Court of Appeals decision that denied the suppression of evidence gained during the search of an apartment within a house. After police issued a warrant based on informant information, the defendant answered the door to the officers, who then noticed a second apartment — which they did not search — and proceeded to search the defendants'

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WEATHER

Today: High 58, Low 50, windy, rain likely
Thursday: High 55, Low 47, windy, heavy rain

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday Pulse columnist Mason West tackles problems with movie promotions
Friday A University professor is working to bring the Spruce Goose to life

ASUO elections

Elections garner numerous candidates

Ninety students are running for ASUO political positions for the 2003-04 school year, ASUO Elections Coordinator Andie Hall announced Tuesday evening.

Programs Finance Committee Senate Seat 1 and a two-year term with the Associated Students Presidential Advisory Council drew the strongest interest; eight students filed for each of the respective positions.

Hall said she was "elated" that so many students have decided to run in the April elections. She added that the turnout showed that students care about the political process at the University.

"It tells me it's going to work this year, and students haven't lost all hope in the process," she said.

There are 28 political positions open in this year's student election. Five seats are uncontested: Rebecca Shively is running for Academic Student Senate Seat 11, which is represented by an undeclared major; Adam Turcott is running

for a two-year term on the Building Fee Committee; and Jonah Lee, Mindi Rice and Courtney Warner are running for three two-year seats on the Student Recreation Center Advisory Board.

Two positions will go unfilled. No students applied for Academic Student Senate Seat 12, which is an Allied Arts and Architecture position. ASUO officials said that position is usually appointed because there have been no contenders in the past few elections. A second seat on the Building Fee Committee also Turn to **Elections**, page 4