

Oregon Daily Emerald



Ems take a game from Spokane Page 5

Tuesday, August 12, 2003

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 105, Issue 15

Foreign student information sent to government

The information that the University's Office of International Programs sent to the Department of Homeland Security's database includes students' home addresses and majors

By Ayisha Yahya
Reporter

The University's Office of International Programs spent much time and effort to meet an Aug. 1 deadline to register all foreign students into a new Department of Homeland Security system.

Data on international students were entered into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS, a centralized database that allows the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to track students' and visiting scholars' records and movements in and out of the country. The department implemented the database for security reasons after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Two of the airplane hijackers in the terrorist attacks entered the country using student visas.

"It's taken a lot of work by the OIP staff to put the continuing students into SEVIS one-by-one," SEVIS Coordinator Peter Eberhardt said.

The international programs office closed for an entire week in May.

Turn to **International**, page 3

Legislature sees longest session in Oregon history

As of Friday, the state Legislature was in session a record 208 days; some state services face temporary shutdowns if lawmakers do not resolve key political differences soon

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

As students prepare for a new school year, Oregon legislators are struggling to end their legislative session — the longest in state history.

With an unfinished state budget and little cooperation between Republicans and Democrats, some of Oregon's governmental services may shut down if the Legislature does not approve a budget by the end of this month — a dire situation for lawmakers and state agencies alike.

Turn to **Legislature**, page 4

Finding capital at the Capitol

Lobbyists traveled to Salem on Monday, telling legislators on behalf of ASUO to consider college students when hashing out the current biennium's embattled budget

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

Like a quarterback huddling with his team before a big play, Gabe Kjos went over the day's hectic schedule with his fellow ASUO lobbyists.

Kjos and other student representatives were in Salem on Monday to talk to state lawmakers on behalf of ASUO. Their goal: to deliver the message that college students want their voices heard.

Kjos is the ASUO legislative associate and one of the students behind the UO Lobby Day, an event where University students were given the opportunity to inform Oregon legislators about their concerns.

The event marked the beginning of a new campaign to remind legislators to remember college students when determining the state budget for the biennium.

The current session of the Oregon Legislature is the longest in the state's history, and has been plagued by political differences and a fiscal crisis. Many of the state's institutions face budget cuts, including higher education.

ASUO's "Don't Cut Us Out" campaign focuses on legislators who have a voice on issues involving revenue throughout the state and on campus, Kjos said.

"Students are being cut out of the budget," Kjos said. "We're trying to get student voices in the budget process."

A small entourage of six ASUO representatives met with several legislators Monday, including House Speaker Karen Minnis, R-Wood Village, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem. The students discussed issues such as the rising cost of higher education and access to financial aid.

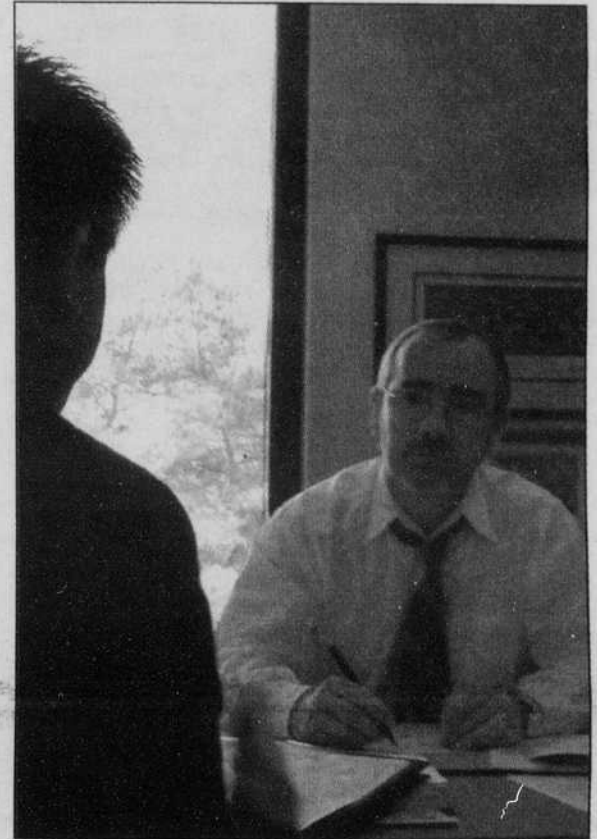
Shannon Tarvin, ASUO campus outreach coordinator, said the student lobbyists shared personal stories with many of the legislators. The group also gave the legislators many facts and statistics to get their points across, she added.

"We are paying more tuition and getting back less," Tarvin said. "There are some students that are at risk of losing their education now."

Tarvin said the legislators who students lobbied were very receptive. She added that the group received a "very warm response" from Rep. Derrick Kitts, R-Hillsboro.

"He's still paying back student loans," Tarvin said. "So he was sympathetic."

Program Finance Committee At-Large Toby Piering said he was participating in the lobby day both as a PFC mem-



A. Sho Ikeda Emerald

ASUO Legislative Associate Gabe Kjos talks higher education with Rep. Pat Farr, R-Eugene. Kjos and other University students were in Salem on Monday, lobbying on behalf of students.

ber and a student.

"My tuition can go up just like anyone else's," Piering said. Rep. Pat Farr, R-Eugene, said he understood what ASUO lobbyists were trying to accomplish because he has children attending Lewis & Clark and Lane Community colleges.

Kjos said he viewed UO Lobby Day as a chance for students to communicate with their elected leaders.

"We find ourselves being very successful," Kjos said. "At the same time we need more students to fight and to find out how powerful their voices are."

Contact the reporter at shoikeda@dailyemerald.com.

Community, Episcopal church react to gay bishop confirmation

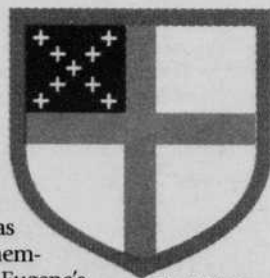
The approval of the Church's first gay bishop has drawn fire, but a local Episcopal reverend says gays in his church are 'fully accepted'

By Ayisha Yahya
Reporter

The Aug. 3 approval of Gene Robinson, the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop, has incited widespread controversy within the Church and beyond. And while Christian doctrine has traditionally advocated against homosexuality, some are questioning whether Robinson's elec-

tion signals a change in perspective.

Nancy Gallagher, who has been a member of the Eugene's Episcopal Church of the Resurrection for nine years, said she feels one can be close to God and be a lesbian at the same time. "Given the full context of the (bib-



Mark Mattern
KRT

lical) teachings, there is no question that we are all acceptable just as we are," Gallagher said. She said Christianity teaches that all people are created in the image of God, and that Jesus Christ came to earth to unify and reconcile mankind with their creator.

She said people could learn how to unite by treating each other with courtesy and respect, adding that she feels included at the church and rarely feels out of place.

"There are times when I feel out of place, but I think those have more to do with being a feminist than being a lesbian," she said.

She said differences in opinion related to doctrine do arise, but human beings do not agree on everything. Nobody has expressed open opposition to her because of her sexual orientation, she said.

Gallagher said there are lessons within the sacred texts that all people can agree on, such as the importance of helping the poor.

But Robinson's election elicited mixed reactions among Episcopalians. Those who opposed Robinson's election believe the appointment of a gay bishop would tear the church apart, causing a rift between

more conservative members and those who accepted the bishop.

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection's Reverend Maron Van, who was at the convention where Robinson was elected, said the election drew much debate.

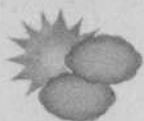
"The people who were not in favor for a yes vote were in considerable pain of their own," she said. "The biggest (reason against Robinson's election) was that it would divide the church."

Others felt the decision was long overdue.

Turn to **Bishop**, page 4

WEATHER

LOW
50



HIGH
75

INSIDE

Campus buzz.....3 Commentary.....2
Classifieds.....6-7 Sports.....5

NEXT ISSUE

Ryan Nyburg
explores the Eugene
music scene