

Want college money?

Get a (free) head start on the scholarship search

By Julie Frank
The Daily Evergreen

While spring is the off-season for scholarship hunting, the Office of Scholarship Services is open for students who want to get a head start on funding the 1997-98 school year.

"About 75 percent of the due dates have passed for next year," said Johanna Davis, the assistant director of the office. "It's a good time to be looking ahead."

Scholarship Services, located in Streit-Perham, offers information and some applications on scholarships WSU provides as well as outside resources, Davis said. The office also helps students get their scholarship money into their student accounts.

Students who come to scholarship services fill out a worksheet stating their legal residence, grade level, major, veteran status, etc. The worksheet takes about five to 10 minutes to fill out.

Once the worksheet is finished it is put through the service's database and a list of scholarships the student qualifies for is compiled, Davis said. The free process takes about 30 to 45 minutes. If students can't wait for the list, they can pick it up

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Johanna Davis
Ass't. dir. of Scholarship Services

at their convenience.

The office hopes to put the database on-line by next fall, she said.

The office gets some of its outside scholarship information from donors. The rest of the scholarship information is coming with the database, Davis said.

Some services offering billions of dollars in unclaimed scholarships and grants have 1-800 numbers for students to apply.

One of those services, Aim Scholarship, uses its own database as well as on-line and foundation information for finding scholarships, according to program administrators.

Students who call the 1-800 number are asked a series of questions to see if they qualify. If a student qualifies for some of the scholarships, the processing fee is

\$96 and students' checking account number is taken over the phone.

Administrators say it takes four to 16 weeks for the scholarship information to get back to the student.

If students win any scholarships Aim does not take a portion of the earnings. If students do not win any scholarships they can get their money back, but they must have applied for every scholarship sent to them by the service.

Counselors are continually in touch with the student throughout the process.

Davis said she does not suggest students use scholarship services that require students to pay money, unless they can afford it and realize they are not going to get the money back.

"Since you can do it for free it seems silly to pay someone else to do it," Davis said. "I've seen some where they charge \$10 or \$15 for mailing, and that seems reasonable if you can afford it, but I've seen some that charge up to \$1,500 and that is absolutely ridiculous. They shouldn't even have to pay \$50."

Students should not think they won't qualify, Davis said.

"Money is out there. They don't have to be a 4.0 student."

'Your Voice' forum for student opinion

By Fekadu Kiros
The Daily Evergreen

"Your Voice," a new monthly talk show that deals with issues of multiculturalism, will soon begin airing on KWSU-TV.

The purpose of the show is to allow people of color to focus on their culture and history, and to talk about the issues they face daily, said Bennie Harris, panelist and assistant development director of university development.

The shows, created and hosted by Lee Jones, director of Multicultural Student Services, are taped in Murrow Studio A with a studio audience.

The panel for the first show, taped on Feb. 21, consisted of two students, two faculty members and an administrator. The event was attended by about 50 students and is the first of a series of monthly talk shows.

"This is one way to voice our opinion," said Leon Strayer, ASWSU senator and Minority Affairs Director. "It was positive, instead of waiting we went out and got visible."

The forum also gave attendants an opportunity to build coalition with other multicultural groups, Strayer said.

"I like to work cross-culturally, so it was interesting to see that the other centers have the same concerns," said Strayer, who belongs to the African American Association.

A large number of the audience was made up of minority students who knew the issues well, he said. More people who are not minorities should have attended the taping to learn more about multiculturalism, he said.

"It is hard to reach the people that do not come to these events or the Multicultural Center," Strayer said. "Those that didn't attend should have been there."

Harris said attendance by people of color in the audience is more important than people that are from the dominate culture. The forum is designed to engage people of color in a dialogue and to energize them, he said. People can see the shows on television to hear the concerns of people of color, he added.

"I thought it brought a lot of issues to the forefront that were

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Mardi Gras 'excuse to party'

By Alice Thomas
The Daily Evergreen

The Moscow Mardi Gras, a celebration of the end of winter and a benefit to raise money for youth, will start at 6:30 a.m. Saturday. It will end when the bars close.

"It's an opportunity to shake off winter cabin fever," said Steve Heller, vice president for the Mardi Gras Festival committee. "We try to make it a family atmosphere during the day, and a party atmosphere at night (for those 21 and older)."

The Mardi Gras was originally affiliated with the University of Idaho, but the university severed ties in the late 1980's, Heller said.

The university used the Mardi Gras as a fund-raiser for the Pritchard Art Gallery, Heller said, and the head of the UI art department was the director.

"He (the head of the art department) would make require art classes build an entry for the parade and decorate the ballroom," Heller said. "UI got out of it when the department head went on sabbatical for a year."

The festival was held at the SUB Ballroom, but you are not allowed to drink in the ballroom, Heller said.

"In 1985 and 1986, Mardi Gras was very big, but it has scaled down since then," Heller

said. "Since it has gone from a university to a community event, it has gotten smaller."

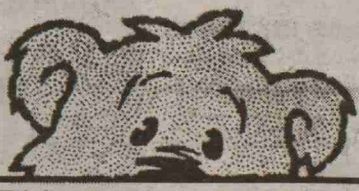
The Moscow Mardi Gras is similar to the famous New Orleans Mardi Gras in that it is an "excuse to party" for people 21 and older, Heller said, but there are differences. "Because of the liquor laws, you can't take alcohol outside," Heller said. All bars will have a cover

charge, but a ticket can be purchased to include all the participants, Heller said.

The event was began by a man who had just returned from New Orleans, Heller said. The parade is reminiscent to the New Orleans Festival, but Heller said they make it "family oriented."

The event will begin at 6:30 a.m. with an all-you-can eat breakfast at the

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