

Writing: Educators lay plans for statewide campaign

BY LORA CUYKENDALL
Of the Emerald

With plummeting SAT scores plaguing the nation's college-bound students and the number of "bonehead" writing courses offered at universities growing every year, some persons directly concerned with teaching composition believe they may have found some answers for those who scratch their heads and wonder why their children are illiterate.

At state-wide meeting of Oregon educators at the University Friday and Saturday, the concern was not only that English teachers should be able to give writing instruction, but also that their efforts should be part of a coordinated program.

Nathaniel Teich, director of composition at the University and a member of an ad hoc committee on writing established two years ago by the state's universities and community colleges, believes the answer to the writing crisis lies in recognizing that writing instruction is important at all levels of a student's education.

"Writing instruction occurs in the elementary and secondary grades as well as the community colleges and universities," he says. "We need to coordinate the attack on the problem among all these levels."

Teich, as a member of the ad hoc Committee on Competencies in English Composition, was originally asked to study the writing instruction given in four-year institutions and community colleges. In discussing the problems, the committee realized that other educational institutions besides colleges were involved. The committee, along with various teacher organizations, coordinated the two-day meeting, which brought language arts program supervisors from the various school districts together with college composition directors.

To learn more about some successful multi-level writing programs, the sponsors of the meeting invited several directors of the University of California/Bay Area Writing Project to the University to describe the methods they have found useful. The Bay Area project, which is in its second year, has been pointed to as a

model of writing instruction programs.

The program consists of two phases, according to its director, James Gray. The first aims at developing effective teaching methods by bringing selected English teachers together for intense summer workshops, sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley. Through interaction with each other and outside speakers, the teachers hone their own writing skills and perfect their instruction techniques, according to Gray.

The second phase of the project aims at improving communication between the University and the various local school districts. The director said that having the college's writing directors visit high school classes helped to prepare students to meet the University's writing requirements.

While Teich admits that many of the program's ideas are valuable, he says the Oregon group does not intend to adopt the California plan wholesale.

"Their program is geographically oriented — it's limited to the Bay Area and nine surrounding counties," he

says. "What we hope to do here is develop a broad, state-wide program."

Teich also says the second phase of the Bay Area project — which focuses on interaction with high schools — is the most effective and important part of the program.

"Close communication with secondary school is what we want to aim at," says Teich.

And that goal was advanced at a strategy planning meeting Saturday morning. According to Teich, the persons attending the meeting expressed a desire to establish a number of regional program centers located throughout the state. These centers would sponsor workshops and distribute information. Formation of an "umbrella" organization to coordinate the activities of all the regional bodies was also suggested.

Although the groups have no official standing, Teich says the concern they show may be persuasive enough to spur the state's education department and various other agencies to start such a program. The group plans another meeting next month.

Delegate selections aid Reagan's challenge to Ford

By The Associated Press

Ronald Reagan's challenge to Pres. Ford for the GOP presidential nomination was bolstered during the weekend as the process of selecting delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions advanced in six states and the Virgin Islands.

Reagan fared well in Oklahoma, South Carolina and Missouri.

On the Democratic front, an informal primary in Arizona and congressional district conventions in Minnesota showed support for Rep. Morris Udall and Sen. Hubert Humphrey in their home states.

Uncommitted delegates were chosen in Alaska and the Virgin Islands.

After South Carolina's GOP convention on Saturday, Reagan was assured of 26 of the state's 36 delegates to the Republican National Convention. Four of the state's national delegates were pledged to Ford and six were uncommitted after state convention results were combined with earlier congressional district convention tallies.

In Oklahoma, Reagan appeared to be outdistancing Ford by a wide margin in county convention voting Saturday.

Although party rules require all GOP delegates to be formally uncommitted, support for the former California governor was overwhelming.

In all other counties reporting early, Reagan was favored by a majority ranging from 60 per cent to 90 per cent of those voting.

Delegates elected at the county level will attend district convention. Eighteen of the state's 36 national delegates will be chosen through the district conventions and the other 18 at the state convention in Oklahoma City.

At county GOP caucuses in Missouri, which began last Tuesday and continued on Saturday, Reagan supporters said unofficial early returns gave their candidate 226 of 234 delegates chosen to attend congressional district conventions and the state convention.

Missouri will send 49 delegates to the Republican National Con-

vention. Nineteen of them will be chosen at the state convention in June and the other 30 will be selected at district conventions.

In Minnesota, Democrats held four congressional district conventions on Saturday and Sunday to select 30 delegates, and Republicans held two district meetings on Saturday to choose 12 delegates.

No announced candidate for the Democratic nomination obtained delegates in early Minnesota returns.

Udall was the overwhelming victor Saturday in the informal

Democratic presidential primary in Arizona, winning nearly 75 per cent of the vote in early returns. Carter followed with about 10 per cent of the vote; Jackson and Wallace collected about 5 per cent each.

Alaska Democrats selected 16 delegates at a statewide caucus on Saturday and Sunday. The delegates, who will go to the national convention officially uncommitted, will cast 10 votes among them.

Democrats in the Virgin Islands on Saturday elected six national delegates with half a vote each, and officials said most of them will

probably be uncommitted. Former governor Ralph Paiwonsky said the delegates will meet shortly to decide whether to pledge themselves to any candidate. GOP delegates will be chosen next month.

OSPIRG joins coalition

Claiming that Oregon can develop a responsible energy policy only through citizen involvement, state chairer Craig Quinn announced Friday that the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) is joining a coalition to put a utility consumers' initiative measure on the November ballot.

The Utility Consumers' Advocate (UCA) petition would establish a public, statewide, non-profit citizens' organization, funded by contributions and charged with representing the interests of residential energy and utility consumers.

According to Quinn, OSPIRG has participated in a number of rate hearings since 1971, but Oregon Daily Emerald

"we've really only affected nickel and dime issues. Even when we've presented some utility rate increases, our success has been due to a volunteer attorney spending full time at the hearings."

Quinn said OSPIRG decided to support the UCA initiative because, "Our experience shows that ratepayers need their own full-time experts to represent their interests." He notes that OSPIRG has experience with the kind of democratic structure, staffing and funding proposed for the utility consumers organization.

"The concern is there," Quinn said. "If this measure is passed, citizens will at last be able to influence energy policy."

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