

Women voters active all year round

By WANDA LAUKKANEN
Of the Emerald

The League of Women's Voters receives the most attention around election time when it dispenses information on ballot measures and candidates, but the league is active all year, says Janet Calvert central Lane County chapter president.

Calvert says members meet every month to discuss topics of

current political concern. From these monthly meetings, reports are drawn up.

"Board members get together and try to decide what areas are in agreement and draw up a statement of position," says Calvert. Using these statements, the league testifies at hearings and lobbies for supported measures, she notes.

"We research it, get information, try to make clear our position," she says.

The central Lane league is divided into 13 small discussion units that meet once monthly to discuss current topics. Calvert says the schedule for the next five months includes: the urban crisis, in February; environmental water quality, in March; school finance, in April and housing supply needs in May.

Basic information for each unit discussion is provided by the national organization, says Calvert, but she adds, "We try to go ahead and localize it."

The purpose of the small groups is to "try to get people thinking and discussing," says Calvert. "We try to bring out discussion of problems and strengths."

In addition to sponsoring the unit discussion groups, the local League of Women Voters distributes "The Voter," a publication distributed by the state league organization containing information on statewide issues and candidates for statewide offices.

"We try to present an accurate, balanced presentation of the pros and cons of the ballot measures," Calvert says, noting that the pamphlet accepts no advertising.

She also points out while the league takes positions on ballot measures, it does not endorse political candidates.

"The league does not support or oppose any political candidate," Calvert says. "We are

non-partisan regarding political candidates."

"The Voter" will be distributed by the league before the May primary.

Around the same time, Calverts says the local league will also be sending questionnaires to candidates with their responses to be printed in the Register-Guard.

The League of Women Voters has a group on campus that meets the second Thursday of each month at noon in the EMU, rooms to be posted.

Calvert notes that students only pay a half-price membership fee of \$10 yearly and that the organization is open to both men and women.

Senate to discuss P/NP motion

Three motions will be considered by the University Senate this afternoon.

The University-wide Committee on Committees will propose that both the Educational Opportunities Committee and the Academic Distinction Committee (ADC) be abolished. In the past, the ADC has recommended students for graduation with "distinction" based on high grade point averages.

The other motion would allow students to take courses in their major pass/no-pass and have them satisfy the graded-hour requirement for graduation.

The motion, drafted by the Academic Requirements Committee, would deal only with required major course work that is offered exclusively on a pass/no-pass basis.

"There are instances where a lot of the work for majors is offered only pass-undifferentiated," explains Robert James, head of the department. "All design courses in architecture are that way." James says the change would mainly affect transfer students.

Today's senate meeting is at 3:30 p.m. in Room 229 Law School.

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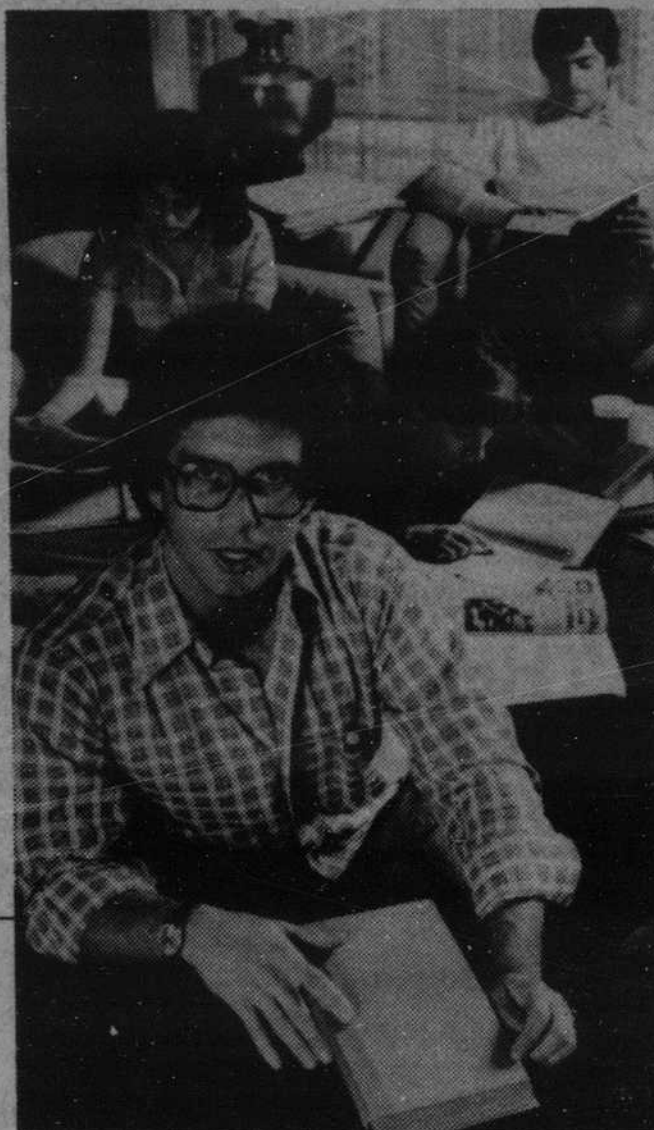
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Students go to Washington for conference

Students from colleges and universities throughout the Northwest will attend the Northwest Environmental Student Taskforce (N-WEST) winter conference Friday and Saturday at the University of Washington, Seattle.

The conference will begin with a keynote address by David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club for 17 years and founder and current head of Friends of the Earth.

Workshops will be held during the two-day conference on improving existing environmental programs and implementing new ones on Northwest college campuses. In addition, there will be films, slideshows, and exhibits.

A panel discussion on Saturday will focus on "Coalition Building: Jobs and the Environment." The panel will consist of political leaders from groups such as organized labor, minority groups, church groups, community councils, League of Women Voters and environmentalists.

N-WEST is a coalition of student environmental groups in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia. The primary goal of N-WEST is to coordinate and share information on environmental education and action.

The University Survival Center is organizing carpool rides leaving Eugene for the conference at 6 a.m. Friday. The cost will be \$10. There is still room for more riders, according to Jim Stratton of the Survival Center.

The registration fee for the entire conference, including the workshops and a dinner party Saturday night, is \$5. For more information, contact the Survival Center at 686-4356.

