

Citizens cancel lawsuit against measure campaign

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

Two Eugene residents, one a University senior, ended their recent efforts to bring the 1977 Water Development Act to trial.

David McTeague, political science major and president of the Oregon Young Democrats, and John Stewart, former state legislative Democratic candidate, brought suit against the campaign for Ballot Measure No. One, passed by Oregon voters last fall. The measure set up a revolving loan fund that will provide money for irrigation and drainage for Oregon farmers.

Stewart and McTeague organized the only committee that actively campaigned against the act before the Nov. 8 election.

"During the campaign, it came to our attention that untrue statements about the measure were being made and quoted by the media," Stewart says.

The alleged false statements concerned two facets of the act. Stewart said the campaign for the act declared that loan monies were strictly for family farmers, not for corporations; and he said the campaign material stated that out-of-state corporations can't get loans — "but the fact is that an Oregon agri-business corporation can be set up by a larger outside corporation," and be eligible for a loan.

The basis for contesting the election, Stewart said, was Oregon Revised Statute 260.532, which provides for a second election if a court decides false

statements that could have influenced election results were made publically.

However, the statute also states that the false statements must have been made knowingly, with intent to mislead.

Stewart and McTeague filed their suit against the campaign committee, Oregonians for Water Conservation and Development, the Portland advertising agency that handled the campaign, and the executive committee of the campaign in the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

The court had scheduled the hearing for the case to begin Tuesday, but plaintiffs Stewart and McTeague had decided to drop their suit three days before that date.

"We concluded, with our lawyer, that although we could prove — with documents we obtained from their campaign — that false statements were made, we couldn't prove intent to influence the election with false statements.

"We decided that there probably was lack of intent, and decided not to pursue the suit," Stewart explained.

He would like to see the election law tightened so it applies to any false statements, with or without intent to mislead.

"If you can prove that the election atmosphere is sufficiently polluted, there should be another election," Stewart said. "I violently disagree with the statute as it is."

ASUO needs coordinator for legislative research

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Even though its not a legislative year, the ASUO will be working with legislators and gearing up for next year.

Applications for an ASUO legislative coordinator are available until Friday. Keli Osborn, ASUO vice-president for local, state and national affairs, says it will mainly be a research position.

"The coordinator will conduct research for us in a variety of areas," she says, such as tuition tax credits, contingency repayment of student loans, child care and financial aid.

In off years, the state Legislature sets up interim committees to deal with lobbyists and potential legislation. In the past, the House and Senate each had separate committees for education and educational finance.

This year, however, the committee is titled the Joint Committee for

Revenue and School Finance. Both Senators and Representatives sit on the committee and issues must be couched in financial terms, although Osborn says the "committee is flexible enough to make most issues fit into their guidelines."

"We work with individual legislators, also, on concrete ideas or those in the beginning stages. That way we can go up to the legislative session with a communication line already open," says Osborn.

In the next few weeks, the coordinator and ASUO representatives will go to Salem, "to develop some contacts and support with legislators." They also plan to develop contacts with experts in fields of student interest.

Osborn mentions that "Right now we're behind on laying the groundwork for next years legislation." Although Osborn has taken tentative positions on several issues, a full legislative agenda has

not yet been developed for next year's administration to use.

A communication network is planned so all ASUO programs and the ASUO administration feel comfortable working together," says Osborn.

One of the coordinator's duties will be to develop this network by discussing each program's interests with the directors and coming up with a "University of Oregon bill, not just an ESCAPE or Survival Center bill," Osborn says.

Osborn also hopes to alleviate some of last legislative year's overlap. For example, the coordinator might organize car pools to Salem in which all ASUO programs could participate to cut down costs.

The position has recently been opened to non-work study students, and applications will be taken until Friday in Suite 4 of the EMU.

Course offers first-hand political knowledge in campaign situation

Students may obtain first-hand knowledge of the political process by working on a local or statewide campaign as part of a special course offered by the University political science department.

Jim Klonoski, political science professor says the class, PS 406, is a field study experience, but he says the course requirements are more extensive than the campaign participation alone.

Apparently, the information published by local media from a news release sent out by a local campaign did not give complete information as to the work requirements of the course. Thus, some misunderstanding may have arisen about the campaign participation.

Klonoski emphasizes that while the participation is a part of the Oregon Daily Emerald

course, students must also "acquaint themselves with the relevant political literature," outline plans for the project and write an evaluation of the experience at the end of the term. He says the course aims to be an "intellectual

exercise."

According to a news release from the Bob Wood for Governor committee in Eugene, students may work in such areas as research, issue development, publicity and aids to staff members.

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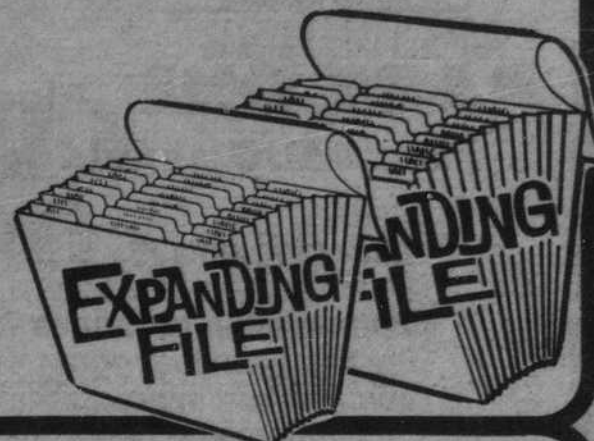
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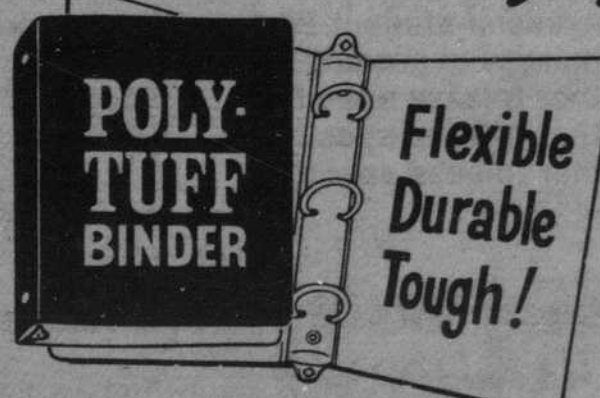
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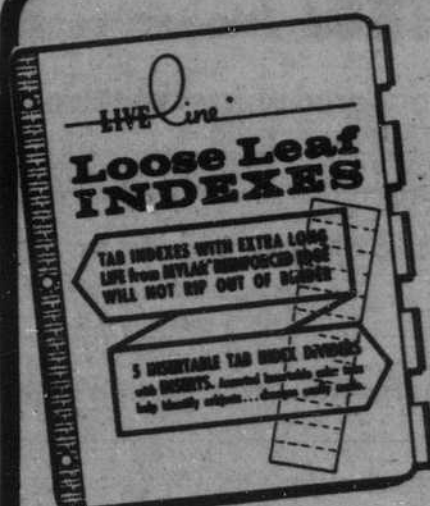
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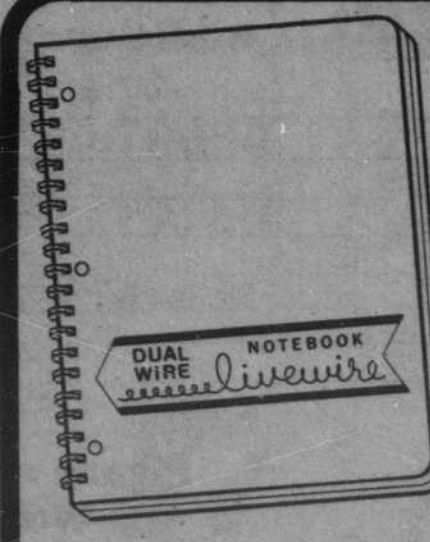
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