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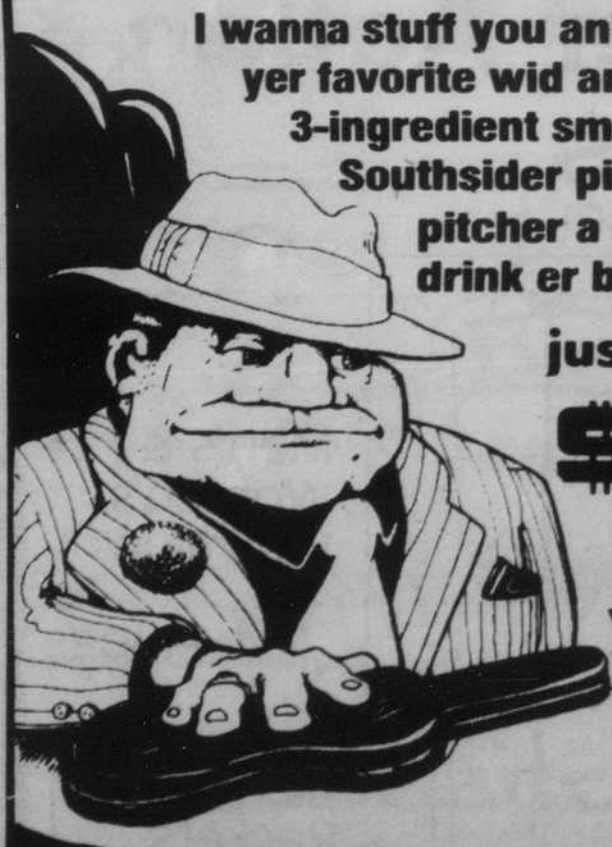
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Student seeks to establish mock democratic convention

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

College life sometimes mirrors reality — at least in politics.

And if the Political Science Student Union has its way, University students will stage a mock national democratic convention next May.

If all goes according to plan, PSSU will pack 1,200 student-delegates into McArthur Court May 11-13, where they'll decide on convention rules, a party platform, and presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

PSSU hopes to attract some democratic presidential candidates to the convention, since some should be in-state for the Oregon primary on May 15.

"The chances of getting a Jesse Jackson or a George McGovern are better than a Fritz Mondale or John Glenn," says convention organizer Tom Birkland, a political science senior and a PSSU member.

If they get any of the above, they'll have at least equalled the convention organizers of 1980, who netted then-candidate

George Bush's son as a speaker.

Next year's convention is the brainchild of Birkland, who is also a member of SUAB and the University ACLU.

By all appearances, it will take as political an animal as Birkland to organize an event as massive as a national convention — even a mock one.

"If the framework planning isn't done by the end of the quarter," he says "It probably won't fly."

That planning includes setting up a delegation chair course for the Winter quarter, securing Mac Court and, since PSSU didn't include the convention in their budget for this school year, funding the whole shebang.

The course — still not approved — will be taught by both professional campaign managers and University professors from disciplines such as political science and journalism.

Worth three credits, the course will be open to approximately 65 people who will lead 1,200 delegates representing the 50 states, Latin America, Puerto Rico, Guam and Americans abroad. The

larger states will have co-chairs, Birkland says. PSSU is soliciting participants from a variety of disciplines and will start conducting a kind of pre-registration for the course Thursday in the EMU lobby.

PSSU hopes to have the "upwards of \$1,000" rental fee for using Mac Court waived, and Birkland is disappointed that he has had no indications that it will be. "We don't think they should derive a profit from a student event," he says.

Funding for the convention will come from private donations, a delegate fee for the 16-page booklet, booklet advertising and a booth fee to real campaigns who Birkland anticipates will try to recruit the mock delegates.

"People take these things very seriously," he says.

"In 1980 some supporters for various candidates were offering to take people out for beers at Taylor's."

Participants in the convention will receive one credit. For more information call the PSSU at 686-4890.

Big Brother/Big Sister Continued from Page 7A

plicants know all about the program so they can be sure they want to get involved."

After Higgins talks with applicants, she sends requests for letters of reference and when those come back, the matching process begins.

Higgins chooses four children she thinks would be compatible for each student. From then on the selection is all in the hands of the big brother or sister, who observe the children and read teacher evaluations about them.

The process, which takes about three weeks, guarantees that each applicant is sincere about acquiring a little sister or brother. Students must commit themselves for at least three terms and plan on spending at least three hours a week with their littles.

Big brothers needn't be matched up with little

brothers, though. Because there is a shortage of big brothers and a surplus of big sisters, little brothers may get big sisters, Higgins says. "For every big brother we can get four little brothers, and for every little sister we can get four big sisters."

The program's success is difficult to measure, Higgins and Givi say. "You can never really tell how a child has been affected, until years later when he's able to assess it for himself," Higgins says.

"I guess I measure the success by the number of times a child will walk into my office, beaming with joy, and tell me all about a day spent with his or her big brother or sister," Givi says.

But perhaps the best way to measure success, Higgins says, is "little" by "little."

For more information, call Higgins at 686-4432.

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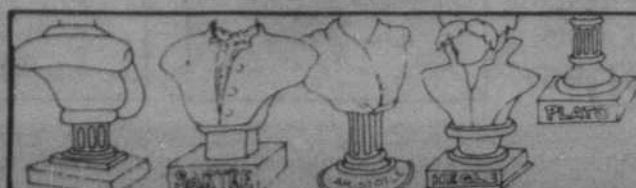
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