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Students gather to back Reagan-Bush

By Julie Shippen
Of the Emerald

About 20 people gathered in the EMU Monday night in response to the familiar call of educating and mobilizing student voters — especially those supporting the Reagan-Bush ticket.

Students for Reagan-Bush '84, a temporary campus group organized during the summer session, used its first meeting to collect volunteer help and instruct the recruits on the techniques involved in successfully registering voters.

Paul Matthews, chair of the organization, emphasized that the group should attempt to register students from all political persuasions, not just those from the Republican Party.



Ron Munion

"The main purpose is to get the president re-elected," Matthews said. "But if the students are registering as Democrats, do not argue with them. We're not here for that, we're here to register voters."

The committee's campaign will occur in three phases, the first focused on making ineligible voters eligible, Matthews said. The group will concentrate on registration through Oct. 18 and will spend the remainder of the pre-election period informing voters and "getting out the vote," he added.

Various people at the meeting were selected to represent Students for Reagan-Bush '84 at the "grass roots level" in each of the dormitories and throughout the Greek system.

Ron Munion, campus coordinator for the registration drive, added that although the organization's information tables were extremely successful in gathering student interest, the actual drive will take place "behind the scenes" from now on.

All of the members present agreed that Pres. Ronald Reagan was more popular among the student faction than his challenger, Walter Mondale.

"With the second election of Reagan, we see that many people are starting to change their party and stick with us," Munion said. He also claimed that people are currently registering with the Republican party at a 2-1 ratio on college campuses nationwide, according to the latest Republican party figures.

Michael Cross, special projects director for the group, cited polls from Newsweek magazine and USA Today newspaper, which he said showed those in the college generation as the strongest believers in the Reagan administration.

"The people who express support for Reagan are our age, in the 18 to 24 age group," Cross said.

"Unfortunately, they vote the least. This is the first election that I can think of in modern history where the conservatives are trying to get the young vote out and the liberals are trying to get the old vote out," he added.

Cross said he believes the Democratic party is fully aware of this, having cancelled registration drives on the East Coast when "they found out they were getting more Republicans registered," he said. "Their general policy is not to register voters on college campuses."

Sophomore Connie Tyler, who signed up to register students at one of the dorms, said that the student population also is becoming more involved in politics.

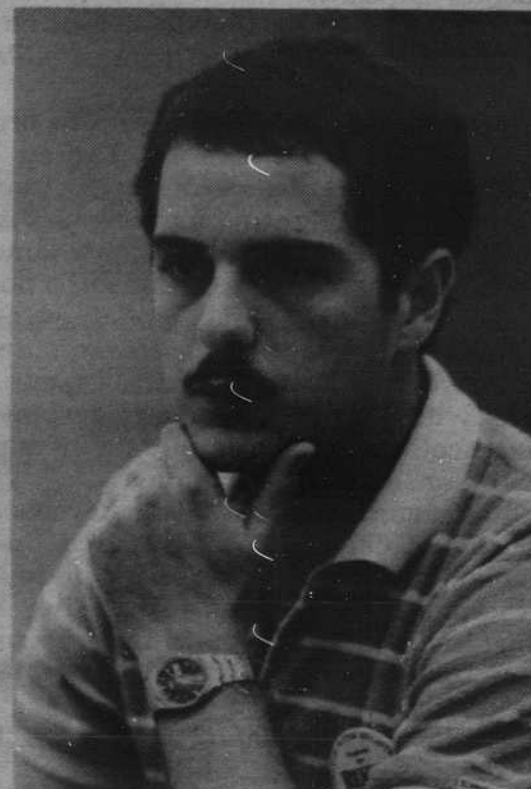
"A lot of it is that the students are getting a chance to get involved in their future and say, 'Hey, I don't want this to happen, I want that to happen,'" Tyler said. "It used to be that people didn't register to vote until they were in their late 20s. Now they're taken more seriously."

Tyler said that although she is registered as a Democrat, she supports Reagan because "he's not giving everything to everyone. I like the way he's cutting. I wish we could have more money for education, that's the only thing."

Matthews and Munion both cited Reagan's leadership as being his primary ingredient to success.

"He's brought a kind of leadership that's been absent since John F. Kennedy," Matthews said. "Crime has dropped and allied relations are stronger than ever. It's because of his leadership."

Matthews said he believes Reagan's image is being misrepresented by other student groups on campus that "take a very unrealistic view of the president and see him as somehow wanting to conquer the world. They don't realize he's



Paul Matthews

an American just like the rest of us. He likes apple pie, baseball and he loves his mother."

More than 100 students joined the Students for Reagan-Bush '84 organization at information tables held during registration and in the EMU Monday, Matthews said. He added that, while committee members support Reagan, the group is not Republican and is open to persons of all political backgrounds.

Students for Reagan-Bush '84 will hold its next weekly meeting Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. The location will be announced soon. Persons interested in the organization should contact Ron Munion at 345-4842 for more information.

Friends to plant tree as Fortier memorial

By Lori Steinbauer
Of the Emerald

Jim Fortier, who graduated from the University in May with a geology degree, died Sept. 20 when the tractor he was driving overturned. The logging accident took place in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

In honor of Fortier, a tree will be planted during a 5 p.m. memorial service Sunday on top of Spencer's Butte.

"Spencer's Butte was one of Jim's favorite places to go," said Tod Jones, a University student and former roommate of Fortier's. "He liked to go up and watch the sunset and run down the side as fast as he could."

Jones read the eulogy, written by Fortier's mother, at the Sept. 29 memorial service in San Marino, Calif., where Fortier grew up.

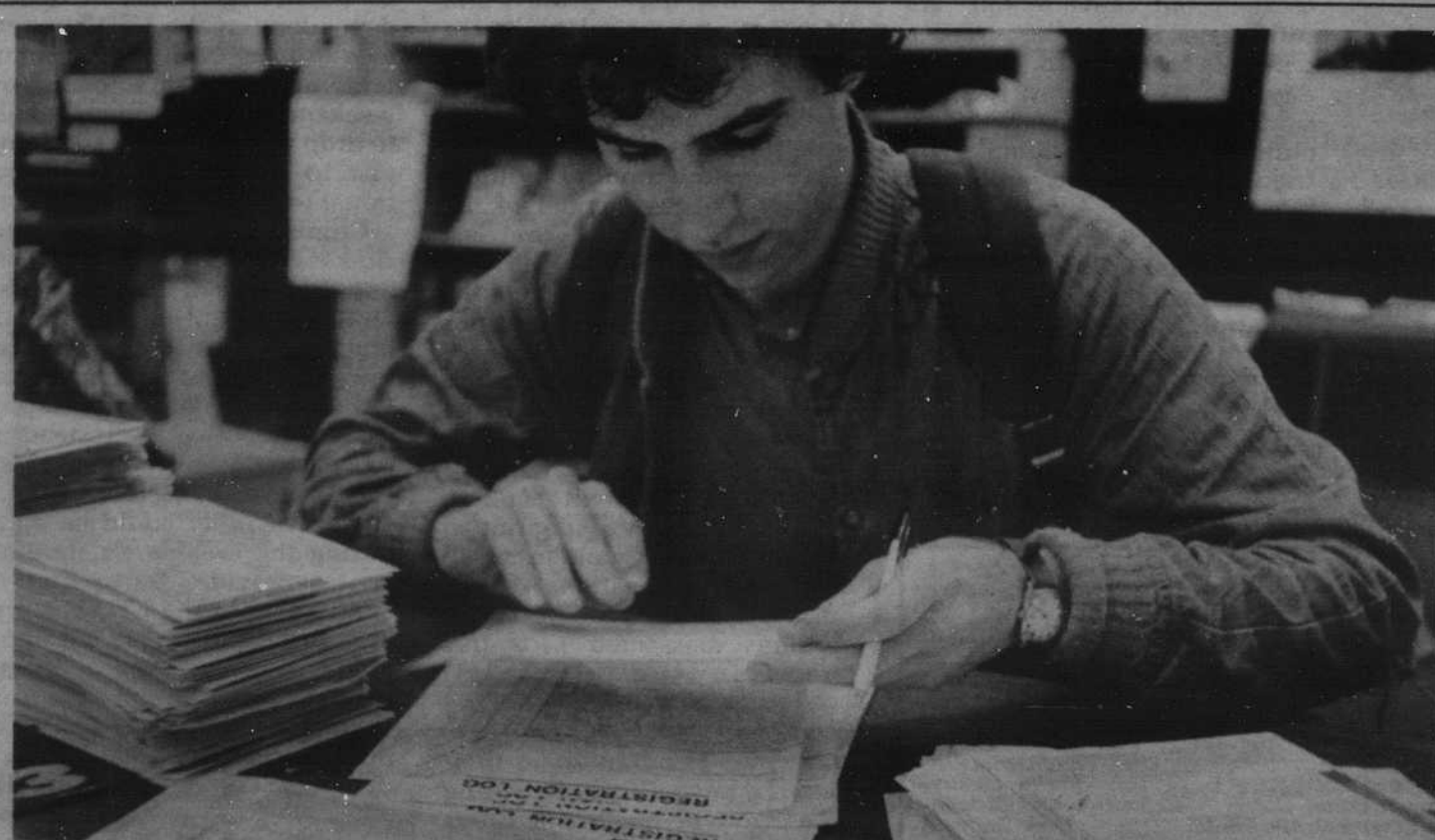
"His wonderful smile and his great sense of humor will not easily be forgotten," the eulogy stated. "He was also a 'daredevil.' He could not say 'no' to the challenges of life."

Friends and family agree that Fortier's enthusiasm inspired them to try things they may otherwise have let pass by.

"Every time he tackled something he'd say, 'See, it was easy. I told you guys,'" Jones recalled. "One of his claims to fame was doing flips off the footbridge by Autzen (Stadium). He got a few people to go for it, too."

Fortier also was a well-known face at Friday afternoon beer gardens, where he served beer.

Another friend of Fortier's, Katie Young, said Fortier was "the organizer" who could "get people off their butts to do things."



Campus-wide drive registers 1,000 voters

Jef Bianco counts voter registration forms collected by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group Monday. About 1,000 voter registration forms were completed by students and collected by the campus chapter of OSPIRG.

Student Voter Registration Day, and volunteers garnered registration forms at tables and booths throughout the campus. Similar drives were held at Oregon State University, Portland State University and other Oregon campuses.

The registration drive was part of National

Photo by Michael Clapp

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