

The best hot dogs
in the state
See Page 10



oregon daily emerald

Monday, October 15, 1984

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 86, Number 32

Wasco voter registration scrutinized

By Dave Berns
Of the Emerald

Oregon Secretary of State Norma Paulus announced Friday a plan to hire 50 lawyers to examine potentially fraudulent voter registration applications in Wasco County.

Paulus' action is the result of a controversy surrounding the central Oregon county and the commune of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Opponents of the Rajneeshes fear that the recent influx of almost 3000 "street people" to Rajneeshpuram, and their planned registration as voters, will give the Central Oregon commune the power to control Wasco County politics.

In response, many Oregonians living outside of Wasco County have vowed to register to vote in the county, in violation of Oregon law, in order to prevent such a takeover.

Paulus took action in order to prevent fraud at the polls by both supporters of the Indian guru and anti-Rajneesh forces during the Nov. 6 general election. The hearings process will affect all individuals registering to vote between Oct. 10 and Nov. 6.

"As of Friday, the county clerk's office of Wasco County had mailed notices of hearings to 174 applicants," Paulus said. "Nineteen such notices were sent to residents of Rajneeshpuram."

The initial round of hearings will be conducted Oct. 23 in The Dalles, the Wasco County seat. Hearings will continue until the polls close on Nov. 6.

"No legitimate voter will be denied the right to vote," said Ray Phelps, director of the state elections division.

"The conclusions of the hearings officers will be used by the Wasco County clerk to help determine the validity of the individual application," Paulus said.

Based on this recommendation the county clerk will decide whether or not to accept the application.

Criteria used for determining registration status will include, a minimum age of 18, U.S. citizenship, and residency within Oregon 20 days prior to the election, Paulus said.

The most controversial aspect of the review process will be in determining the intent of the registrant to remain a resident of Wasco County following the



Norma Paulus

election.

"Both the Oregon State Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court have not sufficiently outlined the criteria

needed to determine intent," Paulus said.

Paulus said she and her elections deputies have had to establish their own criteria, including the registrant's place of habitation, location of workplace, and past history of community involvement.

When asked if she feared a legal challenge to her plan, Paulus responded, "I would welcome a legal challenge that would help clarify the courts' position in this area."

"We will be able to justify our actions in court because Oregonians outside of Wasco County plan to vote there illegally, as do many of the street people who reside in Wasco County," she said.

Approximately 200 opponents of the Rajneeshes attended the press conference, including members of the Albany Group and the Concerned Oregonians, based in The Dalles.

Spokespersons for both groups expressed support for the Paulus plan, as well as a willingness to work within the framework of the law in order to ensure the sanctity of the polling booth.

Representatives of Rajneeshpuram were not available for comment.

Chancellor urges state to increase school funds

By Michael Hosmar
Of the Emerald

SALEM — "We're at a decision point," in the process of allocating state funds for higher education, said Bud Davis, chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

Davis and other higher-education officials evaluated the financial status of Oregon's higher-education system and revealed long-term goals in a media workshop held at the capitol last Friday.

"I'm tired of hearing that Oregon can't be in the upper half (of all states) in terms of funding because of lack of resources. I don't believe this," Davis said.

He said the new 1985-87 budget that will be submitted to the governor in December is "not a wish budget." It's not adjusted for possible cuts the governor might make when he scrutinizes it at the end of the year, he added.

"It's what the state could reasonably spend and what Oregon should spend," Davis said.

The "number one priority" facing the State Board of Higher Education is to "tell the governor what it would take to get us (Oregon) up to the national average" in terms of state funds allocated for higher education. The 1985-87 budget would bring Oregon up from a ranking of 38th in the nation to a ranking of 25th in the nation for state allocated higher education funding, Davis said.

The University ranks second-to-last in the nation in state funding of higher education compared to the largest institutions of each state, Davis added.

Teachers' salaries are hit hard by this lack of funding. "No matter how you juggle the figures, the University of Oregon and Oregon State University are in the lower 10 percent in terms of salaries," Davis said. "That's last in



Bud Davis

the West."

State college and university facilities are also hurt by the lack of money. There is no money for structural improvements and renovations, Davis said.

Oregon needs to get competitive quickly, or we'll lose what we've got — quality professors and programs — to other institutions, said Wil Post, vice chancellor for public affairs.

"You'll see an exodus like you haven't seen" if something isn't done now, Post added. He said he feels confident that the higher-education budget they submit this year will have the governor's approval because he realizes it's an investment for the state.

"There's no way of avoiding that investment now," said Alvin Batiste, president of the State Board of Higher Education. The system needs money only because of the bad condition it's in now, he said.

Womanspace has refuge to protect abused victims

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

"Before my third month of pregnancy I had no idea Kurt would hurt me," says Barbara, (not her real name), a University student. "One night I remember in particular. I went out drinking with him. I thought I'd do what he was doing."

But Kurt, an alcoholic, quickly became drunk and began making a scene. Barbara convinced him they should leave, but he insisted on driving "even though he was smashed" she says. Back at home, Kurt went into the house while Barbara remained in the car crying. Kurt soon reappeared, and demanded that she come into the house.

Kurt forced Barbara into the house and threw her onto the couch.

"Then, he backhanded me across the face. I tried to run but he grabbed me and threw me against the wall and started choking me."

He stopped only after she began gagging, says Barbara.

Ten thousand women a year are victims of emotional or physical abuse in Lane County alone, according to Garry Oldham, director of Womanspace, a Eugene shelter for battered women.

A violent incident occurs ever 12 seconds in the United States. One-sixth of all American couples experience at least one violent incident a year, more than one-fourth at some time during their marriage. The shelter home receives about 200 crisis calls a month, and helped about 4,000 women last year, says Oldham.

Domestic violence is widespread, but most people have misconceptions about the real dynamics of an abusive relationship, says Womanspace crisis telephone volunteer Robin Cochran.

"People constantly ask us why women don't bring charges against the guy. They don't understand it's not that easy."

Cochran says women have trouble getting help from law enforcement officials who say they can't arrest a man for

threatening to harm someone. Women may be shuffled around from agency to agency without accomplishing their goal — protection.

Although a recent law, The Abuse Prevention Act, instructs police to automatically arrest an abuser for assault, he is seldom held for more than 24 hours.

Not surprisingly, a woman is often skeptical about using the legal system to intervene. A woman pressing charges is often terrified of further and more severe violence awaiting her when the abuser is released.

Since the first American women's shelter opened in 1976, the homes have become an alternative for many women who want to make a choice between escaping or remaining in an abusive home.

But this does not always solve the problem. Many women still find themselves being harassed by their boyfriends or spouses, which forces them to issue restraining orders hoping they will finally be left alone.

"A restraining order says the man can't abuse her, harass her, or go to her home. To violate results in a contempt charge. But many men ignore it. Some men are not intimidated by it at all," says Oldham.

A woman's children are welcome at the shelter, but the location of the home is never revealed to any men as a safety precaution. Womanspace offers counseling services to abuse victims who many times suffer feelings of guilt over their predicament.

Oldham says that victims' families often show a lack of concern for their problem, telling the women to try a little harder to work things out. To complicate matters, abusers will usually blame their victim's for their violent outbursts.

After undergoing counseling, victims begin consulting advocates to help them put their lives back together.

Children arriving at Womanspace are

Continued on Page 6