Change in '84 says Mondale has chance

By Paul Ertelt

Of the Emerald

Despite polls to the contrary. Walter Mondale still has a chance of winning the "critical" presidential election. but his victory will take an allout effort by opponents of Pres. Ronald Reagan and his policies.

That, at least, is the verdict of members of Change in '84, a group of University faculty. staff and students dedicated to defeating Reagan and putting Mondale into the White House.

The campus group is one of 25 similar organizations on campuses throughout the state. Its members hope to attain their goal through voter registration. voter education and mobilization of students, faculty and staff, says sociology Prof. Steven Deutsch.

"The media are writing as though the elections in the United States were already held and Reagan has already won.' says Deutsch. "That is nonsense. The election is on Nov. 6."

Recent polls show Mondale trailing Reagan by a wide margin, but polls often change rapidly, Deutsch says, pointing out that Presidents Harry Truman and John Kennedy were in similar positions in the polls but still went on to win in the general elections.

The group hopes to reach those who have become cynical about the voting process and, though they oppose Reagan's policies, don't feel that Mondale has a chance, says women's studies Prof. Barbara Corrado Pope.

'In 1980, Reagan won only 50.7 percent of the total national vote, which represented but 27 percent of the voting-age population in America." Deutsch says." "He gained only 48 percent of the voters in Oregon. This speaks badly for the democratic process.'

But issues and not polls are essential to the group. Voters should scrutinize Reagan's record on such areas as foreign policy, the environment, and

civil rights, group members say. The Reagan administration has failed in the realm of foreign policy, says James Kirkland, a political science major.

"What we need is more diplomatic effort in the world arena," he says. "Reagan is the first president in 50 years who hasn't talked with the Soviet chief of state. Something needs to be done in that area.'

The group also opposes Reagan's support of covert operations against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and fears further U.S. involvement in that region.

Despite public opinion polls showing widespread support for a nuclear arms freeze, Reagan opposes the freeze. Deutsch says.

The group is critical of the Reagan administration's cuts to higher education. The Reagan administration has cut back higher education loans by 27 percent, affecting 700,000 students, Pope says. The group is also concerned about Reagan's economic policies, "Reagan talks recovery, but

the rate of unemployment today, after rising dramatically during his early years, is still as high as it was four years ago.' Deutsch says. "Real income has dropped 3 percent during his tenure; U.S. balance of payments is the highest ever; bankruptcies last year reached a. record high.'

Members of the group also differ with Reagan's stances on the environment and civil rights. The group will elaborate on their political views in a panel discussion in the EMU Forum Room, Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., and at a "turn out the vote" rally to be held in the EMU on Nov. 5.

The panel discussion, part of ASUO's political symposium, will include Prof. Aaron Novick, head of the Institute of Molecular Biology, speaking on defense issues and Prof. Ed Whitelaw speaking on the economy.

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Political symposium schedule

Today's ASUO political symposium events feature Sen. Mark Hatfield, County Commissioner Bruce Long and consumer activist Ralph Nader. Nader's speech is the keynote address for the symposium, which will continue through

Each day of the symposium, the Oregon Daily Emerald will run a boxed schedule of that day's events. Today's schedule

•9:15 a.m. - Sen. Mark Hatfield, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate. EMU Forum Room.

•Noon - Commissioner Bruce Long, Republican candidate for U.S. Congress, 4th District. EMU Forum Room.

•2:30 p.m. - Ballot Measure 9, a discussion on the measure concerning radioactive waste disposal in Oregon. EMU Forum Room.

•8 p.m. - Ralph Nader, keynote address on "Environmental effects of corporate America." EMU Ballroom. Tickets available at EMU Main Desk.

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