

Op-Ed

Information could reduce apathy

Spring term has arrived, and soon the campus will be immersed in the annual ASUO elections. A lot of things will happen just as they do every

By Mike Handley
Emerald Columnist

year. Posters will be put up. A truly impressive number of campaign leaflets will be passed around. Each candidate will try to appear the most experienced, competent and politically correct.

It is also inevitable that we will hear a lot of complaining about the consistently low voter turnout at University elections. Accusations will fly, and the student body will in all likelihood be characterized as apathetic and uncaring about the University's future.

This often-heard assessment is much too simplistic. Many students may in fact be apathetic, but there are more reasons for the shortage of voters than apathy alone.

Many students have little idea of what the ASUO is, what it does, and what impact it has on their lives. It is a student government, of course, but what it governs and how is a vague matter.

The media, from which most students get their information about the ASUO, do little to clarify the situation, concentrating more on the scandals and less on the process of government. In a March 9 Oregon Daily Emerald front-page article covering one recent episode, for instance, the

following government entities were mentioned: the ASUO Constitution Court, the Student Senate, the finance coordinator, the ASUO comptroller, the Committee on Committees, and the EMU Board. Little or nothing was said of the function of these bodies, or of their relationships to one another.

The result was an article comprehensible only to a campus insider, someone either involved in or used to dealing with student government.

Aside from not understanding how student government operates, many students are unsure of the degree of impact it has in their lives. It is generally understood that student government is involved with the funding of student groups, but the majority of students aren't directly involved with these groups. What is the relevance of student government to them?

It is unanswered questions such as this that produce low voter turnout. Students aren't so much apathetic about the University as uncertain about

the nature of the mysterious ASUO.

A possible remedy for the problem might be a packet explaining student government in detail, with a glossary of elected bodies and offices, to be distributed to all incoming students. This plan, though by no means a complete solution, would insure that everyone — not just a student with a drive for leadership — gets a chance to find out how student government works without having to make an unreasonable effort. This would benefit the individual students, who then could cast more informed ballots and make the entire election process more democratic.

Candidates might also benefit from an educated electorate. If a candidate could first convince significant numbers of students that student government is significant in their lives, and second that his or her platform is the superior one, he or she would have the "apathy" problem solved — and the election won.

TEMPORARY PERMANENT SALE:

ONLY \$24.95

Here's a rare chance to save on our two highest quality perms—the Protein Builder or the Great Feeling perm—including hair cut and style.

It lets you snip up to \$9.00 off the regular price and you don't even have to make an appointment, but hurry, our perm sale ends April 17th.

THIRD DIMENSION CUTS

Santa Clara Fred Meyer Center 688-8123
Fred Meyer Center, West Eugene 345-2592

Open late evenings.

Open on Sundays at West Eugene.

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES AT THE EMU CRAFT CENTER

Photography
Ceramics
Jewelry
Stained Glass



Papers/Paints
Fibers
Wood
Bike Repair

Workshops Start Soon!!

Register by April 4 for any workshop \$20
and receive 1/2 off your membership

Ground Floor EMU

686-4361

ALL MEDIA
ART

SHOW

The SARO is pleased to announce the

13th Annual

UNDERGRADUATE ART
SHOW

ARTISTS IN
ALL MEDIA

ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

DEADLINE: 5 PM April 8.

FOR ENTRY INFORMATION CALL 686-4000
OR STOP BY SUITE 2, EMU

Gift certificates will be awarded for first, second
and third prizes.

★ WUNDERLAND ★
GREAT FOR PARTIES AND BIRTHDAYS
5¢ VIDEO GAMES ALL GAMES WORK
WITH NICKELS
ADMISSION \$1.40
5TH STREET PUBLIC MARKET
EUGENE • 683-8464

The Flower Mill
EASTER
SUNDAY
APRIL 3

CUT FLOWER
SPECIALS

(next to
Jamie's Hamburgers)

2455 Hilyard 485-5143

HELP WANTED

Looking for
employment?

Check out the
ODE Classifieds.

save money

ON WATERCOLOR SUPPLIES AND MORE...

15% off • Winsor Newton London watercolors
15% off • Grumbacher Academy watercolors

15% off • Liquitex Kolinsky Plus brushes
15% off • Winsor Newton Sceptre brushes

All Palettes are 20% off
20% off Watercolor Blocks

Arches • Morilla • Strathmore • Fabriano

Storage and Mailing Tubes
15% off

Art Bin Boxes...15% off

All Hunt Biefang Tablets...25% off

Staedtler Electric Eraser...20% off

There's more!

Come and see...

Sale ends April 6

Oregon Art Supply

776 East 13th Ave.
In the Smith Family Bldg

683-2787

Mon-Fri 8:30-7:00
Saturday 10:00-5:30
Sunday 12:00-5:30

WATCH FOR
OUR MONEY
SAVING
COUPONS!