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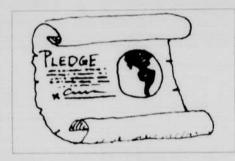














Never mind the ballots ...

No less than nine ballot measures are on this year's elections slate next week. If approved, they could raise incidental fees by more than three dollars a term.

By Joe Kidd Emerald Reporter

With elections swooping down on the University this week, the ASUO is gearing up to woo students into the voting process.

This year the ASUO Elections Board is calling for "Student Power" and exhorting students to "Get Out The Vote" in a campaign against traditionally low voter turnouts for University elections From raising street banners on 13th Avenue to buying newspaper ads, from building an extra voting booth to making presentations in classes, the elections board is telling students that it's easy and important to vote, said Dillon Coulter, Elections Board chairman.

"It only takes about two minutes to vote, and all you need is your fee card and ID card." Coulter said. "And with the Incidental Fee Committee allocating up to \$4.5 million.

Turn to Ballots, Page 12

Here's the ex-petitions

As ASUO elections rapidly approach, it is hoped that students are thinking about their choices for the numerous candidates and the nine ballot measures.

However, most students probably aren't even aware of two campus concerns that won't make it on the ballot because their sponsors couldn't gather the required 900 signatures to put them to the students' vote.

These undecided issues focus on opening student government to more diversified students and preventing the construction of a campus parking garage.

The first ballot measure would have enlarged the Student Senate to include 36 student seats, double the current 18 seats. The additional seats would represent multi-cultural students, women, and gays and lesbians.

"My hope and desire is that if we start to get a more diverse representation on the Student Senate, these students would ... help the Student Senate see the glitches in the University's system and where the problems are." said Brian Hoop, sponsor of the measure.

Hoop said he was inspired to initiate the measure in March when the senate reviewed the new non-European course requirement for next year's freshmen.

"When we were discussing that, there were no students of color there." Hoop said. "The students who were there didn't comprehend the issues and I'll admit as a white student I don't fully understand the issues and emotional concerns of a student of color."

Turn to Petitions, Page 13

Morgan-Nicolai defends holding its own line

Debt burden plays role

By Stephanie Mencimer Emerald Reporter

This is the second installment of a two-part series. Part one appeared Friday.

The Springfield Morgan-Nicolai door manufacturing plant has been a center of local controversy for nearly two years — perhaps long enough for people to forget what started the problem in the first place.

The strike began July 11, 1988. Some 300 workers walked off the job after contract negotiations between the company and representatives of the Western Council of Industrial Workers Local 3035 broke down.

Morgan's contract proposal called for a 30 percent wage cut, mandatory overtime and cuts in vacation and other benefits. Morgan justifies its request on the grounds that the company must remain competitive in a construction market that is highly cyclical.

The union maintains that Nicolai was showing recordsales and an outstanding rate of return on stockholder equity when the company asked for the drastic wage cut.

Dennis Gilbert. University physics professor and longtime labor activist, said the Nicolai plant is a victim of a leveraged buyout.

In 1984, Saugatuck Associates, a private investing firm headquartered in the eastern United States, bought Morgan Manufacturing and Morgan Distribution in a leveraged buyout, putting Saugatuck heavily in debt.

Gilbert said Morgan took Nicolai, an already profitable company, and tried to wring



Photo by Sean Poston

Despite pleas from city and county officials, strikers and employees have not returned to bargaining tables in six months at Morgan-Nicolai.

more out of it through wage and benefit cuts to pay off the parent company's debt incurred in the buyont

When the company and the union entered into negotiations. Morgan refused to open its books for review by

the National Labor Relations Board to support its reasoning for wage cuts. Gilbert said.

This goes against the traditional practice in good faith bargaining, he said.

The NLRB accepted this, saying the company was us-

ing "hard bargaining.

However, LeRoy Robinson, president of Local 3035, said. "Their desire from the onset has been to break the union." Gilbert said Morgan had an-

Turn to Morgan, page 20