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NOW president urges pro-choicers to lobby

By Jill Newsom
Emerald Contributor

The National Organization for Women Freedom Caravan, led by NOW President Molly Yard, held a rally in Eugene Wednesday night to help organize pro-choice voters to defeat three anti-abortion initiatives.

In her speech, Yard said the Freedom Caravan had come to Oregon to teach NOW supporters how to become campaigners and educate the public about why the ballot measures should be defeated this November.

Yard said it was no accident that Oregon was chosen to introduce these initiatives because opponents feel that if they can get them passed here, they can get them passed anywhere. "There is some truth to that," Yard said.

"What happens here can affect the lives of women all over America."

The first ballot initiative amends the Oregon Constitution to prohibit abortion with three exceptions, including preventing the death of a pregnant woman and in reported

cases of rape or incest.

A second initiative would require written parental notification for minors to receive an abortion. The third would require that doctors give parental notice prior to a minor's abortion.

Yard said the opponents support legislation to "punish little girls for being bad... but it takes two to get pregnant." She said if anti-abortionists were serious, "Don't you think they would get behind a proposal to distribute free birth control methods?"

She urged supporters to "take a good look at their opponents. They are the same people who used to put on white hoods..."

Yard claimed that anti-abortionists' "real agenda is forced pregnancies, controlling women's lives."

Anti-abortion protesters were present outside Churchill High School, where the rally was held. Those attending the event were required to sign the NOW voter pledge vowing not to support candidates for any office

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Rally against research

A rally was held outside Johnson Hall Wednesday protesting the return of research monkeys to the University. The rally, sponsored by Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, was part of World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week.

Photo by Virginia Pearce

Rapids await Outdoor members

Trip promises fun, danger on Colorado

By Steve Card
Emerald Photographer

"World-class rapids" await 14 members of the University Outdoor Program as they depart on a three-week whitewater raft trip on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

Four women and 10 men left Eugene Sunday morning after loading two vans and trailers with rafts, kayaks and provisions for 20 days on the water.

The group departed Tuesday for the 277-mile trip from Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River.

Bruce Mason, coordinator of the Outdoor Program, described the trip as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"This is the Olympics of rafting and kayaking," Mason said. "Anybody that's involved with river running for more than one or two trips, hears of the Grand Canyon and whenever the opportunity happens, people jump on it."

Mason, who rafted the Colorado last year, describes it as 90 percent flat.

"It has a lower drop per mile than the McKenzie," he said. "A typical day consists of real casual floating on a moving stream, interrupted by worldclass rapids."

Rafting in the Grand Canyon is allowed by permit only. It took seven years before the permit for this trip came up, Mason said. Around 200 permits are issued each year from a waiting list of more than 2,500 names.



Photo by Steve Card

David Simone removes footholds from an old raft to glue into a brand new raft in preparation for the Outdoor Program's rafting and kayaking trip on the Colorado River.

Mason said the Outdoor Program has been planning this trip since last fall.

"Within 48 hours (of posting the information) the sign-up list probably had 50 names on it," Mason said. "The permit limits the number of rafters to 16. The group really wanted 12 and we compromised with 14."

Among the participants is Jenny Cole-Small. She is one of two in the group who will be kayaking rather than rafting.

"I'm quite a small person and I just didn't feel like it (the raft) was the kind of craft I had any control in," Cole-Small said.

She took a class in kayaking nearly two years ago and since then, "I have fallen in love with the sport," she said. "If you're in a big rapid and the raft flips you're coming out, there's no two ways about it. In my boat I have all those float bags around me and if I flip, I don't necessarily have to get out."

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Bush budget draws OSU petition drive

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

Oregon Student Lobby members are circulating petitions this week to gather support for their opposition to President George Bush's proposed higher education budget.

If Congress approves Bush's proposed budget, it would freeze the maximum Pell Grant at \$2,300 for the third consecutive year, cut \$730 million in Stafford Loans and eliminate federal funding for Perkins Loans.

Perkins Loans, formerly called National Direct Student Loans, and Pell Grants are federal funds awarded to students based on financial need.

Stafford Loans come from private lenders and are guaranteed by the federal government. If students default on their loans, the government will repay the lenders.

"President Bush's proposed budget exemplifies his non-commitment to education," said Scott Wyckoff, OSU chair and ASUO vice president.

"His proposed cuts in Perkins and Stafford Loans, and the Pell Grant freeze only exacerbate the barriers to higher education for the middle- and low-income students," he said.

OSL unanimously approved a resolution on Feb. 24 opposing Bush's budget, said Angela Muniz, University OSU representative.

OSL represents students at seven universities and colleges in the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

New requirements for Stafford Loans include co-signers, credit checks for people over 21 and a 30-day delay for first-time borrowers.

These new requirements do not consider reasons why people over 21 may have a bad credit history or no credit history, Muniz said.

"It's not looking at students across the board, but singling out a group of students," she said.

OSL is calling for Congress to put more money

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