

# UNIVERSITY

## Bills take shots at gun purchases

State Rep. Vera Katz, D-Portland, introduced a bill in the Oregon House last week that would establish mandatory instant background checks before buying rifles and shotguns.

But Danna Schaeffer, chairwoman of Oregonians Against Gun Violence, said her organization would not support the proposal, instead calling for the passage of a different bill in the Legislature.

Katz's bill, HB 3576, would establish a system of instantaneous criminal and mental health background checks before rifle and shotguns could be sold by licensed firearms dealers.

### Capitol Briefs

"We can no longer continue in our mistaken belief that violent criminals and the mentally ill don't buy guns from licensed gun dealers," Katz said. "The instant background check system will save lives that are being lost today because we lack even the most basic background checks on rifle and shotgun purchasers."

But Schaeffer, the mother of slain actress Rebecca Schaeffer, said HB 3576 doesn't go far enough.

"I certainly share the sense of urgency to do something about unregulated gun sales," she said, "but an instant check offers only an inadequate background check for a very high cost."

"I believe we can do better than this," Schaeffer said, calling for support of SB 633, which would extend to rifle purchases the current 15-day waiting period for handguns. Unlike Katz's bill, the Senate bill would also regulate private rifle sales.

A weekly farm labor information bulletin called *El Campesino* will make its way around the state beginning this month, a spokesman for the state Employment Division said.

The bulletin, which will be printed in Spanish and English, will address issues ranging from work opportunities and wage estimates to housing availability and general crop information.

Sponsored by a grant from the U.S. Labor De-

partment, *El Campesino* will be distributed by employees from the Employment Division and the Oregon Human Development Corporation to farmworkers throughout the summer.

For more information about the publication, call 1-800-223-2539 or 1-800-282-9963.

Leaders of two anti-field-burning groups have begun to campaign for an initiative ballot measure that would set stricter standards for field burning than provided by a bill currently in the Legislature.

Bill Johnson of End Noxious Unhealthy Fumes and Sandra Thiele of Oregonians Against Field Burning presented an initiative to the Secretary of State that would phase out open grass seed field burning by 1997.

A bill in the House, backed by members of the grass seed industry, would establish a more lenient time frame.

HB 3343 would maintain the current level of 165,000 acres of annual field burning until 1998, when that amount would then be reduced by 15,000 acres.

Petitioners must gather 89,000 signatures by July 1992 to get an initiative on the Nov. 1992 ballot.

The Secretary of State's Office has received a proposed ballot initiative that would set term limits on state legislators and Oregon members in the U.S. Congress.

While several similar bills are in the state Legislature, the initiative is the first to begin looking for signatures to go on the ballot in the Nov. 1992 elections.

The petition would amend the Oregon Constitution to limit state legislators to a total of six years in the House, eight years in the Senate or a total of 12 years in either body.

Although state representatives serve two-year terms and senators are in office for four years, there is currently no limit on the number of terms they can serve.

The petition would also limit Oregon members in the U.S. House to six years, and those in the U.S. Senate to 12 years.

## OPS investigates flag burning at rally

The University Office of Public Safety is investigating the flag and banner burning that occurred outside Johnson Hall during a rally May 16.

### Police Beat

The rally was to protest the presence of military recruiters on campus and the military's practice of discriminating against gays and lesbians.

The banner and flag were hung between the giant pillars that are outside the entrance to the administration building.

Protesters were sitting on the entrance steps holding signs when the flag and banner were unexpectedly ignited by one or more protesters.

OPS officers said the incident is being investigated as recklessly endangering a crowd. Police have no suspects at this time.

The following are crimes and incidences reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department:

- A second-degree shoplifting was reported by the University Bookstore on May 8.

The suspect, a white male, was seen wandering around the art supplies section in the bookstore. When he left the store with a female companion, bookstore security saw him pull a felt pen valued at \$4.39 from his pocket. When the suspect was confronted, he dropped the pen and ran down Kincaid Street.


- A reckless burning was re-

ported on the third floor of Moore Hall on May 8. A burned newspaper was found in the hallway, and a three-inch circle was burned in the carpet. No damage estimate was available, and police have no suspects.

- A reckless burning was reported on the third floor of DeBusk Hall on May 8. The carpet had been burned, causing \$30 in damage. Police have no suspects.

- An attempted second-degree robbery was reported May 12 to EPD.

Around 1:30 a.m. a male University student was walking home southbound along Kincaid Street and 13th Avenue. When he reached about 15th Avenue and Alder Street, he was confronted by three males, who grabbed the student and told him to give them all his money.



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By GARY LARSON



Leona Helmsley of the Paleozoic