Pro-choice advocates form coalition for 'stronger voice'

By Rene DeCair Emerald Associate Editor

As part of the continuing battle over a woman's right to an abortion, pro-choice groups have formed a western coalition to "flex a little regional muscle," according to a spokeswoman.

Kitty Piercy, state president for Oregon's National Abortion Rights Action League, said the coalition called Pro-Choice West is an attempt to loosen some of the recent legislative and judicial abortion restric-

Trotskyists hit streets

By Mike Sears

Despite the recent political changes in the Soviet Union that have undermined communist ideology, a small group of die-hard communists made a stand in front of the University Bookstore Monday and Tuesday to share their beliefs.

Bucking the tide of democratic and market reforms sweeping the world, three representatives from the San Francisco-based Spartacist League tried to attract passing students long enough to get their point across and perhaps sell a few subscriptions to their publication.

Defeat the Yeltsin-Bush Counterrevolution!" they called, in a local effort to reverse the collapse of communism

The group, affiliated with the International Communist League, makes the trip north to the University every year. Its goal is to raise money for the organization through subscriptions to its publication, the Workers Vanguard, said spokesman Steve Hamilton. According to Hamilton, another goal is to influence young college minds.

"It's a hopeless cause," said Judy Gascon, a Beaverton resident who stopped long enough to glance at their publication. "I only looked because I was curious.

Another student was more re-

ceptive.

"They provide an alternative point of view," said Jennifer Fawcett, a double major in Spanish and International Studies. "They can help people understand many of the issues

Fawcett was among the few students who invested the \$10 for a subscription.

While admitting that their ideology has fallen on hard times, Hamilton still believes that Marxist-Leninist style communism will succeed

"The current problems with communism stems from Stalin's influence," Hamilton said. "We are Trotskyists.

Leon Trotsky was a Russian revolutionary who disagreed with Stalin's policies and was assassinated by Stalin's agents.

"Counterrevolutionaries in the Soviet Union have used de-Stalinization to destroy communism," Hamilton said.

Group members oppose the breakup of the Soviet Union and the democratic and market reforms taking place there. They want the ideology of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution preserved, but would like an end to the massive Soviet bureaucracy.

The group includes organizations from eight states including Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Piercy said that with the possibility of Roe vs. Wade (the Supreme Court case that protected a woman's right to an abortion) being overturned, women need to be well-organized and linked to help prevent a court decision reversal

According to Piercy, the merger will give abortion rights advocates more leverage in their dealings with legislators.

"To say that you are part of a coalition from eight states is powerful," she said. "It seems like a stronger voice.

The group has already organized a boycott against Utah's tourist resorts in response to what Piercy describes as Utah's 'most punitive legislation against choice than anywhere in the country.

Moreover, the group plans to increase access to abortion services and bring the French abortion pill, RU 486 into the United States for research with the eventual goal of legalizing

Joining the coalition in the fight is the University abortion rights group. Students for Choice, which will make sure that state and national abortion rights groups do not forget the importance of the student vote, said co-director Debi Webster.

Webster, who will be attending a conference this upcoming weekend in Atlanta, Ga. to help the east organize their own alliance, said the western coalition is a way to link different people together in a way that extends beyond their immediate region.

"It's not enough to have a NARAL, to have a (National Or-

ganization for Women). You have to have a diverse group," Webster said. "If abortion is outlawed it is going to be the community that suffers, not just women's groups.'

"It's not a woman's issue. It's a freedom issue.'

Students for Choice will hold their first meeting of the year Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. in Century Room A. Several pro-choice groups including NARAL and the ACLU of Oregon are sponsoring a rally today at noon in the EMU Courtyard to oppose Clarence Thomas' nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Special Hours 30-9pm, TUES Sept. 24, 7 30-9