

Oregon Daily Emerald

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1992

EUGENE, OREGON

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 143

Don't tread on me



Suzy Nicksil and her daughter, Katie, look at the painted tires as they volunteer to help set up booths in the EMU Courtyard for Earth Week Monday afternoon.

Photo by Sol Neelman

Election turnout low, to no one's surprise

□ Political science professor says student attitudes vary from apathy to distrust of system

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

Bobby Lee and Karmen Fore will become the official voice of 16,905 University students with a ballot-box mandate from only 7 percent of them.

Only 13.5 percent of the student body — 2,292 students — voted in the ASUO primary elections, which determined this year's ASUO Executive race. Lee and Fore received 57 percent, or 1,237 votes — enough to claim victory over three other tickets without a runoff.

In other words, if things don't change the way students want them to, an overwhelming majority have no one to blame but themselves — if they buy the idea that the ASUO has the power to change anything.

This year's turnout was the lowest in three years.

Last year, about 15 percent of the student body turned out for the ASUO primary election, in which Jennifer Bills and JoSonja Watson narrowly avoided a runoff.

Recent campus political participation peaked in the 1988 ASUO primary when more than 20 percent of the student body voted.

Young people traditionally vote less than any other group in the United States. During the past three years, participation in ASUO elections has fallen below the national voting average for young adults, which has hovered around 16 percent, according to the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate,

a Washington, D.C., research group that studies U.S. political participation.

ASUO elections coordinator John Goodman said he was disappointed but not surprised by this year's turnout for the ASUO primary.

Debates are usually good indicators of student interest, Goodman said, and this year fewer students turned up for debates.

"All the candidates as a whole were more moderate than last year," Goodman said. "There were not as many left and right issues."

Goodman also blamed the low turnout on a general disenchantment with student government.

ASUO Executive candidates Lee/Fore, Pharis/Morgan and King/Ferguson expressed disappointment with student voter turnout. Following their victory in last week's primary, Lee and Fore vowed to make political participation a priority for next year.

"You would hope during a national election year that more students would get out and vote," Fore said.

Political science Professor James Klonoski, who teaches a course on elections, said students don't vote primarily because they are "otherwise occupied."

"They're here to get a degree," Klonoski said.

Klonoski also attributed low voter turnout in student elections to widespread belief that student government is virtually meaningless.

"They know that it doesn't make a difference because the winners have no authority or power," he said.

The national political atmosphere has also negatively influenced students' voting habits, Klonoski said.

Turn to **TURNOUT**, Page 12

Police try sensitivity with victims

□ Officers trained to ease trauma of reporting rape

By Gerrit Koeppling
Emerald Reporter

sexual Assault
Awareness Month



Editor's note: This is part two of a three-part series on sexual assault, along with the article on rape and the law on page six. Part one appeared Monday. Part three of the series, featuring articles about the aftermath of sexual assault and services for international students, will be published Wednesday.

One of the reasons often cited for the large number of unreported sexual assaults is the perceived insensitivity of police and hospital emergency rooms. But the Eugene police department and local hospitals are trying to make the task of

reporting rape easier.

Beverly Collins, public information officer for EPD, said the department trains its officers to be sensitive to the unique problems of sexual assault and sexual assault victims.

EPD officers undergo six months of intensive training, which includes sensitivity training, before they are allowed to go on patrols alone, Collins said.

After those six months, officers are allowed to go on patrol alone, but are still on probation for another year. If during that year they encounter a rape situation, they are evaluated on how they handle the situation, Collins said. If problems exist, extra instruction is provided, she said.

"We always try to get our new officers to handle at least one rape and one homicide," Collins said.

In addition, Collins said every officer has one training day a year that is dedicated to sexual as-

Turn to **RAPE**, Page 6

Holocaust survivor Offen to talk tonight

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

When 63-year-old Bernard Offen talks about his childhood, he speaks in a barely audible tone.

Although 50 years have passed since he was a teenager in Auschwitz, his memories of the smoke and gunshots of the concentration camp are still painful.

"I remember truckloads of people being driven there almost every day and hearing the machine gun fire," he said. "If you've ever heard a

scream, it would have sounded like that, only worse."

Offen will speak about his sufferings in Nazi death camps tonight at 7 in the EMU Gumwood Room. He will also show a slide media presentation he made that deals in part with his return to Poland last summer.

The presentation is part of Shoah Week, an event sponsored by the Jewish Student Union to commemorate the Holocaust.

Turn to **OFFEN**, Page 12



PAPER CHASE

Some students find Oregon Hall a bureaucratic nightmare.

See **FRUSTRATIONS**, Page 5

THE LAW AND RAPE

A district attorney and defense lawyer gave different perspectives on prosecuting rape cases during a panel discussion Monday.

See **CONVICTIONS**, Page 6



INDUCKTED

Ducks Muhammed Oliver and Matt LaBounty were selected in the NFL draft.

See **DRAFT**, Page 8