#### OFFEN

Continued from Page 1

Offen, who is a resident of Santa Rosa, Calif., spends much of his time speaking to groups around the world about his concentration camp experi-

A Jewish native of Poland, Offen was only 11 when World War II started. The black period of his life began when he and his family were moved to a Jewish ghetto in Cracow. While he was there, the Nazis took his mother and sister and he never saw them again.

Offen eventually became separated from his two brothers. Later, when Offen was 13, soldiers transferred him and his father first to Plashow and then to Auschwitz concentration camps.

At one point, the Nazis forced Offen, his father and other prisoners to make boots for the German army. Some of the prisoners were sabotaging shoes so that the heels broke off.

When the soldiers discovered what the prisoners were doing, they took them and out and shot them instantly.

"The felt sense of what was happening was one of terror," Offen said.

After his father was killed at

Auschwitz, Offen moved to several other camps around Europe. The American army finally liberated the German camp he was staying in on May 7, 1945.

Although 54 of his relatives had died in the camps, he soon learned that his brothers had survived. After six months of searching, he was able to reunite with them in Italy.

Some time after, the brothers joined relatives in Detroit, where Offen stayed for several years.

In hindsight, Offen said he can understand to a degree what made the Nazis do the horrible things they did.

"They were not inhuman, they were not robots," he said. "They were people who were so indoctrinated in their hate of Jews that they thought what they were doing was a blessing. Because after all, they falsely believed that Jews killed Christ."

Even though anti-Semitism is subdued in the United States, Offen believes the prominence of David Duke proves that many Americans hate Jews.

"He found that there is a certain number of people who have Nazi ideas and ideology," Offen said.

Offen said he was surprised to encounter some anti-Semi-



Bernard Offen

tism from the friends he stayed with in Poland this summer.

For example, one friend didn't believe him at first when he told her that most Poles were silent when the Nazis began rounding up Jews. He said she had gotten her information from the Roman Catholic Church, which he said has a history of hating Jews.

Anti-Semitism is still thriving throughout the world, Offen said.

"It's gaining strength because we have not dealt adequately with the Holocaust," he said. "What happened was so horrendous and so threatening, that people are willing to say it never happened."

## **TURNOUT**

Continued from Page 1

"They're victims of the Reagan-Bush-era government, and politics are the problems, and the marketplace is the answer," he said. "Politics is not a way of life for them."

for them."
However, campus politics
is clearly a way of life for
some students — about 13
percent.

Students for Diversity, Access and Renewal in Education was overwhelmingly successful in mobilizing support for its progressive slate. SDARE saw all but one of its candidates win or get into runoff races.

SDARE represents the interests of several ASUO programs, all of which stand to gain the favor of a "progressive" student government.

These sorts of election results, along with negligible turnout, leave one wondering who's voting for whom, and whether the ASUO is nothing more than a self-perpetuating

entity

King/Ferguson attributed their defeat to ASUO "insider" voting and the failure of other students to get informed about student government and vote.

"One of our big goals was to raise voter turnout," Ferguson said. "That's the only way students can have true representation."

"I guess we didn't get voters interested enough to get them out and vote," King

King also blamed the Emerald for not endorsing ASUO Executive candidates, thus contributing to the idea that the ASUO elections are a waste of time.

While congratulating Lee/Fore and wishing them the best of luck next year. King wonders if anything will really change in EMU Suite 4

"With the people involved, I can't help but think it's going to be more of the same," King said.

### **CANDIDATES**

Continued from Page 7

its goal of encouraging development.

"We need a healthy mix of residential and commercial development downtown," Evans said. "You don't roll the sidewalk up at 5

#### James "Izzy" Whetstine



Whetstine is running a strong pro-environment campaign. The 53-year-old Southern Pacific Railroad yardmaster is an avid whitewater rafter and a self-described "nature lover."

"I have a real concern for the load-bearing capacity of the environment," Whetstine said. "I'm concerned about what will be done to the land for money."

Whetstine supports efforts to protect wetlands in West Eugene and to rejuvenate downtown with new residential development.

During the past 20 years, Whetstine, along with his black derby hat and cigar, has become a familiar face in Eugene politics. His campaign slogan, "Izzy, What a Mayor Should Look Like," fits his flamboyant style.

"What do you prefer — politics or panache," he said

# Bush ratings stabilize

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's job approval rating, which dropped steadily since the end of the Persian Gulf War, appears to have stabilized, according to an ABC News-Washington Post poll.

If the election were held today, Bush would have a 7-point lead over likely Democratic nominee Bill Clinton, 49-42, compared to a 2-point victory margin shown in polls taken in March.

The new survey was released Monday.

Forty-three percent of Americans in the ABC-Post poll approve of the way Bush is doing his job, up from 39 percent — the lowest of his presidency — in March, the poll said.

The telephone poll was conducted April 22-26 among 1,003 randomly selected adults, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

If Texas billionaire Ross Perot decides to run as an independent, he would draw his support about equally from Bush and Clinton supporters, the poll said.

In a three-man race, Bush would still win today, with 38 percent, followed by Clinton with 31 percent and Perot with 27 percent, the poll said. Bush and Clinton each lose 11 points when Perot's name is added.

The poll said Perot gets 21 percent of his support from Republicans, 27 percent from Democrats and 33 percent from independents.

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