



UNIVERSITY

Saferide, OSPIRG, LTD on ballots

By Daralyn Trappe Emerald Associate Editor



and Saferide.

the two ballot measures that would reduce or eliminate student

Although

fees have gotten the lion's share of attention on campus, there are three other measures that will also be voted on. These involve OSPRIG, Lane Transit District

OSPIRG

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, begun





on campus 21 years ago by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, has a funding setup that is different from every other student group on campus.

Every two years, OSPIRG goes to ballot with a request for a specific funding amount, rather than going through the Incidental Fee Committee.

OSPIRG is requesting the same funding level — a total of \$112,750 a year, or \$2.50 per student a term — as it received in 1990.

OSPIRG works on a range of environmental and consumer issues — from providing a renter's rights hotline to the annual community Hunger Cleanup project. Other projects include toxic awareness, alternative energy work and a safe drinking water campaign.

Although a state PIRG also exists, money that goes to the student group is used for separate projects and cannot go toward work on state or national ballot measures.

Deborah Hallick, OSPIRG chapter chairwoman, said she is somewhat concerned, in the climate of student panic of higher tuition and incidental fees, about whether the measure will pass. But OSPIRG's measure has passed each time with a substantial mandate from the voters.

LTD

Students at the University can ride on LTD anywhere at any time, courtesy of a ballot measure that has passed for the past four years providing free passes with each term's registration.

During each of those years, students have had the option of a refund if they do not want to use the service. Tamara Weaver, LTD finance administrator, calls that refund system an "administrative nightmare" even though relatively few students choose that option. Only 110 requested an option this year.

Weaver said LTD did not intend for the refund to be an ongoing option, but agreed to it in the beginning because of uncertainty about how the program would be accepted by students.

This year, students will have two voting choices. Part A of measure 2 would provide unlimited service for \$5.50 per student each quarter with no refund option, and Part B would provide unlimited service for \$5.70 a quarter with the refund option.

About 3,500 students board or exit a bus each day from the University transit station alone, Weaver said, and 28 percent of LTD riders identify themselves as University students.

Saferide

Saferide is the free nighttime shuttle service that provides transportation for women, both on and off campus.

Saferide directors are requesting \$15,286 to buy a third van because two vans are not enough to meet the number of requests received each night.

Barbara Rodgers, Saferide codirector, said five to 10 women are turned away each night. The new van would provide additional off-campus service, where their is the most demand, Rodgers said.

Saferide began in 1985 after the Office of Public Safety became overwhelmed with calls from women wanting rides home. Rodgers said ridership tripled last year and is expected to at least double this year.



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