

**Political
Roundup**

Ride the vote

The ASUO will be coordinating activities on campus to promote voter turnout today, including a voter ride, which will drive students to their designated voting stations.

The ASUO is renting three vans and borrowing a van from Saferide to pick

up student voters from the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street. The voter ride starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. Drivers from Saferide and the Residents Housing Governance Council will help in the ASUO's transportation project.

Rob Nosse, executive director of Oregon Student Lobby, is visiting from his office in Salem to help the ASUO with voter turnout. Nosse said the ASUO will be calling students and reminding them to vote and telling them where their voting station is. The EMU is the voting station site for dorm students.

Nosse said the ASUO's goal is to get 85 percent of registered students to vote.

"It's imperative that students turn out and vote in this election if we are going to defeat Measure 9 and elect legislators who will fix the problems caused by (1990's) Ballot Measure 5," Nosse said.

Nosse said every state campus is doing something to promote student voting.

By Mandy Baucum

Speak your vote

Whether frustrated, depressed or elated about the upcoming election results, students, staff and faculty will have a chance to talk about their feelings to a counselor on Wednesday.

The University Counseling Center has teamed up with the Office of the Dean of Students to provide confidential counseling for students to discuss any of the elections or ballot measures.

The drop-in hours will go from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on the second floor of the University Student Health Center.

"Many students, staff and faculty are going to be affected by the election results whether it's the presidential elections or the ballot measures," said Jackie Balzer, the coordinator of Educational and Support Services for gay, lesbian and bisexual concerns.

"They may need a safe and confidential place to deal with the outcomes," Balzer said.

Balzer, who helped organize the service, said she be-

lieves many people who wish to talk about the outcome of Ballot Measure 9, the statewide anti-gay rights initiative, will take advantage of the drop-in hours.

As a way of reaching more students, two psychologists from the counseling center will be in the EMU Walnut Room from 3 to 5 p.m. For faculty and staff wishing to express their feelings, two psychologists will be available in the EMU Walnut Room from 4 to 6 p.m.

The counseling center has doubled its number of psychologists for the drop-in hours on Wednesday, said Gwen Tistadt, the center's office manager. She said there is not going to be a time limit for students needing to talk.

"However long it takes — some students need to talk for 15 minutes and some for an hour and a half — the counselors will be available," Tistadt said. "We're just going to have the doors open and try to get students in here and get them centered again."

Regardless of what side of the issue one is on or what candidate one voted for, Tistadt said it's important to realize anybody can come talk to a counselor on Wednesday.

"Our services are here for people no matter which side they are on," Tistadt said.

By Colleen Pohlig

Measure 9 vigil

The Religious Response Network will sponsor a day-long vigil on the Eugene Mall Wednesday to allow the community to express feelings about the outcome of Ballot Measure 9.

Kelley Weigel, a member of the network, said she hopes the event will be a celebration and a place for people to go who may have "felt stressed over the past two months."

Weigel said that counselors and members of the clergy will also be on hand to offer support if the measure passes.

A similar event was sponsored by the network in Springfield last year after the passage of Measure 20-08, an anti-gay rights initiative similar to this year's statewide Ballot Measure 9. Weigel said the network thought it was important to have a "place where people could gather and help each other get through a difficult time."

Wednesday's event is a loosely structured one, Weigel said, but will have music, poetry, speakers from both the clergy and the laity and a roll of paper on which participants can write or draw their thoughts.

Although Weigel does not expect that many Measure 9 supporters will be in attendance, the network plans to have peacekeepers on hand.

"We're hoping it's going to be a celebration," she said, "but people may be angry."

"I suspect it will be mostly people who worked in opposition," Weigel said. "The supporters don't really have a public presence."

Weigel said she hopes this will be a "time for people who are confused about homosexuality to come together and a time for the community to come together."

The Religious Response Network is a group of clergy and laity leaders from Eugene and Springfield that formed last year in response to the initiative petition and the OCA.

In the case of rain, the vigil will be indoors at 30 E. Broadway.

By Meg Dedolph

Election fair

Recognizing an increased interest in this year's elections, the ASUO hosted an election fair that allowed University students to get up close and personal with candidates.

The event was part of a week-long symposium that provided students election information through debates and other presentations.

Cris Bauman, ASUO events coordinator, said students know about major office races and initiatives, but the symposium offered opportunities to meet candidates and learn about less controversial ballot measures.

"Getting to see the candidates and ask them questions makes a difference," Bauman said.

Campaign representatives stationed at booths in the EMU Friday answered questions at the election fair.

Cynthia Wooten, state representative candidate for District 41, said she liked the chance to talk with students at her symposium.

"You can't take for granted that people know who you are," Wooten said.

Wooten's opponent, incumbent Marie Bell, also appeared at the fair. Bell said she liked the personal atmosphere at the fair.

"This is like doing door-to-door campaigning, but (the students) walk by me," Bell said.

ASUO President Bobby Lee said the symposium made information more accessible to students who are often too busy to bother with election issues.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for students to get information," Lee said. "All they have to do is take the time to do it."

A question-and-answer session in the EMU's Ben Linder Room Thursday allowed students a chance to meet local candidates for the mayoral, City Council and state representative races. The symposium also included a Ballot Measure 9 debate.

By Lisa Kneefel

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