

Award dinner heralds women

By Alaina Baum
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Empowerment and a woman's ability to achieve anything she wishes to accomplish, were the themes at the 1993 Women of Achievement awards dinner Saturday, in which Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, D-Ore., was the keynote speaker.

Sponsored by the Oregon Commission for Women, the state's official voice in advocating women's rights, the evening was a celebration of women who break from traditional female stereotypes to achieve positions of power and an acknowledgement of the need for more people like them.

State Sen. Tricia Smith, Judge Ann Aiken and attorney Judith Armatta were honored at the ninth annual event in Wilsonville.

Working for "human rights, world peace, social justice, and environmental responsibility, Furse exemplifies well what the CFW envisions as the empowerment of women," CFW Chairwoman and Oregon state Rep. Mary Alice Ford said.

Coming from a legacy of women who challenged the customary role of females in society, Furse spoke of her grandmother, who was not allowed to join the British navy solely because she was a woman.

When her grandmother asked what she could do about it, Furse said they told her, "Well, you can start a women's navy, I suppose." So she did ... and they named her the first woman admiral.

Furse's mother taught her that "you have to be part of the solution and that's why she helped start the Black Sash organization in South Africa," an anti-apartheid group demonstrating for justice, peace, and human rights since 1956, Furse said.

Being one of the only four women to serve in the Oregon congressional delegation representing the First District, Furse stressed the need for more women in places of power and influence.

"We need both sides, we need both images, we need both experiences," Furse said. "To be able to be here with the three great women who have been honored is really terrific for me."

For their shared commitment to women's excellence and equality and their work as extraordinary role models and community leaders, Smith, Aiken and Armatta were chosen as the honorary recipi-

ents of the awards.

Smith said there was nothing better than to use her office to help women who aren't being listened to.

"As long as I'm sitting at the table, I have a choice of what the menu will be ... and the menu is going to be equity, equality," Smith said.

Smith was a founder of the 1993 Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Act, "a successful set of bills sought to make women of Oregon safer, better, and healthier," Ford said as she introduced Smith.

Smith also helped create Oregon's first standing committee on sexual harassment in the Senate, was chairwoman of a subcommittee on crime and substance abuse prevention and also helped bring a Planned Parenthood Clinic to Salem.

On accepting her award, Aiken said it never occurred to her that she could be anything but a nurse.

"I was in the room when a four-year-old girl died on her birthday beaten to death by a step-parent," Aiken said of the 1967 event, which had a profound effect on her life.

Later, Aiken said that while watching her mentor, Sen. Betty Roberts, the first woman on the Oregon State Court of Appeals, she realized that she could have a family, a home life and still do something for the community. She went to law school and is now a Lane County Circuit Court Judge.

Aiken is also president of the Lane County Relief Nursery, a member of the Governor's Commission on Pregnant Substance Abusers and a member of the Task Force on Child Fatalities and Critical Injuries.

Another award recipient, Armatta, of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, is an attorney who has worked in the battered women and anti-rape movement since 1980, Ford said.

Armatta said that when she grew up, "girls were supposed to be humble, self-effacing," and spoken to but not heard.

Armatta was instrumental in developing key pieces of the 1993 Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Act.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

• Frank Boyden, an Oregon artist, will discuss how a broad educational background helps an artist prepare for work in other design disciplines at a lecture this afternoon in Room 177 Lawrence.

"Growth Through the Multi-Media Process" is the title of Boyden's lecture, which begins at 4:30 p.m. Boyden is co-founder of the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology and a member of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts Board of Visitors.

• The United Way needs volunteers for the following positions: Bilingual tutor for Springfield elementary schools, two hours per week; Meals on Wheels driver, two hours per week; Elder Help volunteers for Senior Services, three hours per week; cage cleaner for Cougar Preservation Resources, two hours per week; office assistant for Head Start, two hours per week. For more information call the Volunteer Connection, 683-9000.

• Free leaf bags are available to Springfield residents participating in the city's annual leaf collection program.

Bags are available at the Springfield Maintenance Division, 201 S. 18th St. Leaf pickups are scheduled to run

Nov. 29 through Dec. 24. For more information, call the Leaf Pickup Hotline at 726-3637.

• The Eugene-Springfield branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has scheduled its 1993 Freedom Fund Dinner for Nov. 13 at the Eugene Hilton.

Judge Carl B. Stokes, the former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, will speak at the group's annual fund-raising dinner. Emmett Williams and the Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ gospel choir will provide the evening's entertainment. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at Graphic Innovators, 26 E. 11th Ave. or through the mail by sending a check made payable to NAACP, P.O. Box 11484, Eugene, OR 97440.

• Literacy Education & Referral Network will offer a workshop about the effects of vision problems on reading Tuesday at Lane Community College Downtown Center.

Cathi Kennedy and Bobbi Mansfield of Lane Optometric Society Assistants will introduce the New York Optometric Society Vision Screening Battery. The workshop begins at 7 p.m. in Room 202 of the downtown center.

SALES TAX

Continued from Page 1

a sales tax would hit the people with the least money the hardest."

Ironically enough, Fair Share's liberal ideology puts it on the same side of Measure 1 as some of the state's most famous government detractors.

Don McIntire, the Portland-area athletic club owner who created Measure 5 and put it on the ballot, is a prominent opponent of Measure 1. His opposition to Measure 1 comes as little surprise to most political observers.

State Rep. Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, minces no words when it comes to characterizing McIntire.

"He works to tear everything in government down," Hosticka said. "He doesn't have any plans to make anything work any better, and he declines the opportunity when offered the chance."

The anti-Measure 1 campaign is widely supported by both liberals and libertarians. In fact, every political party in the state is opposed to Measure 1: the Democrats, the Republicans, and even Ross Perot's America's Peoples Party.

On the other side of the coin are an equally diverse group of supporters of Measure 1. They include liberals such as Hosticka and conservatives such as law school Dean and former state Attorney General Dave Frohn-mayer.

Hosticka supports the measure for three reasons.

"One, it will make the system better than it is. Two, I don't think we'll get a more progressive alternative in the future. Three, the most regressive thing you can do is let our state's public schools deteriorate," he said.

In support of Measure 1 along with Hosticka are also

some fairly conservative special-interest groups. Two examples are the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the Oregon Business Council.

The Oregon Business Council is an association of some of Oregon's largest businesses, including Nike, Tektronics and Portland General Electric. They've supported sales tax packages since the passage of Measure 5.

The Eugene Chamber of Commerce also supports Measure 1.

"It's not an ideal tax from a business perspective, but we recognize the value of our schools, and feel that it's the best available option," David Hauser of the chamber said.

Bowen also personally supports Measure 1. He was an intern in the state legislature last session and had an insider's view as to what went on there.

"Everyone's calling this a sales tax, but it's more complex than that," he said. "Yes, of course, there's a sales tax, but there's also a low-income tax credit for families. There's a spending cap on state government. There's an increase in corporate tax rates, and there's an additional reduction in property taxes."

"Unfortunately, the polls show that the general public is generally confused about what Measure 1 does."

The ASUO is prohibited by law from participating in state campaigns, but it has done its part for the process by registering more than 3,000 students to vote in Tuesday's election.

Elsewhere on campus there has been some student participation in the campaign, but "not a whole lot," said Phil Bentley, a co-organizer of the pro-Measure 1 group, Students for Oregon's Future.

Bentley's group of about 15 students has been doing some tabling on campus and has been canvassing campus precincts this past weekend passing out literature in

support of Measure 1.

"Students are taking a passive role in this election," Bentley said. "But while they may not like the idea of paying a sales tax, they'd spend less money paying sales taxes than they will pay in tuition increases if this doesn't pass."

By voting on this measure, many are hoping to send the Legislature a message. The question is, "Will the Legislature get the right message?"

Dwyer said voting no will "send a message to Salem that the people want tax fairness and tax equity."

However, Hosticka warned "if Measure 1 gets less than 40 percent of the vote, then the Legislature will go into a cutting mode."

Oregon Fair Share wants the Legislature to pass a more progressive tax proposal.

"We don't have any guarantee that the Legislature would do it, but we hope they'd go into a special session," Hartrich said.

On the possibility of a special session, Senate President Bill Bradbury has left little room for misunderstanding. When speaking to the City Club of Eugene early this fall he said that if Measure 1 failed there would not be a special session and the next tax proposal would have to come from the voters by way of the initiative process.

Hauser believes the Legislature can't come up with a workable tax reform package on their own.

"It will take all the major stakeholders sitting down in a room together and creating a plan they can all be satisfied with," he said. "That includes business, unions, legislators and citizens."

About the only thing that everyone seems to agree on is that this is not an ordinary sales tax proposal and that these are not ordinary times.

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