

Frohnmayr aids ASUO in voter registration drive

Robbie Reeves
Oregon Daily Emerald

Some students visiting Oregon Hall on Thursday received more than financial aid checks.

Several were offered the chance to register to vote by University President Dave Frohnmayr as a part of a new voter registration drive on campus.

The drive, sponsored by the ASUO, aims to register 8,000 voters at the University, said ASUO Vice President Mark Rhinard.

The drive will continue through Oct. 18, the deadline for registering to vote in the Nov. 8 election.

Frohnmayr was one of several University officials who registered voters during the financial aid disbursement at Oregon Hall.

Frohnmayr described registering to vote as a "tremendously important civic obligation," adding that it is an "act of civic participation that people should get used to early in their lives."

He said people are motivated to vote when they realize that "what happens at the ballot box does affect their lives."

About 2,500 people have already filled out voter reg-

istration cards, Rhinard said, a response that he described as "tremendous."

The ASUO will register spectators at football games at Autzen Stadium in conjunction with the continuing drive at Oregon Hall. A banner encouraging students to register to vote hangs above East 13th Avenue and University Street on campus.

Frohnmayr emphasized that while registering is important, it also is important for students to get out to vote on Election Day.

Rhinard agreed, noting that the ASUO will sponsor a voter education drive beginning Oct. 19. Among the events planned is an appearance by Oregon gubernatorial candidates John Kitzhaber and Denny Smith at an EMU rally Oct. 18.

The voter registration drive has been aided by agency-based voter registration, said Ryan Coontery, ASUO state affairs coordinator. Agency-based voter registration is a program that requires state agencies to make voter registration forms more available to the public.

Rhinard said that the agency-based voter registration efforts have supplemented those of the ASUO.

Candle causes Caswell fire

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A burning candle was the cause of a fire that damaged a room in a University residence hall Wednesday afternoon.

The fire, in Caswell Hall in Bean Complex, caused about \$3,000 in structural damage to the room, according to Mike Eyster, director of University Housing. No injuries were reported.

The residents of the room, Ryan Sommer and Michael Van Pelt, both freshman and new housing assignments, have been given temporary housing until the repairs are completed.

A bookcase and a wall of the room were damaged, according to Eyster. Smoke from the fire also filled the first floor of Caswell Hall.

According to Sommer, a television, videocassette recorder, telephone, compact discs and books were destroyed. The losses would be covered by his insurance policy, he added.

Sommer said that he lit the candle. Shortly after, both residents left the room.

When Sommer returned, he knew the candle had caused the fire.

"I felt sick to my stomach when I saw the fire trucks," he said.

Both Sommer and Van Pelt said the fire was an accident.

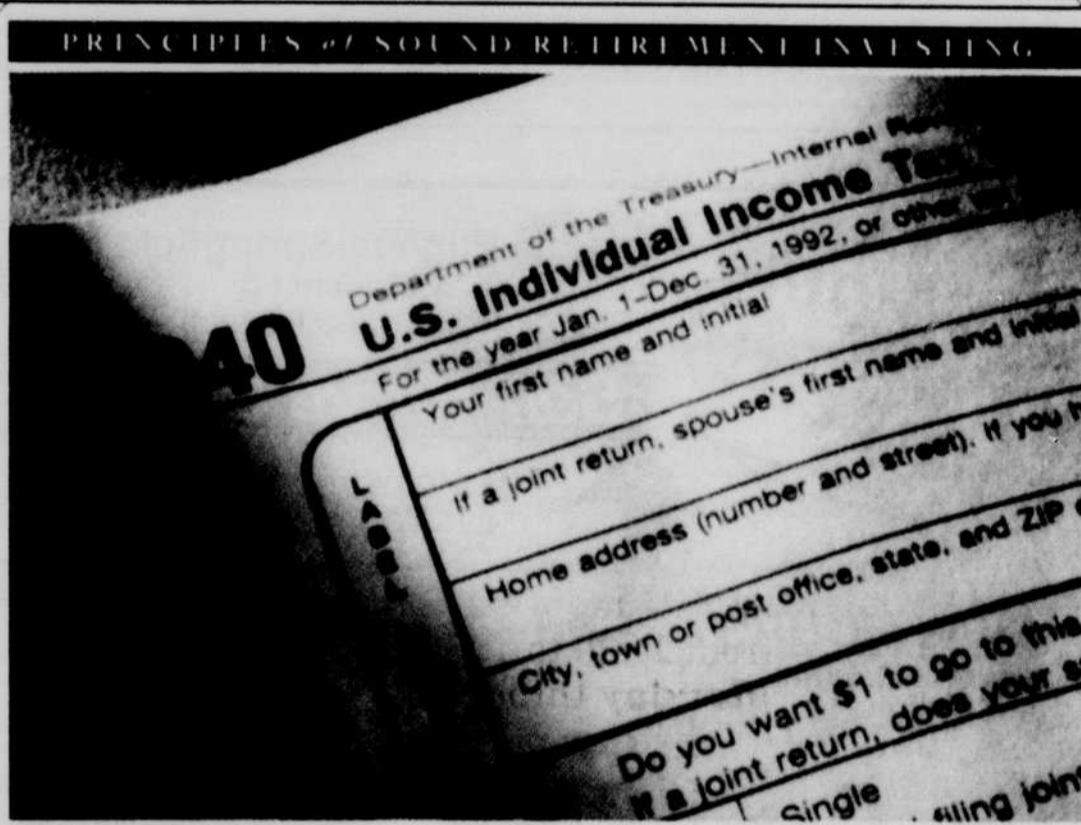
Workers from University Housing and the Physical Plant were able to begin the cleanup several hours after the fire and Eyster said he expected the repairs to be complete by early this week.

Burning candles are not allowed in University Housing for safety reasons, according to Eyster. However, Sommer said he did not know about the rule regarding candles.

Eyster said he hoped residents would learn from the incident. "Once an incident like this happens, people pay more attention" to regulations, he said.

Damage to the room was videotaped for use in training resident assistants for University Housing.

Eyster said resident assistants warn residents during hall meetings about the dangers of burning candles in the dorms.



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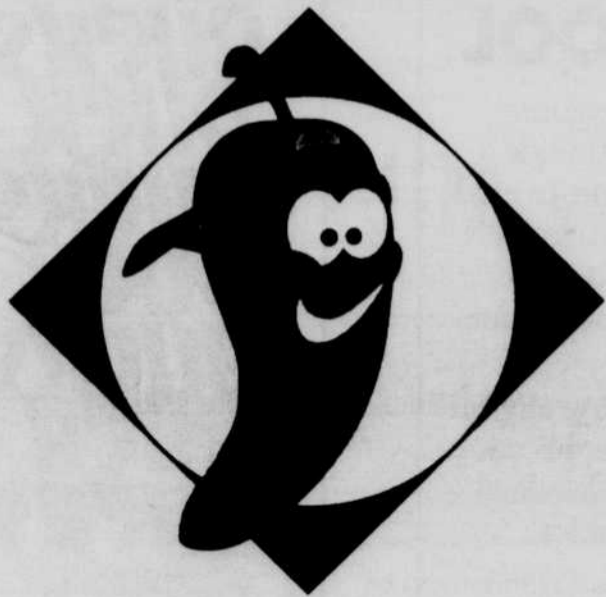
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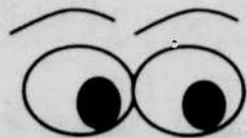
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