

Students learn activism at GROW training session

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

College students throughout Oregon spent the weekend at the University learning the skills of effective student activism.

More than 50 students attended the Grass Roots Organizing Weekends training session, which teaches students to overcome campus apathy, develop campaign strategies, build and organize coalitions and increase membership, reputation and funding.

"What we are talking about is direct action organizing," said GROW trainer Sabrina Smith.

Students had positive remarks about the program.

"If we have to fight a tuition increase,

we sure know how to go about it," said Mary Schra, a student government representative from Linn-Benton Community College.

The GROW session was one of 20-30 held at colleges throughout the country. GROWs are sponsored by an educational branch of the United States Student Association.

"What we teach is very common sense," Smith said. "It is a very systematic and strategic way of looking at issues and developing campaigns."

Three representatives from the Oregon legislature, Cynthia Wooten (D-41), Floyd Prozanski (D-40) and Kitty Piercy (D-39), stopped by the GROW session and spoke to the group on the future of higher edu-

cation in Oregon and offered the group some advice.

"Take what you learn this weekend and use it after you leave higher education," Prozanski said. "We are asking you to get involved now. Get involved and stay involved."

The intensive GROW workshops are patterned after a week-long seminar and pack more than 20 hours of education into one weekend.

"The sessions are long, but it was very educational and informative," said Claire Oliveros, a student at Western Oregon State College.

Each student paid \$40 to attend the program.

The USSA, which helps organize

GROW sessions, is the nation's oldest and largest student organization. The organization represents 3.5 million students at 350 public and private colleges and universities.

The USSA is the only organization in Washington, D.C., that lobbies on behalf of students. The group is concerned with educational access issues including financial aid, campus safety, civil rights and tuition rates. In Oregon the USSA works with student groups to lobby the legislature on behalf of the state's college and university students.

The University's USSA chapter lost student funding after last year's student election and depends on fund-raising efforts to survive.

Taste test: respondents prefer organic fruits and vegetables

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A taste test comparing organic and inorganic foods Thursday kept OSPIRG's Free the Planet/Earth Day campaign rolling at the University.

The "Pesti Challenge," a blind taste test comparing organic cucumbers, apples, green peppers and oranges with their inorganic counterparts, found that 70 percent of the respondents preferred the organic fruits and vegetables.

"We just want people to realize that Organic foods taste much better and are much better for you," said OSPIRG Earth Day campaign media coordinator Glenda Marshall.

Every year Oregon farms use 16 million pounds of pesticides, and 700 million pounds of pesticides are used nationwide, according to OSPIRG.

Nearly 50 people responded to the survey, and more than 90 percent said they would like to see

organic food choices in the dorm cafeterias and the Fish Bowl.

Nearly half of the respondents said they sometimes buy organic foods, and 95 percent said they would consistently buy organic food if its cost were closer to the cost of other foods, said Marshall.

OSPIRG volunteers will show the survey results to campus food service officials in hope of giving students organic food choices.

OSPIRG volunteers have been

working on the Free the Planet/Earth Day campaign all term, and the group is planning to intensify its efforts as Earth Day approaches.

"We're going to have events every week," Marshall said. "We are trying to get the campus involved. We need to work together to help the environment."

Earth Day was started by students in 1970, but Marshall said the day has been manipulated

by large corporations. Companies use the day as a public relations tool to boost profits, and "OSPIRG is trying to bring it back to its roots," she said.

The taste test, which uses fruits and vegetables donated from Oasis Fine Foods, will be offered again Thursday afternoon. OSPIRG plans to provide speakers and educational opportunities throughout the term to get students involved in Earth Day.

Bill may reduce alcohol, drug use in the workplace

SALEM (AP) — Workers fired for drug or alcohol violations would be unable to collect unemployment benefits under a bill that got its first airing Monday in a House committee.

Rep. Kevin Mannix, D-Salem, urged colleagues to approve his bill, saying it would crack down on people who use drugs or alcohol on the job while encouraging workers to seek help for chemical dependencies.

The bill, HB2322, also requires employers to have a written policy that lets workers know an assistance program for drug and alcohol abuse is available to them.

Opponents of the measure told the House Labor Committee the bill provides no rules for drug and alcohol testing.

"How are you going to determine if someone is impaired or using on the job?" said Irv Fletcher, president of Oregon AFL-CIO.

Fletcher said that without testing, it is difficult for employers to prove someone has been using drugs or alco-

hol on the job and that those workers likely would still qualify for unemployment benefits.

Mannix said he is trying to avoid a controversial battle over mandated drug testing in the workplace.

Instead, employers could determine that a worker was intoxicated by observing signs such as slurred speech or the smell of alcohol on the person's breath, he said.

"It's always a matter of evidence and facts. The employer would have to have evidence that you were discharged for drug and alcohol use on the job," Mannix said.

Clark Campbell, alcohol and drugs systems chief with the state Department of Human Resources, said the bill is a good idea because it encourages early treatment for drugs and alcohol and provides stiffer consequences for failing to obtain treatment.

"People who have more to lose tend to be more successful in treatment," Campbell said.

Mannix agreed.

Cold weather kills 2 men, farmers' crops

(AP) — Eastern Washington farmers made plans for overnight vigils in their orchards to try to save their crops from an Arctic freeze that gripped the region Monday.

The cold is believed to have caused the deaths of two Grays Harbor men, officials said Monday.

The wintry blast dumped snow on both sides of the state over the weekend but the weather was expected to moderate Tuesday, with temperatures climbing to seasonal norms by the end of the week, the National Weather Service said.

David Anaruk, 40, a disabled resident of Harbor Health Care Center in Aberdeen was found dead in his wheelchair about two blocks from the center Sunday afternoon, police said.

Kenneth Burkett, 51, of Hoquiam, died at Community Hospital after he was found unconscious Sunday in a yard at Arctic, near Highway 101, the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office reported.

Both men apparently died of hypothermia, exposure to cold, officials said.

Meanwhile, the storm that punched into the state Sunday, bringing snow and hurricane-force winds to some areas of Western Washington, began losing its fury Monday.

Left behind were sub-freezing temperatures just a week after spring-like record high temperatures.

Crops of Yakima Valley orchardists and Palouse-area grain farmers were the most vulnerable, after the false spring caused young plants to emerge from dormancy earlier than normal.

Utility crews throughout the region completed repairs Monday to electrical wires snapped by the storm that left tens of thousands of customers without power.

In the Yakima Valley, lows in the 5- to 10-degree range were expected Monday night. Temperatures below 10 degrees can quickly damage tender fruit-tree buds and wine grape vines, said Washington State University cooperative extension service agent Jack Watson of Prosser.

Yakima Valley fruit growers prepared to start large, windmill-like machines that draw higher, warmer air down to the orchard floor. The machines can raise orchard temperatures by as much as 10 degrees.

Others planned to fire up "smudge pots" and other types of orchard heaters.

February cold snaps are a part of farming in central Washington, he said.

"They expect cold injury in one out of every five years," Watson said. "People pencil that in when they're doing their estimates."

A sudden freeze in February 1989 destroyed about 800,000 acres of winter wheat.

Snow that could provide some insulation fell in the southern Palouse region Sunday and moved northward on Monday. That weather system was expected to leave the state by nightfall, the National Weather Service said. The agency forecast light winds and lows of zero to 15 Monday night in south and central Eastern Washington.

On the Olympic Peninsula, a section of Highway 101 was closed one mile north of Eldon in Mason County, where utility district repair crews were slowed by snowdrifts 20 inches deep.

High winds Sunday toppled trees on both sides of the Cascades, and trees crashed into houses near Vancouver and in Spokane.

No one was injured when a snow-covered Douglas fir snapped and fell onto the roof of William Ward's Vancouver home about 11 a.m. Sunday.

In Spokane, a 120-foot Ponderosa pine smashed into the roof of Courtney Baker's home at about the same time. The 17-year-old was not injured by the tree that came to rest less than six feet from her bed.

The Washington State Patrol's Vancouver office received calls on 290 accidents from midnight Saturday to 9 a.m. Monday. Most were weather-related.

No fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

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