

Strike it



More than 35 Eugene Peace Works protesters gathered in front of Weyerhaeuser on Tuesday to promote stricter recycling laws and to protest Weyerhaeuser's toxic waste dumping into the Willamette River.

ANDREA J. WRIGHT/Emerald

Frohnmayer: Budget plan may cut funds for colleges

Legislature: The president calls legislators' decision "alarming"

Colleen Pohl
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last week's recommendation by legislators to add \$100 million more to the governor's proposed budget for kindergarten through twelfth grade could translate into fewer dollars for higher education, University President Dave Frohnmayer said.

Because the money will come from General Fund and lottery dollars, the decision by the Joint Ways and Means Committee may result in fewer appropriations for higher education. Legislators are expected to decide in the next two weeks on the higher education budget for the next two years.

"This is quite alarming that a move of that magnitude is made without a sense of the architecture of the total budget," Frohnmayer said. "That very day, *The Oregonian* editorialized a 60-40 split, with 60 percent going to higher education."

Additionally, the executive committee of Associate

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High number of candidates could boost voter turnout

Elections: Only 12 percent of University students voted last year during primary elections

Natasha Shepard
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students can combat voter apathy today and Thursday by visiting the ballot box to vote in the ASUO primary elections.

Less than 2,000 votes were cast in the general election run-off for the executive seats last year. In the primary and general elections combined, only 12 percent of the University's student body voted.

But ASUO Elections Coordinator Jennifer Dziekan encourages students to vote because student senators and members of



the Programs Finance Committee allocate \$5 million of incidental fees.

Dziekan expects more students to vote in this year's elections because of the increased number of candidates running and the stand some candidates have taken on controversial issues.

There are 85 candidates on this year's ballot, more than double last year's count of 41.

While the number of candidates may increase voter turnout, costs also increase, she said.

Printing costs for the Voter's Guide and ballots exceeded last year's budget. Costs

for setup and takedown of the poll booths increases every year because the booths require more repair as they get older.

The ASUO Election Board also purchased a new ballot-counting computer program because the previous program was slow and less accurate, Dziekan said.

This year a total of \$2,400 was spent on the elections, \$200 more than what was originally budgeted.

Students can vote from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Thursday for the primary elections and during the same hours on Wednesday and Thursday of next week for the general elections.

Voting booths and tables will be located in the breezeway near the Walton Housing complex, at the law school near Kincaid Street, between Chapman and

Condon Halls, at 15th Avenue and University Street, Room 150 Columbia, outside Willamette Hall and near the Knight Library facing Kincaid Street.

During the primary elections, students vote for the ASUO Executive, Student Senate, EMU Board of Directors and ASPAC positions. Voters choose one executive ticket and the two top vote-getting tickets will be included in the general election.

For the academic senate seats, students vote only for seats representing their majors. Not all majors elect senators every year. Undeclared students should only vote for the undeclared academic seats and those students with a declared pre-major can vote for candidates for their intended major.

■ GOOD MORNING

► **LEONIA, N.J. (AP)** — He was sacked for swigging the Snapple he was supposed to be stocking in stores.

Now Kevin Simpkin has been seized for allegedly swiping a Snapple delivery truck while dressed in a Snapple deliveryman's uniform.

"He just has an uncontrollable appetite for Snapple beverages," Detective Lt. August Greiner said. "He even had a Snapple T-shirt depicting a bottle of iced tea under his uniform. This guy just loves Snapple."

Simpkin, 27, of Paterson stole the unmanned truck outside a supermarket in Fair Lawn on Monday, Greiner said. The truck hit a utility pole in Hillsdale and, when Simpkin continued toward New York City, intending to sell the truck and its contents, he made a wrong turn and got lost in Leonia, Greiner said.

The truck was stopped in Leo-

nia, where Simpkin and his 17-year-old nephew, who was with him, were arrested.

Greiner said Simpkin had recently lost his job with Snapple's distribution office in North Bergen because he sampled the merchandise.

► **TROY, Mich. (AP)** — Kmart Corp. is recalling 148,990 desk chairs that could come apart unexpectedly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington said the chairs were sold nationally by the discount retailer from July 1993 to last March for \$29.99. They were packaged in boxes labeled "Basic Designs adjustable office chair — Made in Taiwan," and carry product code 21-86-61.

The agency said the seat post could separate from the base. Kmart said it reported the flaw to the commission after it received seven reports of problems.

OPEU says strike almost certain

Wages: Disgruntled leaders from union say Ballot Measure 8 is only part of issue

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

Leaders from the Oregon Public Employees Union say that a strike vote will almost certainly be approved by members tonight.

"I think people are going to vote to strike," said Donna Clathar, spokeswoman for OPEU.

The strike comes after weeks of negotiating with the state for a wage increase.

Members of the union will vote tonight at Lane County Convention Center and 24 other locations around the state. The results of the show of hands ballot will be announced around 9 p.m. The first day the OPEU

could strike is May 6.

In the event of a strike, Oregon Hall, residents halls, the physical plant and most other departments around campus will be impacted. University officials have already begun preparations that would attempt to soften the affects of the strike. The Housing Department is considering closing the Hamilton Cafeteria and consolidating cooks and kitchen employees, said Mike Eyster, director of University Housing.

Union officials are emphasizing that the strike is not about Ballot Measure 8, although it is on everybody's mind. The real issue is that employees are lagging behind public and private sectors around the state.

Members are threatening to strike because they have not been able to negotiate a 6.5 percent pay raise with the state.

In the contract negotiated in 1993, the state said that if there

was surplus money in the budget, it would give the OPEU employees a cost of living increase, said Bart Lewis, University OPEU member. In July a wage reopener contract, allowing the union to negotiate for a cost-of-living increase before the current two year contract is up, came up for negotiation. The union asked for a cost of living adjustment that equaled 6 percent to make up for the pay freeze from 1993.

Lewis said that although Ballot Measure 8 isn't the driving factor behind the strike, he is not sure where the strike would be without that issue.

"Without Measure 8 we might not have been able to get the people to vote for a strike," Lewis said.

Union employees would not be as concerned about the cost of living adjustment if the impending 6 percent pay cut was not a factor.