

SPEECH: Wyden reinforced his need for student support to win the election

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fair that allowed students to educate themselves before voting.

"This event was organized by a bunch of students who feel it is extremely important for students to educate students," ASUO president Jennifer Williamson said.

Matthew Scotten, ASUO federal affairs coordinator, said it is important for students to vote in the election because Eugene is a swing-vote town, meaning its voting turnout could decide the election.

"We're doing everything we can between now and Tuesday to get students to vote," he said.

The latest news from Lane County Elections is that only 4 percent of people in the 18- to 35-year-old category have voted so far, Scotten said. If people have not received their ballots, they can contact Elections at

687-4234.

"If they haven't received a ballot by now, there's a problem," he said.

Once all the ballots are turned in, the turnout for this election will be watched by the rest of the country, Wyden said, to see how well special elections and mail-in balloting work.

Wyden seemed confident that this special election will show the nation that Oregon has put an end to negative campaigning.

"What we're going to do is show America that Oregon can campaign in the rain without slinging the mud," he told the audience, which was standing in the rain.

He also stressed that students must get involved and educate themselves.

"[That] students understand what's at stake here is fundamental," he said.

Wyden has promised to sup-

port federal financial aid for students, said Michael O'Leary, chairman of the College Democrats.

"Wyden's been on campus before and is really interested in letting students know he really does care," he said. "Wyden says he wants to make college tuition [tax] deductible."

Wyden said the University seems to support his campaign and reinforced his need for student support.

"The other guy's got all the money, but I've got you," he told the students. "And that's what I need."

Smith has based his campaign on lowering taxes, balancing the budget, reforming welfare and reducing the numbers of abortions, Neumannville said.

"He supported education in the [state] Senate," he said. "I think he thinks there need to be certain reforms."

Governor requests funds for jail space

BILL: Lane County could receive \$9.2 million to house state criminals

By Samantha Martin
Community Reporter

Gov. Kitzhaber answered questions at a Eugene town hall meeting Tuesday evening regarding his request from the State Legislature for an additional \$35.2 million to build rehabilitation centers and jail space throughout Oregon.

His request would be a 60 percent increase to implement Senate Bill 1145, which will mainly provide for the funding of almost 1,500 jail beds in 33 state counties. The governor will request the additional funding during a special legislative session on Feb. 1.

The bill, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 1997, calls for placing offenders sentenced to prison terms of 12 months or less to local jurisdictions, rather than to the state prison system.

Advocates of Senate Bill 1145 argue that the average length of stay for prisoners is only four and a half months, which they

claimed isn't enough time to successfully rehabilitate offenders.

If Kitzhaber's request for additional funds is granted, Lane County will receive \$9.2 million to build jail space and create a Public Safety Advisory Council to monitor the funding.

Kitzhaber said the bill, which is also known as the Partnership for Community Corrections, would "give local communities greater control [and] accountability ... and will begin the job of creating a community-based plan for crime prevention."

However, Rep. Floyd Prozanski, one of the many state representatives present at the meeting, said he is concerned that none of the funding is "being earmarked particularly for juveniles at risk ... even with the good intentions of the council."

"I'm concerned the money will be siphoned off [to other areas] and will not answer the questions we have concerns for in the long run," Prozanski said.

A few members of the audi-

ence voiced concerns that the \$94.2 million allocated to the state's counties might be used in areas other than what it was intended for. To this, Kitzhaber replied there was "nothing to ensure that that won't happen ... except the Public Safety Council."

One Eugene resident, Jim Hargraves, also expressed his dissatisfaction with the current focus of crime prevention.

"There's always talk about early intervention that works its way into conversation but never makes its way into dollars," Hargraves said. "My cynical belief is that is exactly where it will stay."

According to the State Department of Administrative Services, the Oregon prison population is expected to increase from approximately 7,584 prisoners in July of 1995, to 11,346 by July of 1999.

The department also forecasts an expected population of 18,168 prisoners in Oregon by July of 2005 if systematic changes are not implemented.

Notorious narcotics gang goes to trial

CRIME: The Gangster Disciples are charged with everything from murder to money laundering in six-year spree

CHICAGO (AP) — The cramped seafood joint, tucked between a liquor store and beauty parlor, hardly offered the bounty of the ocean: a few chairs, a few customers, a few kinds of fish listed on a board.

But federal authorities say the small South Side storefront was, in fact, a hub for a big business — a multimillion-dollar drug ring run by the city's largest, most notorious gang.

June's Shrimp On The Nine, authorities claim, was the place collectors for the Gangster Disciples dialed for dollars, phoning drug-dealing members, pressuring them to turn in "street taxes," a cut of their gross.

But the feds were listening and watching, here and everywhere the Disciples reigned.

On Monday, their six-year campaign against the gang culminates in its first major test, a drug conspiracy trial that they hope will be the beginning of the end of the Disciples — perhaps America's largest gang, with as many as 30,000 members in 35 states.

The name Gangster Disciples smacks of drugs, murder and money laundering. But it doesn't begin to suggest this organization's reach; its ten-

tacles extend behind the walls of some of the toughest prisons, authorities say, to the hip-hop world of concert promotions to polling places to the gritty streets where kids wear jackets that feature the gang's imprisoned chairman.

"They're one of the most successful, illegal home-grown corporations in the modern American underground economy," says George Knox, a Chicago State University professor who studies the Disciples and rival gangs. "They're trying to make a fortune through crime."

Knox estimates the gang's annual drug revenues — mostly from cocaine — at more than \$100 million.

What sets the gang apart, authorities say, is its nightmarish reflection of corporate America. Far from being a loose band of thugs, it runs like a Fortune 500 company, with a chairman, one board of directors in prison and another on the streets, governors and other titled functionaries.

Police say no criminal organization has been so conspicuous in Chicago since Prohibition, when Al Capone ruled the city's underside.

"We're not only talking about running drugs," says police Commander Donald Hilbring, who heads gang investigations. "We're talking about running as many businesses as they can. We're talking about politics. They want to control the entire community. It's the same thing as Capone."

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