

UO, OSU student body presidents endorse Wyden in senatorial race

■ CANDIDATES: Both student leaders hope the statements will encourage more students to vote

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Senatorial candidate Ron Wyden received endorsements Thursday from ASUO President Jennifer Williamson and Oregon State student body President Jon Isaacs.

Williamson said she and Isaacs made the endorsements to encourage student voting.

"Only 4 percent of the precinct that includes the dorms at the UO has voted," she said.

Because Lane County's votes can determine the outcome of the election, Williamson said student voting is especially important.

She said she is supporting

Wyden because of his views on a variety of issues.

Isaacs said he endorsed Wyden and not Smith because of Smith's environmental and higher-education voting records.

"Gordon Smith is the only candidate who has voted to raise tuition," he said. "[But] Ron Wyden has actively worked with students from Oregon colleges and universities, even those outside his district, to save college loans and grants."

Williamson said her endorsement was affected not only by her desire to see more students vote, but also by her experiences at the hubs of government.

"As a student leader who has worked in both Salem and Washington, D.C., I have seen the difference a senator supportive of higher education can make," she said. "In the current budget crisis in Washington,

students have been the victims of major financial aid cuts."

She said Wyden has been an advocate for students' rights in the House of Representatives.

Williamson said that while she made her endorsement as the ASUO president, it does not necessarily reflect the views of all ASUO members. "My staff cannot endorse," she said.

Because she was elected to her position, however, Williamson said she can go public in supporting Wyden.

Williamson said Frontlash, a student branch of the AFL-CIO labor organization, will be working with the ASUO to drive people who have not yet received their ballots to Lane County Elections on Jan. 30. Students can be picked up in front of the University Bookstore at the Frontlash table.

Abortion: RU-486 due in front of FDA this year

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Smutz said the lack of controversy surrounding the celebration surprised her. However, she said much of that has to do with the pro-choice environment of Eugene and the University.

"This is a pro-choice community," she said. "People don't usually come to argue."

State Representative Kitty Piercy, one of the celebration's speakers, reaffirmed the importance of Roe v. Wade.

"Abortion rights is the law of the land," she said. "You and all women have a right to choose."

The struggle to maintain abortion rights may be in jeopardy because insurance companies and realtors do not want to protect abortion providers nor their buildings, Piercy said.

"A verbal group of religious extremists has created an atmosphere of fear," she said. "I lament that we still have to fight."

Piercy urged women to join others and make women's rights a top priority.

"We need you with us, and we need you now," she said.

Kappy Eaton, president of the Women's Rights

Coalition and an attendee at last year's United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing, addressed problems facing women throughout the world.

Eaton said the battle for women's rights extends past the abortion issue. Sexual mutilation and the killing of girls in places such as India and China inhibit a successful fight for women's empowerment.

"Our celebration must be tempered by reality in this country and by the lack of choices for our sisters in the rest of the world," Eaton said. "We have to start not only in our country, but also worldwide."

Sandy Marie Harvey, a University professor and member of the Center for Study of Women in Society, discussed both the clinical and personal aspects of RU-486.

The pill, which causes the body to abort a fetus, is legal in France, China, Britain and Sweden. The pill will be considered by the Food and Drug Administration for American legalization some time this year, Harvey said.

"The push is to get it approved while Clinton is still in office," she said.

Budget: Committee zero-funds one group

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weren't ready to accommodate the large crowds.

"We ran out of food and we had people still trying to get in," Sugiyama said.

While some board members argued that the amount requested for the reception was too high, others said the sum was warranted.

"[APASU's events are] really some of the most successful programming going on in this school," said PFC member Chris Kantrowitz.

The Department of Education, Leadership, Technology and

Administration/Graduate Student Organization (DEPM/GSO) was also scheduled to appear before the board on Thursday evening.

However, as part of a resolution passed earlier in the week, the board voted to zero-fund the organization as they failed to attend the hearing. The DEPM/GSO, as well as any other organizations who miss their scheduled time, can appeal to have their proposal heard before the board at the end of the budget season.

The PFC lowered the proposal of the American Institute of

Architecture Students by four percent from \$793 to \$761, decreasing their printing and duplication costs. Board member Sean Martin said he didn't think the group needed to make as many copies.

Dance Oregon, an organization that helps bring guest artists and speakers to campus, and the Disability Services Project, which works to meet the needs of disabled students, both had their budgets approved as requested. The proposals, .045 percent and zero percent increases, were for \$4,411 and \$10,100, respectively.

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