

Volunteers to gather signatures toward minimum wage increase

■ **INITIATIVE:** Volunteers will target high-traffic areas such as grocery stores and libraries

By Sherry Rainey
Community Editor

The Minimum Wage Coalition will sponsor a signature-gathering blitz on Saturday for the ballot initiative to increase the minimum wage.

The initiative would raise the minimum wage in steps from its current level of \$4.75 per hour to \$6.50 per hour by 1999.

The first public event for the coalition will begin and end at the International Association of Machinists/Woodworkers Local 246W Union Hall, 1116 S. A Street, Springfield from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this weekend.

The coalition has been planning for this event since

November, said John Gever, a member of the Minimum Wage Coalition.

"We're ready to go out and do some real work for the campaign," Gever said.

Volunteers will gather at the union hall at 10 a.m. and receive training in signature-gathering and location assignments. Actual signature gathering will take place from about 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at high-traffic locations, such as major grocery stores and public libraries. Volunteers will return to the union hall to return petitions and share their experiences. The event will conclude by 2 p.m.

The state coalition has set a goal of 105,000 signatures by the July deadline for placing the initiative on the November ballot.

For more information, call Joy Marshall at 344-6095 or John Gever at 485-8499.

Senate adds four members to its board

■ **ASUO:** Senate fills openings and transfers \$500 to OSA account

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

The ASUO Student Senate added four new members to its board and approved a special request by the Office of Student Advocacy during its meeting on Wednesday night in the EMU Board Room.

After multiple resignations, the 18-member Senate was able to fill all its openings, confirming the choices of ASUO Vice-President Zach Kelton, who headed the long application process.

The four candidates, seniors Tracey Burnside, Chad Cruchley, Brian Schamp and freshman Rebecca Starble, emerged from a field of 35 applicants for five positions. Junior Bart Alexander was appointed in the other position, a Program Finance Committee at-large member, at Monday's PFC meeting.

"These four people are the most qualified and most dedicated

applicants for the positions and I strongly recommend you endorse them tonight," Kelton said.

The applicants each briefly described their reasoning for applying for the positions and fielded questions from the rest of the board.

Schamp, who has served as ASUO Comptroller and on the KWVA Board of Directors in previous years, said he felt a duty to apply for the position since he already knew student government so well.

"I felt some obligation to apply because I did have the experience," he said.

Schamp originally applied for the PFC position but was appointed as a finance senator by Kelton, which means he will serve on both the Senate and the finance committee.

The other three positions filled were academic senators in the areas of Arts and Letters/Journalism (Burnside), Undeclared (Starble) and Science (Cruchley).

The Senate also approved a transfer of \$500 to OSA's account

on Wednesday. Mary Lewis, OSA Administrative Assistant Director, said the money was needed to hire a new student assistant who had no work study.

"We simply want to move money from one student employee account to another," she said.

After a 25-minute recess, the Senate Rules Committee turned down a motion to repeal a Senate law which bars the board from sending voting representatives to the University Senate, the body which holds legislative power at the University.

The law was passed last spring in response to the University Assembly's resolution to limit the number of student representatives on the University Senate from 19 to five. Martin Fisher, Student Senate president, said the nine academic senators will attend the University Senate meeting on Feb. 14, but will not vote.

"Nine people will be showing up and voicing their opinions and that will weigh on the [University] Senate in the future," Senator Doug Baker said.

Student shares in experience of new Guatemalan elections

■ **CHANGE:** As an elections official, Joel Rea experienced the violent revolution first-hand

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

Recent Guatemalan elections have given the country "the first real chance at democracy," but a "shadow of a doubt" still exists, University student Joel Rea said Wednesday night.

Speaking to about 20 students in the Multicultural Center, Rea discussed his trip to Guatemala as an elections official.

"They gave us a really good political overview," he said. "We were loaded with information."

On Nov. 12, 1995, Guatemala allowed its first democratic election in 35 years, a dramatic change in Guatemalan politics.

"Usually, the army has strict control over the government," Rea said. "This is a complete, 180-degree turn from that."

However, Rea warned the audience that the elections do not necessarily mean an end to the country's political unrest.

"There are some hard-liners who are very reluctant to give up control," he said. "It's very possible that they will arrange to have certain people done away with." He expected prominent military officials to be potential targets for violence.

There are also some concerns with the actual voting process.

Shortly after midnight on Nov. 13, most of the country experienced a complete loss of electricity. Some of the ballots were still being counted and the possibility of fraud is very real, Rea said.

"People are scared in that country," he explained. After the power outage, many ballot counters may have abandoned their ballots, leaving open the possibility of theft.

"The blackout cast a shadow of a doubt on the peace process, which cast a shadow of a doubt on the new government," he said.

Tension from the elections exploded into some isolated incidents of violence. A U.N. office was "sprayed with machine-gun fire," and there were some other protests, Rea said.

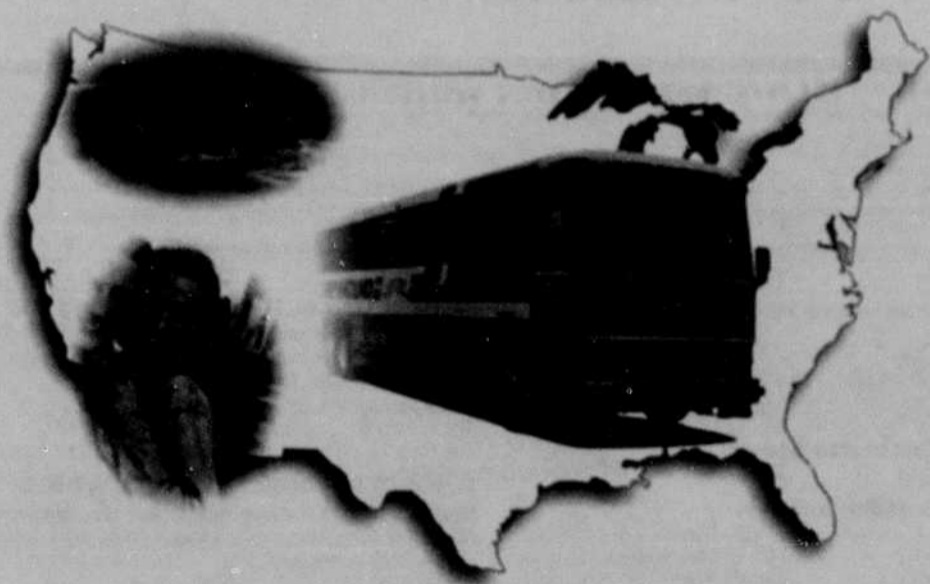
"These were real minor things, considering the history of Guatemala," he said.

Rea and 40 other Americans acted as supervisors during the elections. Their main duty was to patrol certain precincts and prevent fraud. The Guatemalan people usually did not mind the outside elections officials.

"You just don't find gringos walking around small towns on election day," he said.


For more information about the University's involvement in Guatemala, contact the Oregon/Guatemala Sister University Project at sisteru@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

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MISCELLANEOUS

National Student Exchange has applications available in Room 164 Oregon Hall until Feb. 16. For more information, call 346-3211.

ASUO and Associates Student Presidents Advisory Committee will sponsor a forum today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-0629.

Oregon Humanities Center and Coleman-Guitteau Professorship will sponsor a public lecture by Jayne Lewis titled "La Fontaine Among the Ladies: Fables in Translation from Anne Finch to Marianne Moore" with a reception following today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Maple Room. For

more information, call 346-1002.

MEETINGS

Asian/Pacific-American Student Union will meet today from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-3432.

EMU Board of Directors will meet for a budget hearing today from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in EMU Century A. For more information, call 346-3720.

Program Finance Committee will meet for a budget hearing today at 6 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-0623.

USA will meet tonight from 6 to 8 in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4207.