

Feeling inadequate, boys?



Spreading the message about safe sex, a giant condom passes out smaller condoms to students along 13th street Monday afternoon. The free condoms were sponsored by the University Health Center to remind students to always practice safe sex and that Valentine's Day is also National Condom Day.

ANDREW BRACKENBICK/EMERALD

Students attend Feminist Expo '96

■ **CONFERENCE:** Representatives from the ASUO and Project Saferide return with suggestions for improving campus safety

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

Five thousand women congregated in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2 through 4 to ignite the feminist movement's involvement in affirmative action, the federal budget, voter mobilization and political empowerment.

College students from across the United States attended Feminist Expo '96. Three women — ASUO President Jennifer Williamson, Project Saferide Co-director Jenna Wasson and Women's Center Diversity Coordinator Daniela Diaz — represented the University at the conference.

Williamson addressed the assembly at a general conference presentation. She discussed various voter-registration workshops and "Get Out the Vote" projects.

"The University is ahead of everyone else as far as the way we organize the voter-registration drive," Williamson said. "We're nationally recognized for the work we do campus-wide, as well as the work we do in both student government and the administration."

Williamson said she received many positive comments following her presentation.

"Feedback was really good," she said. "It was great."

Aside from presenting her speech, Williamson met with several prominent feminist leaders.

"I got a call Saturday morning [of the conference] saying, 'Can you do the 9:30 presentation with Gloria Steinem?'" Williamson said. "I was like, OK, sure. So I hopped out of bed and gave a five-minute presentation following Gloria Steinem on financial aid and the way cuts in public financial aid disproportionately affect women."

Williamson said she spoke with Steinem the next day about the Ron Wyden Senate campaign.

Jenna Wasson attended several conference sessions, some of which dealt with violence against women.

"I went because I thought I would have a chance to meet with other women from other campuses and discuss issues about women's safety and violence against women," Wasson said. "The ability to meet and hear these amazing feminist leaders talk is something we don't get a lot of on the West Coast."

Exchanging ideas with women from other campuses will benefit the University in the future, Wasson said.

"We all got a lot out of it," she said. "I have some really good ideas for things I want to do on this campus."

Some of Wasson's ideas include better lighting on campus, more emergency call boxes that have lights, more OPS walking patrols and more women on the campus police force.

"This school is not doing very much at all for women," Wasson said. "I would like to see the administration do something about the safety for women."

Both Williamson and Wasson said they plan on discussing Expo issues on campus some time soon.

"We're going to do several presentations on things we learned there," Williamson said. "We're going to bring these resources back to the campus."

Funding to attend the Expo came from a number of different resources, including the President's Fund, a surplus in Saferide's account and Women's Center funds.

"There were little bits and pieces from different University departments that helped us pay for it," Williamson said.

Daniela Diaz was unavailable for comment.

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