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Senate approves memorial library

■ **ASUO:** The library will honor the two students who died on the North Sister earlier this year

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

The ASUO Student Senate approved a member to the EMU Board, heard special requests from five different University groups and approved the goal statement of the Southeast Asian-American Student Association in the EMU Board Room on Wednesday night.

The Senate allocated a \$5,000 start-up fee to the ASUO executive, which will distribute the funds to the ASUO Outdoor Program.

Dan Geiger, the Outdoor Program's associate coordinator said the group plans to open a library in honor of the two University students who died while climbing on the North Sister earlier this year.

The Allard and Casey Memo-

rial Safety Library will emphasize and offer outdoor safety technology, such as cellular phones and avalanche probes. Books and videos will also serve as educational components.

"Nothing can bring Frank [Allard] and Michael [Casey] back," Geiger said. "But the question that arose is 'what can we do to prevent this from happening again?'"

Other Student Senate decisions Wednesday night included:

- Senate members voted unanimously to confirm Kimberly Guevara as the new EMU Board member.

- The Multicultural Center went before the Senate to request a \$1,850 transfer of funds from an unused GTF stipend. The money would go toward still-undecided purchases, center representatives said.

However, the Senate voted to postpone the decision until next week.

"The request is really vague," Senate President Martin Fisher

said. "I'd like to see exactly, or kind of exactly, where [the money] is going."

- The ASUO executive and the Elections Board received \$2,963 for four new voting booths, ballots, and increased ads and materials.

Elections Board representatives said the extra funds will help their group maintain a professional appearance.

"The booths say a lot about ASUO and who we are," said Elections Board representative Andrew Bridgen. "This will make voting more accessible to students."

- University Day, an annual University beautification event, received \$1,000. These funds will go toward the purchase of T-shirts given to University Day participants.

- The Senate referred a transfer of \$788 to the Computer Technology Support Committee so the Office of Student Advocacy may purchase a new computer.

Survey shows positive reaction to mail-in ballot

■ **RESEARCH:** In a survey, 15 percent of voters preferred traditional voting polls

By Samantha Martin
Community Reporter

The results of a University professor's research shows that voting by mail in the last election was favored by those surveyed.

Priscilla Southwell, associate professor of political science, was granted \$21,600 in research funds from the National Science Foundation to research the Jan. 30 mail-in ballot that filled Packwood's vacant senate seat.

According to results, 76 percent of the 1,200 voters in the survey responded favorably to the mail-in process.

"Voting by mail allows for more time to make a decision," Southwell said. "It's also mainly for ease and convenience."

Also, voting by mail was favored because of conflicting job responsibilities and safety from inclement weather.

However, 15 percent preferred traditional voting via polling places for nostalgic and other reasons.

"Most people thought that vote-by-mail demeaned the act of voting ... the act made it too casual," Southwell said. "People were also concerned about voter fraud and the loss of a sense of community."

When asked whether there was any pressure to vote a certain way if another person was in the room while filling out the ballot, only 1.4 percent of those surveyed said they felt any pressure.

Southwell said that prior to the survey, both Republicans and Democrats expressed a concern that voting by mail was going to favor one party over another. However, Southwell's research gave no indication that the process favored any party.

All in all, while Southwell's survey determined that persons voting by mail are no different from those opting to vote at polling places, results did show such variants as people who vote by mail tend to more likely be a minority, a single parent, registered as an independent and more likely to identify their work status as "keeping house."

Research also found that support for voting by mail was particularly strong among women, people under the age of 25 and over the age of 65 and those who had recently moved.

Sorority throws pie in the face of illiteracy

■ **FUND-RAISER:** Pi Beta Phi sponsored a pie feed that raised over \$600 to help Links for Literacy

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

Pi Beta Phi sorority wanted to participate in the war against illiteracy.

They sponsored a pie feed for the cause at their house last night.

"It's just something sort of catchy," said Julie Howry, vice president of moral advancement

for the sorority. "For college students, two dollars for all the pie you can eat — people are pretty up to that."

Pi Beta Phi will donate all the money they raise to Links for Literacy, a group of local organizations that teach people to read. The pie feed raised over \$600.

The sorority paid for the pies "out of their own pockets," according to Laura Nelson, a Pi Beta Phi member. So, every dollar raised will go directly to Links for Literacy.

Most of the pies were bought

from grocery stores and restaurants, although the sorority did make some of their own, Nelson said.

"Any kind of pie you can think of we probably have it," she said. "There's just all kinds of pies."

This is the first annual Pi Beta Phi pie feed, Howry said. The idea came from a traveling consultant to the sorority and has been used in other chapters around the country. And it's not just a coincidence that Pi Beta Phi would hold a pie feed.

"It may have been a pun off our name," Nelson said.

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