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TODAY

Voter registration cards must be to elections office by 5 p.m. today to be eligible to vote in the up-coming elections.



INSIDE

City leaders get a first-hand look at issues facing West University community residents

Oregon's US West Teacher Network will connect educators statewide on the Internet

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WEATHER

Partly sunny.
High 65. Low 45.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

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UO student's death shocks his friends

■ **WOODLAND:** The former ASUO presidential candidate never told his friends he had cancer

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Editor

A University student active in student government died of cancer two weeks ago.

Ernie Woodland, a non-traditional student who ran on the ASUO presidential ticket in 1994, was involved in student government both at the University and at Lane Community College, where he was student body president in 1991.

Valerie Lewis, who knew Woodland through the Returning Student Association, said his death came as a shock to her because he did not tell friends he had cancer.

"To find out that Ernie died of cancer alone in a nursing home shocked all of us," she said.

About two weeks before his death, Woodland came to campus to visit old friends and acquaintances, none of who knew about his impending death. Those who saw him said he was thin and subdued — a shadow of his former self.

"I think he came to touch bases with everything that was important to him and in his own private way [he] was saying goodbye," said Valerie Lewis, director of the Returning Student Association.

Woodland's friends said he was a dynamic leader who struggled with his identity.

"He was always in search of his niche, of his place in society," one of his friends, Mary Ann Fabry said.

A memorial service has not been scheduled for Woodland.

Architects challenge assumptions



Eldad Vered holds up his daughter Michelle to touch the wrapping placed on the Pioneer Father Statue Sunday afternoon by landscape architecture students.

■ **WORKSHOP:** Students use universal design concepts to raise awareness of cultural differences

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Editor

For anyone who tripped on the orange string stretched across 13th Avenue on the way to class yesterday — or for anyone who discovered any of the other interesting creations that appeared around campus over the weekend — there is a meaning to all the madness.

Students in a Landscape Architecture workshop created designs last weekend intended to promote building designs that reflect cultural differences, said Stan Jones, assistant professor of landscape architecture.

Students worked in teams and used universal design concepts to create structures that will help people see how our environment affects people, Jones said. Universal design creates structures that are user friendly for people from minority cultural and economic backgrounds. The designs invite everyone to interact with their environment, he said.

"The point was to create the built environment in such a way [that] it would cause people to look at the environment and to look at themselves in a different way," Jones said.

He hopes the students' creations will raise awareness of different cultural perspectives.

"[The workshop is] attempting to communicate the idea that there are multiple perspectives of our culture and that not everyone values [it] in the same way," he said.

Most buildings are built from

Turn to **WORKSHOP**, Page 8

Low voting turnout among students is statewide problem



■ **POLITICS:** This year 16 percent of the campus population voted in UO elections, marking a trend of apathy

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Each spring, the campus becomes a political playground for students hoping to begin careers that will lead them to Salem and beyond. They walk the campus, passing out fliers, buttons and campaign catch-phrases.

And each spring, students use this information to decide who will allocate their money and watch out for their interests at the state and federal levels.

But the students deciding these races comprise only a minority of the campus. With 16 percent of students voting in this year's general election, students were able to beat the last turn-out record for a student election of 14.9 percent in 1992's

student primary.

This kind of minority rule has become the norm, not just on this campus, but also at other Oregon State System of Higher Education four-year institutions.

Brandon Smith, a member of the ASUO Elections Board, said this kind of low-level turnout is normal throughout the nation, where turnouts average around 14 percent in student elections. "On a national level, at least for the Northwest, we're about like other schools," he said.

Ed Dennis, the director of the Oregon Student Lobby, said one reason turnout is low at colleges is that students often don't see how campus politics affects their college experiences.

"Students don't often see the connection between their money and all the programs ASUO funds," he said.

He said voter turnout in student elections mirrors a trend in voter turnout in all elections, whether local or national.

The majority of OSSHE four-year institutions, he said, have a voter turnout somewhere between 10 and 20 percent in student elections. The voter turnout for these schools depends on a number of variables, he said.

"It depends on the year, the activity level, whether or not the race is contested," he said.

The school that usually has the highest voter turnout is Western Oregon State College, he said. There, turnout level is more than 20 percent.

Dennis said this level of turnout can be attributed to the fact that if less than 10 percent of students vote in a given election, that election doesn't count and has to be retried.

Although this makes it difficult for off-season races, Dennis said, it generally benefits students because the incentive is there for student government members to actively educate students about elections and how they affect students and their

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■ **TODAY:** Comparing election turnout
■ **WEDNESDAY:** Publicizing the elections
■ **THURSDAY:** Where your money is going
■ **FRIDAY:** Looking at this year's ASUO