

Politics: Inadequate advertising results in uninformed students

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dollars.

"It gets everybody and their brother getting people to the polls and educating them about the elections," he said.

Smith said other possible reasons for low turnout at the University include incoming and outgoing student populations, minimal advertising for elections, weather and student apathy.

Non-traditional students who live off campus and do not spend time outside of class at the University may not vote because their lives are not campus-centered, he said.

Students who are leaving school often don't vote because they aren't going to be around under the new administration, and new students may not vote because they don't have much information about what the elections are for or how they affect students, he said.

"One thing you always get is that x number of the school is seniors," he said. "You take incoming students and students who are leaving and that's 1/3 of the campus right there who doesn't know or doesn't care about what's going on."

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Students don't often see the connection between their money and all the programs ASUO funds.
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— Ed Dennis
ASUO Elections Board member

Another reason why voter turnout may be low, Smith said, is because of lack of advertising. The budget for elections, which is about \$9,500, is not enough money to adequately publicize upcoming elections and their purpose on campus, he said.

Some of these problems, he said, could have been minimized by the Elections Board. Each year, new board members come in to oversee the elections process, but little or no transition information is left for incoming board members, he said. This makes it hard for the board to know what works and what doesn't when it comes time for students to vote.

Smith said because of this, the Elections Board plans to work on creating transition materials before they leave office on May 8.

Rural restaurant receives large loan from Lane Council

Rumps-N-Ribs, a new restaurant in Oakridge, recently received a Rural Business Development Fund loan from the Lane Council of Governments.

RBDF is designed to benefit small rural businesses in Lane County and attract new jobs and investment in the county's rural communities.

The funds that Rumps-N-Ribs received will help finance the start-up of the business and will add four additional jobs to the area. Rumps-N-Ribs will be a full-service steak house restaurant open for lunch and dinner

COMMUNITY briefs

seven days a week.

The RBDF program is available to rural Lane County businesses and can finance up to 75 percent of a project at below-market rates. Private investors will finance 25 percent of the project, and the RBDF loan program will finance the remaining 75 percent needed for the start-up of the business.

For more information about the program or other business loans provided by the Lane Council of Governments, call Debbie Wright at 984-7450.

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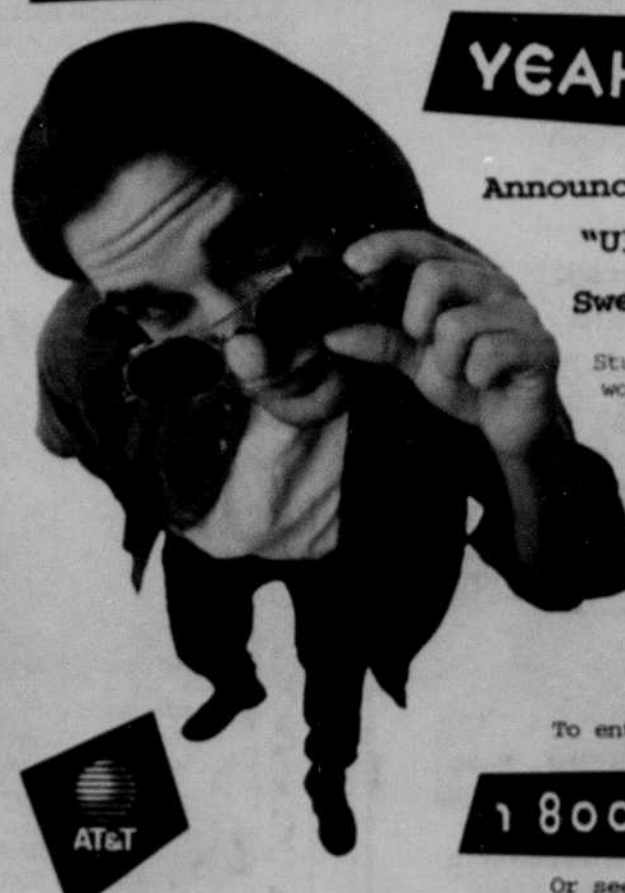
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