

Students' input gives candidate ideas

■ **FORUM:** Campus leaders give Myers a picture of student issues

By Dawn Paugh
Community Reporter

The issue of student incidental fees was one of five that ASUO and OSPIRG representatives explained to Attorney General democratic candidate Hardy Myers in the EMU Thursday.

"I wanted to get an update of the issues of concern at the state level and to meet the student University leaders," he said.

An attorney general acts as a lawyer for the University, Myers said.

University students told Myers about five issues concerning them:

- **Incidental fees** — A group of about 15 University students and former students is suing a growing list of people whose titles range from the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to both this year and last year's ASUO president and vice-president.

This group claims its free speech rights were and continue allegedly to be violated when fees are used for organizations they do not support, said Cheryl Hunter, ASUO executive coordinator.

- **OSPIRG** — The OSPIRG

incidental fee is targeted as the organization that is violating free speech. In addition, OSPIRG has guidelines that are based on state law, but the legislature wants to rewrite the guidelines to exclude OSPIRG from this funding, Hunter said.

"It's part of a national trend with different groups across the nation," said Kalpana Krishnamurthy, chairwoman of OSPIRG statewide board of directors.

ASUO supports OSPIRG because it is a recognized ASUO fee-funded program.

- **Gag rule** — The gag rule is an amendment that says organizations receiving federal funding be prohibited from lobbying, Hunter said.

"If we can get state senators to be pro-higher education, then we've done our job," said Bill Minor, ASUO student senate elect.

"With the gag rule, our hands are tied," said ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Leslie Gray.

"If we lose the input with politicians, they don't know the climate we live in," she said. "By inflicting the gag rule, they won't have the opportunity to talk to us."

- **Code of Conduct** — Myers asked the portion of ASUO representatives and students around him what is happening with the University's code of

conduct. Gray said the University administration is working on changing the language of the code. Unwanted sexual behavior and the hearing process are two parts she says she thinks are in revision.

- **Higher education and financial aid** — Myers also asked the students how much they personally owe in loans and what the statistics are on how many students receive financial aid. The students informed him that too many grants are being eliminated, including one called the State Student Incentive Grant.

Concluding the caucus, ASUO Government Relations Director Bill Easton asked Myers what they as students can do to influence state legislature.

"I would suggest finding one or more people in the legislature willing to spend time on [these issues]," Myers said. "There are some people who will not understand."

He also suggested they find organizations that carry some weight for student's opinions.

"If elected, he'll have a better understanding of what the concerns of students are in the state government," Hunter said. "And based on his conversation today, he seems open to continuing those conversations as attorney general."

Events to spotlight Eugene's historic sites

■ **PRESERVATION:** Tours and speeches are among the many events planned for the weekend celebration of history

By Brian Diamond
Freelance Reporter

This week marks the 23rd annual National Historic Preservation Week. The event, which takes place May 12 through May 19, is an effort to raise awareness in the community about the importance of maintaining historic landmarks.

In honor of the celebration, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be sponsoring several events in the Eugene/Springfield area. Fifteen historical sights in Eugene and Springfield will be involved in activities ranging from walking tours of Eugene's historic district to speeches by members of the community. All events are open to the public.

Highlights of the weekend include Saturday's "Communi-TEA," an open house at the Maude Kerns Art Center located at 1910 E. 15th Avenue.

According to a representative from the Art Center, "[The event] is an opportunity for people in the community to come together and view some art in a social setting."

The Maude Kerns Art Center, which housed in the oldest standing church building in Eugene, is currently being remodeled. In addition to viewing art, community members are invited to do a little painting of their own on the outside of the building. This event will take place from 2 to 4 p.m.

Other events Friday include the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Lane Applegate Trail, a historic walking trail in Skinner Butte Park. The celebration will be an all-day hike with ceremonies honoring historic sites along the way. Those interested in participating should meet at the Skinner's Cabin Replica near Cheshire and Lawrence Streets at 8:30 a.m. for opening dedications. The group will return to Eugene around 5 p.m.

Historic Preservation Planner Ken Guzowski said, "[We hope to] increase the community's awareness about Eugene's historical sights."

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