

Fox plans to run for House seat

Two University alumni will go head-to-head in the campaign race for House Seat No. 41

By Michael Burnham
Community Editor

The race is on, and the starting gun was fired at the University.

The race to fill Seat No. 41 in the Oregon House of Representatives just got another candidate as University graduate Norm Fox officially announced his intention to run in front of Knight Library on Monday morning. Fox joins the campaign race against Democratic hopeful Vicki Walker, who announced her candidacy last month.

Fox challenging Walker at the University seemed fitting, as both candidates are University graduates. The seat both candidates are running for is currently held by incumbent Cynthia Wooten, but she is not running for re-election because of term limitations.

Although District 41 does not encompass the University area, Fox said he wanted to make his announcement at Knight Library because many University students live in the district.

Among Fox's campaign promis-

es, he highlighted his commitment to both K-12 and higher education. Fox, who has been an educator for 30 years, promised that state funds be used to "intelligently" subsidize K-12 and higher education in Oregon.

"We're working to ensure for the children of Oregon an intelligently funded and working future for Oregon," he said.

One of Fox's approaches is to encourage home-schooling for grades K-12. Fox claimed this has been overlooked by legislators in the past and that it could save the state in education funding.

In addition to his designs for K-12 education, Fox discussed the problem of funding higher education and his commitment to "re-funding" the state's colleges and universities.

Fox said there has been a "melt-down" in higher education funding, as the state has reduced funding for colleges and universities by 6.4 percent since 1990. He attributed the loss of university professors and researchers to this decline in state research.

"We have lost research grants," he said. "The university researchers are not paid as well [compared with other universi-

ties], and they go elsewhere with grants because of low university pay."

Funding education in Oregon is also at the top of Walker's list of campaign goals.

Walker, who is currently a local court reporter, has also worked as a state activist and served as chair of the Lane County Democrats.

Walker said she is running for election because she wants to "serve the community" as a "moderate" voice in the Legislature.

Like Fox, Walker said higher education has been suffering since 1990 and that funding needs to be changed to provide competitive education services to Oregon students. She said education funding needs to be levied through restructuring and reallocating existing taxes.

Walker, whose son is attending the University, said she is concerned her son is not getting the same quality of education that she got when she was a student.

"Who are we going to have left to teach our students?" she asked. "Students are not getting what they deserve. If we don't educate students, we are not going to have an educated work force."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

No break from parking tickets on Presidents Day

Students may have parking tickets on their car windshields on Presidents Day, Feb. 16.

"Even though it is a national holiday, we are still giving tickets because the University is still in session," said Anita Ocana, student worker for

the Office of Public Safety.

Students may file a petition with OPS, she said. "They could petition and state they didn't know we were still monitoring the meters," she said.

Students must go to OPS in Straub Hall within 10 days to file a petition. Business hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Council: Members discuss three options

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festival organizer, said Eugene Celebration organizers need \$78,500 to cover the costs of organizing this year's festival.

Councilwoman Nancy Nathanson, along with other councilors, said she did not consider cutting the festival an option.

Councilwoman Laurie Swanson-Gribskov said she would rather look at the option of having

a non-profit organization to oversee the festival in the future.

"I'm leaning toward spinning this off to a non-profit," she said.

There was also some discussion as to whether or not the city could continue to fund the celebration.

Councilwoman Betty Taylor, supported the notion of continued city support over the next few months with the understanding that Eugene Celebration organiz-

ers would look at privatization options during that time.

However, at the conclusion of celebration's discussion, councilors were still unprepared to take action without further dialogue.

The council unanimously voted to hold off the decision until next Monday, as festival organizers consider candidates to possibly privatize the festival in the future.

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