

Continued from Page 1

college. "I was in default," he said. "It just dominates your life."

As a way to keep other students from having the same problem, Alexakis said he supported a Clinton administration proposal that would allow students to pay off their loans with community service.

"It makes it really easy to pay off your debts," he said. "I'm here because I believe in what Ron Wyden is doing."

Wyden supported the Clinton proposal and is looking at a way for college students to make their college education a tax write-off. Wyden is also working with U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) to find ways of reducing tuition costs.

Alexakis said the impact of student loans was part of his interest in participating in the voting ral-

lies, but he also felt students were too apathetic about the political process.

"Just get off your butt," he said. "There's so much complacency. People need to take issues seriously. I feel like I can take what I have learned from being a student and use it to motivate people."

Alexakis took issues seriously when he did campaign work for Michael Dukakis' 1988 presidential campaign and Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign.

Traveling to different countries, especially ones with totalitarian governments, is a way for students to gain respect for American democracy, he said.

"It's really frustrating how people take what they have here for granted," Alexakis said. "It's pretty scary when the people that you look up to provide services for you are instilling fear in your heart."

News brief

Oregon prisons forbid porn magazines

SALEM — Hoping to reduce the number of fights over pornographic magazines and sexual assaults in the state's prisons, Oregon corrections officials have banned prisoners from having sexually explicit materials.

Inmates soon will have to surrender any magazines depicting a sex act and cancel their subscriptions, officials announced Monday.

The Oregon Department of Corrections recently approved changes to administrative rules, banning adult magazines and

limiting whom inmates can write to. The changes take effect Dec. 1, and inmates will have until May 31 to get rid of banned material.

Under the new rules, inmates are prohibited from receiving or possessing publications, personal photographs or other material that "depicts actual or simulated sexual acts, behaviors" and other graphic material.

The rules stop short of banning nudity altogether, but publications like Playboy and Penthouse will be prohibited because of their sexual content, Holder said.

— The Associated Press



Amanda Cowan/Emerald

Huy Ong joined a group of protesters who rallied Wednesday to oppose Sen. Ron Wyden's support of the Guest Worker Program.

MEChA protests against Wyden at rally

Wyden's support of a foreign 'Guest Worker' Bill brought on the ire of the Latino group

By David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Along with hundreds of listeners, 15 protesters welcomed U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden to the University on Wednesday as he urged students to vote.

Protesters from MEChA, a national Latino student group, protested Wyden's help in the passage of a bill that allowed agricultural businesses to hire foreign "guest workers."

Carrying signs that said "Shame on Wyden," and chanting slogans, protesters marched toward the podium after Wyden finished speaking.

"Essentially the Guest Worker Bill is legalizing slavery," said Ariel Chavarria, a member of MEChA. "The Latinos give a lot to the economy of Oregon."

During an interview before the rally, Wyden said he was happy with the bill.

"I asked the Library of Congress to settle the bill once and for all," he said.

The Library of Congress compared basic federal farm worker protections with promised protections in the Guest Worker Bill and sent Wyden the results.

The results stated the Guest Worker Bill required agricultural employers to provide domestic workers with wages, housing and compensation. In addition, the report stated that the Guest Worker Bill would improve migrant worker access to Head Start educational

programs, transportation and provide increased enforcement of labor laws.

Amy Casso, former director of MEChA, said the bill was harmful to labor unions and racist despite its provisions because a similar program, called Bracero, in the 1950s and '60s promised similar protections that were never enforced.

"The director of the Bracero program basically called it legalized slavery," Casso said.

Casso claimed the bill was racist because it targeted migrant Latino workers. A central issue for Casso was the hypocritical stance she said Wyden took on the bill.

"The primary issue is that Wyden is supposed to be pro-union and pro-democracy," she said.

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