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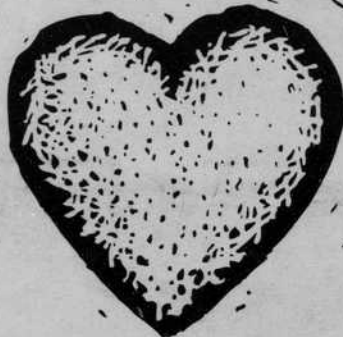
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Campaigns

continued from page 1

to voluntarily spend a maximum of \$100 on their campaigns.

"We're doing this basically because we're poor; we're flat broke," De Poe said.

In their e-mail, they added that they believe a limit on campaign finances will give every student even footing and a fair chance at winning the election.

Presidential candidates Daniel Atkinson and Scott Austin, who are each running without a vice president candidate, responded and have pledged to not spend a dime on their campaigns.

Austin spent only \$250 last year when he ran against incumbent Sen. Susan Castillo for the Oregon State Senate.

Although president and vice presidential candidates C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson have already spent about \$200 on campaign posters, buttons and a Web page, Gabbe said he does worry that money is making student campaigns inaccessible to some students.

"Both of us come from lower-to middle-income families, and financial issues have been a big concern from the beginning," Gabbe said.

He and Larson have been writing letters to family members, friends and former teachers to fund raise the money for their

campaign.

Instead of fund raising, De Poe said she and Upshaw are looking for more creative ways to get their message out to the voters.

"Caitlin will be tap dancing on 13th St. She might have a sandwich board or something with her. We're still in the planning process," De Poe said.

While a bid for the student presidency obviously doesn't run candidates into the millions of dollars, it's not unusual for students to spend more than \$1,000 for posters, buttons, fliers and Web pages promoting their campaigns.

ASUO Executive Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani spent almost \$1,060 last year on their campaign. Runners-up Dan Reid and Matt Swanson spent almost \$1,600, and the Committee to Reestablish OSPiRG spent almost \$1,200.

The ASUO doesn't place a cap on how much a candidate can fund raise or how soon they can start campaigning. However, candidates can accept a maximum of \$500 from a single group or person.

Chen said he thinks it would be extremely difficult for a candidate to win the presidency with only \$100 but that it isn't a complete impossibility. "If you had good outreach and got out there and talked to a lot of people, it could be possible," Chen said.

DeFazio

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Guard's ice-breaking ships, the Polar Star. Weather permitting, DeFazio will visit McMurdo Station, the South Pole, the Dry Valleys and return to Oregon Feb. 12.

On DeFazio's Web site dedicated to the trip, he writes that Coast Guard Commandant James M. Loy offered to take him along for an inspection of the Polar Star, which forges paths through Antarctic ice for smaller passenger and cargo ships.

"I jumped at the opportunity and accepted on the spot," DeFazio writes. "My wife Myrnie was quite surprised about my eagerness to undertake this journey. She reminded me of my complaints about my 30-plus round-trip flights to Washington each year and my aversion to plane and helicopter travel in bad weather. The trip will require about 26 hours of flight time to McMurdo and another 2 hours to the Pole itself. Nonetheless, I look upon this trip as one of the most exciting experiences of my life."

DeFazio's trip won't be all sightseeing, though.

As top ranking Democrat on the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, which oversees the Coast Guard's budget and activities, De-

Fazio will observe the Polar Star's performance and report to the subcommittee.

The Polar Star, which costs \$60,000-\$70,000 per day to operate, is one of two Coast Guard icebreakers clearing paths to Antarctica for scientists and explorers.

Philip McGillivray, Coast Guard icebreaker science liaison, calls the monstrous 399 foot-long ship "the sleek, swift maiden of the ice."

"It looks like a giant red football cut in half with a few gray bricks on top of it," he said. "It cuts through the ice the old-fashioned way with lots of weight and lots of power."

The 13,194-ton behemoth uses an 18,000 horsepower diesel-electric generator/motor and a 75,000 horsepower gas turbine/reduction gear system to cut its way through ice at 3-5 knots.

When the ship encounters old, thick ice, however, it inches its way through by "backing and ramming," McGillivray said.

"If you thought riding on the icebreaker on a typical day was unpleasant, wait until it starts backing and ramming," he said.

Fortunately for DeFazio, McGillivray said, the Coast Guard expects a relatively smooth ride through normal ice conditions.

DeFazio will keep a daily journal on his Web site and has arranged to correspond via e-mail with a handful of Oregon grade

"I think this necessitates that we look at campaign finance in the future. We don't want it to become inaccessible," Gabbe said.

But placing a cap on campaign spending may be impossible. Portland State University recently had to change its elections rules because they violated the First Amendment. PSU student body president Tim Young said restrictions on spending and campaign periods were removed from PSU's student elections rules because they were violation of free speech laws.

Oregon State University currently requires its student candidates to spend a maximum of \$500, which ASOSU Elections Board member Christopher Jones admitted might violate the First Amendment.

"But no one seems to complain. It's more about the issues than money," Jones said.

De Poe agreed that integrity and the issues should be the deciding factor in student elections, and not how much money a candidate can raise. But she said that, if elected, she and Upshaw wouldn't enforce a cap at the University.

"We'd probably recommend it to the candidates. People need to realize [people are] still viable candidates even without a Web address," she said.

school and middle school classes.

"Some of the questions from the kids have been really cute, like 'How cold is it?' 'How much snow is there?' and 'Do you sleep in igloos?'" DeFazio spokesperson Kathie Eastman said.

Also, a handful of University professors requested that DeFazio look into the environmental issues on the forefront of Antarctic scientific research.

Planning, public policy and management Professor, John H. Baldwin, said he hopes DeFazio will meet with scientists and discuss research on the hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica. Baldwin said he particularly hopes DeFazio will look into research focusing on the hole's effects on global warming and on the eyes of animals.

"There is a lot of misconception and misinformation about these issues in the press," Baldwin said.

While the majority of the scientific community is deeply concerned about the ozone hole, Baldwin said, many legislative lobbyists downplay the importance and existence of the hole.

"Seeing the research on the ground and talking to the researchers measuring the scientific impact is quite an opportunity for DeFazio to see the level of concern among scientists free from the politics of Washington D.C.," Baldwin said.

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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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