

Fanconi fund-raiser targets banks

Fanconi Anemia Research Fund teams up with local credit union to raise research funding

By Kristy Hessman
Oregon Daily Emerald

U-Lane-O Credit Union and the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund are coming together to raise money for the fight against Fanconi anemia.

Fanconi anemia is a life-threatening genetic disease that targets young children and can eventually lead to bone marrow failure, leukemia and other cancers. Victims of this disease commonly do not live to adulthood.

About 1,500 cases have been di-

agnosed in the U.S. and 3,000 worldwide. Because of lack of knowledge and access to technology, a large number of children who have this disease are not diagnosed as Fanconi anemia patients.

U-Lane-O is participating in the fund-raiser at all seven branches by selling \$1 cards with hand prints of Fanconi patients on them.

"It is actually turning into a bit of a competition between the seven branches of who can get the most cards," Susan Castillo, the Director of Development for the Fanconi Research Fund, said.

The cards are signed by those who purchase them and then displayed.

"Anyone can come in and purchase the cards," Castillo said.

"They don't have to be members of U-Lane-O."

This is just one of the many projects that U-Lane-O participates in throughout the year. They have also done similar fund-raisers for the American Heart Association.

"U-Lane-O adheres to the philosophy of helping people," Debbie Long, Marketing Manager for U-Lane-O, said. "We are very much involved in the community, and happy to help out."

The cards will be sold throughout the month of July and all proceeds will go to the Fanconi anemia research fund.

"It is an important subject, and this is something that works on

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in city politics.

"I'd be proud to have them be my people," Taylor said. "But I don't tell them what to do, and they don't tell me what to do."

This is also the Taylor who is modest about her accomplishments yet very direct about addressing the issues set in front of her.

"She is very straightforward and doesn't mince her words," said Gary Rayer, Ward 1 city councilor.

Mincing democracy

With the recent issue of the police union filing a tort claim notice — a notice of intent to sue for libel or slander — against Ward 4 City Councilor David Kelly, the concept of being straightforward with their words brings new meaning to the city's councilors. But Taylor is not afraid to address the issue.

"The police were out of line in proposing to sue," Taylor said. "Like David, I am concerned with reports of abuse by people who were close to the action."

When asked if these events make her feel threatened about speaking out in the future, Taylor expressed her concern.

"I do feel threatened," Taylor said. "Such threats may make all of us more cautious about expressing our opinions, and that is not good for public discourse. It is a threat to democracy."

Kelly's major concern is the way the police union handled the situation.

"I don't think threatened is the right word," Kelly said. "It makes me feel surprised and disappointed. If they have disagreements with me, what I would have vastly preferred is if they had written me a letter or made a phone call ... as opposed to getting this legal notice out of the clear blue."

Taylor and Kelly continue to express their concerns for an issue that has been covered extensively by the media in the past month since the latest anarchist/police interactions, which began with the June 18 gathering in Washington-Jefferson park.

"An important community is-

sue that we've all got to figure out is how to allow political protests to take place while at the same time keeping the public safe and the police — if they are involved — safe," Kelly said.

Taylor would like to see the council spend more time discussing the issue.

"It is an important issue and deserves more attention than we have given it," Taylor said.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow

As the issue of police intervention in political protests continues, Taylor will undoubtedly remain on the sidelines, watching every gathering and continuing her fledgling political career.

Taylor has been interested in politics all her life, though she never held office until coming to Eugene. She has worked on various campaigns, and she especially remembers pushing her son, now in his 40s, around in a baby carriage while advocating a bond issue in Illinois.

In 1996, the retired English teacher found herself at the forefront of a new political career. She noticed that Barbara Keller was not running again for the Ward 3 position, and after being dissatisfied with the candidates who hoped to replace Keller, Taylor decided to start a new political campaign — her own.

"I worked on various campaigns before my own," Taylor said. "I had a drawer full of buttons, and after my campaign I added my button to the drawer."

Born in Tennessee in 1925, Taylor spent 20 years teaching English to high school students. She held her first teaching job at the tender age of 19, when she taught one student from every grade at an elementary school. She was also the janitor of that school.

Taylor moved to Eugene in 1979 and began work on her doctorate degree in English from the University. She taught for four years at the University while she studied and also found time to teach two terms at Lane Community College. After one year at Southwestern Oregon Community College, Taylor finished her teaching career with a four year stint at Oregon State.

With the help of Deborah No-

ble, who has helped manage both of Taylor's campaigns, Taylor was elected to the Ward 3 seat and began her first term in January of 1997. She says that being a teacher all of her life prepared her well for her new role as a city councilor.

"I think I'm more inclined to listen to other people before giving my decision," Taylor said. "But in the end, I vote the way I think is right. Another thing I think is similar is you never get done with your work. You're always on duty."

Taylor was definitely on duty full-time during her first term. Besides her role in getting hundreds of people active in the tree-cutting issue in her fifth month in office, Taylor has become a watchdog for the environment and a councilor who prides herself on representing the people.

"I have emphasized that we should consider the environmental impacts on what we do," she said.

She also says the city should consider community interests and respect the voice of the people.

Taylor was also the only councilor to vote against increasing the fine for minors in possession of alcohol. She said that those kinds of fines only hurt the poor and could even mean for some students that they could not go to school for a term. Taylor is a big advocate of spending the city's money on helping people who break laws, rather than creating ordinances to punish them.

"When penalties get beyond deterrence and become punitive, I don't approve," Taylor said.

So what's on the forefront for Taylor as she finishes her first term and embarks on her second in January of 2001?

"I don't think anything changes with the beginning of a new term, just like nothing changes with the beginning of a new century," Taylor said. "I will continue to be interested in citizen involvement and protecting the environment."

Taylor said she will continue to be concerned with the city's use of tax payers' money and hopes to be a voice in city government for people without one.

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