

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



Still in the hunt

The UO wrestling team is still in contention for the Pac-10 title despite losing its top wrestler. **PAGE 7**

Representing every voice

The Emerald editorial board offers its pick for next year's ASUO Executive. **PAGE 2**

WEATHER
TODAY



high 57, low 25

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

University's WRC membership stifled by board

■ The State Board of Higher Education declared that OUS schools must remain impartial in their affiliations

By Andrew Adams
Oregon Daily Emerald

In one quick session during its Feb. 16 meeting, the State Board of Higher Education essentially ended the dispute over the Worker Rights Consortium, one of the most contentious and politically divisive issues on campus.

The board adopted a policy that would require all schools in the Oregon University System to conduct business in "a straightforward and politically impartial manner." This nullifies the University's involvement in labor monitoring groups such as the WRC and Fair Labor Association, and

negates its own code of conduct for businesses that are licensed to use the University's logo on merchandise.

Listed simply as "proposed board policy on business practices" on the agenda for the board's meeting, the action received little attention until its ramifications became clear.

The policy states that the seven OUS institutions can only do business with

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■ Students respond to the recent state board decision prohibiting the University's involvement with the Worker Rights Consortium

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the University students fighting to improve workers' rights, the issue is starting to sound like a broken record skipping on the same themes of lacking student voice and poor campus democracy.

Student activists and members of the ASUO felt marginalized last fall when University President Dave Frohnmayer made the surprise announcement the school would be a member of both the Worker Rights Consortium and the Fair Labor Association.

They disagreed when the administration said legal problems barred the school from paying its dues to the WRC.

Now, they are raising the same complaints after the Oregon State Board of Higher Education passed a policy barring the University from adopting a code of conduct that sets guidelines for the working conditions in which school clothing is made.

"I'm obviously annoyed at many levels," said ASUO University Affairs Coordinator Chad Sullivan, who camped at Johnson Hall last spring in a demonstration pushing Frohnmayer to join the WRC originally.

Sullivan said he is again upset with the way in which the decision was made. He heard rumors of the proposed policy last week, but when he checked the meeting agenda, he didn't see the policy because of the way it was worded.

"It's a carefully worded legalistic policy [and] a clear indication of politics subverting human rights work," he said. "It's so behind-the-back."

Sullivan added the decision is another setback in the strides the student activism movement has taken since last spring's WRC protest.

In response to the protest, many people spent 10 days camped outside Johnson Hall and became members of University decision-making committees.

But Sullivan said the board's decision makes him feel that, regardless of how hard students work, their voices are seen as insignificant.

"This issue came to the table because of student activism," he said. "We were told from so many quarters to be objective, be rational, be on committees."

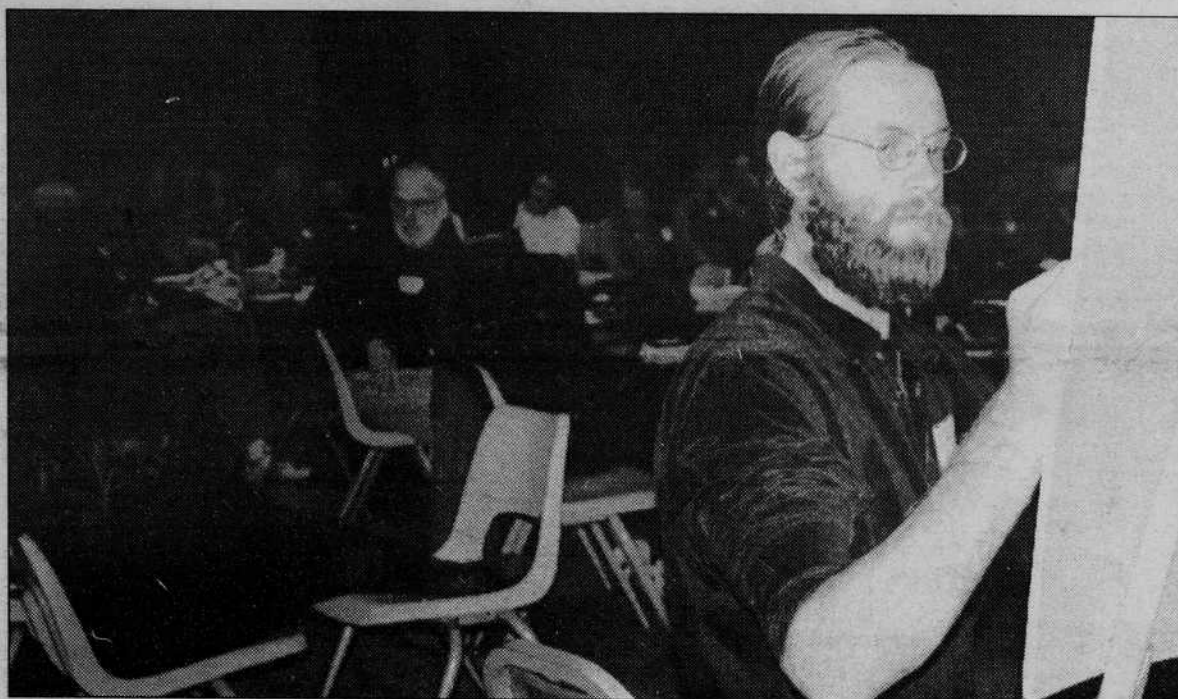
Many students from the protest, including ASUO President Jay Breslow

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Chad Sullivan
ASUO
University
affairs
coordinator



Laura Smit Emerald

Lysha Wasser, co-chair of the Multnomah County chapter of the Green Party, writes propositions from party members during the statewide convention at Agate Hall Saturday. The event drew about 80 participants from around the region discussing a new focus on reform.

Greens to focus on election reform

The statewide Pacific Green Party convention drew member support and set party goals this weekend

By Aaron K. Breniman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Election 2000 left a bad taste in the mouths of many Americans, and some called the aftermath a failure of democracy. Mirroring public dissatisfaction with the election, the Pacific Green Party announced this weekend that the party's plan for the next two years will focus on campaign finance reform.

The statewide quarterly convention, held Saturday and

Sunday at the University's Agate Hall, drew an estimated 80 party members from regional chapters of the Pacific Green Party.

Represented at the convention was a mix of members nearly as diverse as the state's population itself. The Pacific Green Party has long termed itself "The People's Party," and the variety of people in attendance seemed to verify that aspect of the party.

From the young to the old,

newly political to politically frustrated, members attending the convention were optimistic for the party's future.

"If I felt that any other party offered a truly democratic process, I'd probably be involved with them," Multnomah County Pacific Green Party co-chairman Lysha Wasser said. "Show me another party that could make a 23-year-old a co-chair of one of its biggest chapters."

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ASUO election primaries begin today, end Thursday

■ Changes to the election process this year include an extended voting period and the lack of ballots or polling booths around campus

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Instead of a single-day sprint to the primaries, candidates in this year's ASUO election begin a campaign marathon today that won't end until Thursday.

Matt Swanson, office manager for the

Elections Board, said he has high hopes that the extended voting period combined with computer polling will push voter turnout above the 10- to 15-percent marks of previous years.

Voting for ASUO Executive, Student Senate and other committee positions will be conducted entirely by comput-

er via Duck Web 24 hours a day for the next four days. Duck Web voting has existed for the past two years, but this will be the first election without ballot voting or polling booths on campus.

Although the voting period is longer, the campaign itself has been shorter this year. The first elections coordinator appointed by ASUO President Jay Breslow resigned before the appointment could be approved by the senate. Swanson said that with the shorter timeline,

the campaigning on campus has seemed very quiet.

But many of the candidates fighting for ASUO president and vice president said they will be more visible during the next four days, handing out fliers and talking to students on the streets.

Candidate Nilda Brooklyn said she wants to bridge the gap between members of student programs and the gener-

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