



Friday, October 11, 2002

SINCE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 104, Issue 31

ASUO motivates new voter registration

'Get Out the Vote' encourages students to exercise rights and educates about political issues

Jan Montry
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

"Hi, are you registered to vote at your current address?"

Students have probably heard those words on campus recently from a smiling volunteer in a campaign T-shirt.

The catch phrase — as well as the shirts — are all part of the ASUO's annual Get Out the Vote campaign. This year, the theme is "Stuff the Duck,"

named after the wooden ducks placed around campus that gauge this year's goal. The ASUO hopes to register 4,000 new voters campuswide.

ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Adam Petkun, co-coordinator of the campaign, said getting students to vote is important so higher education funding isn't cut.

"We don't have money to lobby in Salem, but what we do have is power — 20,000 students," Petkun said.

Student Senator Mena Ravasipour, a campaign volunteer, said many students she approaches for registration are friendly and happy

to take a few minutes to register.

But sometimes she gets the cold shoulder.

"I think it's kind of traumatizing when you ask (students) to register and they ignore you," she said.

Petkun stressed the necessity of getting the word out to everyone.

"I know students get tired of hearing it," he said. "We're not trying to be rude; we're trying to reach every last student to give them a chance to vote."

Petkun added, however, that Alaskan students should not register because they will lose the govern-

ment stipend they receive every year as residents of Alaska.

Aside from registering students to vote, ASUO is educating students about political issues.

Students will have a chance to meet state legislative candidates Oct. 23 at the EMU, and a ballot measure event will be held Oct. 24 to familiarize students with state ballot measures.

"We want to give students both sides of the coin so they can make an educated decision," said Stefan Meyers, ASUO legislative associate and the other co-coordinator of the campaign.

Another tentative event is a debate between Floyd Prozanski and Greg McNeill, Democratic and Republican candidates for the Oregon House of Representatives, District 8.

Myers said the "Stuff the Duck" campaign is only the first step in an active year.

"Everything we do stems from voter registration," he said.

ASUO is also planning lobbying trips to Salem and a trip to the United States Student Association Convention in Washington, D.C.

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

Kicking Up awareness

More attention is being given to personal safety on campus, and the University offers a variety of self-defense classes

Ayisha Yahya
Freelance Editor

It's late at night as you drag yourself from a study session at the library. You're walking back to the dorms or maybe to your car, when out of the darkness, unseen arms grab you like a vice. What do you do?

Personal safety is a key concern in any environment, even at the University. The fear of being assaulted probably weighs on the minds of many students, especially at night. Recognizing students' need to protect themselves from possible attacks, the University offers several classes and programs on self-defense.

Currently, the physical education department has two classes dedicated completely to self-defense, as well as aikido, karate, judo and taekwon do. Apart from the traditional martial arts, students can also learn techniques in jeet kune do, jiu jitsu, hapkido and Russian sambo, all of which are adapted to street conditions.

"We offer classes for several reasons," physical education Associate Director Peg Rees said. "One reason is the significant student demand." She said students not only want to learn self-defense, but also have an interest in martial arts.

Sue Doyle teaches two of the self-defense classes. "We study a variety of different techniques," she said. "Hopefully, out of the class, someone will find a technique that works for them."

Students learn physical techniques like how to block, kick and apply their strength, as well as theoretical skills on awareness.

"Not to be melodramatic, but hopefully (the class) will save a few lives and give people tools and skills that help them if something should arise," Doyle said.

University junior Lach Litwer has taken jeet kune do and Brazilian jiu jitsu at the University. He said studying martial arts makes him feel capable of protecting himself.

"Anybody who's taken martial arts, even for a little while, gains some measure of self-confidence," Litwer said. "I'm confident because I know what I'm capable of."

Turn to **Self-defense**, page 10A



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Students can learn the art of self-defense in several martial arts classes offered at the University.

Red flag campaign flies high

Student groups launch project to raise consciousness about student safety on campus

Danielle Gillespie
Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

With a total of 10 campus attacks occurring between February 2001 and March 2002, ranging from attempted rape to attempted armed

robbery — student safety has become a major concern.

For the past two years, the ASUO and the Department of Public Safety have been looking for ways to increase awareness about potential threats to students' safety.

The groups recently decided to display red flags on campus transportation vehicles when an incident has occurred. The participating pro-

grams are Designated Driver Shuttle, Project Saferide and Night Ride.

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod said she thinks it is important to have an immediate response to any threatening incident, especially on the weekends, when student publications are not printing.

"I think that safety on campus is a big issue that needs to be addressed,"

Turn to **Safety**, page 10A



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Randy Buchanan of Hillsboro, Ore., stirs a large vat of kettle corn. Buchanan runs his own stand, Humdinger Kettle Korn.

Students can sample sights, sounds at Faire

Today is the last day to wander through the ASUO-sponsored booths along East 13th Avenue

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

Ron Ritnour makes more money selling trinkets than most University professors make from teaching all year.

Ritnour, a jewelry maker, is one of 117 vendors this year at the ASUO Street Faire. The three-day event, which ends today, features food, music and countless

booths selling everything from tie-dye shirts to hunting knives.

For Ritnour, the fair is a chance to sell his homemade wares to thousands of prospective customers.

"I'm one of the only beaders I know who makes a full-time business out of this," he said. "I do it so I don't have to work construction."

The Springfield man quit a \$22 an hour job as an HVAC installer a year and a half ago to make his own jewelry. Ritnour said while his day-to-day sales can

Turn to **Faire**, page 6A

WEATHER

Today: High 62, Low 32,
Morning fog with sun later
Saturday: High 70, Low 37,
Sunny and clear

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday

Skiers need to rip across town for Willamette Pass discounts

Tuesday

'Ask Nat' is back with more instructions for a better life