

Measure 28 would fund youth services

Youth services budgets stand to lose more than \$10 million if voters reject the measure

Oregon votes 2003

Caron Alarab

Crime/Safety/Transportation Reporter

Of the organizations that would be negatively affected by the failure of Measure 28, the juvenile justice system and youth services in Lane County are preparing for losses.

Without the passage of the Jan. 28 tax-package, the state will cut \$7.8 million in juvenile justice funding and \$3.1 million in youth services from the budget of Oregon Youth Authority.

The OYA provides community-based services, supervision and legal and physical custody to repeat and high-risk youth offenders, as well as to youths convicted of adult crimes.

The failure would also shut down four youth corrections facilities, several alternative schools and programs, 50 percent of all shelter care and 250 youth beds statewide. The loss of state-funded beds means 250 high-risk youth offenders will be released into communities across the state — 28 in Lane County alone.

Measure 28

A 10-part series examining the budget implications of the Jan. 28 special election.

"We definitely will not be able to expand, let alone use, the majority of beds we need now," Lane County Juvenile Justice Center director Lisa Smith said.

In 2002, 2,279 youths were referred to the Lane County Department of Youth Services, and Smith said it will be hard to accommodate a similar number in 2003.

Jim Forbes, executive director at Looking Glass — a private, nonprofit organization that each year serves more than 7,000 children and families in Lane County — said the organization will also face decreased funding. Forbes said a 50 percent decrease in beds is expected, along with various other cuts, if Measure 28 does not pass.

"We're almost more concerned with its impact on other services that we rely on, like the court system," he said. "We all have different roles to play."

John Aarons, an adjunct instructor for the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Program, has worked for the juvenile justice system since the late '70s. He said he remembers the numerous shelters and youth services of the past, and that demand is greater now.

"We are already operating on less bed space compared to 1975," Aarons said. "Higher need means higher risk."

Aarons said he doesn't think the community will feel an immediate impact, however, because overworked employees are doing whatever is necessary to handle cases.

Cuts are already in place at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility, which primarily serves Lane County and obtains the majority of its funding from the state's general fund.

"We've been prepared to take the cuts outlined," said South Valley OYA Area Coordinator Faye Fagel, who spent all day Thursday giving notice to 74 of her employees. OYA will cut 265 employees in all if Measure 28 fails.

In assessing the cutbacks in progress for the court system and mental health and youth services, Fagel said the biggest problem with a small state budget is how intertwined the whole system remains.

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailymerald.com.

News brief

Task Force discusses neighborhood agenda

The West University Joint Task Force convened in the Central Pres-

byterian Church from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday to discuss ideas and a tentative agenda for 2003. The meeting commenced with a detailed presentation and ended with discussion on short-term strategies and recommendations for improving the neighborhood environment after the Sep-

tember 2002 riot. More than 20 students, residents, business owners and city officials attended.

Corvallis Police Department AIC Captain Jon Sassaman gave a digital slide show for the first hour, reinforcing the tactics used by CPD and Oregon State Police to maintain peace and safety in the Oregon State University neighborhoods. The presentation, titled "Alcohol and Law Enforcement," demonstrated the success of

activities held in order to better familiarize CPD officers with the student body. These activities include community meetings, greek life barbecues and orientation programs.

"We're promoting friendly, positive interaction so that students don't just notice the blue uniforms, but actually see the faces and know the names of our officers," Sassaman said.

After the presentation, members discussed the readability of a

progress report, which includes a top ten short-term solutions list, intended to update interested parties on the progress of the task force. Mayor Jim Torrey and University President Dave Frohnmayer, the officials responsible for the force's existence, will review the findings.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 30 at the same location from 4 to 6 p.m.

—Caron Alarab

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University hosts war forum

The University Faculty Senate and the ASUO will feature panelists to analyze war with Iraq from many perspectives

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

As the United States continues to march toward a controversial war with Iraq, students and faculty continue to question what impact such a conflict could have on the University community. The University Faculty Senate and ASUO will host a forum to discuss the war from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the EMU Ballroom.

The public forum, titled "The University and the Iraq Crisis," will feature panelists from University departments who will analyze and interpret the possibility of war with Iraq from different perspectives. The event will also help inform University faculty, who will convene in the University Assembly to discuss the University's unofficial response to the potential war.

Senate President Greg McLaugh-

lan, a sociology professor and a panelist, said the forum stands apart from other campus activities that have focused war because of its inclusion of University President Dave Frohnmayer, who will address "The Role of Universities in Times of National and International Crisis."

Other featured forum speakers have conflicting opinions regarding the University's response to a war with Iraq. Geography Professor Alec Murphy, who will speak about "Putting the Iraq Crisis in Geopolitical Perspective," said he has doubts as to whether the University should have a collective stance on the issue. Murphy said he thinks it is appropriate for faculty to voice their opinions as citizens, but going beyond that would be harmful to a healthy marketplace of ideas.

"I think a university should be a place where different ideas can be presented and discussed, and I do not think the University should take a position that would work against that mission," Murphy said.

Daniel Pope, a history professor

who will be speaking about "Historical Perspectives on Student Peace Activism," argued that the University needs to take a stance on the issue because the impending war will have sweeping effects on the community. However, Pope said taking a collective stance should not limit debate and discussion on the war.

"Certainly there are colleagues and students who feel differently and support the Bush administration's policies," he said. "Nobody is for a minute suggesting that passing a resolution means there is no disagreement on campus or that their civil liberties and intellectual freedom would be threatened."

Organizers are expecting a large turnout, and there will be overflow seating in 180 PLC with a live video feed from the Ballroom. McLaughlan said although it is hard to guess exactly how many people will attend, seating for more than a thousand people will be available.

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

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