

# Iraq

continued from page 1

times the University should take a stance on a political issue, I sincerely believe this is one of them," Pope said.

The forum, which EMU officials estimated was attended by about 500 people, opened with a series of presentations by the five speakers and ended with a 45-minute question-and-answer session. Many of

the questions from the audience of faculty, administrators, students and community members were politically charged and the premise of some questions was debatable, making it difficult for the panelists to answer the inquiries.

One member of the audience accused the University of supporting Israel through its business practices while another stated the United States had knowledge prior to the events of Sept. 11 but chose not to

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act. On one occasion, the panelists chose not to dignify a question with a single response.

The event, sponsored by the University Faculty Senate and ASUO, was noticeably short on student input; four of the five panelists were members of the administration or faculty. ASUO President Rachel Pilliod, who was supposed to attend but could not because of scheduling conflicts, was replaced by ASUO Community Outreach Coordinator Hilary Arakaki.

Arakaki gave a brief opening statement thanking the members of the panel and the audience for taking part in the discussion, and stressed the importance of sharing ideas. Once the presentations ended and questions began filtering in, however, Arakaki chose to let others answer.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmyer spoke Tuesday about the impact of a possible war.

Arakaki said she chose to remain quiet because the others were qualified to answer, and also to prevent any implications of an expressed ASUO political ideology.

Although surprised by the low turnout — the EMU Ballroom was expected to be full and a television

connection was established for any spillover in 180 PLC — Arakaki said she wasn't disappointed because the forum was enlightening for those who attended. Similar discussions are expected in the future.

Contact the news editor at [bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com](mailto:bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com).

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## Measure 28

continued from page 1

coming together," Williams said.

Biased media coverage, the possibility of low voter turnout and a lack of funds all have contributed to the rise in support for Measure 28, Williams said.

A few weeks ago, Williams said he would have been surprised by the support represented in the recent polls. But now, Williams simply calls the situations "immensely discouraging."

Williams said the media have been focusing on the cuts associated with the failure of Measure 28 without

looking at what the state is trying to accomplish. With the passage of Measure 28, state spending will increase eight percent, Williams said. With its failure, spending will still increase by five percent, he added.

"A lot of (members of the media) know it," Williams said. "I guess they just don't consider it important."

Neel Pender, executive director of the Democratic Party of Oregon, said he thinks the media's coverage has been fair and, because of the uncluttered ballot, citizens have been able to focus on the pros and cons of the measure.

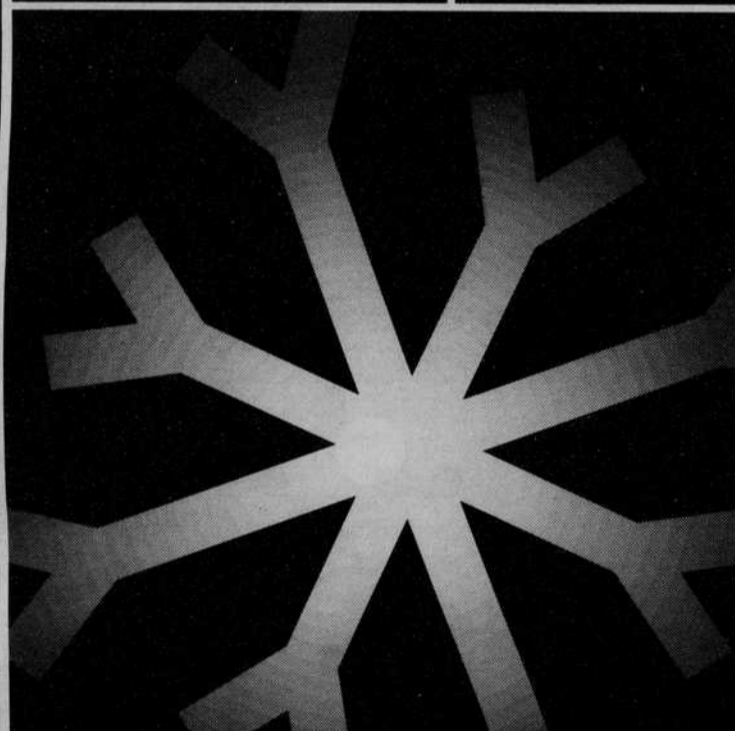
"I think (media) certainly played a role" in the upswing, Pender added.

With less than a week remaining and the outcome of the election still in question, fittingly, all eyes will likely turn to the media for any and all updates. And for Associate Professor of Communication Studies Carl Bybee, that's just how it should be.

"What I see is an incredible public information campaign carried out at a level that's really unprecedented for Oregon in many, many years," Bybee said. "I think it's an exemplary illustration of what the media could, and should, be doing in a matter of public importance."

Contact the news editor at [bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com](mailto:bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com).

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