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Fair recruits volunteers

The University Volunteer Fair features 25 tables from local services and will continue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today

Andrew Shipley
Freelance Reporter

Civic-minded students and faculty interested in making a difference in the community convened for the second annual University Volunteer Fair at the EMU Concourse on Wednesday. The fair, which continues today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features 25 tables promoting local service projects, agencies and volunteer opportunities ranging from emergency shelter maintenance to adult tutoring.

"The goal is to get students to real-

ize that there are people out there that need help," Volunteer Fair Coordinator Jackie Reed said. "Students just don't realize there are homeless people, hungry people, children that don't have shoes to go to school in, right here in Eugene."

Patrick Carr, a graduate assistant in the Greek Life Office who is helping to coordinate the fair, said the event allows students to see where their services are needed.

"This is a way that we can provide a forum for students to meet with community services and find something that matches their interests," Carr said. He said the fair is designed to educate students about the local service agencies and the problems they seek to address.

"It's not that people don't care, a lot of people just don't know how they can volunteer," Chastain said.

This observation seemed to be true among many of the students perusing the 25 booths Wednesday. Freshman Kimberly Evans said she was lured to the fair by a flyer.

"I don't think most people think about (volunteering)," she said "If they knew how to get involved, I think they would."

Freshman Jessica Bryan echoed these sentiments. Bryan, who was involved in community service in high school, said she would like to be involved now in Eugene, but it is hard to know where to begin.

"When there are events like this that show people how they can help, it is really successful," Bryan said.

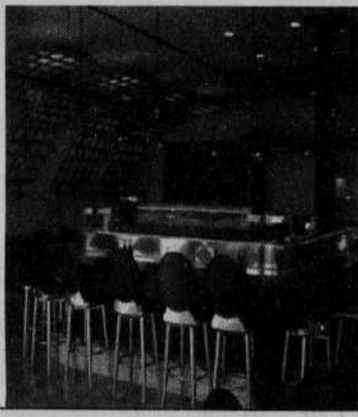
Interested students are encouraged to stop by the EMU concourse for more information on volunteering. Agencies include Food for Lane County, Committed Partnership for Youth, HIV Alliance, Sexual Assault Support Services, Kids First and March of Dimes, among others.

Andrew Shipley is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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News brief

The ASUO Student Senate transferred more than \$5,000 in funds to two student groups Wednesday night and briefly discussed senate rules in a session several members called "the shortest senate meeting ever."

MEChA packed more than a dozen members into the EMU Board Room as the senate considered the organization's request for \$4,805 for a state conference at the University this term.

MEChA, which helps build a stronger local community for Chicanos/as, is hoping to draw up to 150 college students and 400 high school students from Oregon to its conference, which was held at Portland State University last year. The three-day event will cost \$21,000 to host, although some of the cost will be offset by \$15 tickets sold to non-University students.

MEChA member and Ganas Coordinator Gerardo Ochoa said the group was relying on earmarked funds from other events such as Cinco de Mayo to help raise enough money.

"We know that we can't fundraise this much — we'll still have all these

events but they won't be this big," Ochoa said.

Student senate members made eight separate motions to transfer the necessary funds, all which passed with only one to two dissenting votes. The senate used \$1,805 of MEChA's funds allocated for other events and moved \$3,000 of its own \$9,718 budget surplus to MEChA's account as well.

The senate also transferred \$220 to the Chinese Taiwanese Student Association. The group will use the money to help fund their Chinese New Year's celebration in April.

After the two groups received their money, the senate discussed procedural matters for a few minutes before nominating Sen. Alex Dietrich to the senate's rules committee. Dietrich, whose nomination was subsequently approved by the majority of the senate, will take the new post once Sen. Jeremy "Tex" Arnold officially resigns. Arnold is resigning because the Wednesday night meetings conflict with exams he needs to take to get into medical school.

—Brook Reinhard

The New York Times

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