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Campus groups will honor transgender victims Tuesday

A local 'Transgender Day of Remembrance' Tuesday will commemorate those who have been killed

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

Three campus groups — ASUO, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Alliance and Gender Queer — are sponsoring a local "Transgender Day of Remembrance" on Tuesday to honor transgender people who have been killed around the world.

Thirty-seven transgender people have been killed in the last 14 months in regions around the world, according to the "Remembering Our Dead" Web site, a site devoted to compiling information and bringing awareness to violence against transgender people. Seventeen of those deaths occurred in the

United States.

On Tuesday morning, volunteers will place markers displaying each of the victims' names, stories and photos in the EMU Amphitheater, ASUO Multicultural Advocate Austin Shaw-Phillips said.

On Tuesday night, ethnic studies Visiting Instructor Fiona Ngō will speak about characteristics the victims had in common, including their race and gender. That speech will take place in the Ben Linder Forum in the EMU at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a reading of the names of the victims.

Shaw-Phillips, who handled the logistical planning of the day's events, said that as a transgender person, Tuesday is a time for him to reflect on and honor those who died.

"It's been really intense to work on this event because two people have died since we started," he said.

He explained that most of the vic-

tims of transgender violence were also people of color. Many others were poor and identified as women. He hoped the speech would also help show that violence toward transgender people is frequently based on race as well as gender.

"Racist violence mixes in with gender violence," he said. "We're going to try to start having that conversation."

The national "Transgender Day of Remembrance" was held on Nov. 20. The day was created in 1999 to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was murdered Nov. 28, 1998, according to the "Remembering Our Dead" Web site. Her death brought widespread attention to the issue of transgender violence and sparked the creation of the "Remembering Our Dead" Web site.

For more information go to <http://www.gender.org/remember/#>.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

REFERENDUM

continued from page 1

would begin and taxpayers would pay an additional 1 percent to 9 percent of their income tax, depending on their yearly income. A family earning the median Oregon income of \$41,000 would pay an additional \$36 or more in income tax, according to the Legislative Revenue Office. An individual earning less than \$10,000 would not have to pay any additional income tax.

Angela Wilhelms of the Taxpayer Defense Fund, the group spearheading the effort to reject the tax surcharge, said the campaign is seeking to educate Oregonians on the downside of the increases.

Along with the three-year surcharge on personal income taxes, Oregon senior citizens will face a reduction, or elimination, of the ability to deduct medical expenses from state taxes, Wilhelms said. Property owners would see the early payment discount on property taxes cut in half from 3 percent to 1.5 percent, she added.

HB 2152 would also impose a minimum business tax of anywhere from \$250 to \$5,000 on corporations in the state and disallow small businesses from deducting the cost of utility vehicles for business purposes. State cigarette tax increases would also be extended from January 1, 2004 to 2006.

Wilhelms called the combination

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TAX SURCHARGE

• Single Returns		• Joint Returns	
Total Income	Tax Surcharge	Total Income	Tax Surcharge
Less than \$10,000	\$0	Less than \$10,000	\$0
\$10,000-20,000	\$6	\$10,000-20,000	\$0
\$20,000-30,000	\$31	\$20,000-30,000	\$7
\$30,000-40,000	\$80	\$30,000-40,000	\$13
\$40,000-50,000	\$120	\$40,000-50,000	\$38
\$50,000-70,000	\$181	\$50,000-70,000	\$98
\$70,000-100,000	\$317	\$70,000-100,000	\$214
\$100,000-200,000	\$593	\$100,000-200,000	\$470
\$200,000 and over	\$2,470	\$200,000 and over	\$2,332

SOURCE: Legislative Fiscal Office

of taxes "relatively convoluted."

"Our goal is to educate voters on this package and how it affects everyone," she said.

Wilhelms said the amount of opposition towards the surcharge has been surprising, adding that most of the returned petitions were distributed by volunteers outside of the organization.

"We are still getting calls from people who ask if they can still get their signatures in or asking if there is another way they can help," she said.

Morgan Allen of Our Oregon Coalition, an organization supportive of the tax surcharge, acknowledged the number of signatures shows that a substantial number of Oregonians are against the tax increase.

"It shows we have a real fight on our hands," Allen said.

However, Allen said his organization has a "good shot" in getting the tax surcharge passed through the voters.

Allen said his organization's goal leading up to the election is to educate Oregonians about the benefits

of the surcharge and how it would help many public services. He said the surcharge would bring "stability" to state-funded institutions, such as education and health care.

Allen said if the tax surcharge is rejected, Oregonians could face a shortened school year for K-12 students, loss of prescription medication benefits for senior citizens and having courts in operation for four days a week instead of five. He said the loss of the surcharge would also affect college students.

"Basically, if this measure goes down, students are looking at another tuition increase," Allen said.

Allen said the organization will have volunteers go out into communities to let people know how services will be affected.

"It pretty much has to be a grassroots effort with Oregonians talking to Oregonians, and neighbors talking to neighbors," Allen said. "People need to understand it will have an impact on services."

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikeda@dailymerald.com.

Today's crossword solution

ROT	A	M	I	T	S	P	E	W	S					
E	A	R	G	E	N	I	E	C	R	E	E	K		
A	T	E	R	E	N	E	W	R	I	L	E	Y		
T	E	A	S	E	T	B	E	E						
A	N	D	R	E	F	L	O	R	E	S	S	E	A	
			S	O	M	B	R	E	R	O	T	O	L	D
S	A	W	E	L	I	T	I	S	M	L	I	D		
P	G	A	N	O	T	O	N	O	A	D	E			
E	A	T	T	U	T	E	L	A	R	R	E	D		
E	P	E	E	S	E	V	E	N	T	H	S			
D	E	R	R	I	E	R	E	S	G	A	Y	L	E	
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F	L	O	A	T	C	R	A	I	G	T	O			
A	O	R	T	A	B	O	R	N	E	E	N	D		
T	U	B	A	S	S	E	E	K	S	M	A	E		

GOT A STORY IDEA? give us a call at 346-5511

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