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Frohnmayer pledges support of voter outreach

ASUO seeks "institutional" approach to the process of registering new voters

By Nika Carlson

ASUO officials are hoping that their student voter registration plans will finally come to fruition after President Dave Frohnmayer officially pledged support for student voter participation.

Frohnmayer, along with representatives from college and university campuses throughout the state, signed a statement Thursday pledging "to take an active role in developing institutional strategies to engage young people in the political process and (to) do my part to get students to vote.

The pledge was a part of a reception in the EMU Fir Room, hosted by Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, the Oregon Student Association, the New Voters Project and the Oregon Campus Compact.

New Voters Project campus organizer Terra Sorensen said the goal is to help make voter registration an ingrained part of the services offered at college institutions across the state. The New Voters Project is a grassroots campaign in Oregon, Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico and Wisconsin dedicated to getting as many students to vote in the November presidential elections as possible.

At the meeting, Bradbury asked that university officials reach out to each of their students about voting.

University Executive Assistant President Dave Hubin said the Office of the President relies on ASUO

to come up with student voter mobilization plans.

ASUO President Maddy Melton, however, said the administration is not always behind ASUO's efforts. She said she hopes Frohnmayer's formal pledge will translate into more consistent support for ASUO's ideas for voter registration.

"There are a few things that are quick and efficient, if only the administration would allow us access to them," Melton said.

Melton said ASUO wants to get representatives in every classroom and every residence hall to talk about voter registration and participation and possibly do outreach at the University bookstore. ASUO would also like wellfrequented University offices to train employees about talking to students about voter registration.

These efforts reach the most amount of students in the simplest way, she said.

Melton added that ASUO needs administrative cooperation to register high numbers of students to vote even though the University has a long history of getting students involved in voting. She said the administration often says no to ASUO staff's ideas about getting students registered to vote.

They need to start saying yes,"

In addition to asking University officials to design a plan for voter mobilization, Bradbury requested that they send a letter to faculty and staff in support of any voter organization efforts and that they appoint a liaison to county elections offices to help smooth the student voter registration process.

The deadline to register to vote in the November presidential elections is

Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

University President Dave Frohnmayer signed a pledge along with other state university presidents to increase registration of voters between the ages of 18 and 24.

Oct. 12, giving the University only a few weeks to get students registered after classes begin in the fall. Given that tight deadline, final voter registration plans will need to be in place within the next several months, Hubin said.

Hubin said Frohnmayer will follow through with Bradbury's requests in one way or another.

He said the University already has a close relationship with the Lane County

Elections office and always sends a message of support for student voter registration to faculty and staff, though it is usually in the form of a telephone message and not a letter.

I think that there is a strong belief on our part that being engaged in a civic manner is part of being an educated person," he said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com.

GADFLY

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said of young people. "They can have the courage, stand up and be one person."

University sophomore Tom Wray agreed with Roberts' interpretation of the play.

"It's very relevant because we need more people like him against administrations that aren't looking out for the American people," he said.

Roberts hoped that the play would make people believe that they could change the world.

"It takes inordinate courage to buck

the system," Roberts said. "Maybe showing someone like Morse can inspire that."

Catherine Ryan is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

OSPIRG

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regular basis."

Portland's antiquated sewer system results in the release of an estimated 3 billion gallons of untreated sewage into the river each year, she said.

"Eugene is spending \$2 million a year to repair leaking pipes, and Springfield is working just as hard," she said. "But dumping raw sewage into the Willamette is not acceptable and more needs to be done.

Kitty Piercy, a former state representative now running for mayor of Eugene, told the crowd that the pollution of the Willamette River is not exclusive to Portland. Polluted storm water runoff and sewage and waste treatment issues are concerns for Eugene as well, Piercy said.

"That is why we need to tackle this as a city as well as urging the governor to thoroughly clean up the whole river,"

State Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin, said the goal of totally eliminating pollutants from the Willamette was not scientifically feasible, but reducing its pollution would prove worthwhile.

"As long as there are over two million people in close proximity to this river it will not be feasible to prevent all pollution from going into our rivers and streams," he said. But he added that it is important to encourage the government and businesses to be more creative in reducing pollution.

After the forum, OSPIRG coordinator for the Willamette campaign Tannith Perry said she was impressed with the panel's dedication. Perry said she did not know how much the forum would push the governor into cleaning

up the Willamette River, though.

"I know that OSPIRG is not making it easy to ignore this issue," she said. "But to what extent it's going to make him take action soon, I'm not sure."

Lane Community College junior and OSPIRG member Else Wieseke said she was happy to see so many people at the forum.

"It's a really great campaign," she said. "I think it's awesome that all these people turned out today."

Joshua Rose is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

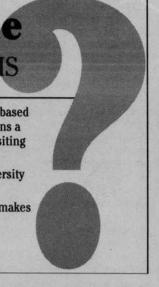
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CLARIFICATION

In "Controversial Christian church group starts Eugene Chapter" (ODE, Feb. 19), the Emerald reported that Bob Bertalot, a deacon for the International Churches of Christ, lived with 16-year-old Lilly Foxx, a former ICC member. To clarify, Foxx lived with Bertalot and his family temporarily while she worked out family complications.

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