

Oregon Daily Emerald



John Henson shows promise Page 6

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In perfect harmony

University and high school choir students assembled for a united performance Wednesday

The University Concert Choir and choirs from Springfield and Thurston high schools combined for a performance Wednesday evening in the Beall Concert Hall. The event was the result of a program that helps high school students experience music in a college setting. **Tim Kupsick** Freelance Photographer



By Athanasios Fkiasas Freelance Reporter

Nearly 300 students gathered to sing in Beall Concert Hall on Wednesday evening, the result of two terms of work by the Springfield and Thurston high school choirs and the University Concert

Choir. The program, titled "Choral Partnerships: University and Community," helps high school students experience music in a college setting.

"It's encouraging to be with more mature singers," Thurston senior Aaron Breckel said. "It's a big step from high school choirs."

Thurston senior Melissa Chandler said comparing high school choirs to the concert choir allowed her and her peers to recognize differences and correct them.

Through the partnership, the high school choirs met with the University

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Candidates vie for Legislature spots in Lane

A primary election in May and a November general election will determine several legislative seats, including two for the University area

By Nika Carlson News Reporter

Legislative seats to represent the University area are up for grabs in both the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate this election year, along with three house seats that represent the Eugene area.

University-area voters have six candidates to choose from in the primary election for the two open seats that represent the area. The primary election takes place May 18 this year. They are partisan races, with candidates competing only for their party's nomination for a position. Voters must be registered with the Democratic or Republican party to vote on this race.

Whoever wins the primary election will be the candidate for his or her party in the general election on Nov. 2.

Senator, District 4

The major party nominations for the general election are already set for the race for Senate District 4, barring the remote possibility of a write-in candidate winning a party nomination. District 4 encompasses portions of Lane and Douglas counties, including the University area. Only one candidate for each party is competing to represent the area.

Lane and Douglas County commissioners appointed Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, in December 2003 to represent Senate District 4. He was representative for House District 8 prior to the appointment.

Prozanski said tax reform would be among his top priorities if he is re-elected in November. Using the example of a tax system as a three-legged stool, Prozanski said income tax is Oregon's only solid revenue leg. The state's dependence on the income tax, however, means that its revenue dips when the economy does. To combat this problem, Prozanski said he would be in favor of a limited progressive sales tax.

Prozanski also said the state needs to focus on the link between education and the economy.

"It's very shortsighted for Oregon to think we can maintain jobs and opportunities and keep young people in schools in Oregon

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Some same-sex couples find situation too precarious

Local couples say they are waiting to get same-sex marriage licenses until after the issue's constitutionality is resolved

By Chelsea Duncan News Reporter

As some couples rush to Multnomah County to legally solidify their relationships, others are waiting to see how the legal battle of same-sex marriages will play out in Oregon and across the nation.

University law school graduate Tiffany Rauch-Dickson and her partner Jessie Rauch-Dickson already have obtained a civil union certificate from Vermont and had a traditional wedding

ceremony in a Boston church. The next step is a formal certificate, which will recognize their relationship as a legal marriage.

But the two aren't sure if they want to risk getting a certificate in Oregon in case the marriages are found unconstitutional.

"I don't want to set myself up to go up there, wait in line, get a marriage license and then have somebody say, 'Oh sorry, never mind,'" Jessie Rauch-Dickson said. "We're waiting to see what happens because we want to do things legally, and when we do get a marriage license we want it to stick."

She said the two also are waiting because they eventually plan to move to New York.

"It's not like when a straight couple gets married in one state and moves to another," she said. "An Oregon marriage license could be

meaningless in New York."

Graduate student Kevin Bourzac said he and his partner also are unsure of when and where they will get a license.

"We're really taking the wait-and-see approach," he said.

Even though Bourzac said the two would have gone to Multnomah County by now if they'd had the free time, he feels it is still important to choose an appropriate state to get the official document.

He said their decisions will be based on which state — Oregon, California or Massachusetts — has most of the kinks worked out in terms of what is considered legal.

"Unless some very positive sign happens in Oregon or California, then we'll just get it in Boston," he said.

Former Lane Community College student Marshall Collins and his partner — a couple that also held a wedding ceremony but are not legally married — said the only reason he and his partner have not rushed to Multnomah County for a license is because the two haven't had the time.

"Getting spur-of-the-moment time off is kind of hard for us," he said.

He said even if the two get a marriage license and later have it revoked, it will be just one more battle to overcome.

"It's very much a reality that it can happen," he said. "I don't think it would be permanent."

The couples agree, however, that the most important reason to get a license is for the legal

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