

IN BRIEF

Registration cards mistaken for petition

SALEM — Dozens of Salem-area college students say they unknowingly registered to vote as Republicans this month after signing what they thought were petitions to bring down car insurance rates.

Western Oregon University student Kati Bennett told the Statesman Journal in Salem that she was walk-

ing to class when she was asked to sign a petition to lower car insurance rates, and told she had to fill in a little card asking for her party affiliation.

The 18-year-old Bennett said she checked "nonpartisan," but the canvasser crossed that out.

Polk County elections manager Val Unger said she has heard of five stories similar to Bennett's, all involving a fake petition to reduce car insurance rates.

Unger got suspicious when she received a stack of more than 400

voter registration cards submitted at the Oct. 12 deadline, all marked Republican.

She said more than half of the registration cards turned out to be for people who had previously registered, many as Democrats or independents. Two or three cards had the party affiliation crossed out and "Republican" was checked in its place, Unger said.

Similar complaints about switched voter registrations are emerging from around the state.

— The Associated Press

IN BRIEF

U.S. to import 5 million flu shots from abroad

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Thursday it is working to buy another 5 million doses of flu vaccine from manufacturers in Canada and Germany, mixing the ticklish issue of prescription drug imports with the flu shot shortage.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said government inspectors next week will visit plants where the vaccine is made to assess whether it is safe for Americans' use.

If the vaccine eventually makes it to this country, patients who receive it would have to sign a form acknowledging they are aware their flu shots were not originally destined for the United States, Thompson said.

The administration has refused to approve widespread importation of prescription drugs, saying it can't assure their safety. Sen. John Kerry and other Democratic candidates have used the issue to paint President Bush and the Republican party as too cozy with drug manufacturers, who

also oppose drug imports.

But with 48 million doses of flu vaccine, roughly half the anticipated U.S. supply, unexpectedly withdrawn from the market because of bacterial contamination, the administration is scrambling to make up the shortage.

With those 5 million doses, the administration will have found 11 million additional flu shots, roughly a quarter of the shortage, since early October. Thompson said federal agencies are turning in another 300,000 doses that will be shipped to states for use in priority populations — people aged 65 and over, children younger than 5 and the chronically ill.

Thompson said there is a "big difference" between medicines imported by individuals that are not subject to inspections and the flu vaccine.

"This vaccine is going to be inspected by FDA inspectors, based upon efficacy and safety," Thompson said. "Drugs that are imported into America don't have that protection."

Canadian flu shot maker ID Biomedical has just over 1 million doses to sell to the United States, while British drug manufacturer Glaxo-SmithKline can provide 4 million doses from a German plant, Thompson said.

— The Associated Press

Vote

- 53% of Oregonians 18-25 years old didn't vote in 2000
- Less than 25% of us have voted so far this election
 - 40% of young adults are uninsured
 - College Tuitions are up in 49 states
- 70% of enlisted personnel are ages 30 or younger



Get the Picture? Want Change? Vote Today!

Drop your ballot @ the UO for Kerry Table @ 13th and Kincaid (8am-5pm), Hamilton Commons (5pm-8pm), or the EMU Drop Box. Ballots must arrive at County Elections no later than 8pm, Nov. 2nd. Call 1-877-640-8811 for ballot pick-up or questions about voting.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Countdown to Victory! Get Out the UO Vote!

Day 5 • Fri., Oct. 29

"Going Upriver" Screening and Friday Night Party Hop for Ballots with U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, Jim Rassmann, Wade Sanders, and State Rep. Floyd Prozanski. Screening @ 5:15pm, Columbia 150. Party Hop for Ballots kick-off @ 7pm.

Day 4 • Sat., Oct. 30

Game Day Victory Rally with Sen. Wyden and Rep. DeFazio. 3pm, Autzen Foot Bridge. Knock and Rock to Victory. 8pm, EMU Amphitheater.

Day 3 • Sun., Oct. 31

Trick-or-Vote to Carry Oregon to Victory. 2pm, EMU Amphitheater—In Costume! This will be the most exciting and important student outreach operation of the campaign. Join the fun and help make history!

Days 2 & 1 • Mon.-Tue., Nov. 1-2

Rock to Victory with Sen. Wyden, Rep. DeFazio, Rep. Hooley and others!!! 8am-8pm, EMU Quad.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ROCK AND WALK EUGENE

Canvass from the Carry Oregon Field Office @ 114 E. 16th St. everyday 'til the ballot-drop deadline @ 8pm, Tues., Nov. 2.

For more info. or to confirm that you'll be there to help make history with us, call (541) 345-5981 or e-mail

Vaccine production, a fragile system

Flu vaccines are biological products, not chemicals that can be cranked out in times of need and are made fresh every year.

January to May

Virus selection

- ▶ FDA advisory panel selects three strains
- ▶ CDC provides new strains of the seed virus to the FDA
- ▶ FDA distributes the three seed viruses to manufacturers

Production begins

- ▶ Seed virus is injected into fertilized chicken eggs; virus multiplies in incubated eggs



- ▶ Egg white is removed, virus is harvested
- ▶ Chemical treatment applied to inactivate virus

June/July

FDA tests to confirm production

- ▶ Determines amount/yield of virus strains, purity and potency



- ▶ The three strains are blended into one vaccine by the manufacturer
- ▶ FDA licenses the vaccine

August

Filling/packaging

- ▶ Virus is filled into vials and syringes
- ▶ Virus is packaged for distribution; kept in cold

storage to ensure potency



September

Shipping

Shipping of flu vaccine begins

October/November

Vaccination begins

Immunity develops approximately two weeks after vaccination



SOURCE: Food and Drug Administration

AP

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8TH & OAK, DOWNTOWN EUGENE, PARK BLOCKS
SATURDAYS, RAIN or SHINE, 9 am - 4 pm

...and SOON Come Visit us at the

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Starting Nov 20th & 21st & Every Weekend until Dec 19
OPEN 10 - 6, In the Lane County Fairgrounds Auditorium
Come See How We've Grown...the best local selection of Produce, Plants, Flowers, Foods & FUN!

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