

Apathy to ecstasy

By William Kogut
Of the Emerald

For University students, Primary '82 emotions ranged from apathy to ecstasy.

"A pretty dismal sight." That's how Mabel Palmer, one of the five election clerks on duty at the campus polling place, Eugene Precinct 213, described a row of empty voting booths Tuesday afternoon.

The tennis courts were resounding with slams and serves, eating tables in the EMU were alive with conversation, but the campus precinct, adjacent to the post office, was dead.

Only 49 students had cast ballots by 3:30 p.m. One clerk was slumped over, taking a rest. Others discussed recipes.

"Do you put nuts in your banana bread?" asked one clerk.

In the 1980 Presidential primary, more than 700 students voted, said clerk Belle Kraal, adding that students forget they must re-register whenever they move.

"They have to re-register even if they just move across the hall," she said.

Told she would have to travel over to Harris Hall to re-register and then return to campus in order to cast her ballot, a student gave up in dismay.

"I can't do that," she said as she stalked away from Precinct 213.

"That's the way it always is," claimed another student voter, Ted Kapnick, who is also Democratic Precinct Committeeperson. "The main problem is that the student population is so transient. Most of them will be gone in a year or two years. They don't care."

"If the students don't care they will deserve what



Photo by Bob Baker

Campus pollsters had little to do as only 49 students had voted by 3:30 p.m. In the 1980 elections, 700 students turned out to vote during the primaries.

they get, and I will laugh," said Alan Contreras, campus campaign coordinator for City Council candidate Susan Sowards.

Contreras, also an ASUO vice president, was speaking at 10 p.m. in Sowards' election night headquarters, Old Town Pizza. Tables were covered with drained beer glasses and computer printouts that showed Sowards far behind her opponent, Dick Hansen.

Contreras estimated student turnout at 10 percent. In the 1978 off-year election student turnout was 35 percent, he said.

Yet, all was not apathy or disappointment for students this primary. Law student Mary Oberst saw her tireless efforts pay off.

At 6:45 a.m. Oberst was out on the corner of 30th and Hilyard sporting a Kulongoski billboard.

"I was Betty Billboard," Oberst joked at

Kulongoski's victory celebration in the Playwrights Rooms of the Hilton. "Women in Volkswagens were very receptive (to the billboard.) Men in large cars were not."

At midday, Oberst changed roles to "Wanda Walker," helping Kulongoski work the 5th Street Market. Later she was "Fannie Phoner," helping to get out the vote.

"Now I'm Pauline Party," she said in the Hilton, where candles lit 18 round tables, two big screen televisions flashed results which triggered applause that drowned out a three-piece band.

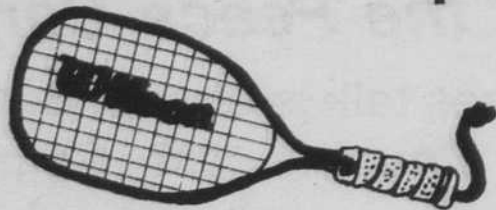
When Kulongoski delivered his midnight acceptance speech, his supporters strained forward and filled the rooms with their cheers. The scene was a stark contrast to the memory of empty precinct 213.

And Oberst, applauding Kulongoski, became her final character for the day — Vicky Victory.

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NOTORIOUS. A 1946 Hitchcock classic. Ingrid Bergman is paid as an American agent to spy on the head of a German industrial cartel. She marries him and over a period of time discovers the cartel is secretly at work developing the Atom Bomb. After passing the information to her contact, Cary Grant, her deception is discovered by her husband, Claude Rains, who decides to slowly poison her.



REBECCA. This 1940 classic Academy Award Winner was adapted from the famed novel by Daphne du Maurier. A young bride comes to a mysterious manor in England, where she finds that the memory of her husband's first wife haunts her. Stars Lawrence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, and Judith Anderson.

Lawrence Olivier

Joan Fontaine

Judith Anderson

Directed by
Hitchcock