

opinion

Alter the course: Elect Kulongoski

We may be the only newspaper in the state to do it, but with the University and the economy of the state in mind, the Emerald wholeheartedly endorses Sen. Ted Kulongoski for governor.

The office of governor requires an innovative thinker. Gov. Vic Atiyeh, lauded in many quarters for his managerial ability, does not have a clear set of goals for the recovery of the state.

Kulongoski has proven to be an able legislator, an aggressive campaigner, and a leader in pointing out that Oregon's economy requires a reorganization of our wood-products industry. He understands that education is the keystone to a healthy industrial and cultural climate within the state.

Kulongoski has a much greater understanding of the needs of higher education than the existing governor. He understands the need for an evaluation of the Full-Time Equivalency funding system of the state colleges and universities. Maintaining quality at the universities is among his major goals. Kulongoski also understands the asset universities are to economic development; he helped bring the Labor Education and Research Center to this campus.

Known for his support of organized labor, Kulongoski is nevertheless committed to Oregon business. Long before Atiyeh began thinking of diversification schemes, Kulongoski was discussing the need for rebids of existing timber contracts, short and long term economic planning, and commitments by government to aid small and medium-sized businesses.

The campaign between Atiyeh and Kulongoski has become the battle between a conservative businessman and liberal labor lawyer. In many ways that is a true description. However, neither candidate strays far from the middle course on the main issues of this election. Both candidates oppose Ballot Measure 3, the property tax relief measure that will undermine local government incomes. Both candidates support Ballot Measure 5, the nuclear freeze initiative. Both Atiyeh and Kulongoski consider a sales tax unrealistic. The candidates agree on environmental issues, timber contract re-bids, and maintaining the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

If Ballot Measure 3 passes, both candidates say they will utilize existing resources (i.e. the funds for the 30 percent tax relief package) before discussing alternative revenue raising. The rest of the deficit is a different matter. Atiyeh will look to cuts in programs again to make up an inevitable deficit. In his last round of cuts, higher education and human resources were not spared.

Kulongoski has different priorities. He advocates revenue raising in the form of adjusting corporate and income tax brackets to making cuts.

In a time of hardship for the University and the state, Kulongoski is the candidate that has his eyes on the future, but realizes that in the short run maintenance of services, aid to education, and emergency measures are a necessity to recovery. Gov. Atiyeh is content to let the state system of higher education sink to the lowest level of funding in the United States.

The next session in the legislature will probably find a democratic majority ready to deal with the recession and if necessary the devastation of Ballot Measure 3. Re-election of Atiyeh promises to be a repeat of emergency sessions and cuts.

Incumbency is not sole justification for re-election. Competency and vitality are needed qualifications for the governorship of Oregon. Kulongoski can supply those. Vote for Kulongoski on Tuesday.



your turn make the time

For three months I have worked on the background and implementation of the student voter registration drive. For at least that long I have listened to state decision-makers tell me students don't vote, which tells them that students don't care.

My questions to the decision-makers are when do students have the time to care, the time to educate ourselves about the candidates and issues, the time to take the time to vote?

Financial aid has been cut so drastically that students are working 20-40 hours a week, that is if they can find a job. And, because tuition is rising at such an alarming rate, students feel they need to finish their education as soon as they possibly can, so they carry credit hour loads of 18-24 credits rather than a more manageable load of 15-18 credits.

The fact of the matter is that none of us has the time. We have to make the time. The fact of the matter is that registering to vote takes only a few minutes. The fact of the matter is that it takes hours to educate

ourselves on the candidates and issues. The fact of the matter is that it takes about 30 minutes to vote. The fact of the matter is that there are 15,000 students on this campus, only about one-third of us are registered to vote, and only a fraction of that will typically turn out to vote.

If 15,000 students voted, decision-makers would listen instead of paying lip-service. If 15,000 students voted it would say to Oregon that we care and are ready to be heard.

Nov. 2 will decide whether or not we choose a sustained property tax level in exchange for a healthy educational system, court system and mass transit system. It will decide a new governor. It will decide the make-up of our state legislature. It will decide, for another year, whether or not we decided to be heard, whether or not we took the time to care.

On behalf of the ASUO I challenge you, challenge us, to take the time to make a difference. If you haven't registered to vote, do. Up to and

including the day of election you can register to vote at the Lane County Elections Bureau at 135 E. 6th, Eugene. If you haven't taken the time to educate your vote, read the Oregon voters pamphlet and the Oregon Student Lobby's Voter Guide, both of which are available at the ASUO Office in Suite 4 of the EMU. And, most important, on Nov. 2 vote and encourage your friends, too.

Vote because you care about quality education and public services in Oregon. Vote to sustain the things about Oregon that brought you here. Vote because 15,000 students make a big difference in what can happen when decisions are being made that affect us. Don't be a part of the reason that decision-makers are able to say students don't vote, so we must not care. Make the time.

debi lance
vice president, ASUO

Lance is vice president in charge of state and academic affairs. She was Lane Community College student body president in 1979-80.

letters

Turned soggy

According to Wednesday's headline, Halloween ain't what it used to be. In my opinion the headline is not wrong.

When I was a kid we had two sisters living in our neighborhood. All of us kids knew they were witches. Who else would bury fish heads at the base of all their rose bushes?

When Halloween night came

around, we would all gather in our little cliches and go house to house. We would usually stop between houses and see what we had and eat something to keep up our strength. We always stopped at the witches' house and collected our due. One year they happily handed over a small square something wrapped in a napkin and we merrily went our way. A block later we found out what the napkin contained when the bot-

tom of our treat bag turned soggy. Our goodies spilled all over the street. Ice cubes in napkins don't keep too well.

Those tricks were pretty serious in their time. We didn't worry about cyanide, razor blades or glass. We didn't have to. Maybe we need to look a little closer at ourselves and society to figure out why these things are happening now.

Carl Davis
freshman

oregon daily emerald

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The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor **must** be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.