

Skin is this
artist's canvas
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State tops national average in voter turnout on Tuesday

By Dennis Fernandes

Of the Emerald

The Oregon state elections office has released a "very rough estimate" that 71.38 percent of Oregon voters visited the polls Tuesday night, substantially higher than the predicted nationwide average of 55 percent. Reasons indicated for this year's large number have in-

cluded the emotional ballot measures and a popular gubernatorial race, but other elections, such as the state elections figure of 78.7 percent in the 1984 election, have been just as substantial.

It is a widely held notion that Oregon has a special knack for getting its citizens interested in local, regional and national

politics. In fact, this is the state where initiative and referendum originated.

The reason for that notion, according to Secretary of State Barbara Roberts, is extensive voter accessibility to the polls.

"Any time you do something to accommodate the voter, any time you don't put in a roadblock, and make people feel a part of the system, you get a large turnout," Roberts said.

According to 1985 statistics, Oregon's population is 1,975,921. Of that number, 1,448,781 are registered voters, according to the latest estimate in September.

"That is an indicator that Oregonians very much treasure the accessibility to cast their vote," said Stephen Ponder, a University journalism professor who worked for five years as a political writer for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

However, with Tuesday's passage of Ballot Measure 13, one of those roadblocks that Roberts referred to may have been created. It requires voter registration 20 days before elections, as opposed to the accommodating pre-election-day registration Oregon voters have enjoyed for the past 10 years.

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Olum, Davis enthusiastic about election's outcome

By Cami Swanson

Of the Emerald

Following the state's elections on Tuesday, University President Paul Olum and Bud Davis, chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, expressed their joy at the results, especially at the defeat of ballot measures 9, 11 and 12.

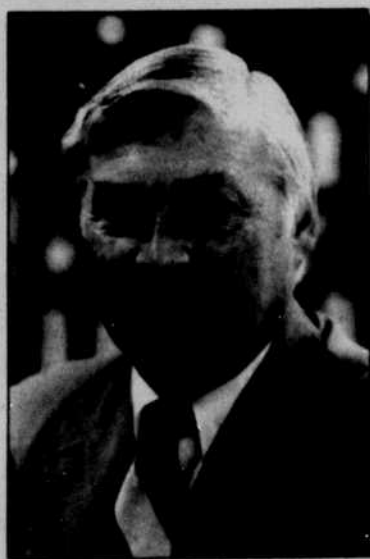
"I'm absolutely delighted," Olum said. "What concerned us most were the ballot measures.

"All of the measures represented serious threats to higher education funding. And they were all defeated more strongly this time than last," he said, referring to similar tax measures on the ballot in 1984.

Ballot Measure 9 would have set a limitation upon property taxes for 1987 at 1.5 percent. It was defeated at the polls by approximately 64 percent of the voters.

Ballot Measure 11, which would have exempted part of the value of an owner's home from property tax, was defeated by approximately 61 percent of the voters.

Ballot Measure 12 would have restructured the state's income tax system and was



William Davis

defeated by approximately 67 percent of the voters.

Olum believed the measures were "a bad mistake," saying the money to fund the measures would eventually have been taken away from the school districts.

Likewise, Davis was "tremendously encouraged by the resounding defeat of the tax measures." He was also im-

pressed by what he called the "discriminating judgment" of the voters.

Both Olum and Davis said they are looking forward to working with Neil Goldschmidt as Oregon's new governor. Comparing the gubernatorial race to a good football game in which either team could emerge as the winner, Davis called Goldschmidt an "aggressive, dynamic leader."

Olum also expressed his confidence in Goldschmidt. Referring to the fact that Goldschmidt is a University of Oregon graduate, Olum said, "Obviously, we will be able to work very well with Goldschmidt. However, I think we would have been able to work well with Paulus as well."

Oregon now has a Democratic majority in both its Senate and House of Representatives; however, both Olum and Davis stressed the fact that higher education receives strong bipartisan support.

"I don't think that the Democratic-Republican difference is what is important in

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Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

University President Paul Olum discusses upcoming legislative priorities before the University Assembly Wednesday.

University well-off despite pay needs, president explains

By Stan Nelson

Of the Emerald

The University's number-one priority for the upcoming state legislative year is increased faculty salaries, said University President Paul Olum at his annual State of the University address before the University Assembly on Wednesday.

The University's faculty salaries are 98th among 107 doctoral-granting institutions in the nation, and our faculty demands higher wages than what they are currently receiving, Olum said.

Progress was made during the 1985 legislative session, but further increases are still necessary to bring faculty salaries to equity with colleagues at other academic institutions, Olum said.

'The University is getting more well-known ... and that can be attributed to straightforward, prime-time advertising.'

— Paul Olum

A doctoral-granting institution by definition is an academic institution that grants at least 30 doctoral degrees a year for at least five consecutive years in at least five different areas.

The University is surely one of the top 20 academic institutions in the nation, and faculty salaries should in part reflect that fact, Olum said.

Additional funding for increased student enrollment is the University's second priority for the upcoming year, Olum said. Unrestricted general funding is necessary to compensate the rapid student growth.

A commitment to increased funding of the humanities and social sciences and related professional areas also is necessary, Olum said.

The low salaries of classified staff are also a concern to the University and need to be addressed, Olum said.

Clerical staff and other low-paid employees should not have to rely on federal assistance to support even a small family when they are employed full time, Olum said.

Student attitudes have been more upbeat and positive this

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