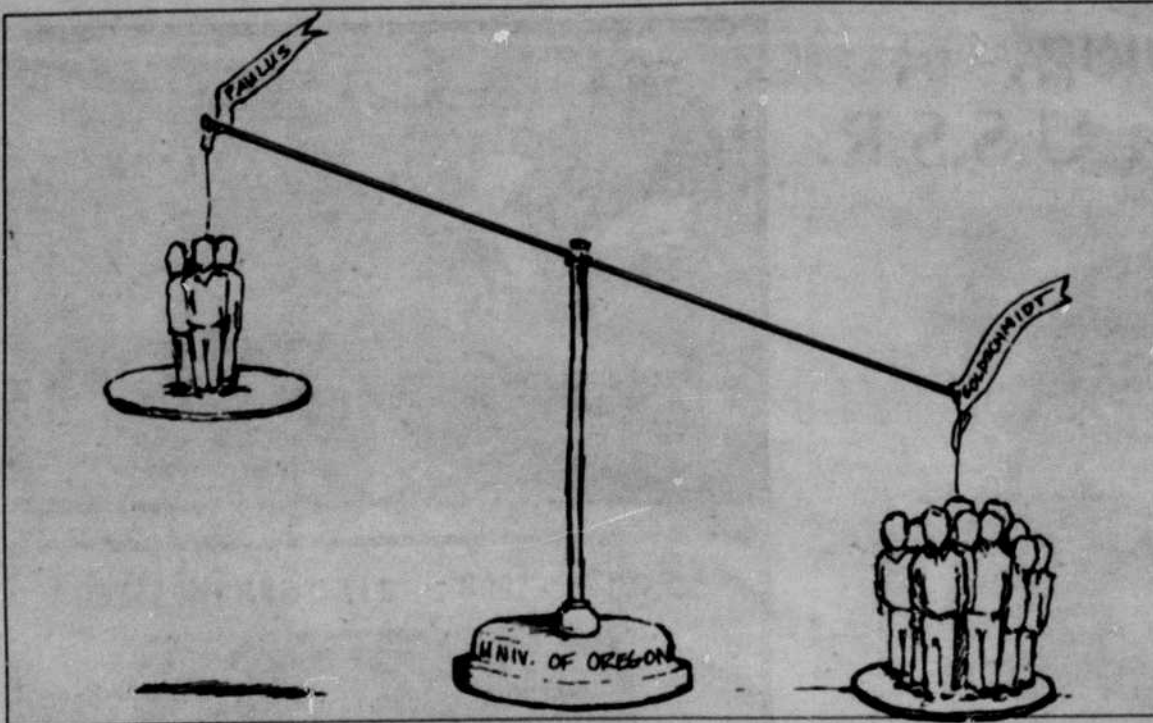




Campus voter turnout behind rest of county

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

In a pattern that has repeated itself several times over the years, voter turnout in most of the precincts near campus was substantially lower than in Lane County as a whole.

Figures recently released by the Lane County Election Board show that in nine of the precincts surrounding campus the average turnout of registered voters was 66 percent as opposed to 78 percent in the rest of Lane County.

While the four precincts directly south of campus had turnouts of 70 to 80 percent, Precinct 213, which consists of student dormitories, saw a turnout of only 46 percent.

The figures, however, show a significant jump in turnout over the last general election. While turnout in Lane County was 9 percent higher in this election than in the 1982 election, turnout in the campus-area precincts was a whopping 20 percent higher than in 1982.

The close gubernatorial race and controversial ballot measures may have spurred students beyond their usual interest (or lack of interest) in voting.

The nine precincts in and around campus went for University of Oregon-alumnus Neil Goldschmidt over Norma Paulus by about a 2 to 1 margin.

In contrast, Lane County closely reflected state-wide voting in choosing Goldschmidt by only a 3 percent margin.

Differences between University-area voters and the rest of Lane County also showed up in some of the ballot measures.

Measure 14, which would have closed the Trojan nuclear power plant, was defeated by a wide margin in Lane County. Campus-area precincts voted in favor of the measure by an even wider margin.

The same pattern showed up in Measure 16, which would have phased out nuclear-weapons production in Oregon.

While 51 percent of Lane County voters approved Measure 6, prohibiting state funding for abortion, the campus-area precincts resoundingly rejected the measure which went down to defeat statewide.

In an overwhelming rejection of Measure 5, 78 percent of Lane County voters decided against the legalization of marijuana. While the tally was much closer in campus-area precincts, all but one of those precincts voted against the measure. Precinct 209 voted in favor of the measure, with 64 percent voting for legalization.

In Precinct 213, consisting of the dorms, 52 percent of the voters opposed the measure.

Jail funds approved, operating funds not

By Tonnie Dakin
Of the Emerald

A split vote on ballot measures 19 and 20 has left Lane County officials in an awkward situation.

They have the go-ahead to build new jail facilities in Lane County but are left with no way to fund the operation of the facilities once they are built, and no one is certain how to deal with the situation.

Ballot Measure 19, which passed, allows the county to sell bonds to raise money for construction costs of new jail facilities, including a minimum-security facility for low-risk prisoners.

But Ballot Measure 20, which did not pass, would have authorized levying of property taxes to fund operating expenses of the new facilities.

Although Measure 19 permits the selling of bonds to raise the money for building the facilities, the defeat of Measure 20 leaves the county with no means for upkeep.

"There's no money available

for personnel and maintenance," said Ellie Dumdi, county commissioner-elect.

"Now the question is, 'is there a way to find some money for the upkeep?'" District Attorney Doug Harclerod said.

People knew that there was a chance that one of the two measures would not pass, but law requires that bond measures and tax levy measures appear as separate measures, Harclerod said.

There has been speculation about the reason one measure passed and the other did not, he said.

One theory is that the wording of Measure 20 may have been unclear, and the other is that the tax base increase may have alarmed people, Harclerod said.

Officials are undecided about how to proceed without the needed operating funds.

"It's in a state of flux right now," he said.

The situation will be an item of top priority for the new county commissioners, Dumdi said.

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