

# Editorial

## Blame it on apathy for low voter turnout

Voter turn-out for this year's ASUO student elections surpassed last year's anemic voter participation. A little more than 3,000 of the University's 17,000 or so students — or roughly 18 percent — voted this time around. This betters last year's 12.5 percent, but not by much.

While it is encouraging to see an increase in voter participation, this year's figures offer little to cheer about. Moreover, the increase may be attributed to competition between special interest factions; most notably Concerned Students for Responsible Leadership in one camp and Students for a Progressive Agenda in the other.

With the factional battlefronts distinctly drawn, one would think there would have been a high turnout. Despite the increase from last year, 18 percent is not high enough.

Voter turnout on the national level runs close to 50 percent. This is one of the lowest among Western democracies. It is a poor standard to live up to, yet seemingly out of reach for University students.

The unseen enemy for the University's low turnout is apathy — appalling apathy. In the last 35 years, the highest voter turnout has been 43 percent, and that was back in 1955. Considering the weighty issues students were asked to vote on this year, i.e., child care and Athletic Department funding, more students should have gone to the polls.

Perhaps next year students will find time and reason enough to vote. Maybe some issue or some candidate will strike a nerve in the student body. Maybe next year voter turnout will top the national average. But then again, maybe not.

## Supremacist indictments will curb racial violence

With this the beginning of Holocaust Week, the federal indictments of 15 white supremacists last Friday comes as poetic and legal justice.

The 15 white separatists are leaders of various hate-groups, such as the Aryan Nations Church, The Order and the Ku Klux Klan. All have been charged with conspiring to overthrow the federal government and allegedly have used a variety of means to accomplish this end, including murder, bank robberies, counterfeiting and bombings.

Included in the round up, known as Operation Clean Sweep, was the Rev. Richard Butler, leader of the Aryan Nations Church. Butler preaches in his Sunday sermons that Jews are the children of Satan and non-whites are sub-human and are not worthy of spiritual salvation.

Using a church pulpit to profess hate doctrines should be a crime in itself, but the charges leveled against Butler and his racist crew outweigh this lesser evil.

In our pluralistic society freedom of expression must be respected. Hate mongers and racists enjoy the basic civil liberties granted to all American citizens. However, as is usually the case for any society's radical fringe, the 15 who were indicted had gone too far. One has the right to speak of hate and violence, but not to carry these concepts out.

The indictments will not harken an end to anti-semitism and racism within the ranks of neo-Nazi groups. Yet by prosecuting their leaders, the federal government undoubtedly has crippled these groups' effort to spread violence.



## Letters

### Safe or sorry

It bothers me when I hear someone describe abortion as safe and legal. Abortion is anything but safe.

We must begin by putting this issue in its proper perspective: Half of all the human beings who enter an abortion facility never make it out alive. Those little babies who get cut to shreds (D & C) or burned up (saline method) certainly aren't "safe."

As for the women involved, we shouldn't forget the physical problems an abortion can cause her.

Oh sure, statistically the percentage who become sterile, hemorrhage or acquire infections may be small, but we're talking about an operation occurring more than a million times each year in the United States. Maybe a presentation of actual numbers of women having complications might discourage many from believing abortion is so safe.

wonder how a woman feels who gets an abortion — and later finds it impossible to bear children (due to the abortion or even some other factor).

To have to live with the thought that you might have aborted the only baby you ever could conceive must really be painful.

Yes, abortion is legal, but I encourage people to think about how "safe" it is for the baby and the mother.

Patricia Dalgliesh  
Fall Creek, Oregon

place, and I'm prepared to be a spectator of this life-long ideological tennis match.

So, if you want to "debate" this issue with me, I can be found in the Free Speech Forum — I'm the one with cotton stuffed in my ears.

Richard J. Schulte  
Telecommunication and film

### Tennis match

Reading the ODE has changed my outlook on life. Perhaps a few words of explanation are in order.

I was, until recently, an idealist. The social legislation and political activism led me to believe that the world was becoming a more tolerant, understanding place in which divergent views and beliefs would be tolerated, perhaps even welcomed.

I transferred to this University with this view intact, and I welcomed the "free exchange of ideas" and "rational discussions of differing opinions." Reading the ODE has changed my outlook by making me realize that my view was ridiculously idealistic.

Reading the editorials is like watching a dead-locked tennis match — back and forth, back and forth, ad nauseum.

First the "pro-lifers," then the "pro-choicers." Then come the Creationists and the Evolutionists, followed by the Atheists and the Christians.

There is no discussion, just long-winded discourses from Group A about how completely misled and wrong Group B is. The most common "exchange of ideas" here happens when people say, "Hey, you, come exchange you ideas for mine — yours are wrong."

And so, with my youthful idealism turned into more "mature" cynicism and pessimism, I no longer believe the world is becoming a more tolerant and understanding

### PIRG attack

James Randall, who has been attacking the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group for over a year, claimed in his letter to the Emerald (April 7) that he would question the funding of any student group which was as political in nature as OSPIRG.

Why, then, hasn't he? Many of the most active campus organizations are "political" in nature. Political involvement, learning to solve some of the many compelling problems of our society, is an invaluable part of a college education.

Is OSPIRG really the most political group on campus[[[or just the group Ron Munion and James Randall seek to destroy first?

James Randall ignorantly alleges that OSPIRG is evil mostly because it's a "partisan" organization. He is sadly mistaken.

OSPIRG does not support or concern itself with the candidates or activities of any political party. In fact, both of the corporations controlled by OSPIRG students are legally registered with the State of Oregon as non-partisan.

Mr. Munion and Mr. Randall do not agree with the viewpoints put forward by OSPIRG. Does that make it "partisan"? No, I'm awfully sorry, James, but "controversial" does not mean "partisan."

Maureen Kirk  
OSPIRG State Board Chair

Monday, April 27, 1987

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**General Staff**  
Advertising Director Susan Thelen  
Production Manager Wayne Michael Lottinville  
Classified Advertising Alyson Simmons  
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

**Advertising Sales:** Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager  
Teresa Acosta, Janelle Heitmann, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Joan Wildermuth  
**Advertising Apprentices:** Teri Boring, Heather Mull, Barbara Rodgers, Julie Paul

**News and Editorial** 686-5511  
**Display Advertising and Business** 686-3712  
**Classified Advertising** 686-4343  
**Letter Perfect Graphics** 686-5511  
**Production** 686-4381  
**Circulation** 686-5511

**Editor**  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Spectrum Editor  
Spectrum Assistant Editor  
Editorial Page Editors

**Sports Editor**  
Photo Editor  
Spectrum Photo Editor  
Graphics Editor  
Night Editor

**Associate Editors**  
Community  
Politics  
Higher Education / Administration  
University Affairs  
Student Government  
Student Activities  
General Assignment  
General Assignment

**Reporters:** Jackie Barry, Mary Courtis, Gary Henley  
**Photographers:** Sheryn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Derrel Hewitt, Tim Jones, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler

**Production:** Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator  
**Supervisors:** Sandra Bevans, Shu-Shing Chen, Elliot Knight, Angela Muniz, Ingrid White  
**Technicians:** Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Samantha Barbita, Sara Briscoe, Janet Emery, Judith Gatz, Lisa Haggerty, Jung Lee, Donna Leslie, Bobbie Lo, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Diana Moy, Julie Paul, Michael Wilhelm, Serena Williams, X. Kang Xie

Michelle Brence  
Lucinda Dillon  
Michael Rivers  
Stephen Maher  
Stanley Nelson  
Michael Drummond  
Angie Muniz  
Dennis Fernandes  
Maria Corvallis  
John Giustina  
Lorraine Rath  
Stanley Nelson

Janet Paulson  
B.J. Thomsen  
Chris Norred  
Laurie Schwartz  
Carolyn Lamberson  
Sarah Kitchen  
Alicia Gano  
Scott Maben