

Low numbers smash 'political' falsehood

For a campus as allegedly political as the University, it's surprising — and disappointing — that less than one-fourth of the student population is registered to vote in Lane County.

Hopefully, the ASUO/OSPIRG voter registration tables that are starting tomorrow and running through Thursday will alter those numbers. The tables will be at the EMU on Tuesday and Thursday, and at the bookstore on Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive's goal is 1,000 new registrants.

If you aren't registered yet, then go. Besides the usual arguments about it being a public duty and a personal responsibility, the chance to cast a ballot is one of the greater rewards of democracy. Of course, this is all stuff you probably heard in civics class. Still not convinced yet?

Then consider this. A common complaint of apathetic citizens is that their vote makes no difference in the final tally of things. But this simply isn't true. Letting your voice be heard is also an excellent way to hear others.

"Representatives don't campaign on college campuses very often because college students have a poor reputation for voting," says Tim Gauss, the vice chairman for the local OSPIRG board. Gauss is correct, but it could be different on a politically motivated campus.

Oregon could be a strategic primary state if either party faces a brokered convention, and politicians will go to where the voters are. For example, enthusiastic, vocal crowds drew vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro to the campus in 1984.

The logic applies to state and local representatives and issues as well. Community and county leaders are concerned about what their constituents are thinking — or they had better be concerned.

If you are already that one of every four students who is registered to vote, then good for you. Get a friend to go. One thousand new voter slips isn't an unrealistic goal, it's a necessary one.

ASUO has plenty of room for student involvement

ASUO elections packets come out this Wednesday, giving students a chance to become more politically active.

Running for an ASUO elected position is extremely simple. One fills out the application inside the packet and turns it in, along with showing a fee card and photo I.D., at Suite 4 EMU before March 18. No money, public referendum or blood sample is necessary. The handy-dandy information booklet inside the packet explains each of the many positions that one can run for.

Besides the annual presidential and vice-presidential slots, there are also six seats on the IFC available, three on the EMU Board, one on the ODE Board, two spaces on the presidential advisory council (ASPAC) and 13 Student Senate vacancies. If somebody is unhappy with the ASUO this year, that person has the opportunity to make amends.

ASUO primaries are April 12 and 13; general elections are a week later.



Letters

Speak your mind

The numerous errors made by Oregon Daily Emerald editors in transposing submitted copy into print (no less than seven in my last letter, of such nature as to suggest the possibility of a religious gremlin on staff) indicate the need for accountability.

Since the Oregon Daily Emerald serves the practical purpose of providing students, especially journalism and communications students, with hands-on writing/editing experience, to require the editor/typist responsible for each contributed letter/article to append his/her initials/name to the individual item, or feature, as appropriate, would promote greater interest in professionalism.

The "Letters to the Editor" section of Eugene-area newspapers is a popular department. The community offers ample resource experts to make the section an important educational asset. With care and attention, a clever and supportive editor emulating the celebrated editors of *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's* — who nurtured stables of willing writers they called upon to contribute embers for the cauldron of intellectual ferment they kept permanently brewing, including pseudonymous contributions of

their own when muse or circumstances required — could develop skills and compile a career-enhancing portfolio attesting to his/her skills that a future employer would value.

Perhaps contributors to the Oregon Daily Emerald's "Letters" section who have had similar cause for complaint, recognizing the important role the Emerald plays in providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, criticism and information vital to the spirit of an educational institution, will call or write Stanley Nelson, Emerald editor, who has a stake in the improvement of this department, to advise him of their view in this regard.

Bert P. Tryba
Eugene

Support Demos

You can tell a lot about a party by what its candidates are saying.

A recent study by the National Women's Political Caucus found a clear dividing line between the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates on issues of particular importance to women.

For example, every Democratic candidate strongly supports child care services. But, according to the study, Republican candidate George Bush "supports the Reagan administration's view that there be no federally funded child care facilities." Although Republican candidate Bob Dole has supported child care tax credits, he voted against providing federal money for child care demonstration projects.

All the Democratic candidates support the Equal Rights Amendment, which guarantees that no woman in the United States should be discriminated against because of her gender. By and large, the Republican candidates do not support this

amendment.

As an editorial in the Los Angeles Times commented on Thursday, Feb. 4, "Democratic women in the caucus can say with some assurance, based on evidence in their survey, that their views have been heard by their presidential candidates. Republican women in the caucus evidently have their work cut out for them. They must persuade not only their candidates but also a good number of party members that, rather than resisting the progressive agenda for change, they should be helping to lead the country toward it."

If you are concerned about women's rights (as we all should be), isn't it clear which party you should support?

Randy MacDonald
University Democrats

Good attitude

Briefly, I must commend Stephen W. Orosz and his recent article, "Saferide: A Male Perspective from the Inside," (*ASUO Review*, a paid advertisement Feb. 18).

Having raised five daughters (four who are attending institutions of higher learning in Oregon) and having met a myriad of young men, I recognize the exceptional attitude Mr. Orosz displays. This is obviously exceptional, as evidenced by the vast number of women who are sexually assaulted every year in several universities, which showed that 67 percent of the young male participants believed that, under certain circumstances, using force to obtain sexual gratification from a woman is "acceptable."

My congratulations, Mr. Orosz, for your insightful, mature and compassionate treatment of a volatile subject.

Sandra Schaff
Graduate student, PPPM

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

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