

Cast your ballot in the general election

It's hard to believe, but today is the day to decide the future of the nation, state and community. After almost a year of political bombardment, today is election day.

So get out and vote!

Today, registered voters throughout the nation will decide who will be the next President and Vice President of the United States, as well as which Senators and Representatives will represent them in Congress. Voters also will elect a number of candidates to local offices and will decide the fate of numerous ballot measures.

In our most recent issues, the Emerald has endorsed certain candidates and ballot measures we believe will best represent the nation, the state, the University and the community-at-large. Take time to reread our endorsements if you are confused about the issues or glance through yesterday's Emerald for a quick recap of our endorsements.

Eugene's 68 polling places will be open today from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Forty-eight of these polls are accessible to the handicapped. For those of you who aren't sure to which precinct you belong, call Lane County Election Headquarters at 687-4234.

Furthermore, if you are having trouble finding a way to the polls, the ASUO and OSPIRG are sponsoring a free voter shuttle that can take you from the University to several area polling places.

So you see, there's really no excuse for not voting. Every vote *does* count — in deciding the future of the city, county, state, nation and your own personal future as well. Exercise your right. Vote.

Voters should ignore East Coast election projections

Last January, a compromise in the battle over televised election-day exit polls was reached when CBS, ABC and NBC agreed not to report exit-poll results until state polls close.

Unfortunately, this agreement doesn't bar networks from projecting the winner of today's Presidential election in the event of a landslide victory on the East Coast, where the polls close earlier than in the nation's other five time zones.

This particular situation serves as an explanation for voter apathy — at least in the Western states.

In effect, we Western voters are told that the election is over long before the voting is done.

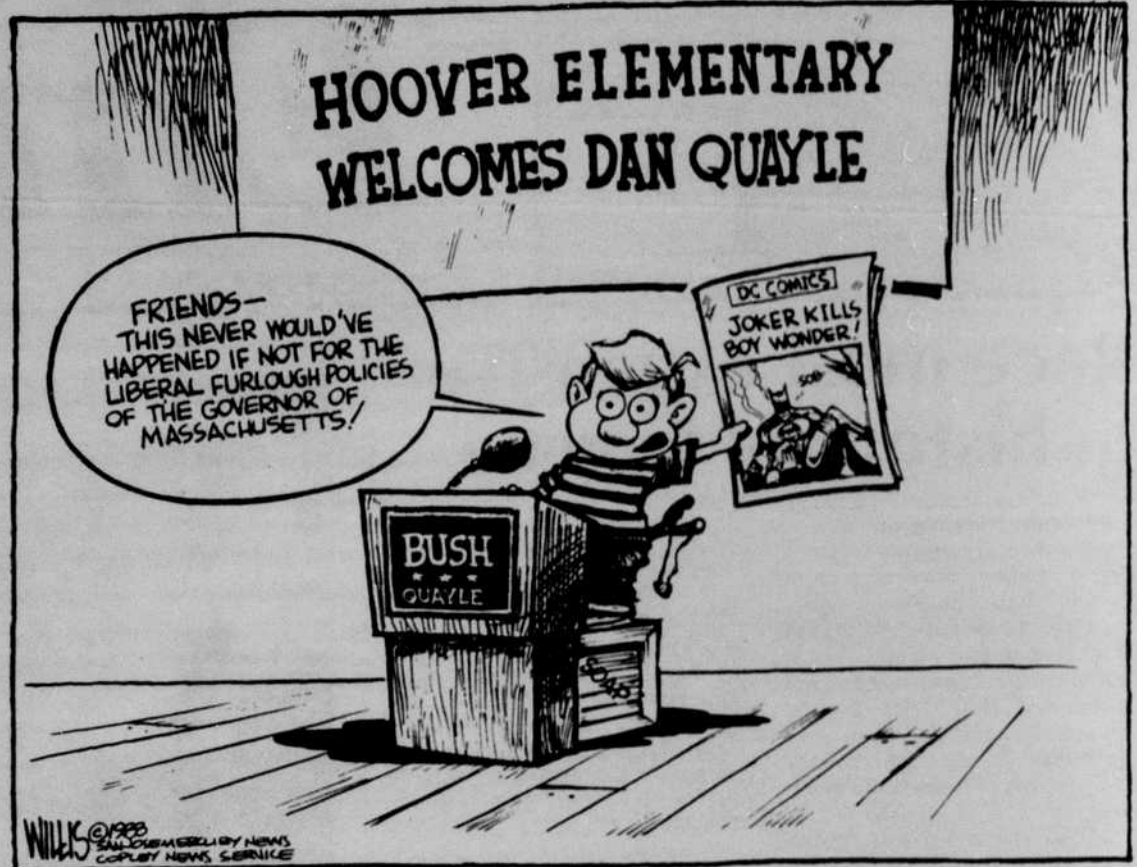
At press time, a decision hadn't been made yet as to whether the three major networks would project a winner in the Presidential race in the event of a landslide on the East Coast.

We would hope that no such projections are made.

But even if the networks project a winner there is no reason to stay home, particularly with the number of important ballot measures and local candidates that will be decided today.

The votes from the West (and the Midwest) carry just as much weight as do those cast in the East.

So ignore the networks and the opinions of those around you. Make your *own* decision and exercise it at the polls.



Letters

Trying times

It must be a trying time for all of you new voters. Months and months of the "L" word, the "W" word, of "read my lips" and the pledge of allegiance. It's all just too much to sort out, so you'll sit this one out, right?

Well there's something that those of you with a uterus (and you know who you are) should realize: A vote for Bush will guarantee that you, your sisters and all of your friends will never again have the choice to have an abortion.

That's right, ol' Gentle George guarantees that he'll appoint Supreme Court Justices who will be anti-choice, and who'll vote to overturn Roe v. Wade.

So it's back to Grandmother's America: Back-alley, coat hanger abortions; jail for doctors who perform them; and motherhood for those of you dumb enough — or unlucky enough — to get pregnant.

And all you guys get to be daddies, like it or not (the only 100 percent method of birth control is abstention, remember), if someone or something makes a mistake.

Remember that on Tuesday when you bag it or head for the polls convinced Bush/Quayle are "awesome." Deficits and

arms races may not make much sense, but do not forget that with Bush as your President, your pregnancy will mean motherhood or jail. You may not personally choose to have an abortion, but do you want to steal that choice from your sisters and your women friends? Bush does. Don't let him do it.

Michael Morrow
Graduate,
psychology and sociology

Decisions

At 19, I was old enough to live on my own, young enough to make some mistakes. At 19 I became pregnant and was in no way prepared for motherhood. I remember crying at night because my boyfriend was less prepared than I. I had no skills, no college and no means of support. I felt trapped and saw my future being derailed.

A week after I discovered my pregnancy I had an abortion. At that early stage, I had absolutely no sensation, physically or spiritually, of having a child in me. The test alone told me a seed had been planted but at that point the seed was entirely part of my body; it was, in fact, my body. It was my decision that the seed should not come to fruition. The procedure itself was painless, less so than the process that my boyfriend and I went through, coming to grips with the fact that parenthood was so wrong for us at that time.

Have I ever regretted that decision? Not once. I thank the caring and compassionate people who helped me through that time. I emerged with a very deep respect for life and grew and matured positively from the experience. Did I "murder a baby?" Only in the eyes of those so passionately misguided by the twisted definition of "right to life."

I'm glad women such as Carol Hoague feel life is sacred, but I deplore the tactics of fear and coercion used by anti-choice forces. My heart goes out to men, women and children of this world. Our choices are not easy. However, I alone will decide whether or not to

bear a child. Not the government, not you.

S. Stephenson
Student

Outcome

In the 1984 election only about 50 percent of registered voters in America actually voted. Of those, only a little over 50 percent voted for our current president. This means that only about 25 percent of this country's voting populous chose everyone's leader and representative. For me they made the wrong decision. The current administration does not share my priorities nor reflect my values.

"But my one vote doesn't count," you say. It was estimated that if all people who said that in 1984 had voted, America would have a different president today. Your vote does count! It counts even more in local elections. Besides the fact that there are significantly less people voting for each candidate (or measure), the outcome is much more important to your everyday life.

America is supposed to be a democracy. Democracy means government by the people, that's you! If the people don't vote, then America is not a democracy! Be a patriotic American! Vote on November 8, 1988.

Blake Weller
Member, University Democrats

Bigoted bone

Last night I heard Alexander Haig retort, "There isn't a bigoted bone in George Bush's body" to charges from the left of racist appeals. This is the same George Bush that allied himself closely with Barry Goldwater in the late 50s and early 60s. Maybe a more pertinent question would be: is there a bone IN George Bush's body?

Alan Rutherford
Architecture

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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.

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.

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