

Voters say no to divisiveness

Dave Frohnmayer

The recent election was unusually important for the University. A number of state ballot measures threatened to affect our University's finances and future.

The voters have spoken, and I am happy to report that we have cause for celebration. Most of the ballot measures that would have had the most negative effect on the University's budget and people have been defeated.

It is especially good news that Ballot Measures 13 and 15 have been rejected.

Ballot Measure 13, the OCA-sponsored anti-gay rights initiative, would have represented in my view a mean-spirited attack on the rights of our fellow citizens. We can now breathe a collective sigh of relief and move forward to make certain that this sort of divisive issue does not raise its head again in our state.

The defeat of Ballot Measure 15 — which would have taken millions of dollars from higher education and other vital state programs and dedicated these funds exclusively to education at the kindergarten through community college level — was also welcome news for the University.



DAVE FROHNMAYER

By rejecting it, I believe Oregonians are sending a message: They want state government to preserve education not simply from kindergarten through community college, but from preschool through life. They know that higher education is an indispensable part of Oregon's future.

Throughout this electoral season, I have been deeply impressed by the activism and energy of University students. You led the nation in voter registration. You have shown me that a caring, committed student body can make a real difference.

I especially want to thank ASUO President Leslie Warren, Vice President Mark Rhinhard and many others, who helped to register and motivate their fellow students, for this wonderful display of civic responsibility.

But it is important for us to remember that the election was merely a starting point. All of us

at the University — students, faculty and staff alike — must continue to prove to the people of this state and this region that the University is worth their continued support.

We must make the case that higher education is not a frill to be trimmed at whim, but a requirement, a necessity for our economic, political and cultural future. We must concentrate on providing the University the tools it needs — in the form of private funding, institutional flexibility and legislative support — to help lead the way into the next century.

I will be working closely with other educational leaders in the state: the new Kitzhaber administration, the Oregon Legislature, our faculty, alumni and friends, to make it clear that the University has emerged from this election strong, stable and vital to this state. I encourage you to join me.

Again, I give special thanks to the students of the University for your help in making this electoral season one to celebrate. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or advice. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Frohnmayer is president of the University of Oregon.

■ LETTERS

Cheap seats

In response to Manda Bednarczyk's request for information on how to reserve sections of seating in Autzen Stadium (ODE Nov. 9), I would like to point out that there are two requirements.

1. Enthusiasm. In both basketball and football games, Delta Upsilon prides itself on being louder than hell and very sup-

portive of Oregon teams. We start "waves," yell with the rally squad and taunt opposing players — anything we can do to help our teams succeed. In fact, in the last three years, of the hardy souls willing to don the Duck mascot suit, three have been DUs.

2. Tradition. At a school where interest in football (dare I say it) often rises and falls with the team's winning percentage,

Delta Upsilon has taken its spot at Autzen every home game since I've been here. As a senior, I've seen my last as a student but plan to return as an alumnus for many years.

Our names are not on those bleachers (yet), so if you wake up early enough to beat us there, fine. But be prepared for a whole lot of company.

Casey Fitzpatrick
Delta Upsilon

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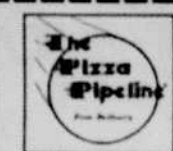


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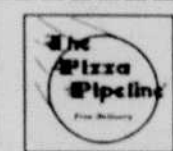


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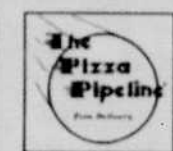


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