

The Safe Zone Project



University offices, staff, and students displaying or wearing the safe zone sign – a pink triangle with a green circle around it – are visible supporters of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of our community. These individuals or offices are indicating they will be understanding, supportive and trustworthy if a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender student, colleague, or ally needs help, advice, or just someone to whom they can talk.

If you can offer yourself as a "Safe Zone," we encourage you to display this symbol in your office, on your clothing or backpack, or at home.

Safe Zone buttons and stickers are available in the Office of Student Life, 364 Oregon Hall; the LGBA Office, 319 EMU; the Counseling Center, 210 Student Health Center; the ASUO Office; and other campus offices.

For more information on this or other services related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues contact Stephanie Carnahan, Director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Educational and Support Services Program, at 346-1134, or carnahan@oregon.uoregon.edu

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF VOTE BY MAIL

- **1981** : Legislature approves a test of vote-by-mail for local elections.
- **1987**: VBM made permanent; majority of counties use it for local/special elections.
- **1993**: VBM first used for statewide ballot measure elections.
- **1995**: Oregon becomes first state to conduct a primary election completely by mail to nominate candidates to fill a federal office — 57.9 percent turnout.
- **JAN. 1996**: Oregon becomes first state to conduct a general election totally by mail to fill a federal vacancy when it selected Senator Ron Wyden to replace Bob Packwood — 66.3 percent turnout.
- **MARCH 1996**: Oregon holds country's second vote-by-mail presidential primary — 57.6 turnout.

SOURCE: Oregon Secretary of State

The future: Vote-by-mail is cause for concern for some

Continued from Page 2

"Voting often and voting lightly could be detrimental to our government," said Jim Westwood, commission member from Portland.

Commission member Delna Jones agreed.

"If mail elections are too frequent, they become like just another piece of mail," said the Beaverton resident. "People stop realizing the importance of participation. Once the novelty of vote-by-mail wears off, there will be a decline in voter participation."

And voting by mail doesn't guarantee that the quality of deci-

sion will go up, said Mark Rhinard, commission member and former University student. But some commission members suggested that voting by mail provides more opportunity to study the issues.

Other findings by the commission included: No party, campaign or candidate benefits from vote-by-mail elections; more research must be done to determine the effects of vote by mail participation among racial and ethnic minorities; most people viewed mail ballots as a convenience; and neither the state nor county should be required to pay postage on mail ballots.



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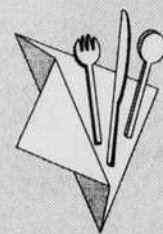
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M-TH 8:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
F 8-6, Sat 10-8, Sun 10-10
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Gourmet coffees, espresso, pastries, soup and snacks



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