

THIS WEEK
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POLITICS

a voter's guide to the 1996 election and life on the campaign trail

SOUND OFF
 Do you identify most with Democrats, Republicans or Independents? Let us know.

Political parties head into election week

LIBERALS: College Democrats say students relate more easily to the Democratic party

By Shana Cohn
 Politics Editor

More college students identify with Democrats because they support human rights, the environment and women's rights, said Karen Head, chairwoman of College Democrats on campus.

"The Democrats believe in more efficient government, but we don't want to cut government at the expense of the people," said the 21-year-old senior in political science. "We're just the better party."

With about 40 active members, the College Democrats meet weekly to discuss candidate endorsements and involvement with political campaigns.

Although many differences exist within the Democratic party, Head said the group's beliefs are fairly uniform.

"We tend to agree on candidates to endorse who will best represent the Democratic party," she said.

Jon Lucchese of the College Democrats said he would have likely followed in his Republican father's footsteps if it weren't for his belief in left-wing values.

Democrats, Lucchese said,

support the opportunity of all instead of protecting the status quo.

"I very much root for the underdog," said Lucchese, a 20-year-old political science major. "The Republicans see the government as a majority-rules body. I see it as a body to protect the minority."

Because of the diverse student body, Lucchese said it's easier to be liberal than conservative at a public university.

Universities should actively seek those outside the usual student makeup, said Lucchese, a strong supporter of affirmative action, which the U.S. government implemented in 1972.

"Before affirmative action, student bodies at public institutions were largely white and male," he said. "Affirmative action has definitely helped bring more minorities to campus. Before 1972, there wasn't even funding for female sports."

Lucchese also said students relate more with the Democratic party because they address issues important to them, such as education, civil rights and poverty.

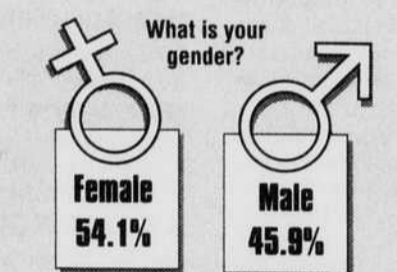
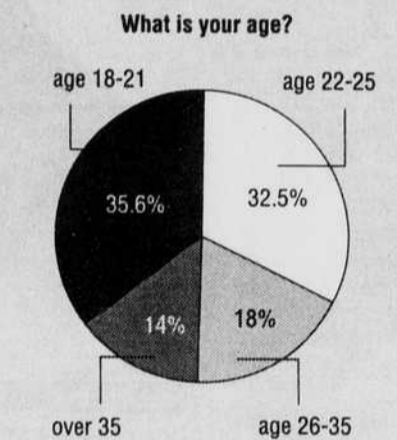
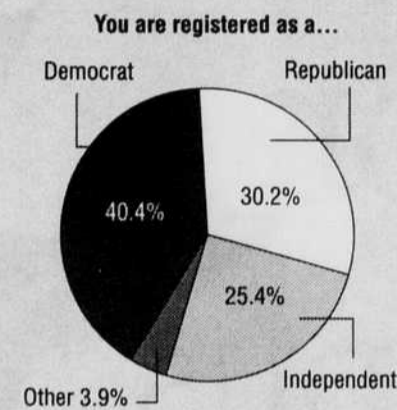
"Students tend to be progressive and Democrats tend to be progressive," he said.

To get involved with the College Democrats you can join their next meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room E.

They also have a table set up today in the EMU Breezeway.

OREGON STUDENT POLITICS

About 600 students from the seven Oregon State System of Higher Education institutions were surveyed about their political identities:



SOURCE: Oregon Student Association
 DENNIS BOLT/Emerald

CONSERVATIVES: College Republicans say students are thankful to have an open political forum here

By Shana Cohn
 Politics Editor

Some Republican students were grateful and downright relieved to see their candidates represented in the EMU this week, at what they believe is a predominately liberal campus.

"People think this a complete liberal homogeneous zone," said Joel Thompson, chairman of the College Republicans and a senior majoring in political science. "It's comforting to some people that we're here."

As the Nov. 5 election approaches, Republican students are loading up on red and blue Dole/Kemp stickers from an EMU table and commenting on their minority status on campus.

"They come up and say, 'Thank God you're here,'" said Thompson, who sat at the College Republican sponsored table. "People know it's a liberal university and they don't feel comfortable having open political discourse on campus."

The College Republicans meet weekly to provide a place for students to discuss the candidates and the issues. Within the group of about 20 active members, differences are prevalent and accepted.

"We don't like to be real pro-life or pro-choice because we have both in our group," Thompson said. "We don't desire to be a homogeneous group among ourselves."

Regardless of differences,

Thompson said the gatherings provide a place for students to express their views without coming under attack from campus liberals.

"It's easy to be a Democrat on campus, but it takes guts to be a Republican," he said. Although many students come to campus with strong political beliefs, Thompson said others join the College Democrats to be part of the majority.

"It's tempting to come on a politically active campus and go with the way the wind's blowing," he said.

A main difference between the parties, he said, is the Republicans associate themselves with values the country was founded on, such as free enterprise and less government control. Democrats focus on the role of government to provide and promote general welfare, he said.

But despite conflicting views, College Republican Peter Enslow said importance lies in young people educating themselves about the issues.

"Political action is so important," he said. "If you're not knowledgeable about what's going on in politics, it's like saying 'I'm not an American.' There's so many ways to be active that there's no excuse not to be."

To get involved with the College Republicans call Joel Thompson at 346-9391. Or visit their table, which is located on the main level of the EMU and open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Friday.

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ON THE BALLOT

A look at some of the 23 ballot measures in the November 5 election

THE MEASURE

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WHAT IT WOULD DO

Would require that public employees' earnings be expressed as costs borne by the employer for the employee's benefits. Those costs include base pay/salary, benefit package, vacation, clothing allowance, rest and meal breaks, holiday pay, personal leave, Social Security and Medicare taxes, retirement, federal unemployment taxes, family and sick leave, bonuses, merit pay, overtime, child care, compensation time, employer tax, continuing education and state unemployment taxes. Measure makes complete information regarding employer costs available to the public.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Measure makes public all the tax money spent on public employee salary and benefits. Although this information is already public record, neither legislators nor the public has ever been able to get the exact numbers. The public is entitled to know what is spent on its government, and the measure explicitly outlines the costs.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Would clutter the Oregon Constitution by adding unnecessary and confusing accounting requirements. Would require that salaries and benefits — including uniforms and unused disability — be twisted in an odd dollars/hours worked amount that could not be used to make comparisons.

THE MEASURE

42

WHAT IT WOULD DO

Would require annual testing at the beginning of the school year of all public school students in grades 4-12. Individual results would be reported to the student and his/her parents and total results from each school would be reported to the Department of Education.

ARGUMENTS FOR

The annual testing would test the total system of education as well as individual students. Parents and students would know better how they are progressing and how their education compares to that of others in the state. The current system of testing every other year can allow students to "fall through the cracks."

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

A testing system already exists that is a valuable, accurate tool for evaluating student progress. Testing at the end of the year, the current practice, rather than at the beginning, is a better way to assess students progress. This requirement is better handled by statute than by constitutional amendment in order to make necessary adjustments as the educational system changes.

SOURCE: The Oregon Voters' Pamphlet