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## Voters

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prising is that 16 percent is actually an upward swing from previous years. In 1997, voter turnout at the University was 1,166. The last two years saw significant increases, bumping the numbers up to 2,355 in 1998 and 2,489 in 1999, respectively.

ASUO Elections Coordinator Ken Best said he thinks voter apathy is deeply ingrained in the minds of students and young people across the nation.

"Apathy is a big problem. People don't think that what happens in the voting process affects them," he said.

Best, however, said he does not think it is an issue of students not caring, but it has more to do with poor communication in the media and the political level.

Apathy "comes from a widespread misunderstanding of what programs and student fees do," Best said.

At the University level, students have complained about accessibility and poor publicity when it comes to elections. Bennett Lacy, Elections Board publicity co-coordinator, is trying to address the issue for this year's elections.

"In the past it has been a hassle to vote," Lacy said. "This year it will be a lot easier. With DuckWeb, you don't have to go anywhere to vote."

DuckWeb has been the major change made by the elections board in an attempt to increase interest in the elections. The board has also been busy making the system dependable and informing students about their new voting options.

"We've still had some problems getting the word out, but voting this year will be better," he said. According to Lacy, security at the voting booths "will be tight. Voting is restricted to fee-paying students with their student ID numbers."

Using technology to appeal to the voting population is nothing new. In recent years, Oregon voters have been given the option of mailing in absentee ballots. In 1998, Hillary Clinton used a system called "Robo-Call" to increase voter turnout. Robo-Call left prerecorded messages at the homes of registered Democratic voters, urging them to participate in the elections, according to National Voter Services.

The Elections Board hopes that innovations such as DuckWeb will not only increase voter turnout this year but will form a solid foundation of active students for years to come.

"We want to reach the younger students and develop a foundation of voters for the future," Best said. "Look over the voter's guide. Students need to be ready to decide who will be distributing their fee dollars, and if they want to support ballot measures that will increase the fee."

## Atteridge

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Hawthorne, Calif., pronounced him dead at 2:34 p.m.

The hockey team flew to Los Angeles late Thursday night for the Pacific-8 Conference hockey finals at UCLA. Detective Carlos Mendoza of the El Segundo Police Department said the team reached the hotel at about 11:30 p.m. Thursday, and many players started drinking until 5 or 6 a.m. Friday morning.

Mendoza said he believes the death was accidental and not a suicide. The exact amount of alcohol and drugs in Atteridge's body will not be known until an autopsy is performed, which may happen as soon as today. More details will also be known once the police can interview the other players who were with Atteridge that night.

"It looks like just some bad choices, a bad combination," Mendoza said.

Hockey team members and Club Sports officials declined to comment on Atteridge's death.

Atteridge's father, Timothy, said he has no doubt his son died of an alcohol and drug overdose and said he didn't think the painkillers belonged to his son.

"If he did [have an injury], he didn't tell us about it," he said.

The Ducks did not play in the tournament due to Atteridge's unexpected death.

Atteridge was from Amherst, Mass., and is survived by his father, mother, older brother and sister and a younger sister. His father said he was interested in hockey since the age of 4 and captained his high school's hockey and lacrosse team for two years.

"When he was 4, he made me take him to the local instructional league," Atteridge's father said. "His love for hockey increased every year."

Even though Atteridge came

from a town with two major schools nearby, the University of Massachusetts and Amherst College, he became interested in the west coast when he visited family in Washington.

"His heart was set on the west coast," Atteridge's father said. "We looked at [other schools in Oregon and Washington] but he said Eugene just felt right."

Atteridge will be cremated after the autopsy, and his ashes will be shipped back to Amherst. Afterwards, the family will fly out to Eugene to finalize his affairs and speak with his roommates and teammates. A memo-

**“When he was 4, he made me take him to the local instructional league. His love for hockey increased every year.”**

**Timothy Atteridge  
father**

rial will be held sometime after that, although the family is not sure when.

But for now, the family is staying in Amherst to be with each other.

"I don't want my memories tainted by what I would see there," his father said. "I don't want to remember what I'm learning about after his passing."

He said he would remember how Atteridge was able to touch so many other student's lives just with his personality.

"I always considered him to be your normal, average high school kid with a talent for hockey. But he did excel in making people happy," his father said. "He never had a down moment and had the ability to lift everyone else's spirits."

Emerald reporter Simone Ripke contributed to this article.



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