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Perspectives

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Pioneering an election

While a great many people around the world will be celebrating Fat Tuesday this week, about 60 percent of the Republican and Democratic party delegates will be chosen around America during the so-called Super Tuesday primary elections, of which Oregon voters will be excluded. But while you can't cast your vote yet, college students need to maintain their voting responsibilities later and play their part in our representative democracy.

To many Oregon voters, it will seem that there is little reason to vote when the time actually arrives on May 16. This is because conventional wisdom says that there's little chance Sen. John McCain will still be hunting for the Republican nomination, the candidacy of former Sen. Bill Bradley seems to be on life support, and at least one will be gone by the time Oregon's mail ballot primary rolls around.

Oregon has long had to hang its collective hat on the pioneer spirit of the state rather than consistently playing any significant role in a given year. It's nothing new that the state will make little national electoral difference in American politics, but voters can take some amount of heart in being on the forefront of broader democratic movements as the state was one of the first to hold a primary election around the turn of the last century, and in 1996 Oregon held the nation's first presidential primary vote by mail.

However, a reputation for innovation is often little consolation to voters who wish to play some greater tangible role in individual elections. The same nature that makes many college students activists creates a desire to see immediate fruits of that labor and resentment can ensue if not guarded against.

The best way to avoid resentment and apathy is to maintain the will to get out and vote when the time finally does come with an informed and intelligent opinion.

There are fringe benefits to voting in considerable lots as an age group that offer motivation to act other than just civic pride. By increasing the number of student voters, the group will have more power when it comes to specific issues that affect the University, such as financial aid and increased institutional funding. And besides, voting in a large block would offer a way to quiet the rumblings of elders who maintain ours is a generation of uninterested slackers.

While it is only proper to expect Oregon voters to fulfill their responsibility in voting after more than half of the nomination race is finalized, it is incumbent upon the candidates to still make their appeals in person to the state's voters. In the world of political strategy it could make sense to skip the state in favor of others with larger convention del-



egate counts, but if the voters make the commitment to their candidate and their duties as responsible citizens, it is only right that presidential hopefuls come look Oregonians in the eyes and listen to our concerns.

Whether or not candidates actually come to the state or when, Oregon plays a major role in deciding who the ultimate candidates will be. College students still need to do their part for the good of

the country and the power that comes along with voting in a large demographic block. Unless college students keep informed and turn out to vote, it could very well be a long time before students can enjoy the political treats of a "fat" Super Tuesday.

This editorial represents the view of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the editor

Take steps to use less

I am sending this letter to urge everyone to take some very reasonable, simple steps toward reducing the level of waste that comes from our consumer lifestyles.

There is no question that American society is a primarily wasteful one. Landfills are filling up left and right. This is due, in part, to the increased amount of "conveniently" packaged food that we buy. It is incredibly simple to transcend our over-disposal of garbage by reusing containers and buying bulk foods (which are readily available and inexpensive). For coffee and soda drinkers, using a travel mug

instead of a paper cup is probably one of the easiest ways to make a conscious effort. If we are buying prepared foods (i.e. the food court in the EMU), a simple way to decrease our excessive waste is to bring a reusable container and a travel mug. The simplicity of these acts has universal implications. They do away with part of our society, which is profound and irrational.

Nicolas Vaughan
 music

Thanks for support

The future of our University looks bright. Finally there is a place that will serve almost a quarter of the student population. Ten percent of students are international students, striving

to achieve their academic goals in foreign culture. Fourteen percent of students study abroad, seeking to obtain global cultural knowledge. The International Resource Center will encourage the students to gain international cultural understanding by actually talking to each other. The Resource Center will be more than just a place to practice language, to find up-to-date information for travel, study or living abroad but also a place where international students feel safe and comfortable.

Despite some opposition by those who are unaware of the strong international community at University, the ballot measure to incorporate the Resource Center as part of the International Lounge passed! That proves

that the majority of the students here are culturally sensitive, interested in broadening their horizons, and they have the fact that we lack a support facility for these students.

Thank you for voting on Measure 5! The International Resource Center Campaign Committee, on behalf of the international community, would like to thank you for supporting us!

We have made a difference for future students. We exercised our power to make this campus a better place for all students. Be proud, for we chose a good fight, and all came out the winner!

Haya Matsumoto
 Alberto de Albuquerque
 International Student Association
 co-directors

THUMBS



To a bridge to the future ... or at least across the river

The new DeFazio Bike Bridge opened Feb. 25. The construct, approved by the Eugene City Council in 1997, cost \$2.8 million and is located just east of the Ferry Street Bridge.

To speaking out

A very courageous Andrea Fuller Cooper spoke to about 800 students in the EMU last Wednesday about the rape and ensuing suicide of her daughter Kristin. The woman's story has been told to 47 college campuses by her mother who refused to give up after police could do nothing about the crime.



To defiling the Virgin Mary

St. Thomas Moore University Parish lost its 2-foot tall white statue of the mother of Jesus Christ to a cowardly thief. The statue was discovered missing Feb. 25, along with a wallet and a jar of coins from a spring break trip to Mexico.

To shoddy production work

Last Thursday, local television station KMTR gaffed when they ran video footage of the guardian of the 6-year-old Michigan shooter when the anchor spoke of the suspect in five Pittsburgh shootings.