

# An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald



## Quite a journey

Oregon cross country runner Michael Kasahun remarkably escaped war-struck Ethiopia **PAGE 7A**

## Death be not proud

Hindu traditions and perceptions are discussed as part of an educational series. **PAGE 6A**

### WEATHER TODAY



RAIN LIKELY  
high 50, low 30

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

## Lawsuit, grumbles regarding Florida election

While lawyers argue, a presidential race hangs in mid-air

By David Roysse and Karin Meadows  
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Election officials on Wednesday disqualified more than 19,000 ballots in a Florida county where confusion over the punch-card system led to a flood of complaints and a lawsuit.

Three people filed suit Wednesday to seek a new election in Palm Beach County, claiming the punch-card ballot was so confusing that they accidentally voted for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan instead of Vice President Al Gore. Hundreds of Gore supporters

also called the county elections office Wednesday, saying they feared they had mistakenly voted for Buchanan.

Lawyers for the Democratic Party said that the design of the Palm Beach County ballot is illegal and that they may ask for a re-vote, but the party took no immediate ac-

tion. Election officials said 19,120 ballots in the county were nullified because they showed more than one vote for president. Statewide, Gore was behind Texas Gov. George W. Bush by fewer than 1,800 votes, and Flori-

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**INSIDE**  
The media are flabbergasted by this historic presidential election. **PAGE 5A**



Dan Brunell Emerald

Rep. Vicki Walker talks with Springfield School Superintendent Jamon Kent at the Lane County Fairgrounds Tuesday.

## Walker takes tight race

State Rep. Vicki Walker pulls out a comeback victory

By Rebecca Newell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

State Rep. Vicki Walker, D-Eugene, has claimed victory in her re-election bid to represent District 41, but her opponent, former Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller, isn't yet conceding defeat.

Wire reports show that as

of 7 p.m. Wednesday, 100 percent of the precincts had been counted, and Walker had won by 632 votes.

But Miller said he was told the race is still too close to call, and he will not concede defeat, despite the polls now being closed for

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## Reactions are varied

By Kristy Hessman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Tuesday night, University students nestled snugly in their beds, with visions of presidential candidates dancing in their heads.

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## Oregon's votes still undecided

The state fallout is broad, as the presidential race and several local contests remain unresolved

By Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon voters began filing their ballots more than three weeks ago, but now, two days after the election, the fate of several candidate races and ballot measures remains uncertain.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, with 93 percent of the vote counted, Texas Gov. George W. Bush led Vice President Al Gore in Oregon by only 197 votes. A number of pivotal state ballot measures and a handful of local races also remain undecided. Measure 9, which would ban sanctioning homosexuality in public schools, is failing by 3,615 votes, but election officials haven't publicly reported the measure's outcome.

With the exception of Florida, which is in the midst of a vote recount, Oregon is the last state in the nation to announce its final vote totals and award its electoral votes to the winner. Jen Stineff, assistant to Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, said the mail-in ballot system played a major role in the ballot backup.

"It's our first general mail-in election, and we're treading some new ground," Stineff said. "A number of ballots in the larger counties still need to be counted."

She said election offices statewide faced a last-minute rush of voters delivering their ballots from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, when Oregon polls closed.

The Lane County Election Office was no exception. Keri Brunig, a volunteer for

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**INSIDE**  
Professors react to the many election undercurrents. **PAGE 5A**

“I have never seen so many people get excited about licking stamps.”

Dick Cheney Republican candidate for vice president”

## EPD conducts investigation of its relationship with DPS

The Eugene Police Department is examining officers' complaints, but the two departments remain on good terms

By Andrew Adams and Rebecca Newell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Department of Public Safety's relationship with the Eugene Police Department is under scrutiny, a Eugene police sergeant confirmed recently.

EPD Sgt. Tim McCarthy of Internal Affairs confirmed that his unit is conducting an investigation into both departments because of complaints from DPS patrol officers and officers working the EPD campus detail. McCarthy

said he could not speak about details of the investigation.

"There was a personnel matter — an internal conflict and performance issue going back and forth," he said. "This includes line officers and management of DPS."

In addition to the current investigation, the University department also has faced allegations of age discrimination and a hostile workplace from former DPS employees, as well as the questionable status of a lieutenant from the department's management

team. Lt. Marte Martinez was placed on administrative leave for undisclosed reasons at the beginning of the school year and is still off the job, using personal vacation time. DPS management will not say if she can or will return.

The investigation also comes at a time when the police and DPS are stalled in renegotiating their contract. DPS Director Tom Fitzpatrick said the negotiations have been "on and off for several months" because of issues between the two departments that have yet to be resolved. He said

key officers in both departments have had scheduling conflicts, which prevented discussion.

He said he would not discuss what those issues were.

"It's negotiations — I wouldn't say if it was good or bad," he said.

He said that relations between the two departments are generally positive.

Fitzpatrick said he was not aware of any current investigation into DPS by the Eugene Police Department. He said there was an

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“There are reasons police carry weapons and ... security guards don't. Anthony Hensley steward OPEU”