

# ANGELS IN AMERICA

A GAY FANTASIA ON NATIONAL THEMES *by Tony Kushner*

**PART ONE**  
MILLENNIUM APPROACHES  
Thur. Nov. 8- 8 PM  
Sat. Nov. 10 & 17- 2 PM

**PART TWO**  
PERESTROIKA  
Nov. 2, 3, 9, 10  
15, 16, 17- 8 PM  
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\*Benefit for the Disaster Relief Efforts in New York City

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# Group kicks off voter campaign

■ A coalition seeks to interest students in politics and get youth registered to vote

By Beata Mostafavi  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The 19-foot-2.5-inch green ballot box, which towered over the EMU Courtyard last year, was hard to miss during the 2000 election.

Initiated by former ASUO President Jay Breslow, the "World's Largest Ballot Box" was part of the voter participation campaign, aiming to ignite election interest.

Although there probably won't be a 19-foot-tall object to get students' attention this year, the Oregon Youth Vote Coalition is working on other ways to fight student apathy and show state candidates that students' issues should be addressed.

"Students in the past have been seen as an apathetic group with a disinterest in politics," Oregon Student Association communication coordinator Julie Suchanek-Ritchie said. "After the 2000 election, that's not true."

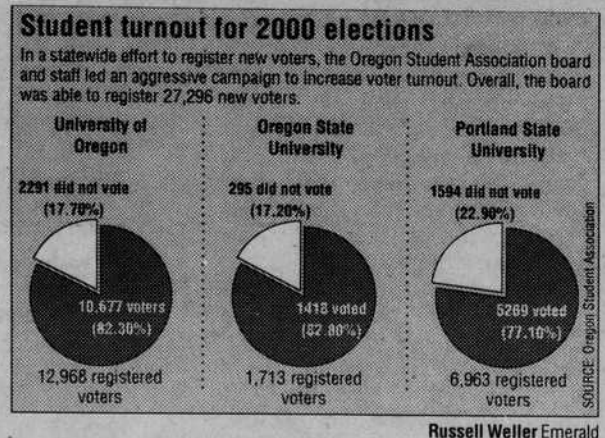
The coalition, which includes ASUO, OSA, Sen. Susan Castillo and other members, will kick off the 2002 election cycle today at 10 a.m. in the Ben Linder Room. Disbursing election information and bringing candidates to campus will be two of the goals until the race in May, coalition members said.

Candidates also need to be reminded that students make up a large voting population and should be represented, ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn said. She added that although May is a long way off, efforts to increase election education and interest should be ongoing.

"We want to make a continuous effort because voting is not just a one-time thing," she said. "We also want the candidates showing that higher education is a priority for them."

Last year, more than 5,000 students registered to vote during the campaign, OSA Executive Director Joelle Lester said. And more than 80 percent of students and youth in student-heavy precincts — a precinct where more than 50 percent of voters are students — voted in Lane County.

Lester, who coordinated the campaign last year, said although the numbers may have been high because it was a presidential voting season, Oregon's campaign was still



extremely successful. "The University of Oregon had one of the best mobilization drives in the country," she said. "The turnout was incredible."

She mentioned that Donald Green, a professor at Yale University, did a report on the impact of nonpartisan voter mobilization efforts on voters between the ages of 18 and 30. He cited the University as one of the most successful in recruiting voters.

Door-to-door visits, person-to-person phone calls and visibility on campus appeared to be the most effective strategies from last year, Lester said.

The coalition also aims to make information as accessible as possible by pushing election offices to mail out educational pamphlets and answer questions over the phone.

Senior business major Todd Nakayama said although he is a registered voter, he has never voted because he didn't know enough about the issues. This kind of campaign could help, he said.


"My feeling is if I don't know enough about it, I don't want to make a decision to put someone in power," he said.

Beata Mostafavi is the student activities editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at [beatamostafavi@dailymerald.com](mailto:beatamostafavi@dailymerald.com).

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# Citizens express concerns about towers

■ Health concerns topped citizens' cell phone worries

By Brook Reinhard  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Mona Linstromberg has a problem with cell phone towers, including one planned for the campus area. Linstromberg, the co-founder of Citizens for Responsible Placement of Cell Phone Transmission Towers, took a saw to her cell phone earlier this year — and sent both halves back to Verizon Wireless as a silent protest of tower siting in her neighborhood.

Members of the citizen's group were anything but silent at a public hearing held Tuesday night at Lane County Courthouse's Harris Hall. Each speaker had a three-minute limit, but more than 10 representatives from the group signed up to speak, and they tagged their time to give the planning commission a half-hour long Power-Point presentation. Only one cell phone industry representative spoke. The Lane County Planning Com-

mission called the hearing to solicit feedback on a proposed ordinance for cell phone tower placement. The commission is working on an ordinance to update the aged Lane County codes governing communications.

"Current provisions of the Lane County code are quite antiquated," said Kent Howe, a representative from Lane County's Department of Land Management. "In some zones there's still provisions for telephone to telegraph exchange."

Citizens spoke against cell phone towers for many reasons, but health concerns took center stage in their presentation.

"Some documented effects (of cell phone tower transmissions) are memory loss, spatial disorientation and lower sperm count," said Heather Kent, one of the many tower opponents at the meeting.

Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, local governments are prohibited from taking health concern into account when cell phone towers are sited.

"Our government doesn't take a precautionary view," said Martha Johnson, another speaker that evening. "It's 'innocent until proven guilty.'"

Massachusetts drafted an ordinance requiring cell phone towers to be sited at least 1,000 feet away from schools after a Concord student managed to climb a tower and fall off.

As a result, the citizen's group is pressing for zoning regulations that label towers as an "attractive nuisance" and distance them away from schools.

Meeting attendees also voiced concern that the cell towers would become obsolete in a matter of years by new satellite technology.

This claim was disputed by Ron Fowler, AT&T real estate manager. "Satellites will not replace current technology for ... years."

After the ordinance is revised by the commission, it will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in January.

Brook Reinhard is a community reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at [brookreinhard@dailymerald.com](mailto:brookreinhard@dailymerald.com).

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