

Oregon Daily Emerald

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SINCE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE, OREGON

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Last-minute voters may decide election

As the 2002 elections draw to a close, voters still have time to cast their ballots before the 8 p.m. deadline today

Oregon votes 2002

Ken Paulman
City/State Politics Reporter

Time is running out on the Nov. 5 general election, and with several races in close contention this year, all eyes are on the voters.

Recent polls from KGW-TV in Portland showed that the governor's race between Kevin Mannix and Ted Kulon-

goski is too close to call, and Measure 25, which would raise the minimum wage to \$6.90 per hour, is projected to pass by a razor-thin margin.

According to the secretary of state's office, about 660,000 ballots had been received statewide as of Friday, representing about 35 percent of registered voters.

In Lane County, 69,171 ballots were received as of Monday morning, placing countywide turnout at 38.1 percent, Lane County Elections official Annette Newingham said.

Newingham said about half of the ballots are usually turned in between Sunday and Election Day, which would push turnout to the anticipated 60 to 65 percent range.

"This is pretty much where we normally are for a non-presidential election," she said.

University junior Amanda Lorts said she hadn't turned in her ballot yet but planned to do so.

"I was out of town all weekend, and I'm lazy," she said.

Sophomore Jacob Voss expressed his displeasure with voters who don't take the election process seriously. Voss, who has turned in his ballot already, said people should take the time to learn about the issues before voting.

"If they're not too eager about voting, I don't think they should," he said. "We don't need votes from people who

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Cast your vote

Nearby ballot drop sites:
University of Oregon
EMU — white receptacle drop box outside ASUO office

Lane County Elections
135 East 6th Ave. — white receptacle drop box in front of Elections Office

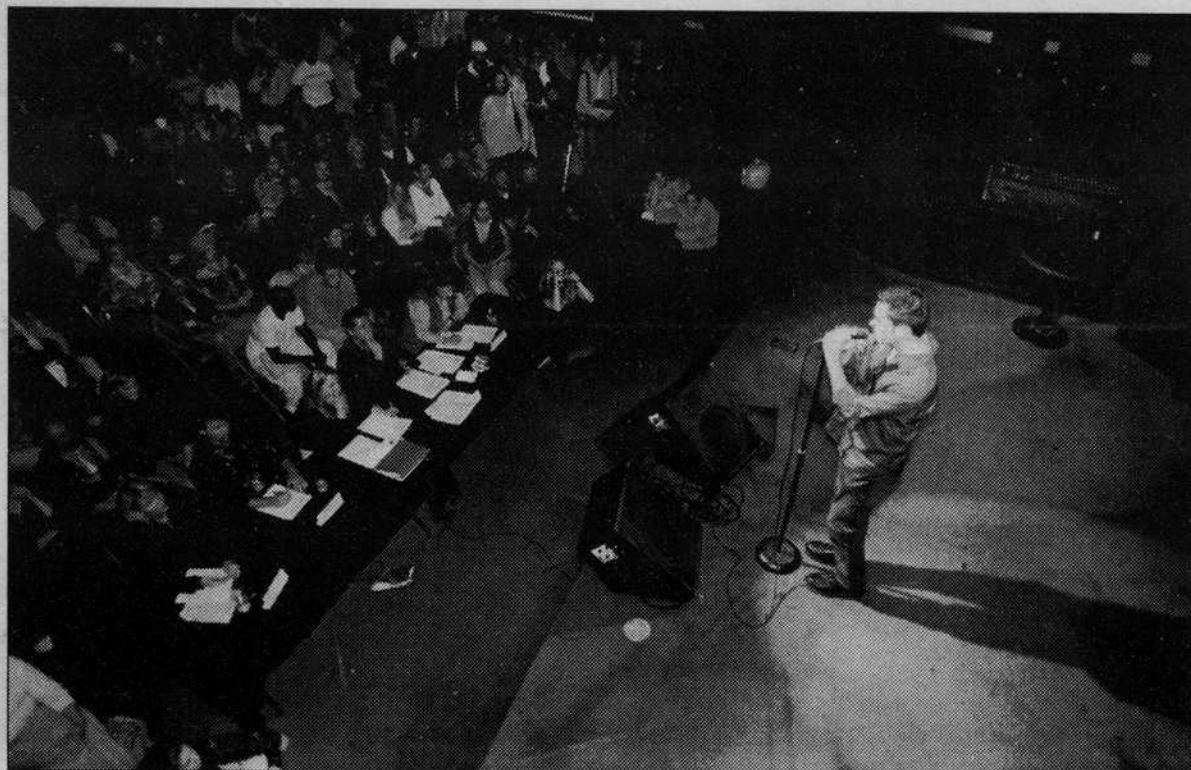
Drive-by drop box
2727 Centennial Blvd. — in front of Eugene Juvenile Justice Center's entrance

All locations will remain open until 8 p.m. Tuesday. A complete list of drop sites is included with ballots, is published in the Voter's Guide and is available at www.co.lane.or.us/elections/.

People with questions or problems should call Lane County Elections at 682-4234.

SOURCE: Lane County Elections

On the road to fame?



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Mason West, an Oregon Daily Emerald columnist, performs Rufus Wainwright's "California" at his "American Idol" audition.

West-ern idolatry

Columnist Mason West braves the strange world of media powerhouse "American Idol"

Reporter's notebook

Mason West
Movies/Music/TV Columnist

When my editor called to ask if I wanted to write a story about the "American Idol" auditions in town, I thought, "I am so trying out."

When KDUK called to tell me I actually could try out, I thought, "I am so running away."

I am no American Idol. I didn't even watch the show, which, for the record, America ripped off from Britain's "Pop Idol." The gist, as I understand it, is crooning hopefuls compete for a record contract and the subsequent hordes of adoring 12-year-olds. Apparently, Paula Abdul had something to do with it. Was she a contestant? Ooooo. Burn.

To earn the privilege of performing, I had to submit a "talent re-

sume" and a head-shot (which I hastily had a newsroom photographer take), and sign a contract which basically signed away all my rights and possibly my firstborn.

Notice that none of this includes actually hearing me sing before selecting me from the more than 75 applications received. Since I spent the better part of a minute writing my resume, my assumption was that I have some look that appeals to them. Certainly not "The Look," but a look nonetheless. But, as I was one of four guys among the 25 contestants Wednesday night, I was likely selected because I have a penis.

Back in "The Day" (aka high school), I fancied myself a performer and took part in the school plays and musicals. I even fronted a band freshman year. But I haven't sang publicly in more than three years, and these people wanted me to sing a cappella, which is Italian for "asking to be embarrassed."

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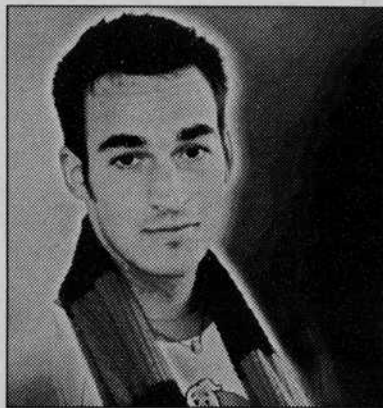


Photo illustration by Mark McCambridge
The Emerald

Almost famous

What: Eugene Idol finals

Where: Wild Duck Music Hall, 169 W. Sixth Ave.

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday (doors at 6 p.m.)

Cost: \$5

The skinny: 10 finalists from two previous weeks of auditions compete for a trip to the Los Angeles tryouts of "American Idol 2."

Week of events targets married, older students

University celebrates 'National Nontraditional Student Week' by highlighting resources available to help students succeed

Jennifer Bear
Campus/City Culture Reporter

It's 7 a.m. on a Monday morning and student Patti Hachten is bustling around on campus, preparing for another hectic week of classes at the University. But Hachten has more than homework on her mind — the 38-year-old business administration major is also a mother and wife.

This week, people such as Hachten can connect with other non-traditional students, as well as the community, as a part of National Nontraditional Student Week.

As of spring term, more than 4,200 students at the University were older than 25, one criterion for being considered a nontraditional student. National figures show the percentage of older students to

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City upholds UO child care permit

The Eugene Planning Commission has tentatively granted the University a permit to build the East Campus Children's Center.

At a meeting Monday morning, the commission upheld the initial decision by hearings official Virginia Gustafson to grant the University its conditional use permit.

City Planner Kent Kullby said the commission will meet Nov. 12 to officially decide the fate of the permit and discuss possible modifications that include adding additional parking spaces to construction plans.

The University needs the permit in order to break ground on the site, located on the southeast of campus at the corner of East 17th Avenue and Moss Street.

Toby Grant and Jeff Osanka filed the original appeal against the University's conditional-use permit Sept. 30. The two appealed because they said the structure would not mesh with the medium-density residential-style housing in the area and that building the center would generate too much traffic.

The commission will hold its Nov. 12 meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Sloat Room of the Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th Ave.

— Jillian Daley

WEATHER

Today: High 58, Low 45, cloudy, chance of rain late
Wednesday: High 57, Low 48, rain likely

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday
New OUS chancellor holds town hall meeting

Thursday
Pulse features 'Better than beer-bonging'