

# Oregon Daily Emerald



Softball hands out awards Page 7

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## MAN on a MISSION

Presidential hopeful John Kerry rallies a Portland audience on Monday

By Jared Paben  
Senior News Reporter

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry made the first Oregon visit of his presidential campaign Monday, speaking to a crowd of thousands about making college more affordable, providing accessible health care and creating and retaining jobs in America.

After a morning appearance in Topeka, Kan., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, Kerry rushed to Portland to slam the Bush administration for cutting back student aid, exporting American jobs and for lying to the American people about the reasons for the war in Iraq.

Speaking to a packed crowd at Pioneer Courthouse Square downtown, Kerry stressed the importance of providing student aid for the nation's college students and criticized the Bush administration for scaling back financial aid.

"They don't have a plan to guarantee that students can afford to go to college as they cut student aid," Kerry said. "We're going to make it more affordable for young people to go to college."

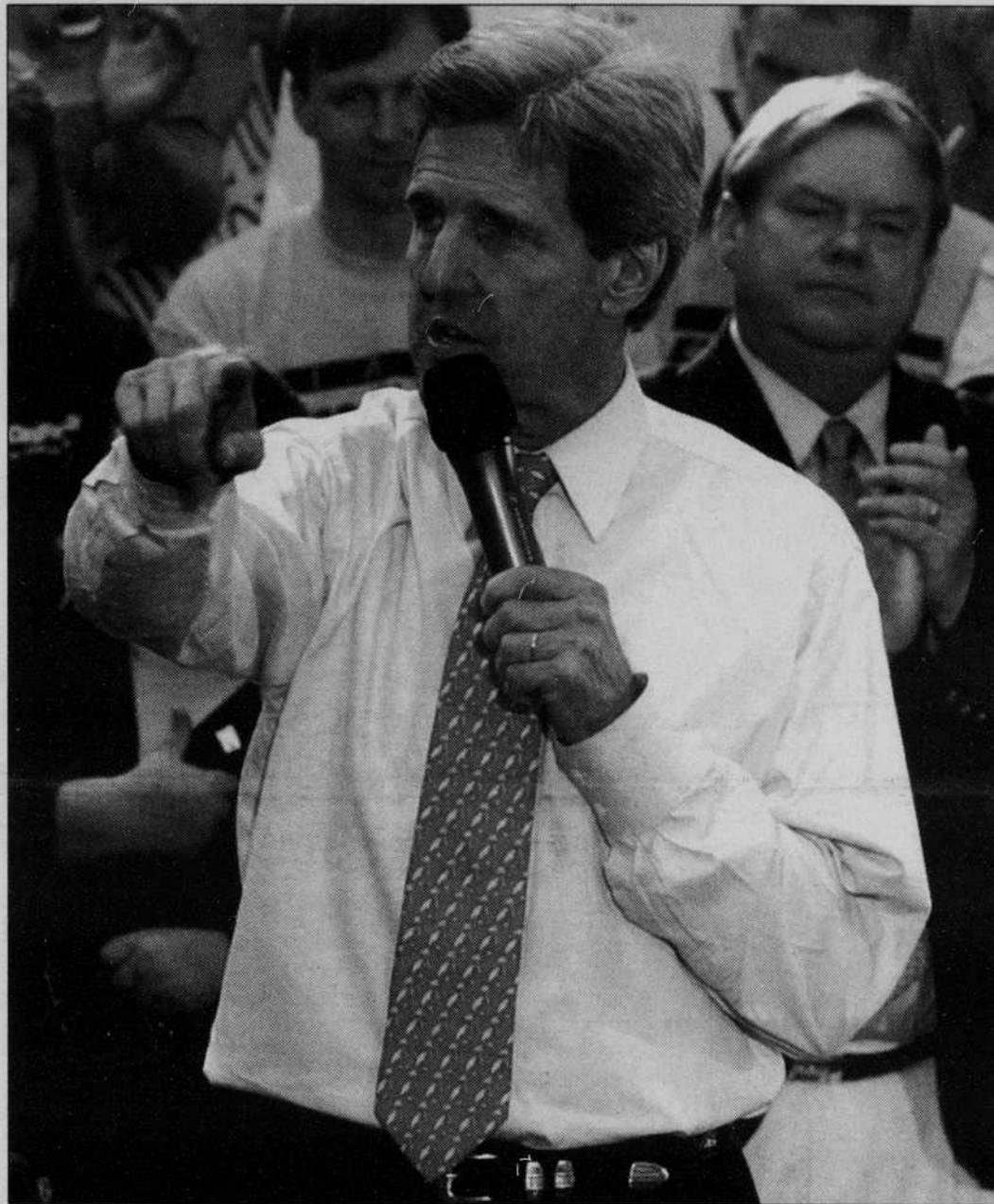
Kerry talked about giving parents of college students a \$4,000 tuition tax credit and said those who devote two years of service to the country under his "Service for College" plan will get four years of tuition paid by the government.

Kerry also spoke about the importance of high-quality health care. Last year, Kerry was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he said, adding that the only reason he was present Monday was because of the high-quality health care senators have given themselves. Kerry vowed to prove that all people deserve health care like the care he receives as a senator.

"I intend to hold that up as the gold standard of health care in America," Kerry said.

Kerry also slammed Bush's environmental record and pledged to "prove that caring for the environment is not in

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Tim Bobosky Photographer

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry speaks to a packed crowd at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square on Monday. Former Green Beret Jim Rassmann, whose life Kerry saved in Vietnam, stands behind the candidate.

## Primary election ballots due today

Completed ballots are due by 8 p.m.; several drop boxes are located throughout Eugene

By Parker Howell  
News Reporter

Today is the last chance for voters to turn in ballots for the state's primary election, which will decide who will square off in the November mayoral and City Council general election.

Completed ballots must be turned in by 8 p.m. If a contestant for a seat receives more than 50 percent of the primary votes, that candidate will be the only one listed for that position on the November 2 general election ticket. Otherwise, the two candidates who receive the most votes will compete in the general election.

Five candidates appear on the ballot for the hotly contested position of mayor, with front-runners Nancy Nathanson and Kitty Piercy expected to pull in the most votes. Ward 8 City Councilor Nathanson and Piercy, a former state representative, are also competing against candidates Alphonsus Donnelly and Eric (Sephroth) Gross in the election. The ballot also lists local musician Willie Nicholas, who dropped out of the race after the deadline to withdraw.

Nathanson, who has received endorsements from current Mayor Jim Torrey, has stressed her experience with local politics. Her campaign has also focused on the need to foster business development within the city, which she said can be hindered by local and state regulations.

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## LGBT students celebrate their Pride

LGBTQA's Pride Week runs through May 27 and includes a drag show, rally and dance

By Jennifer Marie Bear  
News Editor

Rainbow flags and posters are displayed proudly around campus this week while members of the LGBTQA community, along with students in the wider University community, celebrate their sexuality for Pride Week.

LGBTQA volunteer Ryan Minor said the group has invited two national speakers to the University: Oregon native and self-proclaimed expert in sexology Carol Queen; and activist, writer and

performer Imani Henry, who addresses gender identity and discrimination.

But Pride Week means more to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community than simply attending events.

"For me, I believe Pride Week is about people of the LGBTQA community getting together and embracing who we are and expressing ourselves," Minor said.

He added that he's eager for LGBT issues to attract the public eye for Pride Week, and he hopes the University community will get involved in the events planned for the week, including the drag show on May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Amphitheater. Minor said approximately 10 people have volunteered to perform, including drag queens and drag kings,

and he will also be performing No Doubt's "Just a Girl" at the drag show.

Jonathan Vaifale, another volunteer with LGBTQA, said joining the group has enriched his life because he's learned more about himself from listening to the stories about other people's coming-out experiences.

"I'm really excited because it's my first gay pride week I've ever been involved in," Vaifale said. "To see the environment I've always wanted to be in is great."

He said the LGBTQA office, and the people who work there, are very supportive.

"It's really safe to come in here," Vaifale said. "What's said in here, stays in here."

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## Air study gives Lane County an F for pollution rates

The American Lung Association rated the area as fifth-worst in the nation for particle pollution, but officials say the study was done inaccurately

By Steven Neuman  
News Reporter

Lane County received a failing grade in "particulate pollution" in the American Lung Association's State of the Air report, released April 29.

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