

Tim Bobosky Photographer

(Left to right in background): Vietnam veteran Jim Rassmann, "Lord of the Rings" actor Sean Astin, Everclear frontman Art Alexakis and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean support John Kerry during his rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland on Monday evening. Kerry spoke about his "Service for College" plan and criticized President Bush during the event.

## KERRY

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competition with jobs ... It is jobs."

Vietnam War veteran Jim Rassmann, a friend of Kerry's who served with him during the Vietnam War, was also present to voice his support. Rassmann largely silenced the crowd when he told a story about how Kerry, who served on a swift-boat unit, pulled him out of a river by hauling him over the bow while being attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire.

Rassmann, who used to be a member of the Republican Party but recently switched to the Democratic Party to join Kerry's campaign, said he wants somebody with Kerry's

leadership and character to lead the country.

Kerry took the opportunity to crack a joke.

"God didn't just give me the privilege of pulling a life out of the water," Kerry said. "I pulled a vote out of the water, too."

But Kerry was more serious when it came to criticizing the Bush administration for the war in Iraq, blasting the president for lying to the American public about the reasons for war and for proceeding unilaterally.

"Working with other countries instead of going unilaterally is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength," Kerry said. "We don't go to war because we want to, we go to war because we have to."

Actor Sean Astin, who played Samwise "Sam" Gamgee in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, and Portland resident and Everclear singer Art Alexakis opened the rally for Kerry. Alexakis played several songs and praised Kerry for braving the Portland rain in the middle of May.

In the buildings surrounding the plaza, people crowded at windows and peered down on Kerry with binoculars. During the rally, a woman holding a "Bush Sucks" sign yelled from the 13th story of an adjacent building that Bush sucks.

She caught Kerry's attention. "That, ladies and gentleman, is a very special Oregon window dressing," Kerry said, drawing laughter from

audience members.

University College Democrats members Gabriel Zitrin and Chris Halverson attended the rally to show support for Kerry.

Zitrin, a junior majoring in international studies, said it was important to him to see the candidate and hear his message in person. Zitrin said he didn't get a chance to speak with Kerry, but he shook his hand and thanked him.

"On every issue that I'm aware of, Kerry has a real solution, and Bush is a real problem," Zitrin said. "Regardless of what issue you care the most about, John Kerry has a way to make it better."

Not everybody present Monday was supportive of Kerry. After a rally, people crowded along the streets near the plaza

to see Kerry leave. A sizable crowd of Bush supporters held signs and exchanged insults with Kerry supporters across the street.

Portland State University student Shahriyar Smith, who held a sign that read "9 out of 10 terrorists agree John Kerry for president," said people need to realize that Kerry is a weak leader who is not suitable to protect the welfare of the country.

Though Smith said a couple of people "got physical with him" and screamed in his face, he wasn't there to rile people, but to educate and talk some sense into them.

Contact the campus/  
federal politics reporter at  
jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

## PULSE BRIEF

### Pulse calls for student submissions

The Pulse desk is currently accepting submissions for creative works to be published in the May 27 issue. All University students are welcome to submit works in any medium.

Work can be submitted via e-mail at pulse@dailymerald.com or dropped off at the Emerald office, located in EMU Suite 300. Label any submissions "Pulse creative space" and include detailed contact information.

The Emerald makes no guarantees regarding publication or return of work samples. Students will retain ownership of any work chosen for publication in the paper, and attribution will be given in print.

— Aaron Shakra

## CAMPUS BUZZ

### Tuesday

- Conflict Resolution Brown Bag entitled "Campus and Community Restorative Justice Programs," EMU Board Room, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
- Human Resources Workshop entitled "Participatory Processes and Decision-Making," EMU Alsea/Coquille rooms, 1-4 p.m. Preregistration required.
- Sustainable Business Group Spring Speaker Series featuring a talk by Ian Hill; a founding member of SeQuential Biofuels, LLC; Lillis 232, 6-7:30 p.m.

# Full-time, entry-level position.

## ASSISTANT ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

The Oregon Daily Emerald, the independent student-run newspaper at the UO, is looking for a person to assist in the operations of the advertising department and the marketing and promotion of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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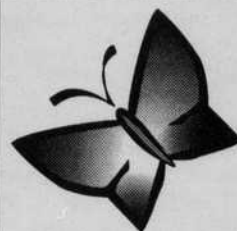
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