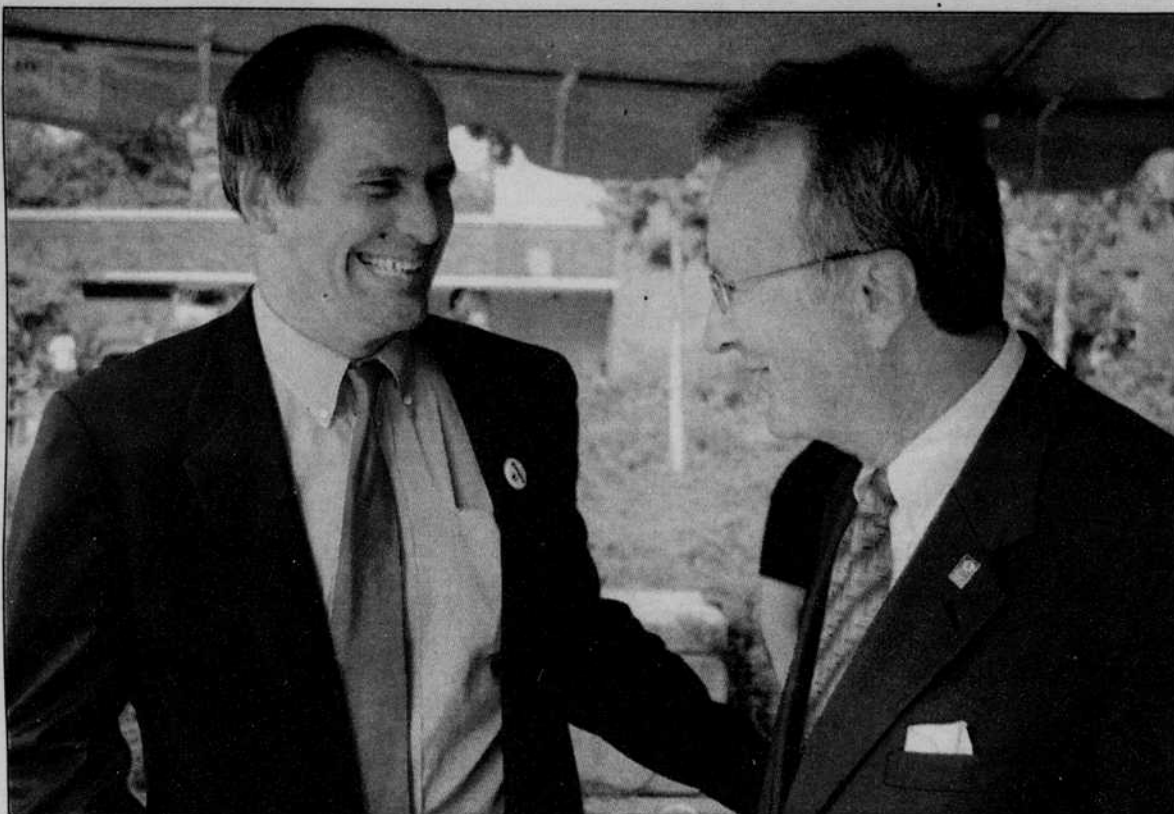




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Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and University President Dave Frohnmayer chat immediately following their presentation at the voter rally Thursday afternoon. Only about 100 people showed up to the event, held at the EMU.



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"Mighty Oregon," the University fight song, reverberates through the EMU Amphitheater as members from the Green and Yellow Garter Bands take part in Thursday's voter rally.

Bradbury: Students must vote to be heard nationally

Continued from page 8A

described as a "well-organized and deeply committed" effort to register all students.

The University has long had a reputation for being one of the most politically active campuses in the nation, Frohnmayer said.

Prior to his speech, he described what he called a "muscular tradition of strong voter turnout" at the University, emphasizing that get-out-the-vote efforts on campus have always been effective and nonpartisan.

"It has to be nonpartisan, and people have been very scrupulous about it," he said about the current voter-registration drive on campus.

Frohnmayer praised current efforts by student leaders to continue the University's long tradition of "civic responsibility and engagement" and warned that if students don't vote, their opinions will not be listened to.

However, the number of students throughout the rally left some wondering where everyone was and why the rally didn't get more publicity.

"It was almost insulting," freshman Alison Angelos said. "I almost felt bad that (Bradbury) came all the way over here and hardly anyone showed."

Sophomore Claire Dyrud said although she did not know the event was taking place until it began, it seemed like an effective way of getting students' attention and inspiring them to vote.

"It's intriguing; it makes people interested," she said.

Sophomore Sara Hamilton said the

rally was as effective as it could be, given the amount of apathetic students on campus who were simply unaware that the rally was going on.

"If students knew that their vote matters, they might be more interested," she said.

Along with local voter registration groups, a group calling themselves "Billionaires for Bush" was in attendance.

Armed with signs and dressed in formal attire, Billionaires for Bush volunteers described their purpose as being centered around maintaining the status quo they said the Bush administration has worked so hard to establish.

"Democracy's really not for everyone — we should just leave it to the billionaires," said a volunteer who gave his name as Pluto Crat.

Sophomore Jane Wilson-Moses applauded the group's presence, emphasizing that while some students may not immediately understand the satire behind the message, its efforts are refreshing and inspiring.

"It's respectful of people's intelligence, which is not true for what passes for political debate in this country," Wilson-Moses said.

ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Amy DuFour said the rally was a tremendous success. She said the aim of the event was not just to show students that their voices can make a difference, a message both Bradbury and Frohnmayer heavily emphasized in their speeches, but to show students that voting is not as boring as some make it out to be.

"Voting is fun," DuFour said.

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IN BRIEF: ELECTIONS

Mood lively at Thursday Veterans for Kerry event

Supporters of the Veterans for Kerry campaign gathered to cheer for presidential candidate John Kerry and chuckle at every perceived faux pas by president Bush Thursday night.

When president Bush, in response to the moderator's question, said "Saddam Hussein had no intention of disarming," several members of the crowd of like-minded Kerry supporters shouted at the television screens, "Disarm what?"

The lively crowd of more than 100 met at the Veterans Memorial Building in Eugene.

The topics for the debate were foreign policy and homeland security.

University senior Nick Gallagher

said if Kerry were president at the time Bush decided to go to war, "he would have been more dedicated to foreign policy."

Many veterans and other attendees were unified in their opinion that president Bush put U.S. troops at an unnecessary risk by failing to gain international support for the Iraq war.

In his haste to go to war, president Bush "ignored the possibility of coalition building," senior John Atherton said.

Atherton, a linguistics major, said the war with Iraq "should have gone forward without the support of the U.N."

Clinical psychologist and Army veteran Jack Dresser said there is no question that president Bush has "completely alienated the rest of the world." Adding, "He just doesn't care about foreign policy."

— Michael A. Booth

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