

Local: Dozens of students watch VP debate in the Knight Law Center

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good decision.

Tucker said Edwards scrambled for answers when they should have come easily, and seemed to have only a few arguments that he used over and over again.

"Every time John Edwards opened his mouth it was either something about Haliburton, a single healthcare statistic or the fact that his father was a mill worker," Tucker said.

Eugene resident Rex Snellstrom did not share the same sentiments on Edwards' performance, but agreed that Cheney had carried himself well.

Snellstrom, who is supporting Kerry, said the debate will have no effect on who he votes for because he focuses more on the ideology of a candidate than his or her persona.

"I can't see anything in a debate changing my mind," Snellstrom said.

About 80 people, many of them Kerry supporters, also watched the debate, gathering in Knight Law 110 at a viewing hosted by the College Democrats. Although the crowd was smaller and more subdued than the group that turned out for the presidential debate in the same lecture hall last Thursday, several students said the vice presidential debates were important.

"In America, we're supposed to be a team — the Johns are supposed to be a team," freshman Monica Morrison said of presidential and vice presidential running mates Kerry and Edwards.

Morrison said the debate was more candid than last week's showdown.

"They seemed to not hold anything back," she said.

She added that she found support watching the debate with other Kerry advocates.

"I like watching these debates with people who feel the same way I do," she said.

Besides the war, Morrison said she wanted to hear about education and gay marriage during the debate. She added that she doesn't fully agree with either ticket's view on gay

marriage, but said the Democrats have a more open-minded stance.

Freshman Kylen McCudden agreed that gay marriage was a key issue, adding that she was pleased the moderator asked the candidates about AIDS because the issue is often left out of the spotlight.

"I thought it was awesome she brought it up," she said.

McCudden said she liked the vice presidential debate better because the candidates seemed more open to sparring over issues.

"They obviously disagreed with each other, which I like to see," she said.

McCudden also said she noticed a smaller crowd at the event.

"The turnout was very different for this one," she said. "I think people kind of write off the vice president."

Senior Tony Yuen said the debate was more evenly matched than last Thursday's presidential debate.

"I really didn't see a clear winner in this one like I did in the Bush-Kerry debate," he said, noting that he still strongly supports Kerry.

Yuen added that he wanted to see Edwards distinguish the Kerry/Edwards platform from their opponent's policies on topics like education.

"I think it's important for Edwards to point out that Bush hasn't really done anything with his No Child Left Behind Act," Yuen said.

Freshman Steffany Tilton said she supports Kerry, but wanted to see the vice presidential candidates square off.

"I just wanted to see first hand how they acted together," she said.

Tilton said Edwards outperformed the vice president during the debate.

She added that it is important for students to take the vice presidential candidates seriously.

"There are a lot of people who don't know what's going on," she said regarding who is running for vice president.

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrew Hill, a sophomore at Lane Community College, is voting for George Bush in his first presidential election this November. He watches the vice-presidential candidates on Tuesday discuss issues such as healthcare and the war in Iraq in The Break at the EMU.

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Bikes: The majority of bike accidents goes unreported

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rights and responsibilities as people in cars, according to the Oregon Administrative Rules. But Horner said many bicyclists ignore traffic signals and stop signs or ride on the wrong side of the road, endangering themselves and others around them. Bikers are also supposed to dismount and walk at crosswalks and yield the right of way to pedestrians.

University sophomore Jaime Symons said she has nearly been hit by a bike, but both pedestrians and bicyclists should be aware of each other.

"Often, I just needed to pay more attention," Symons said. "It really should be common knowledge."

University sophomore Bryan Davidson agreed. He said people are relatively safe as long as bicyclists and pedestrians are courteous of one another.

Horner said DPS does not document the number of accidents involving bikes each year, but the majority go unreported. He said with more than 22,000 students registered at the University this term, there's a higher risk for accidents between pedestrians and bicyclists.

"It's a lot of people in a relatively small space," Horner said. "Our goal is to ensure the safety of pedestrians. There's a whole lot more of them on campus than people on bikes."

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Common bike offenses

- Riding on sidewalks not designated as bike routes
- Failing to adhere to "dismount and walk" signs
- Running stop signs and traffic signals
- Riding on the wrong side of the street
- Not giving audible warning when coming up on pedestrians

Violations you might not know:

- Nonmotorized vehicle clinging to another vehicle — \$89 fine: A person violates this if they ride a bike, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle as they cling to or attach themselves to another vehicle on the road.
- Failure to use a bicycle seat — \$89 fine: Riders break this law if they ride on anything other than a permanent and regular bicycle seat.
- Failure to signal turn — \$89 fine: Riders break this law if they stop or turn without signaling at least 100 feet prior to stopping or turning. An exception is if both hands are necessary to safely control the bike.
- Endangering bicycle operator or passenger — \$25 fine: Parents and legal guardians of children and the children themselves can be subject to this if the child, who is less than 16 years of age, rides on a street or in a public place without a helmet.
- Unlawful load on bicycle — \$89 fine: Riders can violate this if they carry a bundle that prevents them from having at least one hand on the handlebar and keeping full control of the bike.

Source: Oregon Administrative Rules

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