

Voter registration ramps-up in final days before deadline

Tuesday marks the deadline for voter registration; University groups hopeful to meet their initial goals

BY MORIAH BALINGIT
NEWS REPORTER

Armed with clipboards and ball-

point pens, volunteers from a number of organizations have been working with the resilience of postal

workers to register students to vote on campus in time for Tuesday's voter registration deadline.

The Student Vote Coalition, a student organization alliance of United States Student Association, Oregon

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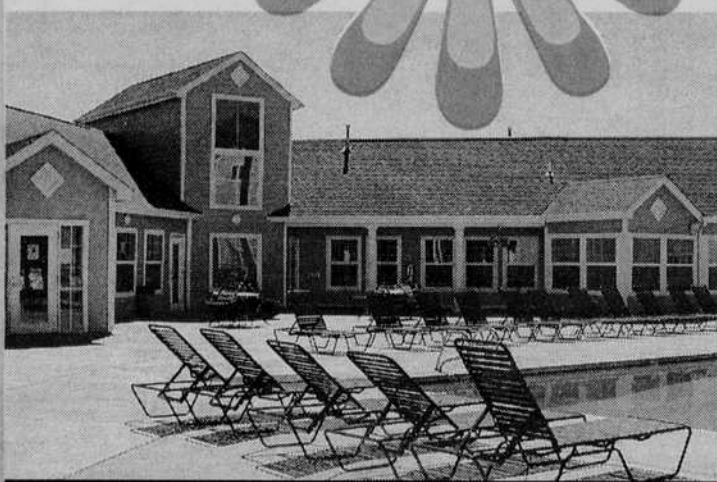
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Debate: Many students have already decided who to vote for

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presidential debate and Tuesday's vice presidential debate drew huge crowds, "better than Duck games."

Although Friday's debate did draw a noticeable crowd, it was nothing compared to the previous two, he said.

"Might be because of the night of the week," Potts said.

About 20 people also gathered informally in the Carson residence hall lobby to watch the debate.

Freshman Kristen Vogt, who watched at Carson, said the candidates performed differently in the second debate. Vogt said Kerry seemed to stumble and miss his cues.

"I am wondering about Kerry," she said. "He seemed off tonight."

She added that Bush's performance improved.

"Bush actually did make some good points this time around, which did surprise me," she said, noting that Kerry still has her vote.

She also said the town-hall format of the debate changed its atmosphere.

"It felt a little bit more like a three-ring circus," she said.

Freshman Doug Bonham said he "couldn't see how Bush could have won the debate" because of his style of addressing the audience.

"He just sounds very argumentative and it doesn't sit with me very well at all," he said.

Bonham said the debate didn't change his perspective, adding he is still coming in against Bush.

Residential Academy Director Sharon Schuman, who hosted a nonpartisan viewing of the debate at

Columbia 150, said attendance was down to 75 people from the nearly 200 who attended a similar showing of the first debate. She said second debates are generally less attended, noting that it was raining, cold and a Friday night, which also may have deterred students.

Schuman said both candidates made at least one particularly strong point.

She said Kerry aptly pointed out if Missouri were to get involved in the war in Iraq, the state's population would make it one of the largest coalition partners in Iraq, an indication of the size of the current coalition.

She also said Bush scored by saying doctors are currently forced to practice "defensive medicine."

"I thought this debate was less dramatic in the difference between the two speakers," Schuman said, adding that the candidates seemed to reiterate old talking points and contributed little new information.

"It was just a question of delivery tonight," she said.

Schuman said Bush side-stepped the last question from the audience, which asked him to identify three mistakes he had made during his tenure as president.

"That's pretty revealing about his attitude about his own behavior," she said.

Schuman added that she wished Kerry had been asked the same question about his record rather than been allowed to criticize Bush as a response to the question.

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