

Ballots: Registration fraud a likely problem on campus

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what happened to his voter registration card, Barden said, but he hypothesized that it got lost somewhere between the ASUO and the elections office.

Koleszar said she followed up on Barden's complaint and contacted the office.

"Someone went down there and talked to Annette Newingham and got it squared," she said.

But Newingham said she hadn't heard of any such incidents, but if such an incident occurred it was probably because the students didn't know what to ask for.

"We're trying to be really sensitive and figure out what people are after," she said.

Newingham said if a student moved and did not update their address on their voter registration card, they can come in, get a ballot and update their voter registration information.

"By law, we cannot forward ballots," she said.

Lane County registered 25,000 voters this year and there are currently a record 211,000 registered voters in the county, Newingham said. She added that it was possible that errors arose from this year's surge of voter registration.

"When you register 25,000 cards the reality is errors can occur," she said. "We've been working around the clock; we're very tired."

Patty Wentz, a spokeswoman for the Count Every Vote Project, said there have been instances in which voter registration cards may have been thrown away. Sproul and Associates, an agency that was subcontracted by the Republican National Committee for voter outreach efforts, has recently been accused of throwing away cards of people who registered as Democrats because workers only get paid for the number of people they register as Republicans.

"We were concerned that they didn't have a whole lot of motivation to turn in (Democrats' voter registration cards)," she said.

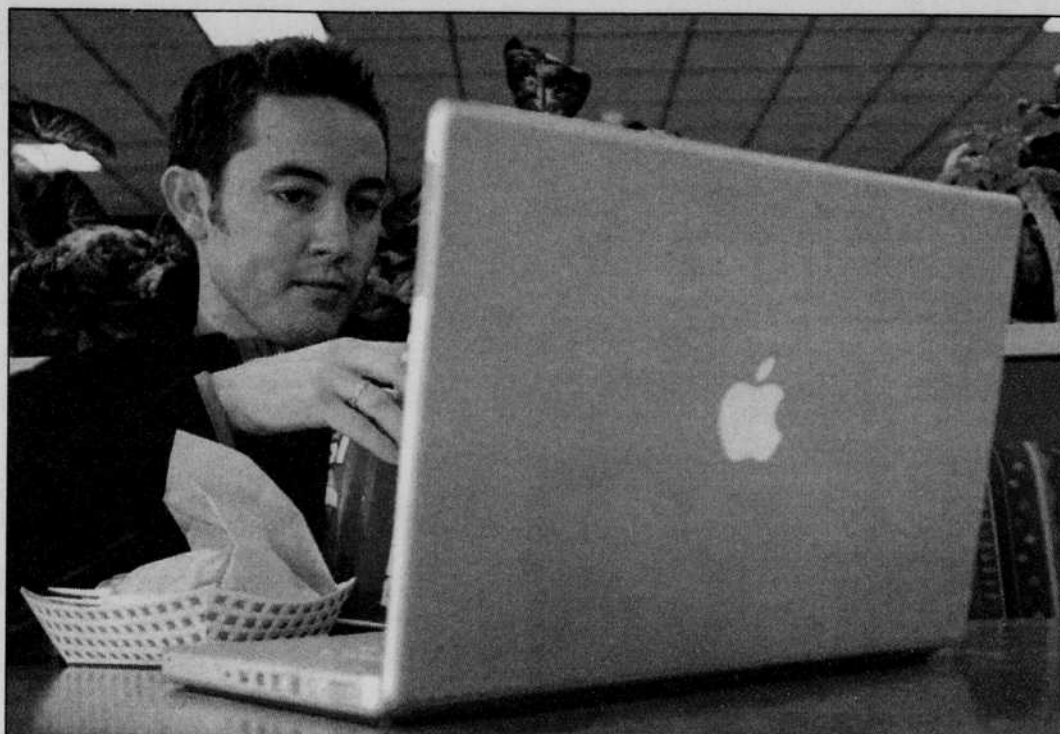
Though official complaints have only been registered in Portland, Wentz said college campuses may be especially vulnerable.

"If it could happen (in Portland), it could happen anywhere," she said. Students who think they have been a victim of this fraud should call the Count Every Vote Project Portland office at 503-236-605.

Barden said he won't go try and request another provisional ballot and will likely just vote with his absentee ballot from his registration in Washington state.

"It's too bad because the race in Oregon's a lot closer," he said. "I've lived here for a year and a half and I figured I should start voting here."

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Aaron Hopps, a senior majoring in video production, mainly uses Final Cut and Internet Explorer on his Mac laptop on campus. Here, Hopps surfs the net while getting some lunch in the EMU Fishbowl Tuesday.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Study aids: Services use advanced technology too

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share digital photos."

In addition, the store offers student prices on software like Adobe products and Mac Operating System updates. The Digital Duck also reminds students that if they receive financial aid, they can get an extra disbursement for the purchase of a computer.

University senior Susan Horton, who is majoring in family and human services, recently got her laptop with wireless access, which she says she uses in the library. Horton said she uses programs commonly utilized by students, such as word processors, an Internet browser to read e-mail and CD-burning software to make mix CDs.

"I like wireless because I can take my laptop to group meetings or to do group work," Horton said.

However, mobile technology is advancing well past notebook computers. Microsoft recently came to the University to showcase its Tablet PC, a more interactive line of mobile computers that looks and is used like most regular notebooks. A stylus connected to the Tablet PC lets users write notes directly on the screen or use it as a mouse to navigate software. When typing is preferred, a detachable keyboard mounts to the computer.

"We come here to introduce note-taking software that changes how students take notes in class," Microsoft Market Manager David Saracino said.

Saracino demonstrated that a Tablet PC in a classroom could connect wirelessly so students could share notes together or record a lecture on a sound file and attach that to any handwritten notes. The price tag

for this technology is around \$2,000, Saracino said.

More affordable mobile technologies are Personal Digital Assistants (PDA), such as those offered by Palm, and Microsoft Pocket PC handhelds that range in price from \$99 to more than \$500. The low-end handhelds, such as the Palm Zire, are equipped with to-do lists and address books and can be updated with different software, such as dictionaries or games.

Students who want an effective organizer often go for a PocketPC or higher-end Palm handheld that has a more powerful processor and larger capacity. Also, "smartphones," or cell phones with PDA functions, sell for around \$600 and combine great organizer functions with a cellphone network for making calls and using the Internet.

Students frequently employ simple technological tools as well. Senior Yuka Kono, an international student, said she always carries a portable Casio dictionary with her.

"Sometimes it's hard to understand what a teacher is saying in class and a book dictionary just takes too long to find the word," Kono said.

Technology, however, isn't the only way to help students learn. Students who are not getting the material presented in class have another alternative — the Academic Learning Services department. ALS Instructor Amy Nuetzman said students often come in if they need help on an exam or essay.

"Throughout the year, we offer classes, workshops, tutoring — more interpersonal ways of helping students that may need help with a foreign language class, for example," Nuetzman said. "Students often come in and ask

how they can learn to read faster or tell me that they never had to take notes in high school and so need help now that they're in college."

The Student Disabilities department also helps students who need assistance managing lectures and getting notes.

"We hire students already in the class or we hire a professional typist for lectures," said Jackie Snider, an Office Specialist at Disabilities Services. "We also have technology so students can scan in books and then have a computer read the book back to them."

The department has software programs such as Wynn Reader and Read & Write Gold 7, which are interactive and help students improve their reading or writing, said James Bailey, the Disabilities Services Adaptive Tech Access Adviser.

Bailey said the Read & Write software gives students with specifically diagnosed problems writing support by using a synthetic screen reader to echo back what a student has written.

"This helps for dyslexic students who may not always form sensible sentences, but when they have Read & Write Gold read their writing back to them, they can say, 'Hey, this doesn't work,' and fix the error," he said.

Both Read & Write Gold 7 and Wynn Reader can also have any text saved as an mp3 so students can hear their work read back to them and adjust essays or notes, along with other specially developed features that help students get better comprehension, Bailey said.

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