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★ AMERICA VOTES 2004 ★

## Frenzied election race nears finish line

*Polls close today at 8 p.m.; Democrats, Republicans scrutinize election superstitions*

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
NEWS REPORTER

With the countdown to Election Day now complete, the political atmosphere at the University has swelled to an almost combustible state. Some are excited. Some are ecstatic. Some may not care. But almost everyone has some sort of opinion as to which direction America should go and who should lead us there.

Oregon State University junior Kyle Imholte said the country is so polarized in the race between the two major campaigns that get-out-the-vote efforts have become almost marathon-like.

"Whoever is able to get the most people on their side to go out and vote is going to win," Imholte said.

Imholte, a member of the College Republicans, will be joining University junior Anthony Warren, state executive director for the College Republicans, and other members in Portland today to help with get-out-the-vote efforts in Oregon's most populated area — Multnomah County.

Warren said President Bush's supporters will be canvassing and making phone calls all day to ensure every Republican vote reaches the ballot box by the 8 p.m. deadline.

College Democrats are using similar tactics. Many participated in a massive canvassing effort this past weekend sponsored by the pro-John Kerry group Carry Oregon.

"Young people in this election have been critical," Carry Oregon volunteer D'Ann Atkinson said.

Many Carry Oregon volunteers will be spending Election Day on the phone with voters in Hawaii, Pennsylvania and the other hotly contested swing states.

"We're weaving our efforts into the other states because most people have already voted by that day," Atkinson said.

Atkinson said the surge of student volunteers that started in the summer did not falter once school started. He added that while momentum has not slowed for either side since the first presidential debate, no one will be disappointed to see the campaign come to a close.

"It's sort of settled in that the day after tomorrow it's over and we've done the best we can to see this election to its conclusion and get the results we want," Atkinson said on Sunday.

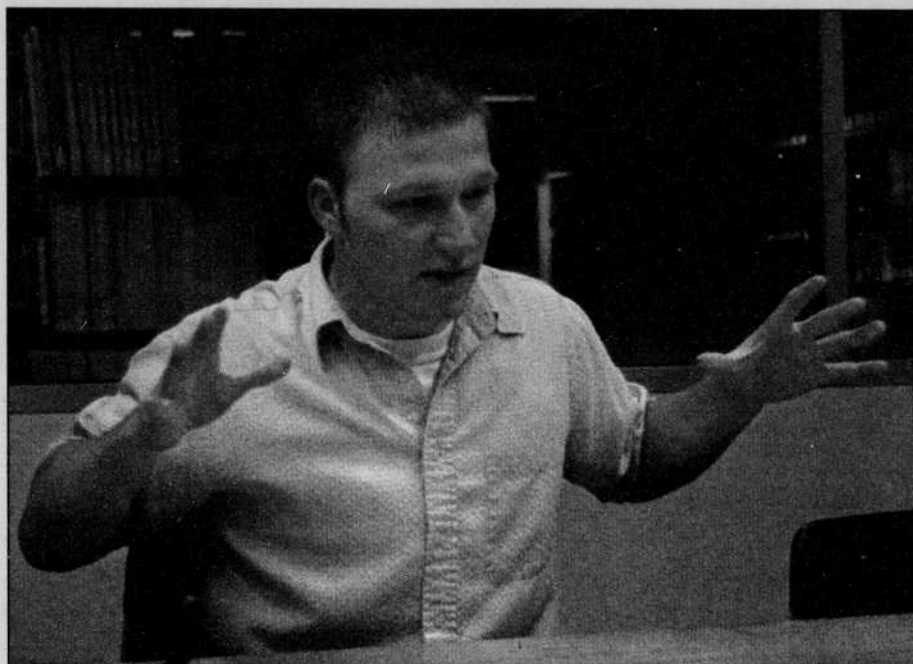
Warren agreed that everyone is looking forward to a much-needed break on Nov. 3.

"On both sides there'll be some feeling of relief that it's over," Warren said. "Obviously on the winning side there'll be more relief."

Atkinson said Carry Oregon volunteers are "cautiously optimistic" about the race and, with time left for only last-ditch efforts, many have become a bit superstitious, citing the Green Bay Packers' victory over Washington D.C. on Sunday as a sure-fire sign Kerry will win the election.

Every time the Packers beat Washington D.C. during a presidential election the incumbent is

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Colin Elliott describes the process that got him standing in front of a TV camera in the basement of the Knight Library every Monday morning for the last four weeks. His blog for The Oregonian led MSNBC to select him for a weekly segment on undecided voters.

## Student swing voter makes national TV

*Colin Elliott appears on CNBC, MSNBC live from Knight Library to share his views on the presidential campaign, issues, candidates*

BY JARED PABEN  
NEWS EDITOR

Senior history major Colin Elliott didn't speak on national television seven times because he performed an incredible feat, was a widely popular celebrity or had an amazing story to tell the nation.

Instead, Elliott made two appearances on a CNBC show and five on MSNBC because he didn't do what most college students in this swing state have: make up his mind about which presidential candidate to vote for.

Throughout October, Elliott and three other undecided voters across the country made weekly appearances on MSNBC's "The Undecided Voter" to talk about how they feel about the presidential campaigns. CNBC also asked Elliott to make two appearances on "Capital Report" telling the nation how he feels about issues and candidates. For the past nine months, the libertarian-leaning student wrote a blog for The Oregonian newspaper's Web site, pouring his thoughts onto an electronic

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## University researchers to forecast president

*State exit poll results being compiled by an Oregon Survey Research Laboratory team*

BY ANTHONY LUCERO  
NEWS REPORTER

Researchers at the University's Oregon Survey Research Laboratory have been tapped to compile exit poll results for the presidential election and provide the final numbers to networks such as CNN, Fox News and the Associated Press. Exit poll results try to predict the presidential race by asking anonymous citizens who they voted for and their demographics, which allows for voter analysis, estimates on outcome and outlines voter trends.

The project's research team conducted the exit polls over the phone to see who Oregon voters decided should be the next president. The team began the interviews on Oct. 22, the first day that mail-in ballots became available to voters.

While traditionally polls are conducted as voters leave the voting stations, the same can't be done in Oregon because of its mail-in ballot system.

"Since we are conducting the exit poll over the phone and not outside the voting booths like in typical states, it's a little more difficult," said political science professor Joel Bloom, who directed the project.

He said with early voting and absentee ballots, it's getting more difficult for other states to conduct exit polls.

"There are 13 states where they have to do both phones and go into the voting booths," Bloom said. With traditional exit polls, analysis and trends are easier for pollsters to understand than over the phone, he said. The research

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## Sudafed access restricted in Oregon

*Restrictions on sale of cold medications containing the decongestant pseudoephedrine are hoped to fetter methamphetamine production*

BY KARA HANSEN  
NEWS REPORTER

The state pharmacy board has enacted new restrictions that will move many non-prescription cold medications behind the counter in an effort to curb methamphetamine production in Oregon.

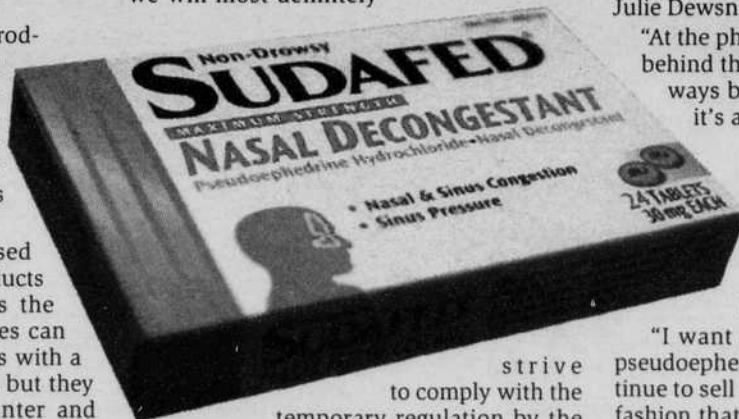
The restrictions limit sales of products, such as Sudafed, that contain the decongestant pseudoephedrine. The drug can be used to manufacture methamphetamines, according to a press release from Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office.

Starting Nov. 15, only licensed pharmacies will be able to sell products that contain pseudoephedrine as the only active ingredient. Retail stores can still sell pseudoephedrine products with a combination of active ingredients, but they must be sold from a secure counter and those purchasing them must show photo identification.

Kim Shore, who coordinates food service for the Union Market at the EMU, said she's

not yet sure how the restrictions will affect the store.

"As far as the new pseudoephedrine restrictions are concerned, we don't know at this point to what extent they're going to affect our sales at the store," Shore said. "But we will most definitely



strive to comply with the temporary regulation by the Nov. 15 deadline."

Although the University Bookstore sells a variety of cold medications, it offers only a few that contain pseudoephedrine.

"We don't sell very many of those products," General Manager Jim Williams said. "But we have realized we need to put them in a more secure location." He said cold medications will likely be available at the store's front register nearest to sportswear and electronics.

The University Health Center pharmacy will not be strongly affected by the new regulations, which the pharmacy basically followed before they even existed, manager Julie Dewsnup said.

"At the pharmacy here, it has always been behind the counter," she said. "We've always been watching quantity because it's a drug with potential for abuse."

Kulongoski requested the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to implement the emergency 180-day rule and will work with legislators during their next session to make the rule permanent.

"I want all retailers who currently sell pseudoephedrine products to be able to continue to sell those products, but in a secured fashion that prevents would-be inched cooks from endangering Oregon's children," the governor said in the press release.

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