

## NEWS STAFF (541) 346-5511

JEN SUDICK  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
STEVEN R. NEUMAN  
MANAGING EDITOR

JARED PABEN  
AYISHA YAHYA  
NEWS EDITORS

PARKER HOWELL  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

MORIAH BALINGIT  
MEGHANN CUNIFF  
KARA HANSEN  
ANTHONY LUCERO  
CANELA WOOD  
NEWS REPORTERS

CLAYTON JONES  
SPORTS EDITOR

ION ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

STEPHEN MILLER  
BRIAN SMITH  
SPORTS REPORTERS

RYAN NYBURG  
PULSE EDITOR

NATASHA CHILINGERIAN  
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

DAHVI FISCHER  
AMY LIGHTY  
RYAN MURPHY  
PULSE REPORTERS

DAVID JAGERNAUTH  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

JENNIFER MCBRIDE  
AILEE SLATER  
CHUCK SLOTHOWER  
TRAVIS WILLSE  
COLUMNISTS

ASHLEY GRIFFIN  
SUPPLEMENT  
FREELANCE EDITOR

GABE BRADLEY  
NEWS FREELANCE EDITOR/  
DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT

DANIELLE HICKEY  
PHOTO EDITOR

LAUREN WIMER  
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

TIM BOBOSKY  
PHOTOGRAPHER

NICOLE BARKER  
PART-TIME PHOTOGRAPHER

ERIK BISHOFF  
PART-TIME PHOTOGRAPHER

BRET FURTWANGLER  
GRAPHICS EDITOR

KIRA PARK  
DESIGN EDITOR

ELLIOTT ASBURY  
CHARLIE CALDWELL  
DUSTIN REESE  
BRIANNE SHOLIAN  
DESIGNERS

SHADRA BEESLEY  
JEANNIE EVERS  
COPY CHIEFS

KIMBERLY BLACKFIELD  
PAUL THOMPSON  
SPORTS COPY EDITORS

AMANDA EVRARD  
AMBER LINDROS  
NEWS COPY EDITORS

LINDSAY BURT  
PULSE COPY EDITOR

ADRIENNE NELSON  
ONLINE EDITOR

SLADE LEESON  
WEBMASTER

**BUSINESS**  
(541) 346-5511

JUDY RIEDL  
GENERAL MANAGER

KATHY CARBONE  
BUSINESS MANAGER

REBECCA CRITCHETT  
RECEPTIONIST

NATHAN FOSTER  
AIBING GUO  
ANDREW LEAHY  
JOHN LONG  
MALLORY MAHONEY  
HOLLY MISTELL  
DISTRIBUTION

**ADVERTISING**  
(541) 346-3712

MELISSA GUST  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

TYLER MACK  
SALES MANAGER

ALEX AMES  
MATT BEITZ

HERON CALISCH-DOLEN  
MEGAN HAMLIN  
KATE HIRONAKA  
MAEGAN KASER-LEE  
MIA LEIDELMEYER  
EMILY PHILBIN  
SHANNON ROGERS  
SALES REPRESENTATIVES

KELLEE KALIFTHEIL  
AD ASSISTANT

**CLASSIFIED**  
(541) 346-4343

TRINA SHANAMAN  
CLASSIFIED MANAGER

KATY GAGNON  
SABRINA GOWETTE  
LESLIE STRAIGHT  
KERI SPANGLER  
KATIE STRINGER  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
ASSOCIATES

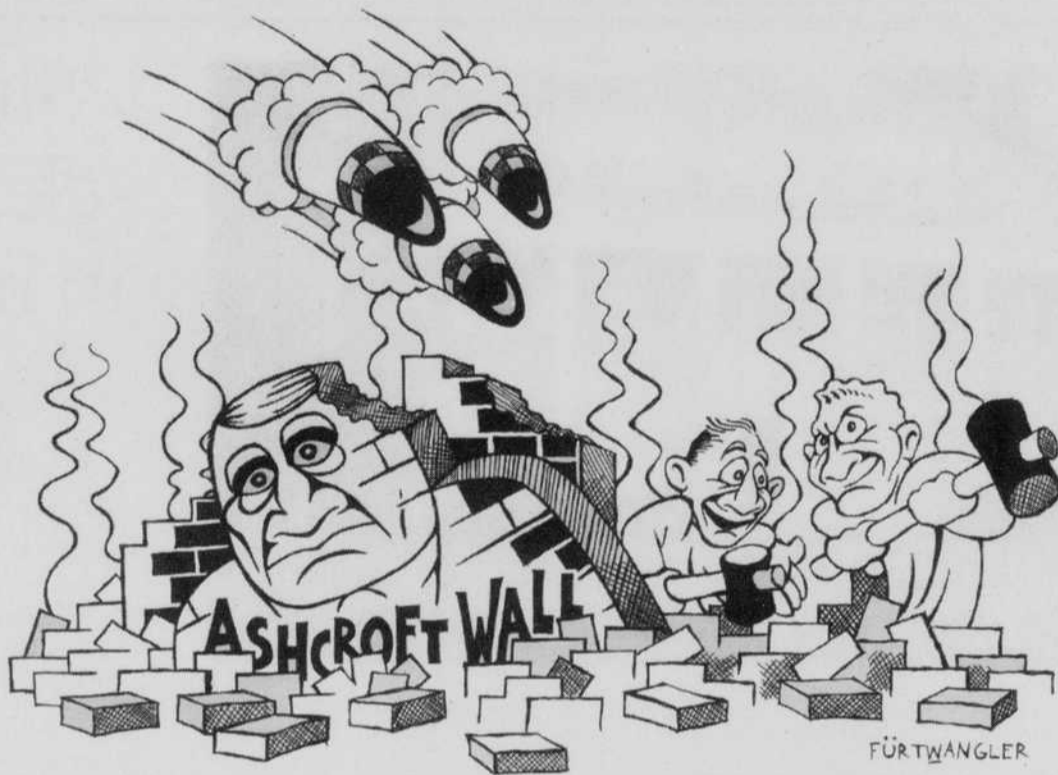
**PRODUCTION**  
(541) 346-4381

MICHELE ROSS  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

TARA SLOAN  
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

JEN CRAMLET  
KRISTEN DICHAHARRY  
CAMERON GAULT  
ANDY HOLLAND  
DESIGNERS

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. Unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.



"GEE! . . . DON'T YOU FEEL SO MUCH SAFER NOW THAT IT'S GONE?"

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

## ■ In my opinion

# A progressive movement wake-up call, part two

Given the realities of the American electorate — outlined in last Friday's column — will our progressive vision ever take hold amongst the majority of the citizens of this country? I say, yes it can; and, if progressives get their act together, it absolutely will.

What we need to do is exactly the opposite of what the Democrats are currently doing. In the wake of their humiliating defeat, the blue party is mapping out a strategy for 2006 that would make them more appealing to the red state "values voters" (read: "Christians"). This means the DNC platform will move even further away from our progressive ideals, much as it did after Walter Mondale's defeat in the '80s.

If this strikes you as an asinine strategy, given that the number one criticism of the Democratic Party is that they don't stand for anything, then congratulations — you just might be an ex-Democrat.

Before they destroy what little integrity the party has left, the Democratic leadership would be wise to look at the "values voters" already under their tent. White Protestants might vote overwhelmingly Republican, but black Protestants vote overwhelmingly Democratic. It is one of the more interesting partisan divides in the country: Same basic religion, same problems with homophobia and sexism, same evangelical tendencies and yet vastly different politics.

Sure, historical eccentricities play a large role in this, but there is a progressive streak underlying black religiosity, speaking in general terms, that the Democrats and progressives have all but ignored. The black community proves that



DAVID JAGERNAUTH  
CRITICAL MASS

Christianity doesn't have to be distilled down to little more than a list of behaviors that we should or should not do (as the right-wingers have done). Christianity can also trumpet our progressive values of serving the poor, spreading equality and fighting repressive institutions in order to maximize individual freedoms; after all, these are the same progressive values expressed in the story of Jesus.

We needn't start bashing gays, banning abortion, ridiculing the separation of church and state, legislating school prayer and hanging the Ten Commandments in public areas in order to connect with religious-minded voters. Ours is already a values message; we just need to start talking about it as such.

The second bloc of voters that should be receptive to our progressive message are Libertarians and libertarian-leaning secular Republicans who are not happy with the Biblical agenda of those now in control of the Republican Party. These two groups, more than anything, fear the influence of big government in their lives, and rightfully so, as we have witnessed during the last four years.

Some progressives forget that a healthy capitalist system is an important and necessary counterforce

to the government's tendency to over-regulate our lives. In turn, some libertarians forget that the opposite is also true: Big business, like big government, can limit our freedoms in the marketplace when it seizes too much power. The one institution protects us from the other and vice versa. When in balance, the system works. Sometimes regulation is the answer and sometimes deregulation is the answer. We might not always agree on the specifics, but at the heart of the matter, libertarians and progressives share a common goal: to maximize our individual freedoms, including the freedom to "sin."

The Democratic Party will be distancing itself even further from its base in the next few years, so now is the perfect time for the Democratic base to distance itself from the Party. We can build a strong progressive movement if we work to bring secular libertarians and liberal religionists into our fold. In addition, we should continue to work to solidify the youth vote, not by relentlessly selling the ridiculous belief that voting will change the world, but by giving young people a candidate worth voting for and believing in.

If we take these steps, not only will we force the momentum of the Democratic Party back to the left, but we will begin to force the public conversation back to the issues that matter most to us: taking Big Brother out of both big government and big business, fostering fiscal responsibility, adhering to a less hazardous foreign policy and maximizing our individual freedoms.

davidjagnauth@dailyemerald.com

## INBOX

### Marriage initiative supporters displace their own inadequacies

To the surprise of many pollsters, moral values played a crucial role in the 2004 election. Millions of Americans turned out in support of marriage initiatives that restrict the definition of marriage to heterosexual couples. Apparently, they hoped to solidify the place of the "traditional" family in American society. But many betrayed their own frustration in bringing about those values by resorting to a most immature tactic: shifting attention from their own failings toward homosexuals.

This political finger pointing — now loudly and shamefully amended to the Oregon Constitution — is a distraction. To erroneously claim that same-sex partners might make poor parents or that same-sex unions are not worthy of the marriage title rests on the dangerous assumption that traditional familial structures automatically inherit a kind of mystical sanctity. In reality, the dignities associated with the family extend only to those who provide nurturing and loving communities for their spouses and children — characteristics that describe many kinds of families.

Unable or unwilling to create family values, those who came out to vote for the marriage initiatives have consoled themselves with the belief that, should they themselves not measure up to the ideal, no one else should have the chance to succeed either.

Jose Bernal  
Eugene

### America's youth vote mistakenly underestimated

While it may seem senseless to drone on about this year's election, especially a week and a half after the fact, there is one point which bears repeating: Young people voted, and they voted in record numbers.

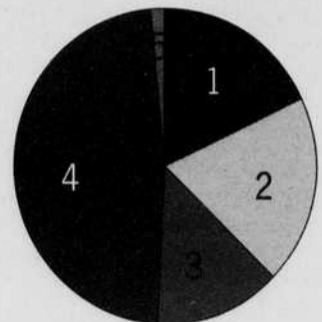
The youth vote naysaying began even before the election was decided. Major news outlets ran stories citing disappointing turnout among the nation's young people. Most of these accounts were misleading, if not wholly inaccurate. More young people age 18 to 29 voted than four years ago (around 4.6 million more) and it was the first time since 1972 that a majority of eligible young people voted.

Youth voter turnout isn't an isolated, kooky liberal Eugene phenomenon. A record number of young people nationwide made it to the polls, in red states just as in blue. Perhaps with just a bit of gentle prodding from the more civic-minded among us, our generation will demand greater accountability from the officials we've just elected, and the issues that concern us most will begin to be more fairly addressed.

Dan Platt  
League of Conservation Voters  
Education Fund/Project Democracy

## ONLINE POLL

### THIS WEEK'S RESULTS



Now that the election is over, and George W. Bush has been elected to a second term, what are you planning to do?

1. I'm happy Bush won. I plan to sit back and enjoy four more years of Bush's leadership — 17.9%
2. I can't believe Kerry didn't win. I'm moving to Canada — 19.4%
3. I'm happy that Bush won, but this is not time to rest on laurels — the next four years are the time to step up my political activism — 13.4%
4. I can't believe Kerry didn't win, but this is not the time to run away — the next four years are the time to step up my political activism — 47.8%
5. Election? What election? Politics are not for me — 1.5%

Total votes: 67

## OREGON DAILY EMERALD LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged, and should be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com or submitted at the Oregon Daily Emerald office, EMU Suite 300. Electronic submissions are preferred. Letters are limited to 250 words, and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submissions should include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style. Guest submissions are published at the discretion of the Emerald.