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Catholics weigh in on pope's potential

Though many Catholics support the new leader, his conservative viewpoints raise some concern

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

The white smoke from the Sistine Chapel's chimney that signals a new pope's election has dissipated, and the Vatican's ceremonial bell has tolled and fallen silent, but Catholics around the world are still reacting to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's elevation to the papal seat.

Ratzinger, who will officially be installed Sunday as Pope Benedict XVI, is the church's 265th pontiff and the first German to hold the position in nearly a millennium.

A close affiliate of the late Pope John Paul II, Ratzinger has been both hailed and criticized for being a staunch conservative who has expressed his desire to maintain the church's fundamental tenets.

Thousands cheered in St. Peter's Square on Tuesday as Ratzinger greeted them in his new papal vestments, saying he was a "simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard." On the local scene, many Catholics are also celebrating the new pope.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Baptismal name: Joseph Ratzinger

Age: 78 (oldest pope chosen since Clement XII in 1730)

Place of birth: Marktl am Inn, Germany

Previous position: Cardinal, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

First words as pope: "Dear brothers and sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard. I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work and act even with insufficient instruments. And above all, I entrust myself to your prayers. With the joy of the risen Lord and confidence in his constant help, we will go forward. The Lord will help us, and Mary, his most holy mother, will be alongside us."

Source: The New York Times

Father Ted Prentice of Eugene's St. Mary Catholic Church said there has been much excitement among parishioners surrounding the election.

"I think people have been kind of relieved that it happened so quickly," Prentice said. Ratzinger was elected after only four rounds of voting by a conclave of 115 cardinals.

M.J. Gordon, the secretary of the St. Thomas More Newman Center, the University's campus ministry, said she was pleased with the pope's selection and was not really surprised because Ratzinger "seemed like he had a lot of support going into the election."

"I think he is a man of extreme intellect and clarity," she said. "He will speak to the needs of the world today."

Father David Orique, also of the Newman Center, said he had hoped for a Latin American pope.

"I just think it would have been exciting to

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Percentage of student diversity declines

Australia, China and Great Britain are among the countries international students may be choosing over the United States

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The University was slightly less diverse in fall term 2004 than in 2003, and the number of first-time freshman international students dropped by nearly a quarter, according to an Emerald analysis of Oregon University System Diversity Report statistics released this month.

There were 20,339 students enrolled in the University at the beginning of the academic year, up 305 from the previous year.

The number of white students increased at a slightly higher rate than the total University enrollment from fall 2003 to fall 2004. Populations of black students, Asian and Pacific American students, Hispanic students and those of multiple races all increased as well, but a gain of 387 white students pushed the group's total percentage of the University population to about 74 percent. White students made up about 73 percent of the University in 2003.

American Indian and Alaska Native students and international students faced small decreases in total enrollment.

The total number of students enrolled as first-time freshmen in fall term 2004 increased by 11 percent from fall 2003, bolstered by increased numbers of Hispanic students, Asian and Pacific American students, white students

and students of multiple races. There were fewer black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and international first-time freshmen.

The number of first-time freshman international students enrolled in the University decreased by more than 29 percent in the last two years. In fall 2004, 73 international students enrolled as freshmen. Ninety-seven and 103 of those students were admitted in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Magid Shirzadegan, director of international student and scholarship services, attributed the decline to rising costs and global competition.

"More and more, U.S. and international students are going abroad for a shorter period of time," Shirzadegan said. He added that more international students are enrolling in schools in other countries such as Australia.

Director of Admissions Martha Pitts cited China, South Korea and Great Britain as other sources of competition.

"This reflects national trends in international students," Pitts said of the decrease. She added that the federal government has set more difficult immigration policies, which present real

and perceived roadblocks for students from other countries.

"Some students are simply saying that it's not worth all that extra work," she said.

Pitts hopes the University won't see a

decrease in first-time freshman international students next year. There has been a slight increase in applications from this group for fall term 2005, she said.

Asian or Pacific American total enrollment has grown steadily over the past two years, increasing by nearly 5 percent overall from fall 2002 to fall 2004. The first-time freshman enrollment of the group went up by about 28 percent over the same period.

The University experienced a

12.9%

drop in minority and international student enrollment from fall 2002 to fall 2004.

The number of Hispanic enrollees reflects an upward trend as well. Enrollment of first-time freshman Hispanic students increased about 39 percent from fall 2002 to fall 2004, and total enrollment of that group has increased by more than 11 percent over the same period.

"That's a pretty significant increase," Pitts said. "We would hope to see this increase and more. This is one of the fastest growing populations of students in the state of Oregon."

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IN BRIEF

Hawaii Club to hold its annual lu'au Saturday

The University Hawaii Club will host its 30th annual lu'au Saturday at McArthur Court, an event that brings in nearly 1,000 people and has all the elements of a traditional lu'au.

The lu'au will feature a Hawaiian meal, hula show, country store, live music and a concert featuring a local Hawaiian band.

The doors to the event open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., the show will begin between 6 and 6:30 p.m. and the concert will follow beginning at 9 p.m.

Tickets cost \$18 with a student ID.

— Amanda Bolsinger

DANCE ON THE MAINLAND



Architecture student Shannon Hart rehearses for the 30th annual Hawaii Club lu'au scheduled for Saturday night at McArthur Court.

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

IN BRIEF

Research award recipients to present projects today

Recipients of the 2004-05 Center on Diversity and Community summer research awards will present their projects at the third-annual Graduate Research Conference today. The event is hosted jointly by CoDaC and the Graduate School. The presentations will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge.

The projects include a study of race and

feminism in Argentina, an examination of Latino immigrants in small towns in the United States and an analysis of how Southeast Asian immigrant youths adjust to their new environments.

"It reflects the range of research and scholarship we do on campus," Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Rich Linton said.

All projects, however, explore issues related to diversity and cultural competency. Graduate students had to submit proposals

and compete for one of the 10 fellowships offered by CoDaC.

The fellowships reflect CoDaC's charge to further scholarship in issues around diversity, Linton said.

"I'm just very positive about this," he said. "It really connects with the priority of the institution for work related to diversity."

For a copy of the presentation abstracts and a detailed schedule, go to uoregon.edu/~co-dac/gradconference2005.shtml.

— Moriah Balingit