

Auto skills contest upcoming

Watch the best students in Oregon's high school automotive programs race to discover and repair problems in identical cars at the Oregon finals of the 1996 Auto Skills Contest and National Quality Care Challenge on May 3 at Clackamas Community College.

Competitions will begin at 9 a.m., outside in the courtyard between Barlow Hall and the Community Center. In case of rain, the competition will be moved into the Automotive Department.

The competition is free and open to the public.

The competition is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company and the American Automobile Association (AAA). Its objective is to encourage talented students to pursue careers as automotive service technicians.

Ten two-person teams of Oregon high school seniors will participate in the competition. Each team consists of the two top

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Vote, take control

Brendon Neal
Opinion Editor

Students should take advantage of their chance to choose whom they want to represent them at this college. Instead, voter turnout year after year is outrageously low, not only in campus votes but in state and national elections and ballots.

Last year there were only 230 to 250 voters out of the several thousand students at this college. That's less than 10% of the student population who voted in last year's elections.

The president and vice president are our voices in campus decisions. They represent us before the President's Council and in many other diverse ways including funding and organizing clubs and the Club Fair held each year. Students need to take advantage of this right. Only then can we be assured to get the kind of ASG who will represent what students want.

The flip side of this is the small number of candidates running for office. There are only two candidates running for president and two for vice-president. If no one else runs, there won't be a lot of choices for voters.

Certainly there are more than four people on this campus who can lead us. Where are the others? The ASG senate contains 12 senators and four officers with experience. Only one has stepped forward to be in the race.

While the deadline for running for president and vice president has already passed there are 14 senate seats up for grabs this spring and next fall. I encourage any student who wishes to make a difference to consider running for one of these seats.

If we don't take the initiative and become active in our education we give up the right to complain when our fees and tuitions increase. We have the chance now to decide who we want to represent us. Next school year when we are unhappy with the way things have or haven't changed it will be too late.

'Hi my name is Damon...' Day in the life of a compulsive over-researcher

Damon Fouts
News Co-Editor

I hate writing opinion pieces. But every week, Brendon, our opinion editor comes up to me and says with a smile, "Are you going to write an opinion piece for me this week, Damon?"

"For me," he says. He has to throw that in. It's not that he thinks I'm a great opinion writer. I think he knows I'm an easy mark.

Don't get me wrong, I'm actually pretty opinionated. I come from the school that says "Why agree with someone when you can argue with them?" It's so much more entertaining. But that's just verbal jousting. My problem is I tend to approach writing an opinion the same way I approach a term paper or a research design. I conduct a literature survey that to my satisfaction covers every possible argument and corresponding rebuttal that can possibly be made.

I actually enjoy the research and the writing, but I just don't have the time to do it on a weekly basis. So I try to select topics that don't take a lot of surveying. Take the line-item veto for an example, which allows the president to veto individual appropriations provisions within a bill without having to veto the entire bill.

That was the topic I selected this week; normally an obscure item on presidential wish lists, but suddenly topical, with Clinton signing a bill granting him the veto power that every president since Grant has sought.

So I hop in the car, (switch to present-tense for dramatic effect) and head for the library downtown, eventually settling comfortably into one of those quaint wooden chairs Mom used to have around the kitchen table.

I decide to start with the home-town favorite, the Oregonian. The newspaper computer databases are separated into years, so I decide to start with 1990, just to see what was being written when party control of the legisla-

tive and executive branches were the reverse of what they are today. I type in the reference phrase "line-item veto" and the database indicates there were six articles in the Oregonian in 1990 that mentioned the line-item veto. I say to myself, "I made a good choice." An opinion topic that generates just six references in one year is my kind of topic.

I note an article written in September, 1990 that reports the concern of some that the line-item veto could turn the presidency into a political machine reminiscent of Chicago in the 1940's, with the president rewarding and punishing legislators with political favors with the stroke of a pen. Interesting, hadn't thought of that so I write it down. All the other stories in 1990 follow the same theme: Bush wants the line-item veto and a democratic Congress doesn't want him to have it.

So I move to 1991 where there are only two stories. One is a David S. Broder column with the same old concern about the shift power from one branch to the other, violating the constitutional concept of balancing of the three branches' powers. Been there, read that, so I pass. The other covers the Oregon Republican Dorchester Conference, which mentions the veto power in passing. Yawn. I decide to jump ahead to 1995. I enter the reference phrase and I get back 72 articles.

Yeah, you heard me, 72 stinking articles. The Oregonian couldn't go a lousy week in 1995 without mentioning the line-item veto. Oh well, make the best of it. I squirm uncomfortably in the hard seat of the cheap wooden chair and begin reviewing the articles. There goes the rest of the afternoon.

I immediately see the problem. That master of subtlety, Newt Gingrich, has made pass-

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Why should I vote? Why should you vote?

Recent elections have left young citizens like myself disdainful of the democratic process and apathetic of issues that we feel impotent to affect. As college students, we Constitution a promising generation, though we face daunting obstacles. If we forfeit our right to vote, it only means that special interests and the status quo will determine the political legacy or catastrophe that we must deal with.

Let us be pro-active, and support a candidate who truly respects our right to in-depth exploration of the crucial issues that face Oregonians. I invite my fellow students and conscious citizens to vote for Jerry Rust in the May 21 US Senate primary election.

Jerry Rust believes in open discussion that honors the intelligence of Oregonians and serves as a constructive base for positive change. Early in his candidacy, he invited all the Senate candidates to run a clean, issue oriented, limited spending campaign.

Thus far, Rust is the only candidate who has been refreshingly honest and practical with voters, plainly stating his position on issues important to Oregonians. With a history of growing up in Douglas County, and owning a tree

farm himself, he supports forest plans that are predictable and sustainable. He understands that old economic and social paradigms should evolve, and our economy must be diversified to include workers displaced by the changing system.

Education should be a tool by which class barriers are blurred and democracy upheld, therefore it deserves the strong financial support from government as well as community involvement.

Rust supports light rail, reauthorization and strengthening of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and protection of public lands.

Preservation of our natural environment is a quality of life issue. Rust knows from experience that there should be no conflict between a clean environment and a strong economy.

Jerry Rust understands that investments in crime and drug abuse prevention, education, families, and communities are the only way to ensure a prosperous future. The future can be ours to embrace, if we choose to make it so. More than a politician, Rust represents a real choice, a real chance for change. I challenge Oregonians to take the first step by voting.

Isa Lester
University of Oregon

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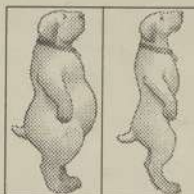
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Classified Ads

- Need dependable childcare provider 2-3 nights a week for a great 4-yr-old. Must have own transportation and be good with kids. Call 656-8695 for more information.
- Keyboards for sale: Rhodes MKI 73-key, \$150. Korg poly-800 synth, \$125. Yamaha DX27 w/stand, \$275. Call Joseph at 655-3869.
- Housecleaning, affordable base rates; detailed, responsible work. Call anytime for an interview, 641-9376. Most of work done on Westside (Tigard, Lake Oswego, Aloha, Beaverton, Hillsboro, etc.). Call for more information.
- Let Destiny be your ticket out of the rat race. Greatest opportunity in American business today. Call Brett, 761-8432.
- Resumes - Professional presentation of your material. Low cost! Call 630-4356.
- Help Wanted: English-as-a-Second-Language tutor. \$10 an hr, three hrs a week. Exp. preferred. Call Kadja at 557-9775.
- For Sale: Brand-new Molly snowboard, still in package. Estimated value is \$400, will sell for \$375. Call Jon at ext. 2309 or at home 253-4937.
- For sale: Honda, 1980, ATC, 110hp, 2 extra tires and wheels, not beat, runs great, \$500. Call Dwight, 657-1315 after 5 p.m.
- Attitude is everything, record-setting health/environmental co. looking for motivated sales-reps. to work hard, have fun and make a difference. We're exploding with growth and you owe it to yourself. Call (541)387-2850 for an overview appointment.
- Need help proofreading or editing assignments, reports, newsletters? Call Cori at ext. 2578.

It's time you saw less of your dog.



Before After
All dogs need exercise and the right diet to stay healthy, happy and fit.

A Message From
The American Kennel Club

For a free Responsible Dog Ownership Packet write AKC, 5580 Centerville Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606.