

Students react strongly to election fiasco

"Long, messed up, screwed up, and shitty."

That's the way some Clackamas students responded when they were asked how they thought this year's presidential elections were going.

The Print surveyed 66 people yesterday, most of them on the Oregon City campus, and almost all of them students.

Students felt that the elections were "a hoax," "a joke," "crazy," "ridiculous" and "terrible." One student was embarrassed and another felt alienated by the current fiasco. Other students thought the elections had gone "straight to hell" and "down the toilet."

Many students thought that there shouldn't have been a recount of Florida, that they should have counted it right the first time, and that they should stick to the first

count of ballots. A few students said the recounting should stop with Florida and there shouldn't be any further legal action.

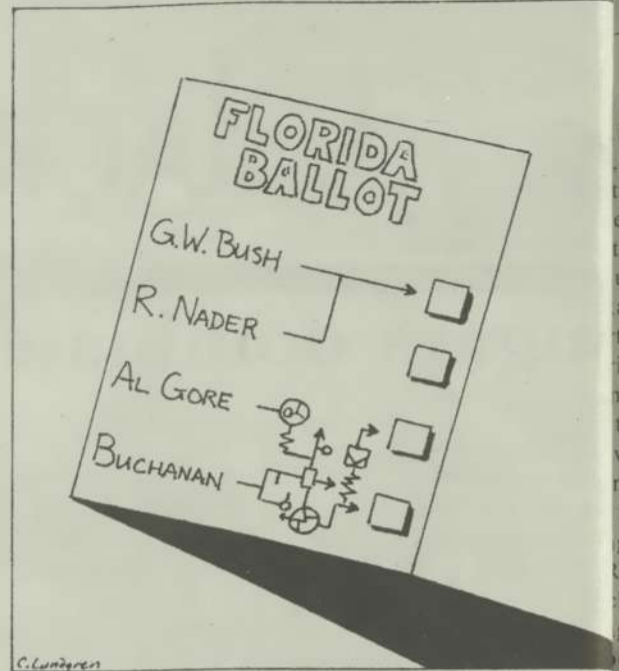
Several students thought one or the other

When asked who they voted for 34% said Bush, 27% said Gore, 6% said Nader, and 28% either couldn't or didn't vote. Two out of three, who would have voted if they could have, would have voted for Bush.

Some commonly proposed solutions were standardized ballots and a universal collection time so media could not report the election results of one state before the polls of another closed.

In all, it's obvious from this small sample of Clackamas students that most are not happy with the way things are going. Many students suggested changes in the current system including getting rid of the Electoral College.

I feel much the same way. As I watched the news last night, and wondered if this new threat of recounts in other states was just a political strategy to raise public outcry enough to halt what is happening in Florida. It's working with me. Nothing horrifies me more than having to watch this con-



C. Lundgren

tinue, watching our American process being dragged through this muck of bureaucracy and partisan strategy. Neither candidate is looking good to me anymore.

What do we do about this cal squabbling and wrangling dealing with now? What founding fathers do in 1776

On the contrary



Steve Nielsen
News Editor

candidate was acting poorly and one student said "Get it over with now!"

When asked if we should do away with the Electoral College, 44% of students said we should, 33% said we should keep it, 7% said maybe, and 13% suspended judgement. Most of those who wanted to keep the Electoral College believed that the founding fathers knew what they were doing when they created it and that we should leave it.

Letters to the Editor

Epstein, Kheirabadi share passion and soul with students at debate

Regarding the November 2 debate on campus concerning the Israeli/Palestinian crisis in the Middle East, I must respectfully but strongly disagree with Corinne Rupp's analysis of the event and its value to us. The passionate and acrimonious exchange that we witnessed yielded a visceral insight into the intensity of emotions shared by both of the major protagonists.

The Middle East crisis has been smoldering and erupting since 1948. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians, like almost all citizens of this country, have no other homeland in this universe to which they can return, pledge allegiance, and be welcomed. We should be able to empathize powerfully with both sides.

When confronted by an adversary that wants all of one's land and also claims fidelity to, and the unique sanction of, a vengeful God, (and I think that this describes both sides), "Houston, we have a problem."

Dr. Kheirabadi helped me to feel the plight of the Palestinians, who

now find 78% of the land that they possessed in the 1940's in the hands of Israelis. The people he spoke for have now lived in exile and/or bereft of power for over fifty years.

Dr. Epstein, while not successfully justifying this occupation based on a situation that existed around 2,000 years ago, communicated the strength, the determination, and the "this is a survival issue to us and we would readily die for it" attitude of his own culture. Witnessing Dr. Epstein's feelings of isolation, frustration, defensiveness, and determination during the debate gave me a heretofore-absent insight into the Israeli mindset.

While the debate's attendees could not realistically be able to offer the optimum solution to the dilemma in the Middle East from what we learned there, we certainly gained extremely valuable insight into the problem.

Unlike the pabulum-like formulaic presentations of most daily TV news broadcasts, this was the real thing. Wow! Thank you CCC and thank you Dr. Epstein and Dr.

Kheirabadi. You shared your passion and your soul with us. This was hard for you and many of us really appreciate your gift.

I have flown airplanes vulnerable to hijacking worldwide and I lost my job because a Pan Am airplane was blown up by terrorism related to this issue. A friend's wife was killed on a Boeing 707 in Rome and an old Air Force buddy barely escaped that incident alive. I was only one or two flights ahead of the 747 that was hijacked in Karachi—several died there. Accordingly, I have been following this question with acute interest for decades. This event was the single most valuable, germane, informative experience I have heretofore witnessed.

A great big thanks to the Social Science Department for sponsoring this wonderful event.

Related to this, I was disappointed to hear both presidential candidates, during the debates, declare their support for Israel. Shouldn't they have declared their support for justice? As the bumper sticker says: "If you want peace, then work for justice."

Duane Schambro, CCC student

Thomas Paine was professional editor

I hesitate to criticize student work that appears in the Clackamas Print, but I must offer a correction to one of your recent editorial comments. In your issue of 8 November 2000 you stated: "Publications like The Clackamas Counter may appear to be crude and hastily done, but amateur pamphlets written by Thomas Paine and other revolutionary writers spread ideas that kicked off the American Revolution." The notion that the American Revolution was instigated by amateurs and rabble rousers is one of many myths about American history. Much to the contrary, Tho-

mas Paine was a professional newspaper editor and pamphlet, Common Sense, was and published in cooperation with two of Philadelphia's leading intellectuals, Dr. Benjamin Franklin. His agree that the publication of mon Sense was a critical leading to the Declaration of independence, and rank Thomas among the leading journal American history.

Jackie Flowers, Ph.D. History Instructor

Smokers urged to speak out for rights

I recently learned the Associated Student Government is trying to prohibit smoking on our college campus. I was shocked and outraged. Just recently a law was passed that prohibited people from smoking in restaurants. That means the restaurant patrons and the employees who work there are now forced to smoke outside, sometimes in unsafe areas and in the late hours of the evening. I wonder why so many people were unaware that ASG is trying to pass a rule like this, and if people know, why don't they fight back?

Now that they have taken our right to smoke in restaurants they want to stop the smoking on campus too. I implore the ASG to defend their rights, because Americans we are given the right to speak out for what we believe. If we just sit back and let them decide for us, we will soon find our rights stripped away. I challenge you to speak up and to stand out for what you believe. Let the voices and opinions we are silenced forever.

Audra Sykes

Correction:

In our last edition, the editorial titled "ASG Hosts Information Luncheon" should have credited CCC Student Ambassadors for hosting the event.



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