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The Print

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Volume 38, Issue 1

A free student publication

Please sir, I'd like some 'Moore'

Michael Moore speaks on PSU campus yesterday to an enthusiastic crowd

Hilliary Ferguson
The Clackamas Print

Chants of "Two more weeks! Two more weeks!" rose from the crowd and echoed off buildings as infamous filmmaker and political rebel Michael Moore took to the podium in Portland State University's Urban Plaza yesterday.

Moore's appearance marked the Portland leg of his "Slacker Uprising Tour," an unabashed anti-Bush rally to reach the younger generation of America and override the Republican vote.

"We're the majority, they're the minority," Moore repeated, cementing the idea that the youth of America does indeed have the upper hand—if they vote.

One main aspect of the rally was getting voters to realize that their vote does indeed matter. Moore said that, as was exemplified in the 2000 presidential race, there are a great many people who will do whatever is necessary to silence the voices of those who oppose them.

Moore shared this thought: if some people will do whatever is possible to make sure you don't vote, obviously each and every vote is important. In other words, voting is critical to those who don't want the young to vote, so it should be essential to young voters.

"Each person's vote is very, very powerful," said Carl Pope, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, the sponsor of Moore's "Slacker" tour.

According to Moore, 50% of the population does not vote. He pointed out that it's easy to guess who that 50% includes: the poor young people. Yet young adults do the majority of complaining about the state of things. Moore's main objective is to show the students and middle class that, if they vote, they will easily outweigh the votes of the minority, or upper class Republicans.

When Moore asked where the Republicans were at, the crowd booed and pointed at a group waving signs supporting Bush. He had a kind word for the few conservatives who had braved the liberal masses at the rally.

"We will not treat you the way you've treated minorities [when Kerry is elected], even though you're a Republican," Moore said.

In an earlier press conference, Pope touched on many of the issues addressed in Moore's speech. He also noted that he believes the presidential election will be determined by people who have never voted before (i.e., college students).

Eric Blickenstaff

also spoke at the rally, with a much more personal message as why he wants to vote Bush out of office. Blickenstaff's brother, Joe, was killed in Iraq last December. Blickenstaff talked about

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Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Michael Moore, filmmaker, writer and political activist, spoke yesterday at Portland State University. Moore gave out copies of his two new books: "The Fahrenheit 9/11 Reader" and "Will they ever Trust us Again: Letters from the War Zone" at a press conference prior to the rally. The event was sponsored in part by the Sierra Club.

Partisan 'influence' absolute, illegal

Groups on campus tamper with students' voter registration cards

Micheale Cooper
The Clackamas Print

The Associated Student Government found more on its plate than the simple act of registering students to vote before the state deadline, Oct. 13. Some students on campus were not so lucky to get a fair chance to register as the party they support because of certain non-campus groups.

"People were coming on campus," said Rian Murphy, ASG Vice President. "Specifically, we had a group of Democrats come on campus, and registering just Democrats to vote. They weren't allowing Republicans or non-partisans ... to register, and that's illegal. What's even more illegal is that ... if they

wouldn't register as a Democrat, after [the student would leave] they would change their voter registration card, which is extremely illegal."

ASG itself was working with a legitimate group to get students voting.

"[The] Clackamas Student Government was working with the Voters' Coalition," said Murphy. "I believe we registered a little over 300 people."

Brie Dakrin, a student here at Clackamas, was harassed by one of the voter registration groups that were coming on campus.

"We were sitting in that quad area right outside the cafeteria," said Dakrin.

When asked if she was registered to vote, she said yes, she already was. The woman questioning her pressed her further to re-register so she could get paid an alleged five dollars for the registration.

"I didn't want this lady calling me, so I left my phone number

blank. She saw that I left it blank, and she was like 'No, no, no, you need to put [your phone number] in or I don't get paid.' ... Then, I go to mark 'other' or, like, 'not affiliated with a party,' and she's like 'No, no, no, you need to mark Republican or I don't get paid.' ... And then when she was walking away, I saw her mark Republican [on my form]."

"We ended up having [these groups] kicked off campus," said Murphy. He also addressed the free speech areas on campus.

"There is a specific free speech area that is located right over by the fountains in front of the Dye Learning Center," said Murphy. "We've had people stepping outside of that area, going around on campus, and we're trying to minimize the harassment of students by keeping the [lobbyists] in the

free speech area, but not everyone's been following that."

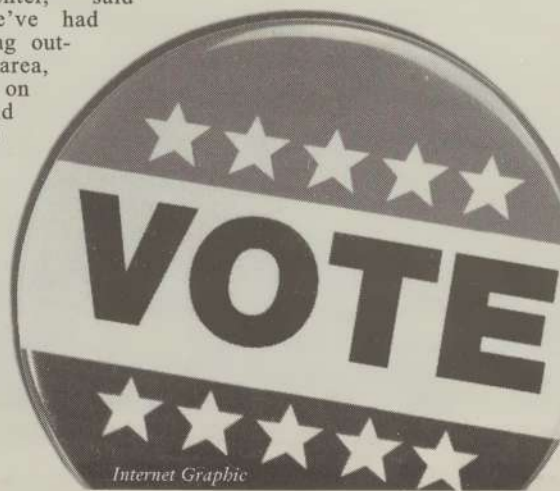
Despite the unfortunate acts of partisan groups on campus, Murphy still strongly supports increased voter registration among students and young people.

"We're extremely unrepresented for the fact that we don't vote," continued Murphy. "We don't register to vote ... we don't express our issues, we don't get our voice out there. So that's what we were working on this year, you know, letting people know [that] we do have a voice in this election ... we have a voice too."

"People were coming on campus. They weren't allowing Republicans or non-partisans to register, and that's illegal."

Rian Murphy

Associated Student Government Vice President



Internet Graphic