

Student Poll: Are you registered to vote?



Britteny Hoffman

"Yes, because I want to vote for governor, and be a part of politics."

"Yes, because it's a social obligation. If we don't use our voice, we basically have to shut up and take it."



Chris Hinson



Criss Hargis

"I am registered to vote, but my political views are in the middle of the road, so I could go either way."

"I am registered to vote because ... without individual participation in voting matters, democracy fails."



Dusty Ragsdale



Forrest Scrutton

"Part of it is a sense of obligation, that it's something I should do. But I also like to think that my one vote can make a difference."

"No, because I'm under 18 years old. I do plan to register when I turn 18 so that I could participate in the next election."



Golda Kamerman

This week's poll compiled by Alexandria Vallelunga and Jeff Sorensen

Face Off: Does voting really matter?

Voting system, politicians scandalous

Don't vote? Then stop complaining

Nicholas Delzell

The Clackamas Print

In America's funky up voting system, voting isn't worth the time and thought.

Growing up watching America's excellent coverage of president and part-time player Bill Clinton's scandal, voting became irrelevant. This is not blatant disrespect to our great democracy and America as a whole. I actually understand why a citizen would vote. I'm in favor of other people voting — not me!

Creating controversy and wasting time seem to be a politician's forte, and when voting season kicks into high gear, there is no telling what politicians will do and say in what advertisements to slander their adversary. As a sports writer, I can truly say that, out of all the messed up things my beloved Trail Blazers players have done, they have never put out a smear advertisement campaign against their opponent.

Too many young bucks let their parents and their parent's beliefs overshadow their own. What I'm saying here is, Republicans generally pass on their principles to their children, and Democrats do the same.

The DMV will push voter registration on people who just want a license, and activists will set up certain sets of people to push voter registration and voting on people ... however, no one takes into account that a person who helps voters register may also try to get him or her to lean a certain way.

Independents are where things go from gravy to mold, as they can't vote in primary elections. This is not only an unfair advantage to the two main political parties, but a thunderous cuff to independents who want to back Republicans or Democrats, depending on who is running.

Voting creates scandal and makes it almost impossible to connect with others whose opinions differ. This gets especially strong on certain political issues. I'm not about to bring up a scandal here, but I got a few ideas to buff up the voting system.

First, make all potential voters take a voter pamphlet aptitude test, and raise the legal voting age to 21 again.

Second, break up the brainless idea that Independents can't vote in our primaries.

Third, paint the White House ... we won't go there.

And fourth, make Nic King, and all this voting debate will wash away immediately.

Laura Cameron

The Clackamas Print

"Vote or shut up."

That's one of my absolute favorite bumper stickers. It perfectly encapsulates my feelings regarding voting: those who choose not to vote don't get to complain about the results of the election.

Until recently, I always assumed people didn't vote because they were too lazy. It seemed odd — especially here in Oregon, where the ballot comes in the mail and just has to be mailed back, no physical effort involved — but hey, different strokes, right?

Turns out I was wrong. Many people these days don't vote because they claim it doesn't matter.

If there were a literary technique for conveying stupefied silence, it would appear here.

How can anyone feel that voting doesn't matter? Were they not paying attention in their American History class when the teacher covered the Revolutionary War? One of the founding principles of this nation is the right to vote.

Of course, they have a point. With the millions of people in the United States, how's one more or less going to matter?

The individual vote may not matter. But start adding up the individual non-votes, and it turns into quite a chunk of potential change.

In the 2004 election, it was estimated that only 17 percent of eligible 18 to 25-year-olds voted. Younger generations are generally more liberal than the parents — had they voted, it might have caused! The impact the other 83 percent would have caused! The Republicans might not have controlled Congress.

Most of those 83 percent didn't vote because they thought their vote wouldn't matter.

Voting does matter, folks. This is why I will vote in every election until my dying day. Hey, don't take my word for it. Go back and ask the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the ones who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the creation of a country where the citizens decide what course to take. The ones who *lost* their lives and families to create that nation.



Photo Illustrations by Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

Letters to the editor

'Conspiracy Corner' sparks controversy over 9/11

I am actually very disappointed that there isn't a section in the newspaper for "letters to the editor." I would love to be able to comment, so that the entire college could read, on the article printed in regards to the conspiracy theories ... this time relating to 9/11.

It's kind of ironic that there is an article on teachers being biased, and then there is a small blurb on how the *Clackamas Print* is also an unbiased paper, when in fact I find it very conservative, Republican and biased beyond belief (except, of course, for the lengthy sports pages ... are we still in high school?). I think that since you are reaching an entire school with these biased articles, that there should at least be a section within the paper for those of us who do not agree with the opinions of the writers. All students within the Clackamas institution should be able to hear from all sides of the story, especially if the writers within the paper cannot

give them that.

To revisit my initial reasons for writing, I have just moved here from the east coast. While the twin towers were hit, I lived one hour north. One year previously, I had lived in Brooklyn, across the east river from the towers.

I find it fascinating how "impacted" peoples' lives have been out here from that "fateful day." Most of the people that I know, that have lived and still live in NYC, hardly think about 9/11 as much as Oregonians do. And their lives have been *more* impacted than most of the state of Oregon put together.

Fear is not a control factor for them ... *They live there.* If you took a survey, an unbiased general survey, I think you would find that most people within that area would *they* themselves be somewhat [sic] of conspiracy theories regarding 9/11. A friend of mine, who lived in the city, had a brother in the Army, stationed in Nebraska

at the time (a huge weapons center of ours). The night before 9/11, his brother called him and warned him to go out of town.

He couldn't tell him why. He shouldn't have even made the phone call. How could that so easily be tossed out the window as an attachment to an *exaggerated* conspiracy theory? Did the U.S.A. mastermind the whole 9/11 catastrophes? Saying that would almost be laughable ... but did the president or his "yes-men" or officials in his cabinet know about what *might* happen (98% chance)? Was there enough evidence for us to have been on a high alert within the governmental agencies (screw all this media crap about "terror alert colors")? Probably. And, to base part of an article on findings from a "9/11 commission report" ... how many times are we going to facilitate the astronomical lies of the government? How unbiased could a commissioned report from the government to other gov-

ernmental agencies be???

Don't we have CIA and FBI and other forms of "secret services" that are essentially invisible sections of the government, that have killed people?

Previous governmental presidents in Iran that we have killed and replaced just to facilitate the USA and big business = public knowledge.

There's more to this government than anyone would know, but to label *all* conspiracy theories as heretics ... well, that's downright ridiculous. Most of our most famous scientists, artists, philosophers, geniuses were at one point in time heretics What does that tell you?

—Rebecca Jane, CCC student

To send a letter to the editor, e-mail it to chiefed@clackamasprint.com, or drop it off at The Print office, Roger Rook 135.