

Students miss election roll call

Student Government finds lack of student-voting disturbing

Lydia E. Bashaw
News Editor

The voters are registered, ballots are out, and votes are coming in, yet one group of electorates is still missing.

In a democratic country where every vote counts, the lack of student-age voters is disturbing. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, known as CIRCLE, only 20 percent of people ages 18 to 29 voted in the last general election.

When applying this statistic to Clackamas, it would mean only 5,000 students out of 25,000 votes.

According to Associated Student Government President Tim Lussier, young people don't see the point in voting on issues that don't affect them personally.

"I think people are apathetic when

they are young," said Lussier. "They don't think they have power."

ASG's campaign to register student voters was difficult this year as student leaders worked to ignite voting interest.

"We believe in the power of young people who vote," said Lussier. "It's more than student voting; it's something we need to work on. Whether it is apathy or disenfranchisement, or not feeling represented, we want students to feel like they are heard."

Sadly, the numbers are declining as young voters abandon the issues that impact them.

"People don't understand how much their voices mean to legislators," said Lussier. "Student funding often comes down to one vote, and we can make the difference. However, we lose more and more student voters every year."

With most of the ballot measures and concerns during general elections forced in the direction of older citizens, many youth don't grasp how they influence political change.

"I don't personally see the point of voting on things that don't directly

matter to me," said Tiffany Chambers, a second-year student at Clackamas. "I don't really understand most of the ballots this year, and I don't see how they affect my life. What is the point?"

The amount of student voters will be sure to drop, swaying government choices regarding college funding and student rights. Without student interest, legislators may lose interest as well.

"We need to show up," said Lussier. "The average 20-year-old could care less. [But] the more that politicians hear our voice, the more they will fund our colleges, and that is very important."

General election ballots are due next Tuesday, Nov. 6.



Dustin Ragsdale Clackamas Print

Letter: Graphic picture disturbs

Don't you think the photograph on page 6, letter and response from Dr. Kim appearing in the Oct. 17 issue have gone a bit too far? I am not a prude in any sense of the word, but this entire article was highly offensive to me and probably to others as well.

As a staff member, I have the privilege of watching bright, young minds expressing their thoughts and opinions on a wide variety of issues and topics as I read *The Print*. Sometimes the topics selected by the EOC are either controversial or political in order to make people think and assess

their core values.

Although my opinions may differ from those of the writers, I'm generally not left with the feeling of having wallowed in the gutter, needing to shower. However, this article was the exception.

People's sex lives and preference should stay just that PRIVATE! There is no need for me or anyone else to know what sexual pleasures or perversions others seek and have it plastered all over the college newspaper.

Dr. Kim is trying to help students, and for the most part doing a good job, but a ques-

tion such as this should be kept between the writer, who must have e-mailed in her question, and the Doctor.

Come on, ladies and gentlemen, college is not a cesspool where everyone wants, or needs, to know about the sexual perversions someone chooses to indulge in, complete with details. Let's clean it up - this world is full of far more pressing matters.

Dianna Shepherd,
Public Service Department

Letter: PT Equality Soon

I write to express my disappointment that contract negotiations with part-time faculty continue without any indication that the administration cares for or is listening to the needs of their part-time faculty.

Author Noam Chomsky reminds us that in our society "costs are socialized, while profits are privatized."

It appears to me that this injustice applies at our college. A small group of people, in positions of power (who have high salaries, health insurance and full benefits), continue today to reject the needs of nearly 400 employees.

Whether we are full-time or

part-time, we all play an equal part in attracting and retaining students. We all play an equal part in making a difference in students' lives.

It is time for us to be treated equally. We deserve equal pay for equal credit hours worked. We deserve the right to at least purchase group health insurance.

Sincerely,

Rob Seemann,
Counselor, Instructor
Career and Employer Resource
Center

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