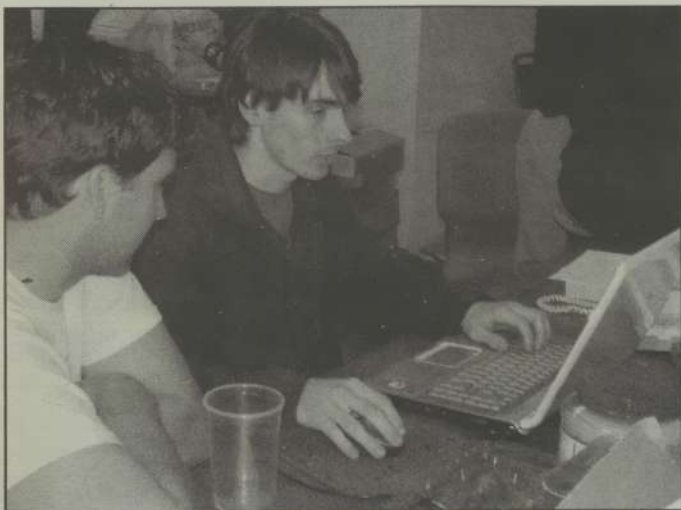


# High schoolers volunteer for vote



Megan Koler Clackamas Print

Milwaukie High student Erik Watterson works from his laptop last Friday to persuade "World of Warcraft" users to vote as Obama field organizer Patrick Choquette watches on.

*Without the right to vote, many volunteers still feel the need to help the democratic process by donating their time*

## Kyle Steele

Feature Editor

It seems like just an ordinary office in downtown Oregon City.

However, the calm on the outside of the building located at 605 Main St. doesn't reflect the chaos inside its doors. "Obama for president" items flood the small entry area as volunteers work from a string of computers of all different brands in the back of the room.

The volunteers are calling to remind voters about the impending Oregon Democratic primary election that will be held May 20.

Last Friday evening, the office was especially bustling, with visitors entering in a constant stream to offer their assistance or pick up a button or other candidate items to show their support.

On this particular night, two of these makeshift headquarters volunteers were local high school students, each of whom won't be able

to vote in the presidential election come October, let alone in the May primary. Even without the ability to vote, they both exercise their voices to persuade others to use theirs.

"I'm using the Obama place as a foundation to get people to register to vote," said Milwaukie High School senior Erik Watterson.

Watterson, who describes himself as neither a Democrat nor Republican, uses the office and its resources to try to up the number of voters locally and nationally.

Friday, he worked from his laptop - as other staff members watched on - attempting to convince others to vote via the chat system available through the online computer game "World of Warcraft." Jumping from character to character, he strived to make a pro-voting presence on the game's 200-plus servers.

Watterson devised the idea as a means of tapping into its American users who fall into a key age demographic of individuals: those who don't

participate in political discussions.

Alongside Watterson was Shannon DeCleveland, a Cleveland High School senior who also takes her education course through Clackamas.

**"I'm using the Obama place as a foundation to get people to register to vote."**

Erik Watterson  
High School Student

"My and I were involved with Kerry," said. "I watch the on the came to clusion thly wanted to be the dent."

At C High, B a member Barack Student S (BOSS) which is fundraising Obama ca

"We n to get students activ the political progr said, "even though vote."

Political election all American citiz many don't take of their right to vol volunteers at the M office are too you out a ballot but less prove that age determine who ca the election process

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