

letters

In an attempt to give a variety of opinions on the ASUO primary election, the editorial page is dedicated to letters. Voting ends today for the 1983-84 student body president and many other offices.

Dedication

I am writing this letter because I have been touched by the dedication to this University of an individual. I have been moved by his desire to see the quality of student life improve. The person is a candidate for the ASUO presidency; his name is David Gibson.

Gibson has served diligently and unselfishly under enormous fiscal pressures. He has stood firm in his convictions and not lost sight of his goals. Gibson thrives on the pressure and meets his job with energy and enthusiasm every day.

I truly believe that Gibson's motivation for seeking the presidency is to improve the quality of student life here at the University. The means by which he has chosen to do this are unique and exciting.

Gibson is committed to reaching out to the students, involving them in his administration's ideas, needs, and goals. He has pledged to get out from behind his desk and meet with any group who is interested in student government. Gibson is committed to informing students and to being informed by students on issues pertinent to them.

I firmly believe that a vote for David Gibson is a vote for an active presidency. It is a vote for an informed contingency, and it is a vote for a strong, dedicated student government.

Pat Hanlin
vice-president, Mortar Board

Strong skills

As a strong supporter of Mary Hotchkiss for ASUO executive, I was pleased to see your endorsement of her candidacy.

Since I have had a chance to see her strong management skills that the Emerald editors have not yet witnessed, according to yesterday's endorsement, I'd like to share my views.

I have seen Mary in action in public service for three years. As another former director of Amazon Childcare Center, I fully appreciate the tremendous work load she efficiently managed in addition to her responsibilities as a working student mother.

Mary has an eye for detail which is essential for good

management and is conscientious in following through on all projects. She has the ability to oversee a situation and organize a workload. She has the ability to motivate people towards a common goal. She is a tireless worker.

Another important ability Hotchkiss has to offer is her ability to work well with people, and minimize friction and strife. This is a refreshing quality in light of the personnel squabbles and numerous resignations of this year's administration.

For all of the reasons the Emerald stated and for her management and organizational skills, Mary Hotchkiss is the obvious and excellent choice for ASUO president.

Jennifer Soyke
senior, biology

Accused

Last year and again this year Students for a Progressive Agenda have run a grass-roots issue oriented campaign focusing on the many ways that student government can be improved. Last year we were accused of about a dozen election violations.

All charges were eventually thrown out by the Constitution Committee as substantively absurd and obviously untrue. This happened too late. The implication of wrongdoing was sufficient to throw a very close election; we lost the executive by 146 votes.

At the time we felt that responding to such petty harassment would only lower us to the level of those who spent their spare time scribbling complaint forms. We realize now that we made an error.

Accusations, no matter how ridiculous, if allowed to stand unchallenged only embolden our accusers while we are made to appear unethical, incompetent or just plain mean. That we are later vindicated is irrelevant to our soiled public image during the elections.

This year, one hour after I filed to run as ASUO Vice President with Mary Hotchkiss, the SPA presidential candidate, I was fired from my job as ASUO Comptroller. I have appealed this dismissal and expect it to end up in the same trash bin as last year's flurry of false accusations. Yet, until this happens I, and by association, Students for a Progressive Agenda, must live under the pall of an accusation of incompetence.

Like last year, we stand accused and presumably guilty until the question becomes a moot point. In the 1950s

Joseph McCarthy perfected the foul art of unsubstantiated accusation in order to ruin his political opponents: It would be irresponsible to allow our student government to that level.

Kevin Kouns
senior, sociology,
and women's studies

For Mary

Good job on the Emerald editorial. I too support Mary Hotchkiss for president. My way of putting it is less kind. Elect her to break the stranglehold of the Interfraternity Council. A leader is needed, not a follower.

Brain Lewis
political science

Exchange

The Student University Affairs Board is not doing its job.

What exactly does SUAB do? SUAB represents students in the faculty and University Senates, as well as a host of committees and bodies on and off campus. SUAB, then, is a representative body of the students. Students at the University need the representation of SUAB. But how can SUAB reflect the concerns of the students if there is not a reciprocal exchange of communication? As pointed out by the Emerald's series on student government (April 5), less than 30 percent of students are aware of what SUAB does. And an even fewer number, I would guess, know who their SUAB representative is. Do you?

SUAB cannot do its job without proper communication between the students and the board. I would organize programs for the members of individual majors (such as business and economics) in which students could learn more about their major, listen to speakers, etc. Moreover, this would give SUAB members an excellent opportunity to discover what their constituents really feel. SUAB members holding office hours in their respective department offices is not enough. SUAB must begin to represent; SUAB must, in other words, begin to do its job.

Jeffery Brown
business

Insensitive

I am appalled by David Gibson's naive and insensitive attitude towards ASUO organizations. Last week, during a debate with ASUO presidential candidate Mary Hotchkiss, Gib-

son was asked if he would cut minority programs at the request of the student majority. Gibson's response was obviously hesitant. Clearly, he has no sincere intention of fully supporting minority programs. He seems prepared to cut anything that moves.

I would like to bring this to the attention of such programs as MEChA, NASU, Asian American Student Union, FSO, JSU, and the Chinese Student Union.

With this in mind, I call upon the minority community to support Mary Hotchkiss for ASUO president. She has openly voiced her support and concern for both ethnic programs and women's groups. A vote for Gibson would only put his fiscal lawnmower into gear and jeopardize the cultural diversity of this university.

Steve Pacheco
sociology, and
international studies

Election play

OK, I wasn't going to say anything until after the elections, but Kevin Kouns, you and your SPA friends can only stretch the truth so far.

Last term my desk was positioned right next to yours in the ASUO office; your office hours posted in front of me. How many times did you say you were sick? I'm not exaggerating when I say you were missing for days at a time with no notification to the office, sick or otherwise. Using your firing as an elections ploy is in poor taste, and I hope the campus population will see through it.

As far as Terri Dismuke's comments in the April 12 Emerald go, how can one "...not be aware of how regularly Kouns kept his office hours..." as you state, and yet be so positive about his reliability?

The two statements seem a contradiction in terms. And now, Teri, to the real reason for your letter — "I do know that he (Kouns) has been a great help and support to our program and women's issues in general..." — a little lobbying by the director of Women's Referral and Resource.

One more thing to Sherri Schultz who says, "students' concerns aren't being defended at even a minimal level by the current ASUO president and company..." get your nose into it, Sherri, before you even begin to pop off. You may have some limited experience somewhere, but not with the current ASUO administration, except for what Kouns tells

you in your meetings at the Comptroller's desk.

And finally, my reasons for writing: I'm not going to be involved with the ASUO next year, Kevin, so you don't have to file another Elections Violation form, and I'm not particularly oriented with the SPA or the Greeks (although I belong to a fraternity). The real reason I'm writing has to do with people expounding on issues they know little or nothing about. I think a lot of people are tired of it; it might be something the Greeks and the SPA should keep in mind.

Jim Richards
director, University Events
for ASUO

Impartial

The Jewish Student Union would like to endorse the candidacy of Mary Shrauger for the Incidental Fee Committee. Shrauger's record shows her commitment to equal interest and representation of all students. She has always shown a major concern for maintaining the University's cultural diversity by supporting the various groups that program cultural events.

In our past experiences working with Mary Shrauger, she has consistently maintained an honest, open, and positive attitude. We believe that if Mary is elected she will continue to be informed and impartial in her efforts to support responsible allocation of student dollars.

A. Emmeli Adler
director,
Jewish Student Union

Experienced

I originally approached the ASUO presidential elections with an open mind. I talked with the candidates on both sides and have heard them debate twice. My experience in student government and the ASUO system has led me to support David Gibson.

Both candidates advocate a "change" from the current system, stressing more student input. The difference is that Gibson backs up his plans with specific ideas, facts and figures. Gibson's experience with the current administration should be seen as an asset, not a fault. He has seen what has been effective and what can be improved upon. Gibson has the experience and enthusiasm necessary to be an effective representative of the students at the University.

Lisa Nuss
sophomore, political science

Oregon Daily

emerald

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letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

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Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.