

Increasing student involvement a priority for ASUO candidates Lewis and White

By Deborah Janes

Of the Emerald

Kevin Lewis and Doug White are eager to change the mechanics of the ASUO machine. Lewis, candidate for the ASUO presidency, and his running mate White have designed an agenda emphasizing student involvement, lobbying, student services and equitable program funding.

"Student government has used student apathy as an excuse not to act," Lewis says. "They (past ASUO representatives) say it's pointless to represent people that are not interested."



Kevin Lewis

Their combined experience will aid them in breaking through the wall of apathy, Lewis says. Lewis was the 1983-84 ASUO budget director, a member of the EMU Board of Directors and has served on several ASUO committees. He has a degree in business administration from the University and is presently a graduate student in educational policy and management.

White is a member of the Student Conduct Committee, a former president of Sigma Chi fraternity and is a junior in

telecommunications and film. White likens their coalition to a computer: "Kevin's got the knowledge and I've got the creativity to turn it on."

Their "computer program" focuses on serving the majority of students, not just narrowly defined groups within the student body as past administrations have done, Lewis says.

All University programs should get an equal chance to request funding from the Incidental Fee Committee, for example, White says.

"We need to get out of the political arena in terms of funding. You don't have to be a member to understand their goals," he says.

The ASUO needs to concentrate on serving students, White says. The University South African divestiture lawsuit would be low priority during their administration.

"We won't be students anymore when the payoff comes," White says. Besides, the case is in the final stages now and will not be an issue next year, Lewis says.

"If I had a choice of the ASUO offering a symposium on Central American issues or improving homecoming, you can bet I'd back homecoming," Lewis says.

The team would also like to upgrade student services, such as the Food-op, the ASUO health insurance program, Student Projects Inc. (Footnotes), child care and the computer center.

"The ASUO has had the money for the computer center for over a year, but nothing has happened with it," Lewis says.

In addition, the ASUO should increase lobbying efforts at the federal level for protection of student financial aid and at the state level for a tuition freeze, Lewis says.

Lewis and White also say

heightening University promotional activities and working to improve student pride should be a priority.

"We would like to spend \$1,000 to \$3,000 each term to hire two bands, rope off 13th street and have a huge party. The ASUO could use it to promote itself," Lewis says.

The ASUO should cater to the student body by soliciting its ideas through suggestion boxes at various locations on campus, White says.

"We can't satisfy every group, but we can reach out and let them know that their existence is important," he says.

Lewis and White would reverse or alter the current ASUO administration's position on many issues.

They support the Autzen Stadium dome project, for instance, agreeing with University President Paul Olum that it will generate investment opportunities in areas other than athletics, Lewis says.

Lewis and White also are



Doug White

critical of the ASUO shuttle van service.

"The van issue needs some revisions. It shouldn't be just for women. And what happens when we don't have volunteers to drive anymore?" Lewis says.



In regard to the ROTC military training program, Lewis believes it has a legitimate place on campus, allowing some students to attend the University that otherwise could not afford the expenses.

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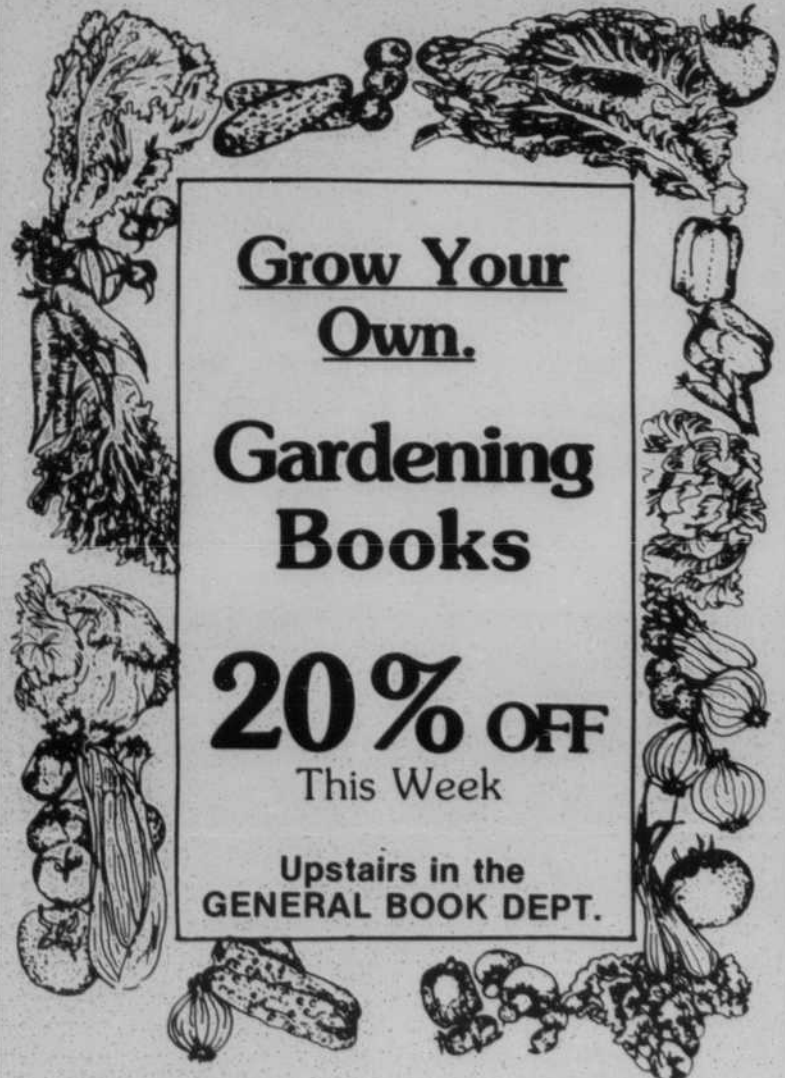
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Et al.

MEETINGS

The College Republicans is meeting today at 4:30 in Century Room D EMU. All interested are welcome.

Students for Sobriety meets today at 12:30 in Room 110 EMU.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

An open forum for the presidential and vice presidential candidates will be held tonight at 7 in the EMU Forum Room. Public is invited to attend.

"International Studies: A Major for Me?" is

the topic of a workshop today at 3:30 in Room 164 Oregon Hall.

"Let Every Sluice of Knowledge Be Opened: Liberal Education and the American Tradition" is the topic of a lecture tonight at 7:30 in the Gerlinger Lounge.

MISCELLANEOUS

A free outdoor equipment swap will be held today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the EMU dining room. Skis, rafts, boots, tents, packs and other equipment will be bought, sold and traded. Call 686-4365 for more information.

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