

## Offering ideas for Clark/Wyckoff exec

Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff will officially assume the duties of ASUO president and vice president one week from today.

We want to sincerely wish them well in beginning their term of office. While we admit that Clark and Wyckoff weren't our first choice for the job, they did impress us enough to make us believe they will be able to do the job, and do it well.

One prerequisite of doing any job well is having a good solid plan of what needs to be done. This was one area that was a Clark/Wyckoff weakness during the campaign; too many times, the pair demonstrated a thorough understanding of the problems facing the campus but failed to provide adequate solutions or plans to remedy those problems.

With the transition time they have had, we hope they have come up with solid ideas and programs. For whatever it's worth, we'd like to comment on ideas they have already proposed, offer new suggestions and mention some continuing concerns.

• **Dealing with the administration** The one crucial dilemma Clark/Wyckoff will face next year will be in dealing with new University President Myles Brand. As this year will set the tone for future administration/ASUO relations, it is likely that the success or failure of the Clark/Wyckoff executive will be measured by the precedent they set.

Indications coming from Ohio State are that Brand will be an able president genuinely concerned about the University; that is, there is no reason to fear he will be another Nat Sicuro, the controversial former president of Portland State. This is good news, and it somewhat eases the concerns we had regarding Clark/Wyckoff's plans.

During the campaign, the two expressed too much willingness to take the administration's line in issues. Their attitude seems to be that they can work with the administration to smooth things out. Well, yes, compromise is sometimes good. But it is important that Clark and Wyckoff remember that their position is *not* to mediate disputes between the administration and students — they are there to *represent* the students. And there are some student concerns, such as student control of incidental fees and housing, that they simply must not budge on.

• **Reaching disenfranchised students.** This was a real strength of the Clark/Wyckoff ticket. Several times over, they demonstrated an awareness of the need to reach out to students. Their idea to meet with dormitory presidents is laudable, so is their proposal to meet regularly with the heads of the various student unions. In fact, the "Minority Policy Statement" they published during the campaign is a solid platform. The only thing needed here will be to follow through.

But even the methods Clark/Wyckoff intend to use may not be enough to reach all students. What about off-campus students, for example? Clark/Wyckoff so far haven't adopted the "Executive Advisory Panel," a cabinet of student representatives, that was an excellent proposal of the Hughes/Kirk team. Here's another idea: At University of Washington, the student body president moves his desk outside to the student union courtyard one afternoon every week. This is an excellent way to add approachability to the office; maybe Clark would be willing to do the same.

• **Lobbying for student concerns.** Once Clark/Wyckoff have a good idea of what students want, which we fully expect them to do, they will likely find that their constituents want continued lobbying on ongoing concerns — child care, racism control, campus safety, computer registration, additional housing, student control of incidental fees, ad infinitum.

Clark/Wyckoff didn't express any deep commitment to lobbying through Oregon Student Lobby or the United States Student Association. They should learn to develop such a bond. The fact is, OSL and USSA are very good at what they do, and the impact those lobbies have is much more than Clark/Wyckoff can accomplish alone.

The task of guiding the ASUO bureaucracy can sometimes be daunting, but Clark/Wyckoff can take some heart that, with their overwhelming success in the primary, they do appear to have the students behind them. They can do the job. But they should take advantage of all the means and suggestions offered to them to help them do that job. OSL and USSA are two such means.



## Letters

### Scarce

Reason is scarce these days. Many people are using, instead, questionable ideas and assertions that rest on rhetoric or antagonism rather than sound principles and careful thought.

An extreme example is Pamela Settlegoode's attack (ODE, April 17) on William Moore. She assesses Moore with incorrect presumptions and attacks his character without evidence or reasoning, in clear violation of ODE policy (cf. April 25; why was this printed?).

Other responses to Moore's letter are civil but not sound. Susan Price (ODE, April 21) reasons from an admitted opinion without substantiating it. Lauren Upshaw (ODE, April 21) criticizes Moore for "inflicting" his principles on others, but inflicts hers upon him, contradicting herself.

On another front, Bert Tryba (ODE, April 28) not only misinterprets my letter (ODE, April 14) but distorts his evidence, quoting Bible verses out of context in outdated English, inventing contradictions that do not exist under closer scrutiny.

These are examples of a general trend: reasoning which is inconsistent, fallacious, or dependent on uncertain presuppositions. Fundamental values are ignored, yet they are usually the root of problems. Interchange without common fundamental assumptions is bound to reach disagreement.

Buildings with different foundations seldom share the same roof. I have seen many current social, political and philosophical issues argued vehemently on rooftops, to little avail. Honest "building inspection" from the ground up might get better results.

A.M. Sauerwein  
Music

### No support

Imagine my shock and surprise when I read in the Emerald's editorial on May 8 that the ODE "support(s) gay and

lesbian rights." Wow! Really? How nice for the Emerald.

What form does this "support" take? Money? Well, no. Does the Emerald staff participate in lobbying our congresspersons for gay rights? No.

Well, they must at the very least write articles and editorials presenting the gay and lesbian community in a fair, accurate light, right? No, in fact, they only report on sensational and negative aspects and even go so far as to attack the legitimate concerns of gays and lesbians; worse, they often fail to report anything at all so that the sensitive egos of heterosexuals will not be offended. If that is support, no thank you, I won't have any.

Didn't your parents teach you not to lie?

Scott Shoup  
Asian studies

### Perks

What has the Athletic Department done for my education (besides making it cost more)?

Mike Swanson  
Student

### Isolated?

Recently, a lot of people have told us that the Greek system is good but gets bad press from a few isolated incidents. Well, those "isolated incidents" are piling up fast, guys and gals. The mattress incident is perhaps the worst, showing how frats are willing to treat their own. Should the victim decide to press charges, kidnapping and reckless endangerment are two that are very serious and shouldn't be hard to prove.

A few dangerous kooks can turn up in any organization, but the test is how the organization deals with them. Will Sigma Alpha Epsilon expel its members who perpetrated this crime, or will they see it as a "harmless prank"?

If SAE tries to sweep this under the rug, the rest of the Greeks should ostracize the

whole fraternity. If the Greeks do nothing, they are condoning their violent brothers, and the University should disenfranchise them. You gotta start cleaning your own houses.

Scott Jamieson  
Eugene

### Spectacle

With so many heavy issues facing America now I find it a pitiful spectacle of students rioting in the streets near a party. Just look at the clout Chinese students have over the destiny of their country! We need a revolution here to change some of the ills in our society, but rioting for the sake of rioting is juvenile and a waste of energy and public resources.

Grow up!

Hilde K. Cherry  
Eugene

### No dignity

I've always wondered how fraternity boys go through the week of degradation and humiliation known as "initiation," only to arrive at the conclusion that, "I love these guys, they're my brothers!" "Poor fools," I always think to myself. No self-respect. No dignity.

Each term I hear new stories about the latest techniques in humiliation, but I've never heard one like the SAE "fun" of May 1. I don't know whether this cruel stunt was for initiation, or simply an act of brotherly love, but I do know that it made me sick.

I hope that the victim of this incident has the courage to stand up for himself and press charges against the "men" involved. I hope, for the sake of his own pride and whatever may be left of his dignity, that he isn't out there somewhere saying, "They physically and mentally abused me in front of everyone! God, I love these guys, they're my brothers!"

Michael Keep  
Rhetoric and communication  
Thursday, May 18, 1989