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Wyckoff leaves with no regrets

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Contributor

Scott Wyckoff, former ASUO vice president, said his year in office brought surprises, disappointments, successes and personal growth.

The mental transition to a life without ASUO involvement has been much more difficult than imagined, Wyckoff said. His involvement ended when the administration of Kirk Bailey and Sheila Stichel entered office last month.

"I really miss it," Wyckoff said. "It's funny — when I came onto campus, I always had a place to go. The ASUO was my job, it was my home. Whenever I wasn't in class, I was in the office."

"It's hard to let go. I've invested 12 months into that office, and I go in there and I see other people; Kirk and Sheila, occupying the desks, and it's hard to release. I'm glad it's Kirk and Sheila because I know them and respect them, but it's still a very possessive thing for me, the idea that that's my office."

Part of the difficulty in seeing new people occupy the ASUO office is wondering how their policies will differ, Wyckoff said.

"I would imagine that it will be very difficult for me at times not to second-guess them," he said. "It's one of the reasons I'm really glad I won't be a student here next year, because I think it would be very hard to just leave the office and still be at this campus and not have the type of involvement I did before."

Wyckoff will graduate with a degree in political science after completing one class during summer session. He isn't sure what he will be doing after graduation.

"It's sort of a double-edged sword. You're glad to be done with college, then you look out and realize that it was safe here; you had your classes, you had a focus, everything was geared toward earning your degree. Now what?"

Wyckoff said he is thinking about taking the graduate record exam, and is looking at different graduate schools.

He said he might try to work in Salem during the next legislative session, and might run for political office someday on the state or local level.

"(Right after my office ended) I went out and drank a lot of beer," Wyckoff said. "It's funny — you balance that feeling of loss that you have from not having the position anymore with the fact that, in a sense, you're very free. I don't have people to call, I don't have appointments to keep, I don't have projects to be working on in the student government office."

"I'm looking forward to taking two or three months to just find some work, do some reading I want to do, and just enjoy my summer without having to worry about health insurance, the higher education budget and community relations."

Wyckoff said that, overall, he is pleased with how his year in office went. "I think of all the positive things that came out of the ASUO, and the positive things that happened to me this year, and I wouldn't change a damn thing."

Wyckoff is pleased with the response the ASUO received from the students this year, especially the negative feedback.

"It's always great to be told you're doing a good job, but I think that breeds complacency." It is easy for students to turn off to what is go-

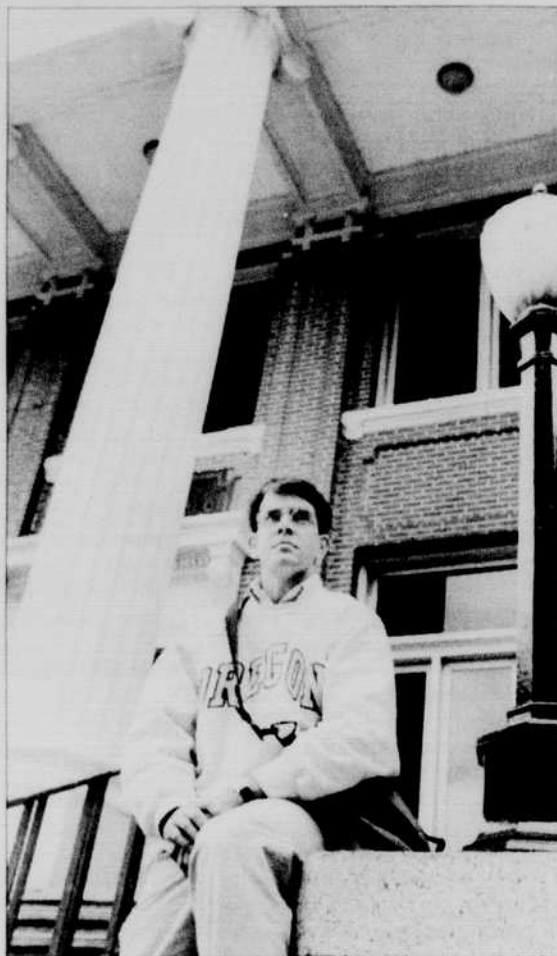


Photo by Mark Ylen

Scott Wyckoff, outgoing ASUO vice president, said he finds life without the ASUO a difficult transition.

ing on around campus, and that sometimes it is necessary to "stir up the pot a little bit," he said.

"Pissing people off is better than nothing," he said. "The anger is at least involvement, and that shows concern."

One of the issues that brought criticism from students was ASUO President Andy Clark's and Wyckoff's endorsement of mandatory student health insurance, an issue that Wyckoff said was both one of his personal disappointments and successes.

"I'm disappointed by the fact that it wasn't resolved at all, and by the fact that we couldn't convince enough students that this was the right way to go," he said.

Wyckoff said nothing has been done to help the students who need health insurance, and that in fact these students may be hurt if next year's insurance policy is worse than this year's.

He believes the insurance issue has been a success, as well. "We generated dialogue about something that had been ignored."

One disappointment of his term in office was that he and Clark weren't able to get out of the office and talk with students more, as they had promised during their campaign, Wyckoff said.

"Reality hits, in that you can't do your work if you're not by your phone, or by your desk, or in that office."

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