

Co-presidency raises confusing questions

The idea of co-presidents, as Kirk Bailey and Sheila Stickel of the ASUO consider themselves, is not a new one, nor is it necessarily a bad one.

But it raises certain questions.

Students voted for Bailey and Stickel as president and vice president. The ASUO executive officers said they considered working as co-presidents before they ran. If they were considering this as an option, they should have mentioned it in their campaign.

Bailey and Stickel work well together, maybe better than most presidents and vice presidents. Bailey and Stickel were equally prominent during their campaign and have equally shared the duties of their offices; this is not a case of one leader and a silent sidekick.

However, the ASUO constitution states "The President is the chief executive officer of the ASUO, is responsible for the administration of ASUO programs, and acts as the official spokesperson for students as a whole, within and without the University."

Although the constitution gives only the the president the power to veto budget allocations, sign contracts, and to appoint students to ASUO positions; Bailey and Stickel have said they will share these responsibilities, although Bailey technically retains ultimate authority.

That's fine. All too often, vice presidents are merely lackeys selected for their ability to attract more votes. And ideally, presidents *should* confer with their vice presidents before doing something important. The checks and balances of a co-presidency have many advantages, but they have some disadvantages, too.

What happens if Bailey and Stickel disagree on an issue? Bailey, as president, has the power to do what he thinks is right. If the two cannot agree, who will make the final decision? As president, Bailey ultimately must do what he was elected to do: be president.

What happens when students come in to talk to the president and they are asked, "Which one?"

While Bailey and Stickel appear to be perfect complements to each other, the precedent they set is troublesome. Co-presidents may be good for Bailey and Stickel, but co-chairs on the Incidental Fee Committee or on the Student Senate would be confusing. Ambiguous language in the constitution could make these possibilities real.

Ultimately, students should be allowed to vote on the viability of co-presidents.

At the very least, Bailey and Stickel should submit a request to the Constitution Court asking to verify the legality of their co-presidency, instead of just assuming they have that option.

SKELLY



Rust, Rogers conflict personality struggle

The battle between left and right continues to rage on the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jerry Rust has accused fellow commissioner Bill Rogers of violating the Oregon open meeting laws. Apparently Rogers sent a letter to county administrator Jim Johnson instructing him to spend more time working with the county's finance department. Rust further accused Rogers of using informal, one-on-one meetings to gain a majority of support on the five-person board.

While variety is something to be strived for in any political body, over the past few years the two commissioners have slid into a battle of personalities, each trying to make the other look bad.

Rust said he will take the issue to the other commissioners and ask them to amend county policy to forbid "orders or directives" from individual members. If he is not satisfied with the board's actions, he said he will take the matter to the Lane County District Attorney's office or the state ethics commission.

The two commissioners have a habit of being on different sides of issues. They battled each other when Rogers favored remov-

ing the environmental magazine *Forest Voice* from the reception areas of the county offices. They also disagreed on which charitable groups county employees could donate to through automatic pay-roll deductions. Rogers did not want county employees to be able to contribute automatically to environmental organizations or any other group except the United Way. Rust was in favor of an employee choice policy.

In addition, Rogers criticized Rust for using official county stationery to write a letter asking for leniency for a local hallucinogenic-mushroom grower who had been arrested.

Most recently Rogers and Rust have been involved in a bitter battle for the board chairmanship.

While variety is something to be strived for in any political body, over the past few years the two commissioners have slid into a battle of personalities.

It is time for the commissioners to put the personal battles behind them and refocus their energies on the issues that are facing Lane County. The commissioners should remember they were elected to serve the people's interests, not their own.

LETTERS

No joke

What has been the hardest thing to do in the late eighties and early nineties? You may think it is getting a job, finding protection for intercourse or registering for school. Even though these may be great answers, there is one answer that rises above all the rest — filling out the financial aid forms.

Yes, to you financially stable people this may be a joke but to us students low on the leg of the economic statue it is not. It is no joke to students who fill out the 78-question form only to find out that they missed a question and therefore their financial aid will be delayed several weeks.

In the meantime how does this economically deprived student pay for school? I know the University business office is trying to be helpful by giving out "quick loans" of \$200 and deferred tuition. The "quick

loans" aren't as helpful as they may seem since they are only offered to registered students. This is a catch-22. If you can't afford to register how can you receive the application for the loan? I mentioned that the University has deferred tuition. This lets you pay your tuition for the term in three installments. If you have no money it doesn't matter if you have to pay a third, fifth or eighth — you just can't.

The reason I am castigating the Financial Aid Form is that many of my partners have been exiled from school because of the complex form.

Brett Johnson
Psychology

Measure 10

This fall, voters will be facing Ballot Measure 10. On surface inspection this measure seems to promote healthy family com-

munication. I would like to point out that healthy communication only happens in healthy families.

In Minnesota during the time there has been a parental consent law in effect, teen births have increased dramatically and so have deaths for those seeking illegal abortions.

Minnesota has a judicial bypass whereby teen women may appear before a judge and discuss why they can't notify their parents. Fifty percent of all teens choose to publicize and humiliate themselves in court because they cannot talk about it at home.

Measure 10 does not provide a judicial bypass. I ask you, what will happen to Oregon's 50 percent?

Gary D. Braun
Eugene

Foreign flicks

The staff of Flicks and Pics

takes exception to comments made by Neil Wahlert concerning our foreign film section.

Although we appreciated being called "top notch" we were upset to read that dubbed foreign films "are often the only option" at Flicks. This implies that we do not attempt to provide films in their original languages. This idea is false.

Unfortunately, many classic foreign films are available in the video format only dubbed in English. We have been unable to purchase copies of "Mephisto," "Play For Night," "Das Boot," "La Dolce Vita" and others subtitled in English because they are simply not available. If these films ever become available subtitled, we will make every effort to provide them for our customers. Until the time these films are available subtitled, it seems more prudent to carry them dubbed than to not carry them at all.

Carolyn Lamberson
Journalism
Brett C. Morse
TCF
Patty Meyers
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Sean Axmaker
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Diverse

The article on the Eugene Celebration really hit the nail on the head. This city is *diverse*. I mean *diverse*. I would say, in fact, that the three best things about Eugene are its *diversity*, its *diversity* and its *diversity*.

Yet, the *Emerald* seems so often to overlook this. Could we please see more mention of *diversity* made in your paper? And while you're at it, could you also mention how much we like to celebrate it?

John Shenon
student