

Rivals Woodland, Kinberg end up running together

By Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

How do two candidates from opposing campaigns end up running on the same ticket?

Just a few days before the deadline to officially announce candidacy, Ernie Woodland and Yohanna Kinberg decided to join the same ticket. This merger came after

Kinberg's former running mate, Troy Shields, dropped out of the race and Woodland needed a vice-president.

"I asked three or four other women but they had declined for several reasons, including the time commitment," Woodland said. "I had heard some administrative people mention that (Kinberg) was in the race. I knew she was running against me," he said with a laugh. "But it didn't click until we talked."

Woodland and Kinberg are running for ASUO president and vice-president. They hope to broaden the lines of communi-

cation between students and the ASUO if elected.

The two candidates see an opportunity for changing some areas of student government. Their platform is based on increasing student involvement and awareness of the ASUO.

"There's a lack of ASUO Executive positions to serve the students," said Kinberg, co-director of the Jewish Student Union. "Students pay incidental fees. These fees are allocated to student groups. They can receive more programs and better quality."

"We can do this without raising student fees," she said. "We can use our incidental fees to its maximum."

Kinberg hopes that these improved programs will pique more student interest in the ASUO.

Woodland wants to improve the communication between various student unions and organizations. Also, he's appealing to a group that usually goes ignored by younger student officials.

"Being a non-traditional student, a group which makes up 35 percent of the campus population, we're often overlooked," said Woodland, the coordinator



Senior Joe Rемаud discusses the multicultural issues with ASUO presidential and vice-presidential candidates Ernie Woodland (left) and Yohanna Kinberg Wednesday afternoon at the EMU courtyard.

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of Non-Traditional Student Affairs.

"I saw the need for student government to be the voice for this group and all other students. All the student unions and the ASUO need to come together," he said.

Woodland is planning to have monthly meetings with the student unions so they can keep a dialogue going about students' needs. Also, he hopes this will restore students' trust in student government.

Another issue the candidates plan to tackle is the restructuring of the Women's Center. Kinberg believes that the Women's Center has done a good job with what little support it has had. But she also believes that they could do a lot more if the center had support from the administration and the ASUO.

"The administration, and the ASUO, doesn't support the Women's Center because they don't realize how important their programs are to this University," Kinberg said. "Many women aren't recognized unless they're bashed in the face."

"The Administration and ASUO need to be educated on what the Women's Center does. Also, they need to be more appreciative of the programs it provides," she said.

Other issues that Woodland and Kinberg will work on include lobbying for national funding for programs outlined in the Violence Against Women Act, which include domestic violence and date rape prevention. They also will aggressively support ethnic studies classes.

In the midst of their various platforms, the running mates hope to expand the scope of the ASUO. Their plan is to create a new position within the ASUO for recruitment and retention of students.

Although the recruitment of students is important, the chair would focus on retaining students once they arrived on campus. Many students, specifically minority students who attend the University, may face racial intimidation. Also, many women who have been sexually abused or harassed may find the University environment hostile. They then believe it's unsafe for them to remain at school.

The recruitment and retention chair would reach out to these people and others to assist them in dealing with racial and sexual intimidation or abuse. This would also include all forms of

discrimination. The chairperson could possibly reach the students before they leave the University.

"It's nice to have a have a time to recognize (hate crimes)," Woodland said, referring to Hate Free Week. "But it needs to be something that happens every day. We need to treat people like humans every day not just for one week."

During this academic year both Diana Collins Puente, former ASUO vice president, and Eden Ajrian-Omari, former multicultural advocate, resigned their positions and left the University. They both cited racism as major factors in their decisions.

In 1991, before coming to the University, Woodland was elected student body president at Lane Community College. Woodland admitted that at the time he had never thought about running for ASUO president. While at LCC, he worked in several other student government positions.

Kinberg was born and raised in Eugene. She has always been active in the community. At South Eugene High School she was involved in a committee that advocated human rights issues. Kinberg has continued her activism as co-director of the Jewish Student Union.

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