

V.P.'s VOICE

By Mark Rhinard

An all-too-often occurrence in the final term of an ASUO administration is the tendency to become distracted by the inviting warm weather and the prospect of "moving on." Just by taking a look around the office, however, I am convinced that this will not be the case with an extremely capable staff whose devotion is still clearly in tact. With valuable experience gained over the last two terms, look for us to be attacking projects with renewed vigor and promise.

Several new staff members will be helping us with those continuing and ongoing projects. Our new Multicultural Advocate, Emily Lerma, is working to assure that the Multicultural Center continues to run smoothly with a substantial amount of student input. She is also engaged in an important educational campaign regarding some of the recent immigration bills in the state legislature and how they will affect our lives in Oregon.

Also new to the Executive staff is Susan Trafton, the Non-traditional Student Coordinator. Susan has jumped right into several issues surrounding non-traditional students, including Amazon Housing, the Child Care Task Force, Student Veteran's Club and room access for students with disabilities. Sandra Cho, Women's Diversity Coordinator, is already working in coordination with the ASUO Women's Center to keep several women's issues in the forefront. Finally, Heather Kessinger and Susan Anderson have joined us in the Finance Department and Comptroller's Desk — arguably two of the most overworked and underpaid positions in the office!

Just as we are successfully able to look forward, however, let us not forget to look back. Shortly over a year ago our administration made many promises to all of you. We have worked hard to meet these obligations and with great pride we can report that most of our promises and your concerns have been met. The credit for all of this is appropriately placed on not only a conscientious Executive staff, but also other hard-working student leaders and most importantly, those students who weren't afraid to stand up and tell us what they wanted. Your student government works for you and your voice drives our existence.

It is with great appreciation and gratitude that I thank all of our staff for the hard work that they will continue to do. Their work, like efforts to return revenue to the higher education budget in Salem, the new Student Future Foundation to lower incidental fees and the always laborious elections season, is immeasurable and often without praise. I'm only sorry that I cannot mention everyone's accomplishments from our office in this article. Hopefully all of you out there will use that as an incentive to come in and investigate our work and voice your opinion. ASUO's Executive office is located in EMU Suite 4, next to the Breezeway, and is easily accessible for all students who have campus issues and concerns that they feel are important. (Wheelchair access to Suite 4 is located inside the EMU.)

On behalf of our staff and supporters, Leslie and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you this year.

ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1

The elections are one of the most important aspects of University government. During this time, a new ASUO President and Vice President are elected, in addition to many other positions, such as the Senate and the Programs Finance Committee, who have the power to allocate over \$5 million a year.

This money is the incidental fee money that students pay each term. The elections allow students to vote for the people who they believe will allocate this money fairly among the (approximately) 80 funded student groups on campus.

Besides the representatives students vote in, recent history proves that some ballot measures in ASUO Elections can have a direct impact on students' checkbooks. For example, in 1994 students voted for measures that increased the incidental fees by 106.7 percent over the previous year.

"Last year students voted in almost \$700 thousand to maintain the quality of services and programs on campus," said ASUO Elections Coordinator Jennifer Dziekan. "But the fact that only 12 percent of the student population voted for these measures that affect all students is not right."

"Yet it's also wrong for students who don't vote in the spring and then complain later. The way I see it, if they give up their responsibility to vote, they give up their right to protest about student government and student fees."

The other positions that are up for elections serve various purposes, and all are important in their own right.

The EMU Board members supervise policies and long range plans of the

Survival Center) and recommends a lump sum budget to the Student Senate for their approval.

ASPAC members meet monthly with the UO President to discuss matters of student concern.

Voting is easy, although because of low election turnout in the past, it seems as though University students believe this procedure is quite difficult.

There are a few easy steps to becoming an educated voter. First, read the candidate's statements in the Voter's Guide, available in *The Emerald*. Walk up to one of those funny green booths (or voter tables) around campus. Show the poll worker your student I.D., and you'll receive a scantron sheet, a #2 pencil and a list of candidates. Read the information, and fill

in the scantron sheet. Put the scantron in the ballot box. That's it! Then reward yourself with a refreshment at a local pub; you deserve it!

Be an educated voter! If you don't vote, it will be difficult to justify your frustration later. When you're wondering why University policies are the way they are, or who is allocating all this money, ask yourself, "Did I vote for these measures and people?" If you didn't, then ask yourself, "Do I have a right to complain?"

The fact that only 12 percent of the student population voted for ballot measures that affect all students is not right. Yet it's also wrong for students who don't vote in the spring and then complain later.

— Jennifer Dziekan,
ASUO Elections Coordinator

EMU and all of its programs (from the Cultural Forum to the Outdoor Program).

Many Student Senate seats are also open. Student Senators are the key distributors of over \$5 million to ASUO Programs, the EMU and the Athletic Department. In addition, the Student Senate represents UO students in the faculty-student University Senate and University Assembly.

The Programs Finance Committee hears line-item budgets from over 80 ASUO Programs (from MEChA to the

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

A path is a state of mind, overcome when remedies present themselves in channels of opportunity.

In plain English, the above statement basically says many students on campus are willing to become active. Mostly they just need to know where they can go to become involved and make a difference.

And after all, college is more than just classes, friends and partying. It's participating in extracurricular activities that are essential in developing marketable skills needed upon entering our competitive, and often dreaded, Work Force. Those individuals that will be getting ahead and attaining their goals in the future are the ones that are taking advantage of opportunities while they're still in college.

One of those areas that many students can find involvement in are the standing UO committees with student members. The following committees are appointed by the Committee on Committees headed by ASUO University Affairs Coordinator Zachary Kelton. Positions will be filling up in the fall, but students should be considering their future today! Call Kelton at 346-0631 if you see one that sparks your interest or if you have any questions.

UO COMMITTEES WITH STUDENT MEMBERS

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
ACADEMIC STANDARDS
CAMPUS PLANNING
CHILD CARE & FAMILY SUPPORT
CURRICULUM
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
FACULTY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
FOREIGN STUDY PROGRAMS
GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL ISSUES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

LIBRARY
MINORITY EDUCATION COUNCIL
R.O.T.C. ADVISORY
SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHOLASTIC REVIEW
STATUS OF WOMEN
STUDENT CONDUCT
STUDENT-FACULTY COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES
STUDENT HEALTH CENTER COMMITTEE

Another outlet for students who want to gain invaluable experience outside the classroom is through the Learn and Earn (LEarn) Program.

ASUO Executive lobbied hard for this ground-breaking program where students are provided with part-time employment on campus that is directly related to their academic area of study. According to ASUO President Leslie Warren, "LEarn was designed to create new jobs, particularly for those students who do not receive federal work-study allocations but need additional funds to continue their education."

The program so far has created 145 new jobs, 95 of which have already been filled. (See ad on page 4 for more information.)

ASUO Programs make showing at Street Faire

The ASUO-sponsored Spring Street Faire is coming May 3, 4 and 5.

Taking place on 13th Street, the anticipated Faire has turned into somewhat of a cultural icon on campus over the years, offering three days of local music, food and crafts for all patrons. The money that vendors pay to have slots on campus goes directly into ASUO Executive's fundraising account.

Two days only, May 3 and 4, ASUO Programs will be tabling in the EMU Courtyard. This is a unique opportunity to check out in person a diverse selection of student organizations.

If you are already associated with an ASUO Program, slots are filling up for \$10 a pop. This could be your organization's chance to reach new people. Contact the ASUO Fundraising desk at 346-0628 to reserve your group's table today.

ASUO REFLECTIONS

STAFF

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Requests for accommodations related to disabilities should be made to the ASUO by calling 346-3724 or stopping by Suite 4, EMU.

Questions or comments on this issue? Please talk to David Shuey at 346-0628 or stop by Suite 4, EMU.