

■ LETTERS

Devotion

I am writing this letter in response to the letter written in the April 13 edition of the *Emerald* regarding Jennifer Williamson's experience in organizing around women's issues. I think the rationale used in this letter to promote Jennifer Williamson and Zachary Kelton is dangerous because it tells women that they can't make a difference and aren't a valuable source of change unless they receive a title for their efforts.

I acknowledge and am proud that there are opportunities for women to express their devotion in a documented way, but some women, because of work, children, etc., cannot participate at this level. Women have a long history of being excluded from positions because they are seen as "unqualified" since they do not have recognized or valued titles that signify their contribution and work. I've made the choice to make change on an individual basis by incorporating activism into my daily life. Like many students, I have not been fortunate enough to be an intern for the summer in D.C. that organizes large numbers of people.

However, I am a Women's Studies minor, demonstrating my commitment to increasing my knowledge about women's issues. As a facilitator for Women's Studies 101, I've been able to make change on a one-on-one basis while still continuing toward my degree. I've also worked within the greek system to re-establish the Greeks Against Rape program on this campus. From these experiences I've learned that often these more personal efforts to share experiences can be a much greater source of making change than large efforts to "educate" the community.

Feminism begins with the individual and I assure you that being an active feminist is something that I do on a daily basis. I will continue to fulfill my commitment to change the patriarchal

system that entraps women whether I am elected or not. Being a feminist is not a title I choose, but a part of me like anything else.

Niki Scott
Candidate, ASUO Vice President

Unique

Being a new candidate in a small program on campus, I decided to try something a little unique to let the students get to know me. I am running for one of the Programs Finance Committee seats. I challenge someone to find my flyers around campus that have five different slogans and write them down.

When you have all five slogans, find me on Friday, April 21. I will be walking around campus wearing a T-shirt that says "I support Big Ass Ham." Find me and tell me all five slogans and you will get the shirt off my back: an "I support Big Ass Ham" T-shirt. I will wear the shirt over another shirt so as not to stink it up. Good luck and vote for Dan Duncan for Programs Finance Committee.

Dan Duncan
Candidate, Programs Finance Committee

Check facts

If you want to criticize someone's commitment as "much to be desired," look at the facts. Niki [Scott] has fully committed herself to women's issues on this campus. Her commitment runs further than Greeks Against Rape (for which she has done an excellent job). Her Women's Studies minor had led her to facilitate a women's studies class. For a stu-

dent to be asked to take on a job such as this, they have to meet an academic standard and a commitment level which excels. The students to whom Niki facilitated all experienced somebody who stands by her convictions and is dedicated to her work.

When Niki and I decided to run together, we knew that we would face criticism by those who wish to maintain the status quo. Many of the other candidates share our similar concerns about student issues. What sets us apart is our commitment to change. If the students at the University of Oregon want a better community, they must first decide how this change is to take place. We offer this path.

If you are concerned about our commitment to women's issues, let me tell you about my involvement. As a freshman, I served on the Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force. At the time I was one of very few male students to serve on this committee. Also, I have recently been asked to serve on the board of directors for Sexual Assault Support Services, a community group which has made great strides in counseling women who have been victims of assault.

Our commitment to women's issues is not one-sided. Niki and I are both concerned with and committed to addressing this issue. When you go to the ballots you will make your own decision about how you want your voice heard. However you decide, Niki and I will still be fighting for the things that we stand for. But when you do vote, make sure you know all of the facts and make an informed decision.

Chris Kantrowitz
Candidate, ASUO President

■ LETTERS POLICY

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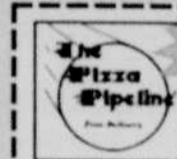
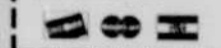
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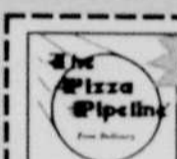
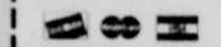
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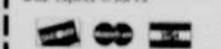
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