

University student opts to run for mayoral post

■ **POLITICS:** The 19-year-old's principle concerns are homelessness and police relations in Eugene

By Samantha Martin
Community Reporter

Mike Albers has planned his next career move.

The 19-year-old University philosophy and political science double major and part-time body piercer wants to be mayor. Eugene's mayor.

Assuming a position of public servant is not the usual resume filler for most college students. When asked why he wanted to hold the key to the Emerald City, he replied, "Why not?"

"This would be a very good way to stick your way into politics without being someone's runner or pouring coffee all day," Albers said.

Although Albers has only considered running for mayor since last month — after a friend informed him he only needed Eugene residency and 25 signatures from registered voters — he has had his eye on putting his fingers in the political pies from a young age.

"It's been in my head since I was really young that I wanted to work my way into politics," Albers said. "I wanted to be a congressman or a Supreme Court justice; any place that would give me the opportunity to be involved."

Albers said he hopes to make changes in the areas of homelessness and police relations.

"There's a big problem with classism here," Albers said. "If you have dreads and a dog and you sit on the curb, you're going to get harassed by the cops. But

if you are conservative and look nice, you can hang out as long as you want."

While critics may look at Albers' relatively young age and view it as harmful to his chances of winning, Albers regards it as a plus.

"Most people who are representing us are above the age of the general populace and out of touch with what's going on," Albers said. "And I don't see anyone more qualified to do it."

Albers, a volunteer with Food Not Bombs, a nonprofit organization that serves food to homeless people, would also like to see the relationship between the city's homeless and the police improve.

"I'm just sick of the way the city has turned against the homeless, especially since they're such a large population," Albers said. "I'd like to bring back the car camp and take the public parks back for the people."

"Why do the parks need to be closed after 10 p.m.? A perfectly good place for homeless people to sleep ... we need to decriminalize sleeping in the park," he said.

Apathy among college students is also something Albers wants to change.

"There's a huge sentiment, especially among radical youth, that by disenfranchising yourself from voting, you're protesting," he said. "It's like, gee, they're so threatened by you not voting."

Albers is a self-described member of the "minimalist" party, which he says is a way of saying he doesn't support government "in any way, shape or form."

EMU Board still trying to fill one-year student position

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

While the March 8 filing deadline for 1996-97 student government positions has passed, students still have the opportunity to apply for one EMU Board position this week.

Two 2-year, at-large openings were originally advertised for the building's governing body. However, because of an error by some members of the ASUO Elections Board, a third opening was not announced to students.

Voter Education Coordinator Brandon Smith said he was baffled by the mistake, which may

momentarily slow down the election process.

"I'm not sure how it happened," he said. "I'm accepting the blame for it."

Beginning today until Wednesday at 5 p.m., the elections board will be accepting applications and voter's guide statements for the new one-year position.

Smith said the four applicants for the original EMU positions may also reapply for the one-year seat if they wish.

Applications can be picked up in the ASUO office in EMU Suite 4.



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