

## Vote Scotten/Banfield for ASUO Executive

**OUR OPINION:** Only with the backing of lots of students can the ASUO effect change

Running for ASUO Executive always presents an interesting challenge to would-be student governors: How do you create a balance between ambitious goals and objectives that are actually attainable? What can you pledge to accomplish in office, when most of the major questions facing students will be decided not in the ASUO's EMU suite, but over in Johnson Hall, or in Salem, or in Washington, D.C.? How do you set yourself apart from other candidates without resorting to silly promises that can't be kept?

To their credit, most of the candidates for ASUO Executive this year are running on platforms of reasonable, if predictable, goals: keeping tuition and other educational costs down, expanding student services such as library and lab hours, promoting diversity on campus, and, of course, the ever-present pledge to "reinvent" the ASUO.

When it comes down to it, there isn't a lot to differentiate the candidates this year. But there is one ticket — Matthew Scotten and Glen Banfield — that has placed its focus on the one issue that matters most to students: keeping college affordable.

Sure, all the candidates are in favor of that. But what makes Scotten and Banfield different is their understanding of how it can be done. It's not going to happen by merely getting a bunch of ASUO insiders up to the Capitol for hobnobbing, or "demanding" the

government to do what we want. And it won't happen by just "fully supporting" student lobby groups, effective as they sometimes are.

As Scotten and Banfield said in their interview with the *Emerald* editorial board Monday night, even the 30 "best and brightest" in student government won't keep tuition down alone. They need to mobilize the students at large because one articulate voice is nothing compared to a thousand loud ones.

And they have ideas to get more students involved, all of which center on the principle of "taking it to the streets." Rather than sitting in an office waiting for student input, or hoping students will come to them to ask how to help, Scotten and Banfield would work through ASUO programs to enlist the help of active students who may have nothing to do with student government per se. And they would also expand internships with both the ASUO and its various groups to promote more student involvement.

We do offer one word of caution to the candidates: Don't go too far in expecting to create harmony on campus. Voices of discord are not only inevitable at a major university, they are essential. The free exchange of ideas is the cornerstone of learning. We hope that whoever is elected to the ASUO Executive learns from the current administration's mistakes (and successes) and remembers their obligation to support the right of students to voice even the most unpopular of ideas without interference.

After all, as students, our voices are sometimes all we have.



### LETTERS

#### Right agenda exists

I would like to thank David Bartlett for initiating debate on a timely issue: the stakes of right vs. left politics in America (*ODE*, April 2). Unfortunately, I think Bartlett's "pooh-poohing" isn't going to get us anywhere.

The fact is that there is a gross economic imbalance in this country, and the new conservative economic agenda aims to keep the wealth at the top. People who don't believe this simply laugh away the statistics, call the so-called "liberal media" biased, and say "it's worse in China, ya know," thereby perpetuating political apathy.

Other injustices and imbalances of power exist alongside the economic, and yes, white males do generally average better. Why? Because they're simply superior?

In the past 200 years, conservatives have opposed liberals on many issues: Should blacks be owned by whites as slaves? Should "Americans" take land from the Indians? Should women be allowed to vote? Etc., etc.

Conservatives today would like to return us to a past where big business knew no bounds and power reigned unchecked. One need not espouse a "conservative conspiracy" theory or want to "institutionalize communism" to support liberal political causes against current right-wing agendas.

**Bradley Butterfield**  
Graduate, Comparative Literature

#### Students' bookstore

Elizabeth Kearney wrote a letter to the editor (*ODE*, April 3) that suggests the University Bookstore is ripping off students both on the sale of textbooks and the buying back of textbooks. I thought it appropriate that her claims be given clarification.

First of all, the bookstore is a non-profit organization owned by the students, faculty and classified staff of the University. The bookstore is governed by an elected 11-member board of directors, eight of whom are students. Everything about the way the bookstore is structured and governed would suggest it is here to work in the best interests of the University community.

The bookstore is not responsible for the high cost of textbooks. The bookstore does not arbitrarily decide what books we will buy back and how much we will pay at the end of each term. The bookstore does discount textbooks and is one of a few college bookstores in the entire country that does so. The bookstore is aggressive in trying to carry as many used books as possible. It is the faculty who choose the books that are going to be used on this campus, and the bookstore is aggressive in seeking timely orders from the faculty so that the end of the term buy-back prices can be the highest possible. The bookstore has established a Guaranteed Book Program and an Early

Duck book reservation program. The bookstore is an advocate for the students of this University.

If you would like to help run the bookstore, please attend the annual meeting on Wednesday, April 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU's Fir Room. A number of board positions are open, and it is a great way to make a difference on campus.

Contrary to Kearney's suggestion of a Web site bookstore, the University community is well-served by the University bookstore.

We just can't make textbook prices as low as some people would like.

**Jim Williams**  
University Bookstore General Manager

#### Thanks OSPIRG

Recently, I was preparing a resume for a part time job here in Eugene and realized that many of the skills that qualified me for the job came directly from my experience working the last three years with OSPIRG here on campus.

Over this time, I learned a valuable set of skills that I have not received from other parts of my education. Through OSPIRG, I have learned public speaking to planning and running a meeting; building coalitions of support with different groups, organizations and people, to working with various media and administrative bodies.

At times, just getting someone to hire you can be very much like getting someone to sign a petition.

I appreciate OSPIRG being here on campus as a resource for students, and I am anxious to be a part of its work in the future.

**Ryan Moeckly**  
Fine and Applied Arts

#### Write school stuff

The *Emerald* needs to write more about campus and community issues rather than printing all the AP-wire stories that anyone can find in the *Register-Guard* or *Oregonian*.

I do want to commend the reporters who have taken the time to cover local events; however, it would be great to see the *Emerald* encourage and empower students to write and submit freelance articles, editorials and columns on the critical problems we are facing here at the University.

The regional and statewide papers can fill their pages with AP-wire, but the *Emerald*, with the thousands of dollars it receives, could do the students and the campus community more justice by reporting more about what is happening in our own backyard.

The *Emerald* has the human resources, so let's see some more proactive, in-depth reporting — go talk with the student groups and community organizations, and write more than two paragraphs about important cornerstones of student life.

**Joey Lyons**  
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