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PERSPECTIVES

Vote Kriegel, Labavitch for ASUO Executive

This year's elections have given us seven qualified candidates, but one pair's ideas seem the strongest

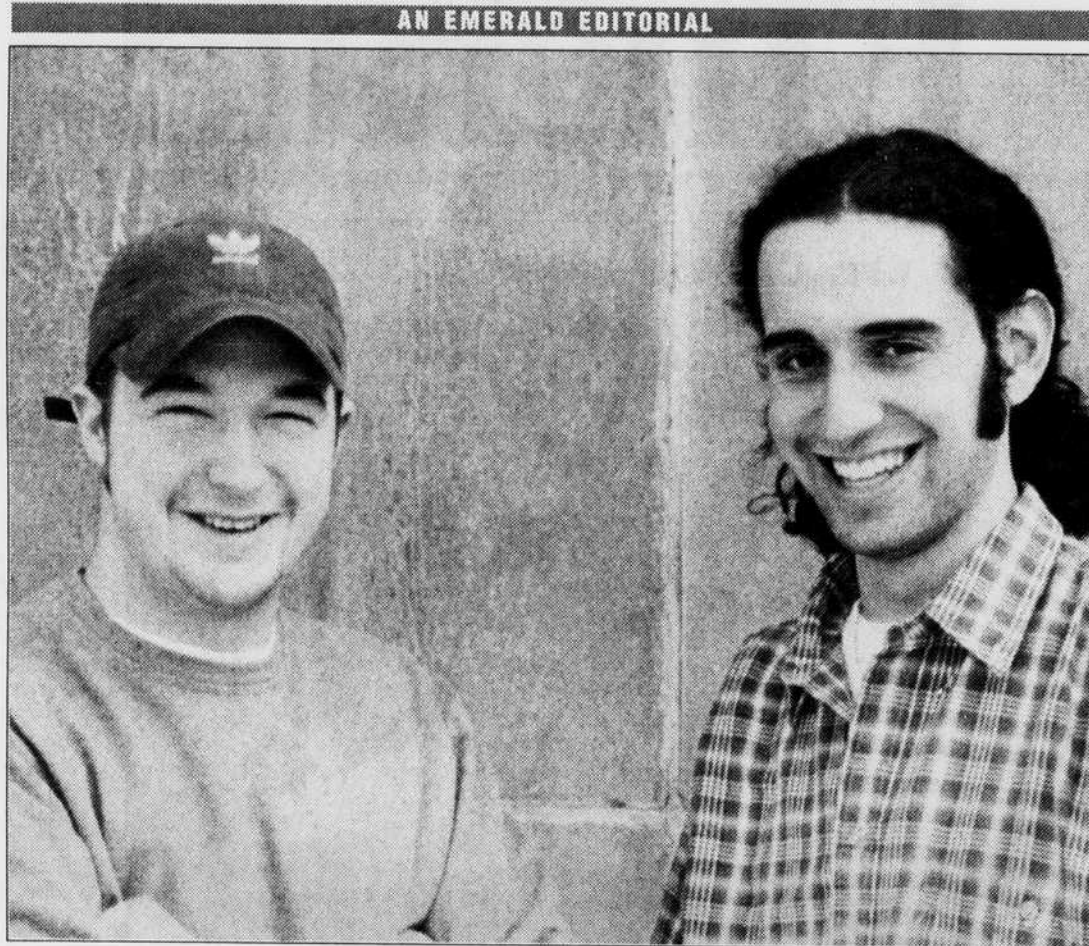
If nothing else, after interviewing all seven candidates for ASUO president and vice president, those of us on the editorial board are probably the most informed voters on campus.

We spent between 45 minutes and an hour interviewing each of the slates, and we learned something surprising. Contrary to last year, all of this year's candidates are serious about these positions. We've come a long way from promises of building beer fountains and reuniting Van Halen.

All of the candidates expressed concern over rising tuition and out-of-control incidental fees, and most of them talked about addressing these concerns at a local and statewide level. Other popular issues included bringing concerts to Mac Court, increasing student involvement in the ASUO and "utilizing existing campus resources."

Out of all of the catch phrases and pie-in-the-sky goals that inevitably accompany a campaign such as this one, there emerged one pair who was prepared with concrete plans to make a difference as soon as they step into the ASUO office. These candidates are Tamir Kriegel and Greg Labavitch.

That's not to say the other candidates didn't have some feasible ideas. We liked Kelli McCartan's idea of a monthly forum at which students, faculty and administration could discuss current issues together. Geneva Wortman and Morgan Cowling's resolution to oppose expansion of the Riverfront Research Park and support



ASUO Presidential candidate Tamir Kriegel (right) and his running mate, Greg Labavitch (left). MATT GARTON/Emerald

the green spaces in the area really appealed to us. And we agreed with Mark Hemingway and Farrah Bostic's fiscally responsible idea to offer credits instead of stipends for many ASUO positions.

But only Kriegel and Labavitch offer a platform that we support in whole, and only these two back up their ideas with sufficient specific plans for implementation.

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL

If elected, Kriegel and Labavitch plan to refocus the ASUO Executive on student programs, rather than on the personal crusades of the president and vice president. They want the ASUO to remain in the background, putting programs and student activities in the spotlight.

One way they plan to do this is by using the ASUO fund-raising coordinator to help raise money for programs that need it rather

than for the already well-funded Executive, an idea we support wholeheartedly. They also plan to physically rearrange the ASUO office to give programs access to the computers and other resources the Executive has formerly kept to itself.

They had some plans for improving the campus parking situation as well, but unlike past candidates who advocated unachievable solutions (read:

parking structure), Kriegel and Labavitch aren't looking to create new parking spaces.

They want to inform students of already existing but not well known spaces, and they hope to make some faculty parking available to students after hours. They also plan to negotiate with OPS to relabel some metered spaces, allowing students with permits to park there without having to plug the meter.

In addition, Kriegel and Labavitch hope to improve the ASUO's relationship with University administration by maintaining open lines of communication, rather than operating in secrecy and suddenly bursting out with a surprise campaign. We agree that their communicative tactic is more likely to secure the administration's support of student issues.

Finally, Kriegel and Labavitch are the most qualified set of candidates for this position. While both have experience in different facets of student government, we believe their involvement, particularly Labavitch's, in diverse activities apart from the ASUO will allow them to not only bring a wide range of outside contacts to the Executive, but also to see the University and student government from a variety of perspectives.

In our opinion, this, not a résumé full of past government involvement, is the most important qualification for the people who will facilitate student programs next year.

Vote Tamir Kriegel and Greg Labavitch for the 1998-99 ASUO Executive. We're going to.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McCartan makes statement

Due to an elections publications error, presidential candidate Kelli McCartan's statement was not able to be run in the 1998 ASUO Voter's Guide. Her statement is printed below:

You could be the next ASUO vice president.

Every day, thousands of students file through our campus. There are people of varying ages, ethnic backgrounds, cultural environments and beliefs. But are these students aware of their ability to share in the leadership of our University? In classes at the UO, I have been involved with students that are concerned, passionate, innovative, articulate and strong leaders. However, even though we have a large number of leaders on campus, the general student population is not currently represented in the ASUO. We must take ownership of our school by utilizing the talents of the general student population to enhance our University pride. Join me in a campaign to increase diversity in University leadership by drawing from different facets of our community to expand this needed representation.

The UO is built upon a foundation of leaders: leaders in the classroom, leaders on the athletic field, leaders in artistic endeavors and leaders in community activities. Let us draw on this existing leader-

ship and plug students in to the ASUO. I am running without a vice president with the goal of promoting such outside student leadership. If elected, I will personally invite the student body to engage in a post-election interview process which will determine the next ASUO vice president. With my qualifications of a year on Student Senate and a year on ASUO Executive staff, I would like to see a new, qualified individual fill this vice president position.

You choose. Kelli McCartan for ASUO president.

Christy Lorenzini
 ASUO Elections Coordinator
 and the ASUO Elections Board

Vote Wortman/Cowling

I just want to say that Max Lee Kwai is right. I agree with his letter that there is only one candidate to vote for in the upcoming elections for ASUO president. That candidate is Geneva Wortman.

She is one candidate for ASUO Executive who runs only because she cares about students; she is the candidate who is running because she knows that in order to have a healthy campus, we need to have low tuition, a diverse campus and a social campus.

The student body needs a university with low tuition so people from all back-

grounds and all economic classes have the chance at a higher education. The access issue also comes into play in the University's responsibility toward diversity because in order for all cultures to contribute to campus, all cultures must have healthy representation. And because universities can't be all work and no play, we need to have a heavy dose of fun — which means concerts on campus at discounted student prices.

Geneva Wortman has the experience to know what students need, and she has the dedication to make things happen for students.

So in every way, Max is right: Geneva is the best candidate for ASUO president.

The only thing that Max forgot was that Geneva is a team player, and one of the things that makes her great is the wonderful relationship that she has with her running mate, Morgan Cowling. Max made it sound like a one-woman show, but really, it's a group effort.

Morgan Cowling has the same dedication, the same experience and the same student focus that Geneva has. Together, they make the best ASUO president/vice president candidate team in years.

So vote for effective leadership. Vote Geneva and Morgan for ASUO Executive.

Brian Fitzgerald
 Eugene

Thanks, Max

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Max Lee Kwai for his ringing endorsement of my candidacy for ASUO Executive. At first I was a bit bewildered by his letter to the editor because no particular candidate was named. I was tempted to think that perhaps the letter was meant to endorse Kelli McCartan because Max happens to be her campaign manager. But then I thought to myself, "Mark, surely no person would be so lacking in dignity that they would reduce themselves to such a level of sycophancy" — especially given the fact that the letter was not up front about the author's relation to McCartan. So, naturally, I concluded through the simple process of elimination, that the only person who could have caused another person to put pen to paper so magnanimously was myself.

I do, however, want to clear up one thing. Max refers to me by saying, "She is truly the most caring person I have ever met." For the record, I would prefer that people keep referring to me by my male persona. Although my therapist has encouraged me to experiment with being a woman (recreationally and on weekends), as of yet I am undecided as to whether to begin the hormone treatments, let alone book a passage to Sweden where they will perform the lopitoffofme.

Mark Hemingway
 Editor, Oregon Commentator