

# PERSPECTIVES

## Wylie & Mitra for ASUO Executive

*The Emerald  
editorial board sees  
promise in Wylie  
Chen and Mitra  
Anoushiravani*

**A**s the skies change from gray to golden and the mood goes from sullen to sensual, spring brings an air of renewal. Students feel this force as they plan for graduation, internships or summer vacation.

In a similar spirit, it is also time to determine the tone and shape of student government in the coming year by voting for an ASUO president and vice president in the spring elections.

After speaking with eight of the 11 candidates who chose to participate in our endorsement interviews, we realize several candidates have new ideas, among these are disbanding the ASUO, building a high-powered telescope to inscribe the executive's initials in the moon and getting rid of the annoying fight song that chimes from the EMU.

We have decided, however, to endorse a more traditional ticket with Wylie Chen for president and Mitra Anoushiravani for vice president.

Experience, enthusiasm, a somewhat attainable agenda, a professed commitment to ethics and cleaning up the current imbalances of power and personal agendas in the ASUO give Chen and Anoushiravani the edge.

Chen, a planning, public policy and management major, has vast experience in the inner workings of student government. He was a student senator, the ASUO outreach director and a member of the Women's Center advisory board. Those skills give him insight on what is wrong in student government, he said.

Anoushiravani is a political science and theatre arts transfer student from Hamline University in Minnesota. Along with student government experience at her previous university, she brings en-



Nick Medley/Emerald

thusiasm and a fresh perspective.

Together, Chen and Anoushiravani plan to establish checks and balances on the executive's power by reworking the elections board's so unpopular events, such as this year's special election, will not become a reoccurring problem. Networking and delegating power and responsibility to other campus organizations for positive change is another way Chen and Anoushiravani set themselves apart from the other candidates.

Outreach is another strong aspect of their campaign. In past elections, voter turnout and overall student involvement in government has been low. Most students seem to not understand or care how the ASUO affects them.

This will be a difficult problem to overcome. Past executive candidates have promised greater ASUO accessibility, but it continues to be one of

the biggest criticisms of the executive.

To correct the problem, Chen and Anoushiravani purpose advertisements in student publications, ASUO newsletters and general publicity. Most of the ideas have been suggested before, but with their enthusiasm, experience and refreshing perspective, the Emerald editorial board believes they may be the ones to accomplish it.

We encourage all students to vote in the primaries on Wednesday and Thursday and in the general elections April 21 and April 22. The only way to make your opinion heard is to be active and vote. Those who don't can claim no right to complain about what happens in the future.

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

### Thumbs



#### THUMBS UP

**To change**  
NASA may be flying all-women crews by the year 2001 to study the effects of space travel on females. Most biological studies of this kind have been conducted on male astronauts.

**To diversity**  
New reports indicate that diversity is on the rise on Oregon college campuses according to an article in The Register-Guard. Oregon has increased in minority enrollment from 11.5 percent in 1993 to 12.4 percent in 1998.



#### THUMBS DOWN

**To poor planning**  
The new certification of initial mastery and certification of advanced mastery program that was implemented this year was designed to replace the high school diploma and indicate student achievement. However, most schools report that if students fail these upcoming tests, students will still advance to the next grade and earn their diplomas.

**To animated distractions**  
Community groups are protesting an electronic billboard at Northeast Broadway and 28th Ave in Portland. The flashing billboard is an eyesore and a safety hazard to drivers and should be removed.

## Letters to the Editor

### Good job, exec

This year I have been impressed with the outreach the ASUO has done to get this campus active on student issues. How could you miss the ASUO in the fall registering more than 3,500 students to vote? They were on every street corner.

They came into my classes doing raps on offering internships and a chance to get involved. I even saw them at Taylor's and Rennie's registering students to vote.

Last term I was invited, along with every other student, to participate in a lobbying effort at the state capitol. Students from all over the state rallied on the capitol steps to tell legislators what we want from them.

I had such an amazing experience and learned so much from being up in Salem. I was impressed at how well respected the students were by the legislators. Many of them kept commenting on how visible University students have been all term.

Each term ASUO runs days of action offering information and opportunities for students to get directly involved with issues such as child care, campus safety, diversity and legislative issues, including a tuition freeze.

The ASUO Executive staff is constantly working in students' interest to improve our university experience. This year's ASUO Executive staff has gone out of its way to get students to talk about the issues and get involved.

**Megan Alampi**  
Planning, public policy and management

### Hard work unappreciated

I am writing in response to the editorial regarding the ASUO Executive (ODE, April 4). The article paints the executive as a joke and a failure.

I am presently in my second term of interning with the ASUO and have had ample opportunities to see how it works. With this experience in mind, I would like to give a different image to the ASUO.

For one thing, it provides a place where students can build their leadership skills. Through the internship program, students can get a hands-on experience in the office, which helps them improve their public speaking, time management, event planning and a variety of other important skills.

The ASUO has one of the strongest student government internship programs in the nation and is a

great resource for its students.

The editorial gave the idea the ASUO hasn't accomplished anything, but we helped sponsor a rally to promote a hate-free campus, put on the book swap in an effort to save students money and have been lobbying in Salem to freeze tuition, increase the Oregon Need Grant, maintain student control of fees and a variety of other issues that are important to students.

No student government is perfect, and I can tell you that the ASUO Executive has been working hard for the students at the University.

I would encourage you to come out and vote on elections day. If you want to effect change on our campus, you need to make your voice heard.

**Matthew Lieuallen**  
Political science

### CORRECTION

In the April 8 article, "Controversial Emerald column disputed," Lisa Foisy's name was spelled incorrectly. The Emerald regrets the error.