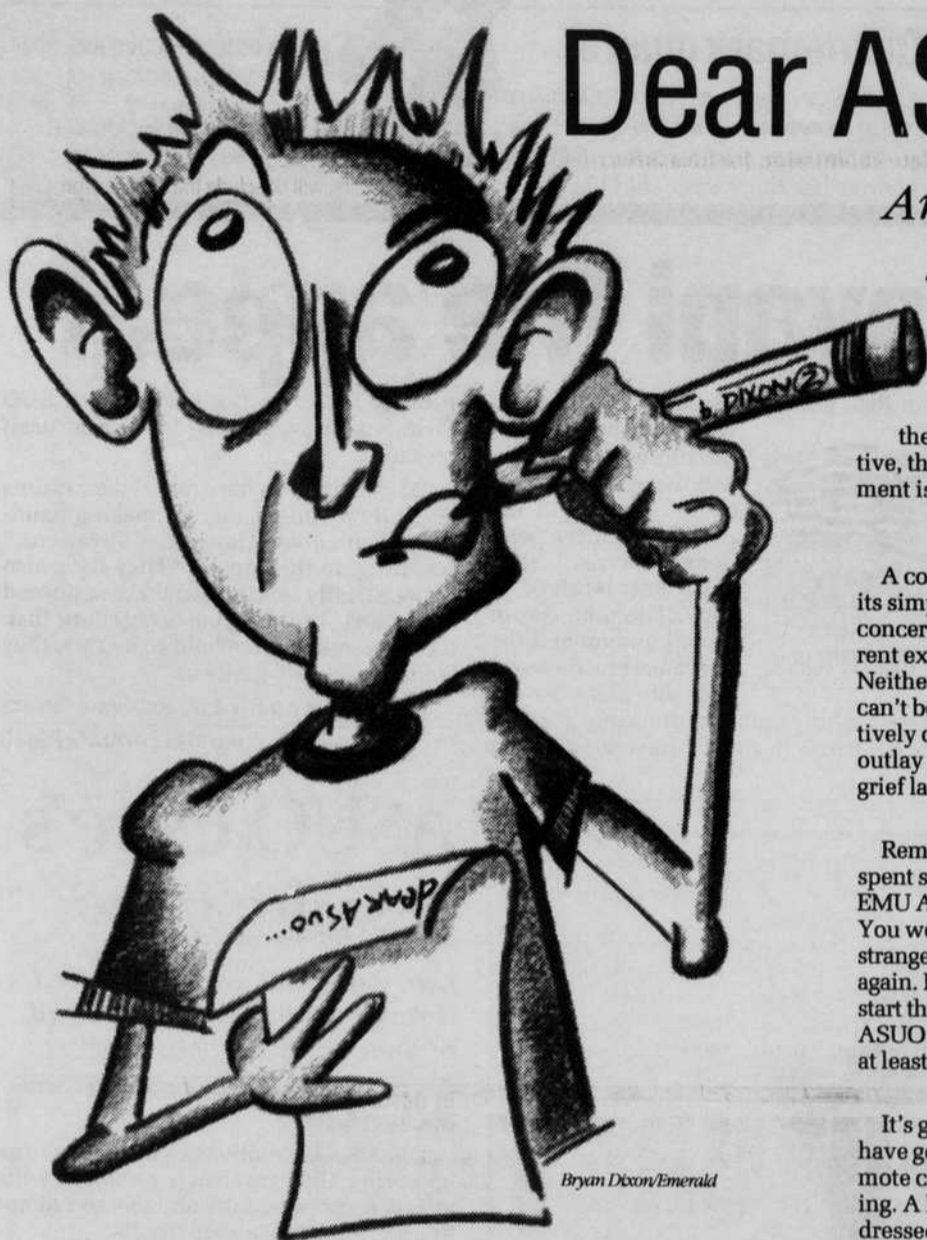


# PERSPECTIVES

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## Dear ASUO Executive

*An open letter to the next year's student government leaders*

Elections Board continues on its present course under the power of the ASUO Executive, the whole of student government is hobbled by its ineptness.

### DON'T MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP

A concept that eludes so many in its simplicity. Remember all those concerts in Mac Court that the current executive promised last spring? Neither do we. If something simply can't be done, you can find out relatively quickly. With that minimal outlay of effort, you can avoid a lot of grief later.

### BE VISIBLE

Remember all those hours you spent standing on the corner near the EMU Amphitheater campaigning? You were all too willing to approach strangers and introduce yourself. Do it again. Do it a lot. Sure, students might start thinking of you as the annoying ASUO president or vice president, but at least they'll start thinking of you.

### KEEP IT REAL

It's good to have goals. It's better to have goals that you have even a remote chance of actually accomplishing. A lot of issues need to be addressed on this campus, but the undeniable fact is that many of them have nothing to do with the ASUO. If you think the exec, or any other facet of student government, has the power to freeze tuition, increase the number of faculty of color on campus or single-handedly deliver a vague concept of campus safety then you're deluding yourself and the student body you propose to serve.

Sure, student government can take a stand on these issues and express their views to the appropriate administrative and government bodies, but that's about it. Use your energy on goals that you can really accomplish.

### SPECIAL ELECTION?

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT  
Do we even need to elaborate here? Unless the very survival of the University hinges upon the results, then it's best to steer clear of this one altogether.

### CHECK YOUR PERSONAL AGENDAS AT THE DOOR

Whoever takes the helm of next year's exec will have ties to other student groups and maybe even other areas of student government. Leave all this behind. Don't foist your biases on the rest of the campus. The students don't care what you did before; you work for them.

### OPEN COMMUNICATION WITHIN EXECUTIVE STAFF

Whether students know it, the ASUO is more than just the president and vice president. There's an entire staff milling around down there in Suite 4. The executive staff is also limited in their term of service. They will function much more efficiently if they know what's happening on the other side of the office.

### DO SOMETHING!

Don't waste time thinking about a legacy. Short of digging a giant pit in the EMU Courtyard and filling it with cement, there's not a whole lot you can do in one school year that will make your term stand out. Instead, spend your time making rational, reasonable decisions in the best interests of the students.

That's all for now. Please accept these humble suggestions with an open mind. Let's face it, things are pretty bad in student government. Maybe the most we can ask is that you not make it any worse.

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

## QUOTED

"She looked at me when I left elementary school for the last day, and she said, 'Bill, I just don't know about you.' She said, 'You know, if you ever learn when to talk and when to keep quiet, there's nothing you can't achieve. But if you don't learn the difference, I'm not sure whether you're going to be governor or wind up in the penitentiary.'"  
—President Clinton, recalling words of wisdom from his sixth grade teacher.

"I was really a struggling, starving artist yesterday. And today, I have ... a really well-paying job."  
—Thalia D. DaCosta, winner of MTV's "Wanna Be a VJ Too" contest.

"This is a very complicated scenario, and we will never be able to establish all the exact details."  
—U.S. Brigadier-General Daniel Leaf on reports that a recent NATO air strike may have resulted in civilian casualties in Kosovo.

"We're using our children as sexual toys."  
—Rev. Flip Benham, national director of Operation Rescue. Benham and his organization protested abortion and teenage sex in front of two high schools in Buffalo, NY, last Sunday.

**CLARIFICATION**  
In the April 19 story "Executive will return to ballot," it should have said that Jessica Timpany's ASUO elections grievance was filed last Wednesday.

**A**n open letter to the next year's student government leaders.

We applaud your commitment to student government and sincerely hope you will duplicate the successes and avoid the mistakes of executives past. To help you achieve that goal we, the venerable Emerald editorial board, offer these suggestions:

THEY'RE OUT THERE. GO GET 'EM  
General student outreach under this year's exec has been spotty at best. Worse, ASUO managed to vir-

tually ignore the best single source of fresh blood on campus. The residence halls are packed with energetic, idealistic students who would welcome the chance to have a voice in student government — if only they knew it existed. Holding regular town-hall style meetings in the residence halls would be an excellent way for the new exec to tap into a woefully underrepresented part of the student population.

FIX THE ELECTIONS BOARD — NOW  
The Elections Board is the joke that isn't funny anymore. As long as the

## Letters to the Editor

### Gardenburger speaks

I am deeply concerned by an article written by Sarah Skidmore and published in your April 14 edition. Skidmore's article reports that our company, Gardenburger Inc., is accused of abusing farm workers.

Your readers should know that this accusation is completely without any factual basis.

The truth is, Gardenburger Inc. does not own any farms. We do not employ any farm workers and none of our Gardenburger products are produced by farmworkers.

Even if we did employ farmworkers, they would be well treated. At Gardenburger Inc., employees are the soul of the company. We take pride in respecting every individual's uniqueness and recognizing each person's contributions. This approach led to recognition of our company in 1996 by Oregon Business magazine as one of the "Best Companies to Work For in Oregon."

In contrast to what your readers may think, we are a socially responsible company that has been grossly misrepresented.

For all of us at Gardenburger Inc., I ask anyone reading this letter to thoughtfully consider these points before casting judgment against our company and our employees.

**Lyle G. Hubbard**  
President and CEO, Gardenburger, Inc.

### Whose class is it?

I'm really troubled lately by hearing professors take class time to tell us how rude it is for students to come in late or leave early. I've even heard of one teacher who made several students leave because they came in late.

It's understandable for teachers to feel hurt when we don't spend the full time in their classes, but especially on sunny days like these, it may not have anything to do with the professor. Or the subject material may be the problem, not the professor. My math prof

does a great job of making math interesting and engaging, but some days math is just unbearable. So don't take it personally, professors — it may have nothing to do with you personally. Or it may.

What is unacceptable is teachers wasting our class time going over disciplinary issues at length, or keeping students after the allotted time. That is what's rude.

We pay for these classes; we'll come and go as we damn well see fit.

**Dave Nelson**  
Environmental Studies/Computer and Information Science

### No on OSPIRG

I read with interest and much amusement the letter of Professor Bob O'Brien (ODE, April 16). Professor O'Brien argues spiritedly for the return of OSPIRG to our campus, suggesting that the organization's off-campus political activities are a compelling reason to refund it.

At least two problems arise from his letter: First, Professor O'Brien is not a student, and therefore he will not have to pay any student fees to support his own pet projects. "It's a bargain," Professor O'Brien says; and yet at "less than \$3 a term" OSPIRG would swallow up as much as \$140,000 a year from students. Second, as Professor O'Brien clearly demonstrates, OSPIRG is a political organization (an extension of Ralph Nader's anti-capitalist political party); its off-campus work includes lobbying the state Legislature. Should OSPIRG return to campus, students who disagree with Nader's politics will nevertheless be compelled to fund his organization.

I urge you to vote against the re-establishment of OSPIRG. Let Professor O'Brien and Ralph Nader fund their own political organizations. And when the opportunity arises, vote to de-fund all other political organizations on campus.

**Sean C. Goodlett**  
History