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Perspectives

Oregon Daily
Emerald

What have YOU done for me lately?

It's almost the halfway point — week four, term two. We should get a halftime break. But we don't.

And neither does student government. It's a halfway point for the ASUO Executive as well, and it's time for a report card.

While we realize that not all promises from ASUO President Wylie Chen and Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani could have been met already, let's see how close they've come.

1. Quicker Internet dial-in access: The ASUO exec is working on this promise from last spring. They've met with the University Computing Center and have figured out a way to buy more modems and offer more phone lines for students to connect to the University server. Look for future better access.

2. Better, brighter lighting on campus: It's a slow process to deal with the Office of Public Safety, and it probably won't happen this year. But the ASUO has done a walk through the campus to determine areas that need better lighting.

3. Tuition freeze: This can't be done because the Oregon Students Association Board of Directors voted not to have a freeze.

4. Create more accessible, more affordable child care for student families: This goal and No. 6 are both a part of a lobbying effort called Access 2000 — a program that lobbies Congress on students' behalf — that seems to have had some success and is still in progress.

5. Increase student representation on the University Senate: This doesn't mean adding student seats to the University Senate, it just means more students attending meetings to watchdog the senate. The ASUO has done this repeatedly.

6. More financial aid grants: Again, a lobbying effort called Access 2000 that's giving it it's all.

7. Retain student seats at McArthur Court and Autzen Stadium: Fortunately, all the student seats weren't always filled at Autzen this year, so this problem hasn't appeared. But if the Ducks continue their success in

the Pacific-10 Conference this year in basketball, look for this issue to come up.

8. Sponsor more campus events: This one was a bit ambiguous to begin with, but the bright side is that the ASUO has hired another programs person, and events such as the ASUO Street Faire seemed to run more smoothly.

9. Increase ASUO outreach through the Emerald, newsletters and general publicity: Sorry guys. While other groups — Justice for All, Human Rights Alliance and others — have made their presence known on campus through op/eds in this paper, you haven't even attempted one (until today). While the Emerald tries to report on happenings, students need advance notice of what's going on and where you need help. Ads could be used to fill empty Student Senate, Programs Finance Committee and ASUO Constitution Court seats. Besides just the Emerald, there are several other University publications; just putting up fliers or posters could be publicity, too. What about a students' forum? Outreach is crucial to students and to the lifeblood of the ASUO.

10. Strengthen all programs with personnel and resources and the reestablishment of programs that student support: Here again the addition of another programs student in the ASUO has helped. More importantly, the exec office itself seems better run and more accountable than last year's. Cleaning up the ASUO office is a great behind-the-scenes way to increase productivity and, soon, outreach.

11. Improve housing contract flexibility: Due to low demand for University Housing and the fact that housing is completely financially independent from the University, it's not possible to lower the breaking-contract fee. Despite low density in housing, the same number of employees are working, and their pay cannot be cut because there are fewer



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

residents.

12. Better relations with Eugene Police Department and OPS: Here is another positive note. The ASUO does have a good relationship with the EPD. No Halloween riots this year are in part due to cooperation and respect between the two. OPS is also communicating pretty well with the exec, and a major issue between them was the lighting situation, which has been addressed in part (see No. 2).

13. Better relations with the University administration: A big, hard brick wall. Chen and Anoushiravani claim that the administration has been very unresponsive to its prods to get more cooperation. They see the ASUO exec as being the voice of student involvement and student advocacy to the powers that be. It seems that they "trouble deaf heaven with [their] bootless cries" (Shakespeare). This is a two-way street, however. If you're up there people, LISTEN!

14. Advocating for a film school and American Sign Language as a foreign language: On the latter, we've seen great success. The former may best be characterized as something they had no business promising or turning attention to. (Money? Teachers? Students? Equipment? Oops.)

15. Increasing birth control accessibility on campus: There isn't a major birth-control crisis on campus,

but the exec is looking to increase availability in dorms through resident assistants.

16. More computer and printer availability: Talks are in the works with University computing.

17. Covered bike racks: Not going to happen because it would be too costly.

While we enumerated the campaign goals that Chen and Anoushiravani put forth last year, the point is less nit-picky criticism and more of an overview. The two biggest issues that we see are the lack of student outreach via campus media or even posters and fliers and the lack of significant communication between the University administration and the ASUO. Because the biggest promise was that "Wylie and Mitra" wanted YOU, the reader, the student, the voter, to participate. If you don't know your options in participation, then does the goal even matter? The exec needs to get the word out — any word — to see if students are interested and what they are interested in. And the more the exec knows about students, the more leverage they have with the administration to say that they are the voice of the students.

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

QUOTED

"Tonight is the beginning of the end of the Clinton era."
— Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush, on his victory Monday in the Iowa Republican Caucus. The Register-Guard, Jan. 25.

"New Hampshire has a history of being independent-thinking, nobody tells them what to do. They make their own judgments about a candidate and I'm looking forward to the next week because I think this is the opportunity to turn many of the people who are now undecided over to our side."

— Presidential candidate Sen. Bill Bradley on his hope for a better finish in the New Hampshire primary after losing 2:1 to Vice President Al Gore in Monday's Democratic Iowa Caucus. Reuters, Jan. 25.

"We've all seen the numbers."

— Anonymous aide to former Republican presidential candidate Sen. Orrin Hatch, on Hatch's decision Tuesday to quit the race after less than 1 percent of the vote in Iowa. AP wire, Jan. 25.

CORRECTION

The story "DDS may alter focus, shift service" (ODE, Jan. 25) should have read that Saferide is a program separate from the ASUO Women's Center. Also, Jennie Breslow's name was misspelled. The Emerald regrets these errors.

WORLD WIDE WHAT

The Emerald conducted an unscientific poll of 103 University students and faculty members to see whether they could recognize ASUO President Wylie Chen. Percentages do not add up to 100 because of rounding.

on the web
www.dailyemerald.com



Bono
lead singer of U2
6.7%



Mitra Anoushiravani
ASUO vice president
11.6%



Bobby Lee
city councilor
22.3%



Jessica Timpany
ASUO Student Senate president
4.9%



Wylie Chen
ASUO president
30%



Glen Banfield
former ASUO Constitution Court justice
24.2%