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# Perspectives

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## ODE backs DePoe, Upshaw

After interviewing all the ASUO Executive candidates and after hours of deliberation, the Emerald's endorsement is in: Autumn DePoe and Caitlin Upshaw for executive.

It was actually a very tough choice, but not for lofty reasons. The Emerald felt this crop of executive candidates actually had less to offer than last year's. We were a bit unenthusiastic overall because the same words came out of everyone's mouth. And no one said it best; no one was overly dynamic.

We could have told you not to vote because the pickings were slim. We could have told you to vote for an "alternative" candidate. We could have not run an editorial at all. But none of these are really acceptable. Because one facet of student government is learning how to compromise. And after hours of unsatisfying discussion, laughter and debate, we finally decided to compromise.

And the best candidates came out on top.

Of all the candidates and tickets running for ASUO Executive, we believe that DePoe and Upshaw should be next year's president and vice president. In many ways, they are the middle ground among extremists — Scott Austin, Ed Madrid, Dan Atkinson — and the "serious" candidates who all say the same old talk: Jay Breslow and Holly Magner, and C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson.

What the extremists want, each in his own way, is to dismantle or severely change the ASUO. They are inflammatory and a bit irrational sometimes, but they have ideas and perspectives that the other serious candidates don't even consider.

What the serious candidates are is boring. Look at the differences in their campaigns. Can you even find any? Diversity, accountability for police, good salaries for teachers, outreach, etc. These are the only issues they discuss, and while they are important, they are obvious. Student government of the 21st century needs innovation and creativity. You certainly don't have that with two tickets — Breslow and Magner, Gabbe and Larson — that you can't even tell apart until one of them almost gets kicked off the ballot.

So we come to the middle ground. DePoe and Upshaw are a little bit of both the radicals and the stalwarts. DePoe has been known for a few years as someone who files grievances, keeps people on their toes and yet is willing to work within the system instead of just fighting it. DePoe has served as a senator and as the ASUO communications director, while Upshaw, with no ASUO experience whatsoever, has the keen excitement to jump right in.



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

The ticket has unique ideas, such as eliminating or severely reducing the Athletic Department Finance Committee and sending a student to every Eugene City Council meeting.

They also want to expand and make available a program guide for the ASUO so that students will know what is available for them, what they pay for with their student fees. They have limited their campaign spending to \$20, and they want daily

entertainment in the EMU Amphitheater.

While we don't necessarily agree to eliminating the ADFC and the idea of daily entertainment is farfetched at best, we appreciate and welcome innovation and uniqueness. DePoe and Upshaw seem to have the character to get things done and to keep up communication with the administration and with the others in student government. The two also want to hold frequent town-hall meetings to see what

students want. And they might even tap dance for us every so often when entertainment is hard to find for the amphitheater.

The bottom line is that when you look at what's really being said, there isn't much diversity of ideas among the candidates. But the ticket with most of them is DePoe and Upshaw.

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

## But don't forget the underdogs

Five-year plans, more diversity on campus, students' rights, tuition freezes, blah, blah, blah. The Emerald's editorial board — given the task of selecting a worthy candidate to endorse for this year's ASUO election — heard all of those platitudes and more from the majority of hopefuls who sat in on half-hour long interviews with the board.

Yet, two very unlikely candidates grabbed the seven-person panel's attention the most: Scott Austin and Ed "All these people are idiots" Madrid.

Austin is notorious around both the ASUO and Emerald offices because of the number of grievances he has filed in past years. That seemingly annoying habit stems from the fact, however, that Austin knows his stuff when it comes to student government.

In several responses to the editorial board, Austin gave clear, direct answers on what should and what shouldn't be done in regard to the ASUO. OK, so his idea to dismantle the whole exec is extreme, as are his expressed feelings of "hate" toward

University President Dave Frohnmayer. His understanding of complicated issues is to be commended, though; too bad he doesn't take the entire process more seriously.

Madrid, on the other hand, came to the board with few concrete ideas about how to actually perform his duties if elected president. What he did show was a sincere concern that the students who do vote the next two days will only choose someone who, well, speaks in platitudes and political-casual, instead of a candidate with a mind of his or her own.

"Radical" ideas from two radical guys.

Don't go looking for Madrid on the ballot — he dropped out when told by the elections board that he couldn't keep "All these people are idiots" as his official moniker. And although we don't recommend a vote for Austin, if you want to get a few facts straight about student government operations, he's the man to seek out.

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