

Letters to the editor

Support ASUO Measure 5

You may be surprised and impressed to learn that you attend one of the major public universities in the United States in terms of percentage of international student enrollment. Yet there is not a permanent facility on campus that promotes informal cross-cultural exchange among international students, as well as between international and American students, or supports their lives at the University. But ASUO Ballot Measure 5 seeks to change that.

We, the members of International Resource Center Campaign committee, urge students to vote "yes" on this measure, which has been a project of the International Student Association, the ASUO, the EMU Board, the EMU Administration and the Office of International Education. Because the lounge is sparingly used, we devised a plan that would make the lounge an attractive place — "a meeting place for the world."

We strongly believe that the International Resource Center will be of great interest and very attractive to all University students and the community. About 10 percent of the University students come from over 80 countries. Many others travel overseas. It would be shortsighted to state that the center serves only the international community, for its purpose is to increase the interaction among all university students.

The International Resource Center will be a central location for students to meet and discuss international views, to practice foreign languages and to obtain information about traveling, working and living abroad. We strongly urge a "yes" for the measure.

Haya Matsumoto
ISA co-director
IRC campaign manager

Candidates corrupt

The C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson campaign is a corrupt and unethical one. They will go to any length to get elected, as shown by their willingness to break election rules and lie about it. Gabbe and Larson have chosen this route; however, we as students DO NOT have to support them. Currently, the Gabbe/Larson campaign has spent more than \$1,300. The other campaigns combined have spent less than \$600. Students should look closely at the issues surrounding these candidates and question their motives. It the ASUO Executive really worth \$1,300? The ASUO is not and should not be about how much money is spent on campaigns, but rather it should be about the quality of the candidates. It is worth it to University students to have morally bereft leaders? I think not.

Emilie Lavin
psychology

Court's ruling appalling

I am appalled by the Constitution Court's decision to allow C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson to continue their well-funded, arrogant run for ASUO Executive (ODE, Feb. 29). Despite the official ruling, I believe Gabbe and Larson bribed voters by offering them a thing of value. As Jennifer Greenough said, money buys things of value, and food still counts. It is ridiculous to assume their cof-

fee hour was a voter information meeting and not one of self promotion. Would Gabbe hold a meeting on the importance of voting if he were not running for office? Not likely.

Gabbe was under investigation for misallocation of funds and failure to hold office hours during his tenure as a summer term student senator. Along with the coffee hour fiasco, this paints Gabbe as a deceitful young man who has a disrespect for both the electorate and the rules. These events makes me wonder why Gabbe is involved with student government: to bring about the positive change his vague platform touts, or to bring about personal gain and pad up his resume?

Gabbe has a record of dishonesty, and it appears he doesn't think he should have to follow the rules. He should not be rewarded with a promotion to the ASUO Executive position.

Brian Boone
journalism

C.J. and Peter best candidates

In this ASUO General Elections the choice is clear. C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson are two candidates who have the experience, the perspective and the willingness to get the job done. In my time as the state affairs coordinator for the ASUO I saw a lot of leaders come through student government, and these two are far and away the best for the job.

If you want to see the campus safer, tuition reasonable and financial aid plentiful I urge you to vote for Gabbe and Larson. The issues that affect students are not trivial; they are substantial. Tuition has increased at a rapid rate while access to financial aid other than loans is extremely sparse. We need leaders who understand the importance of working state-wide to achieve great victories for students. We also need students with the experience to get that done. Having worked on freezing tuition and keeping students on the Oregon Health Plan, I can attest to the fact that experience goes a long way in creating positive change for students.

If you want to see an ASUO Executive that will have success in protecting your interests I would encourage you to: Vote experience, vote on issues, VOTE FOR C.J. AND PETER.

Matt Swanson
former ASUO state affairs
coordinator

Student government sickens

It's swell that "we live under a fair system of government that requires that rules be followed not only by citizens but also by itself," to quote Justice Robert Raschio in the article on the resolution of the C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson election "technicality" (ODE, Feb. 29). The fact that someone who repeatedly breaks the rules of public office can be exonerated on the grounds that the public officers whose duty it is to review his actions have themselves faltered in their performance is really neat.

How reassuring it is to know that they have each others' backs! It really sets one's priorities straight to realize that those who are in the club are keen to their primary duty: keeping each other in there and keeping the ordinary dweebs out. Goodness knows that whenever someone who is not in the club finds his or her way into the clubhouse,

all heck breaks loose. Here's to the Elections Board and the Constitution Court for keeping government office the safe haven of the initiated.

Bryan Roberts
senior, English

Posters on the mark

I am by no means a fan of negative campaigning. After following the situation regarding the ASUO Constitution Court's ruling to put C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson back on the ballot, however, I feel these tactics are justifiable.

I have heard some negative feedback from the "Got Ethics?" posters I have seen around campus. While I personally think the posters are quite amusing, I can see why some people might be disturbed. I would remind these people that Gabbe and Larson were in fact found to be in violation of election rules, and they were only returned to the ballot because of a technical glitch in the investigation procedure. Coincidentally, Gabbe was also found guilty by the court on charges of nonfulfillment of duties as a summer senator. This trend of disregarding rules disturbs me much more than any poster.

After looking at all the evidence, the "Got Ethics?" slogan seems to be less of a tasteless smear campaign and more of a campaign tactic that simply highlights an important difference between the two candidates for ASUO Executive.

Oona M. Holcomb
journalism, political science

Show Elections Board support

I would like to show my appreciation and admiration for this year's ASUO Elections Board.

This year's board has also been the first to successfully put the elections on-line. The on-line elections will prove to be the ASUO's first truly accurate election in terms of academic senate seat voting.

This year, the board put out a statement that explained the infamous rule violation, the reasons for their ruling and the remedies. It was legible, well thought out; and it was tough but fair.

The board has stayed as politically neutral as possible, and they have done an excellent job of explaining the rules, being available for questions and hopefully, increasing voter turnout. They even updated the election Web site.

Candidates and students need to be aware that if rules are violated, it is not the Election Board's fault. They should not be the recipients of blame, angst or taunts. When rules are violated, it is because the candidates were either ignorant, unable to understand the language involved or purposefully attempting to cheat. The rules are not ambiguous.

Every candidate signs a statement stating that they have read and understand the rules. If candidates do not understand the rules, the Elections Board is available to clear things up.

Please give the Elections Board a break and show them your support throughout the elections process no matter what the outcomes may be. They have a tough job, and they are doing their jobs in the finest way possible. I give them many a prop and a hi-five.

Autumn DePoe
former ASUO Executive candidate

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