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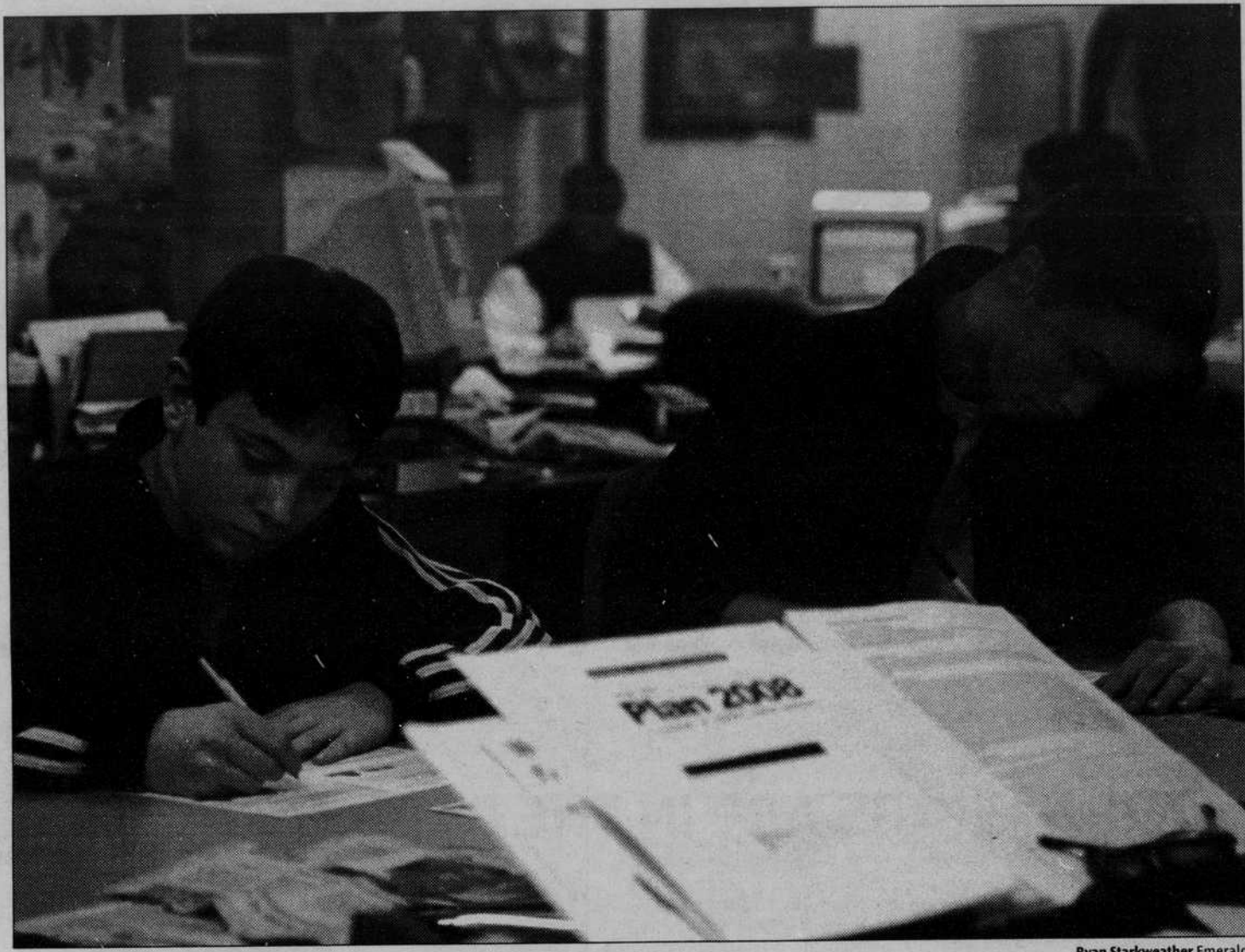


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Ryan Starkweather Emerald

Eighth graders Kevin Kahle and Elliot Crosswhite work diligently during their internship for the ASUO. Kahle met Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani during a trip to Texas.

# Eighth graders get internship opportunity

■ Kevin Kahle and Elliot Crosswhite are learning the ins and outs of the ASUO through hands-on experience

By Emily Gust  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

It's not every day that the person sitting next to you on the bus can lead you to an internship, but that's exactly what happened to eighth grade Roosevelt Middle School student Kevin Kahle.

In a twist of fate, Kahle was placed next to ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani on the ride home after a University pep rally in El Paso, Texas, for the Sun Bowl. After chatting for awhile, he mentioned how he needed to do a mentorship in order to graduate

from his middle school this spring. Anoushiravani, seeing how she could help, immediately offered Kahle what she could: the chance to intern in the ASUO office.

"Mitra was really nice to me, and it seemed like I was welcome here," Kahle said.

Anoushiravani also encouraged him to involve his friends, so Kahle brought along fellow eighth grade Roosevelt student Elliot Crosswhite.

For the past three weeks, the two have come into the ASUO office every Tuesday and Thursday

to learn the ropes of student government. Between making posters advocating the United States Students Association referendum and distributing surveys for the ASUO's renter's rights campaign, Kahle and Crosswhite are receiving a crash course in student government at the college level.

On the agenda is an ASUO Student Senate meeting for next term, and they've even been given a copy of the Green Tape Notebook, which outlines ASUO rules, to read and look over.

"I think it's great that the UO has a student government that can present ideas that can help the students and the University," Crosswhite said.

At Roosevelt, both Kahle and Crosswhite are involved with their own student government. As is to be expected, the scene there is a bit different from the one they have been experiencing the last few weeks. Through work on various committees, duties range from putting together school assemblies to allocating money made from the school's magazine drive.

Anoushiravani said she hopes that the experience of seeing the governments in both middle school and college will help Kahle and Crosswhite recognize the similarities as well as the differences.

"I hope that it shows them how student government in college has a much bigger impact than in junior high or high school," she said. "But also that the leadership skills in junior high and high school can be built upon."

Additionally, Anoushiravani said she believes the internship will give Kahle and Crosswhite a different view of the University than the one they had before. Both of their fathers are professors at the University, so they haven't really had the chance to see education struggles from the student perspective.

The mentorship program that has prompted Kahle and Crosswhite to intern at the ASUO is one of the requirements to graduate

from eighth grade at Roosevelt. For one to two months, the students are required to provide more than 12 hours of service to a business or operation of their choice. Students are encouraged to seek out opportunities in fields where they are considering careers, but they do not necessarily have to restrict their choice.

Looking ahead at the college operation of student government, Kahle and Crosswhite have been able to see if it is something they want to do in the future. Returns so far show both considering the option.

"Probably [I'll do] student government in high school. I'm thinking about it," Crosswhite said. In college, "possibly [I'd do] a smaller position."

"I wouldn't want to be vice president because it's a lot of hard work," Kahle said. "And if you want to play sports, then you couldn't do it."

In addition to service, students are expected to do a final project to display what they have learned during their mentorships. Many do papers, but Crosswhite and Kahle plan to take the technological route. The two are going to do a video that documents the way things work at the ASUO.

A video would be the natural choice for the Kahle and Crosswhite, who have been friends since first grade when they attended the French immersion program at Fox Hollow. During their free time, they like to work on student films and are currently working on a script for a spy movie.

But for now they continue to bustle around the ASUO office, at least until a few weeks into spring term. Anoushiravani said she feels that other than being a bit overwhelmed, they seem to be enjoying themselves.

"I would like to think that we're a fun group to hang out with," Anoushiravani said.

"It's been good," Kahle said regarding his time in the ASUO. "They're really nice people."

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Application deadline is Tuesday March 28 at 5 p.m.

Candidate must be a student at the University.

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