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Perspectives

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Emerald

Can't buy me votes

Now that the ASUO elections have at long last been finalized, it is time to reflect upon the many ordeals and grievances put upon the student body and ferret out the important lessons that we can take away from the often frustrating situation. Above all else, this year has proven, once again, that having the largest campaign war chest doesn't necessarily equate with victory. And that's a great sign for student government.

Jay Breslow and Holly Magner were announced victors in the ASUO Executive race Thursday, winning by a sizable margin, despite being outspent by front runners C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson. Gabbe and Larson shelled out about \$1,500 compared with Breslow and Magner's \$530.

This is not the first year the heaviest spenders have failed to attain the executive office. Last year, Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani were outspent by about \$550 dollars on their way to a victory in the primary election for ASUO Executive.

Those results are ample evidence that money doesn't equate with victory in ASUO elections, meaning that candidates' messages are weighed seriously by student voters. Whatever the reasons, it is the best assumption to say that students are actually listening to the ideas of the candidates and vote their consciences that way. And when students prove they are informed and listen to ideas rather than being swayed by who can create the most noise, whatever mandate they issue at the voting booth must be respected.

While it may be a valid argument in national campaigns to say that the candidates who raise the most money from individuals prove they have the will of the people behind them, such an argument appears faulty within the University's political arena. Rarely do students give money to their favorite executive hopefuls, which makes it difficult to deduce



which candidate is the popular choice prior to the election. This makes our informed electorate very important as they can ignore popularity factors in favor of the candidates' intelligent visions of the future.

The process of actually studying the positions, talents and passions of executive candidates helps the democratic exchange of ideas on campus by making sure that the viewpoints

of the average student are represented by their elected officials. Instead of having to assume that as happens too often in American politics the richest candidates win, it is heartening to know that there is a great deal of viability for any serious student candidate should they be motivated to run for office.

For those who remain skeptical about the entire political process, there is encouragement to be found

on our campus.

If this trend of the weightiest campaign coffers failing in elections to less funded, better political minds, there is ample reason to believe that University students will continue to be represented well by their student government.

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

Letters to the editor

Frohnmayr leaves Workers' Rights Consortium hanging

In spite of all the glowing rhetoric about "working together," "shared governance" and "community voices," University President Dave Frohnmayr (ODE, March 29) fails to convince me he is willing to make the tough, moral choice — by stipulating that the Workers' Rights Consortium monitor those factories that produce University apparel.

Ironically, while Frohnmayr insists that the entire University community be involved in coming to a consensus on this issue, he would deny those communities where the garments are made a similar consensus. Since the WRC — composed of women, worker and human rights

groups and non-governmental organizations — better represents their communities than the industry-backed Fair Trade Association, isn't it consistent that he choose the WRC to monitor these factories?

For an issue so straightforward, so crucial to the integrity of the University, so morally compelling, why hasn't Frohnmayr already agreed the WRC is best suited to insure worker rights are respected? Could it be that his agenda is being dictated by the likes of Nike co-founder Phil Knight and other corporate sponsors of the University, who are making it clear that if Frohnmayr chooses the WRC, it will adversely affect their largesse? And does Frohnmayr think that by delaying his decision until the end of the academic year, he won't have to account to the students and faculty who have left campus for the sum-

mer? If so, he makes a mockery of the very community consensus he claims to champion.

Peter Ferris
Eugene Resident

Sizemore missed invite to debate

I never showed up because I was never invited. Your March 3 story about the debate regarding Harry Lonsdale's initiative to reform campaign financing stated that I was a "no show." The story implied that I made a commitment to show up for a debate and then flaked out.

Truth is, I was never invited. Harry Lonsdale, the author of the measure, thought the students putting on the debate were going to invite me. The

students apparently thought Harry was going to invite me. Neither did. Otherwise, I would have been there.

Had I been present at the debate I would have criticized the measure for its gross unfairness. Fact is, there are two major spenders in Oregon politics: corporations and labor unions. Harry's measure completely stops corporations from contributing money to political campaigns but allows labor unions to spend without limitation. The result would be a one-sided, left-wing debate with voters only hearing one side of the story.

Campaign finance reform must be fair for everyone, not just the political left.

Bill Sizemore
Head of Oregon Taxpayers United

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To the bright White Paper.

Last Wednesday, the University Senate Budget Committee offered its final draft of a plan to hike faculty compensation at the University, which has been about 18 percent below the average of similar universities. The plan was passed unanimously in three separate votes by the University Senate.

To the return of a campus favorite.

The Collier House reopened last Tuesday, offering three new eateries to be run by University Housing. The restaurant had been closed for nine months after the Faculty Club, the previous managers, couldn't operate it any longer.



To a questionable call.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a way that will enable local governments to regulate nude dancing. The Court did so by claiming it was an effort to combat crime related to adult entertainment.

To stiff penalties for a bad doctor.

Oregon doctor Steven Gabriel Moos, 30, has been put on probation for 10 years by the Board of Medical Examiners for prescribing the impotence pill Viagra and other medications over the Internet. The problem, the Oregon board said, is that patients weren't being examined properly before being prescribed the medications.