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Perspectives

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Executive Excellence

As Chen and Anoushiravani move on, they leave behind a well-paved path of good decisions and, for the most part, kept promises



See Ya Wylie...

See ya Jay...

The end of spring term signals the passing of the torch from one ASUO Executive to another. On Wednesday, the term of office ended for Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani, and it began for Jay Breslow and Holly Magnier.

Before turning our attention to the new executive, we should critique the old. Based on campaign promises, character of the office, ability to deal with surprises and general reputation, Chen and Anoushiravani fulfilled their duties well. With the Worker Rights Consortium, the Southworth incidental fee case, University President Dave Frohnmayer's absence due to his heart arrhythmia and Nike CEO Phil Knight pulling his money, this executive had much more than daily office duties to handle.

Yet despite the distractions, they worked hard for students, increased efficiency in the ASUO office and carried themselves with dignity the entire year.

The 1999-2000 executive came into office with a lengthy list of cam-

aign goals, and while they did not complete them all, they put a dent into the promises and dealt with unexpected issues. Chen and Anoushiravani — and their staff, which they greatly credit — have been one of the best executives in years.

The original list of campaign promises included such goals as better Internet access, better lighting on campus, a tuition freeze, more students at the University Senate, financial-aid grants, better childcare, more campus events, outreach, a more flexible housing contract and better relations with the Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department. Some of these — flexible housing contracts, tuition freeze, a film school — proved just not possible to change or were out of Chen and Anoushiravani's hands.

Others — more child-care assistance, better lighting on campus, better relations with law enforcement — have been successful in varying degrees. Anoushiravani especially feels proud of the improved relations with EPD surrounding the concern about possible Halloween riots. And more money for childcare is possible if

Gov. John Kitzhaber comes through on a promise this fall. Better lighting should start being installed this summer.

Where Chen and Anoushiravani really excelled, though, was in the behind-the-scenes management of the ASUO office. Good working relationships with their staff, adding new positions to increase productivity, organizing a Programs Council to "empower" student groups, saving money and overall just making the executive office accountable were all key parts to their administration. We felt they were fair, ethical and without political motives — as we could see with their appointing of a conservative senator with whom they disagreed and by their funding of the unpopular Justice For All.

For the most part, they had good relations with University administration. The one administrator with whom they say they didn't get along with is, unfortunately, Frohnmayer. Communication breakdowns, missed appointments and other problems contributed to a feeling of disassociation. Frohnmayer says they all tried to communicate. Chen and Anoushi-

ravani say Frohnmayer didn't try hard enough. Regardless of who is to blame, this is one area that could use improvement for next year.

Another place for improvement is outreach. All of the office improvements are beneficial, but students can't see that kind of behind-the-scenes success. More communication with students about what the executive was doing — either through campus media or through more forums — would have been helpful. The executive's public relations director quit during winter term, and the position was not filled. It probably should have been.

Overall, Chen and Anoushiravani have left the executive in good shape for Breslow and Magnier. No doubt if Breslow and Magnier follow in this year's executives' footsteps, they will be well set.

So here's a thank you to Wylie and Mitra and a good luck to Jay and Holly. Passing the torch may never have been so easy.

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

Letters to the editor

Folk festival destroys quiet atmosphere

This last weekend, the University apparently violated its housing contract with several of its students. I live in Morton Hall, in the Earl Complex. It is a study hall. Quiet hours inside the hall are to be in effect 24/7. Not only do the residents agree to this, but so does University Housing.

But this weekend, the EMU allowed the annual folk festival to be held on its lawn. This lawn is directly adjacent to Morton Hall. Three days of loud music is hardly conducive to study.

While I have no objections to the festival itself, I do object to the University allowing it to be held in front of a dorm when it agreed to keep the noise down. There are other places on campus that the

festival could have been held that would not violate the housing agreement.

Corey Jonas
economic, business

Help fund student-parents

If my mother had not had the opportunity to attend college, statistics say that I probably would not be a student today. It was difficult for my mom to spend time with me, provide for me and go to school so that I could have a better future. I am not a student parent, but I reap the benefits of coming from a home where my parent had the opportunity to attend college. I stand firm behind the concept of educating our parents so that they can better provide for their children and themselves.

One way that we can show our support is by urging our legislators to fund the Child Care Block Grant, which is aid for low-income parents who want to get an education beyond high school. Stu-

dents across Oregon plan to work hard this upcoming legislative session to assure funding for the grant.

If you care about the future of our society, I encourage you to support student parents. One way to get involved is to write to our elected representatives and let them know that you support the Child Care Block Grant. I know the ASUO is working on the issue, so I'm sure that you can get more information there. Support student parents!

Joy Nair
ASUO intern

CORRECTION

The story "Mixed matters met in senate meeting" (ODE May 25) was unclear in the fact that the money for ASUO Student Senate T-shirts came out of uncollected senator stipends, not the fee surplus.

The Emerald regrets the error.

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To stunning the golf world

University women's golf is currently first place at the NCAA National Championships, much to the delight and surprise of head coach Renee Baumgartner. The Ducks went into the tournament ranked 24th.

To knowing your renters' rights

OSPIRG has a renters' rights handbook available to students with tips on how to deal with landlords and renter law. The book can be a resource to many students who want to empower themselves.



To going down in the line of duty

A cameraman for Associated Press Television News and a Reuters correspondent were killed Wednesday in Sierra Leone when gunmen ambushed their vehicle. Both were seasoned foreign reporters.

To poor oral health being higher in low income, minority groups

The Surgeon General announced Thursday that oral health among low-income and minority Americans is an "epidemic." Lack of dental insurance, poor diets, tobacco use, few minority dentists and lack of awareness were cited as instigators.