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## Jay and Holly

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and he and his staff succeeded in registering nearly 6,000 people to vote in last November's election.

The executive staff also fought to loosen conditions of the special response fee, which charges party-throwers for repeat police visits to disorderly gatherings. The group laid groundwork for a housing code; Eugene does not have one. And in one of his final actions, Breslow set forth a proposal for a Center on Diversity and Community (CODAC) on campus.

But the year has not been smooth sailing for Breslow and Magner, who came into the ASUO with no student government experience — Breslow's previous ASUO experience was his role as co-director of the Multicultural Center. The pair, while encouraging their staff with energy and supporting individual campaigns, has encountered difficulties with the "red tape" surrounding their jobs.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever done," Breslow said of his role as president. "It takes everything you're good at and everything you're bad at, and puts it right in your face for you to deal with ... That's a hard way to work."

### A tumultuous year

In an election fraught with grievances and delays, Breslow and Magner snatched the ASUO Executive title late in March 2000 with a come-from-behind victory over candidates C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson. But because Breslow and Magner won their roles late in the game, their staff choices were delayed and their transition to office lagged behind.

The late start showed throughout the year as Breslow had difficulty completing several of his duties on time — especially filling vacant student government positions.

During fall term, two students attempted to recall Breslow, accusing him of neglecting his duties and exhibiting partisanship during the ASUO's Oct. 27 voter registration drive. But the students were unable to gather enough signatures, and the recall died as quietly as it had started.

Late hiring, however, was most evident in the case of the ASUO elections coordinator. Two students were hired for the post fall term, but both resigned. It was not until early winter term that Breslow hired Shantell Rice — with the

## Donation

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nation is one of the largest the college has ever received.

Both Robert and Bernice Staton grew up in Eugene and attended the University. Robert was an insurance executive who died in 1981, and Bernice now lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Recipients for scholarships have already been chosen at both

elections set to begin in a few weeks.

"He definitely didn't do all of his hires in time," ASUO Legislative Organizer Melissa Unger said. "But ... when you asked him to do something, it would get done."

ASUO Housing Advocate Jeff Oliver echoed the sentiment, adding that it was clear what his priorities were. One of Breslow's major goals when taking over the ASUO Executive was making the office more activist-oriented.

"Jay doesn't think of himself as a politician," Oliver said. "He thinks of himself as an activist."

To that end, Magner said, she and Breslow assembled a politically active staff. But the office has not been as active as Breslow had hoped. "We could've been a bit more innovative," Breslow said.

### Getting things accomplished

Another of Breslow and Magner's goals was to make more students aware the ASUO exists. Magner said that coming into the job, she had high expectations for their ability to do so.

"I've always thought I could be that one person who could be like, 'Yeah, I can work my ass off, and I can get every person on this whole campus caring about student government, caring about where their student incidental fee goes,'" Magner said. But "you realize that there are some people that are too busy to care as much as you do, or that have lives outside of this little EMU bubble we live in."

Perhaps what made the ASUO most visible this year, Breslow said, was its Bucks for Ducks campaign. There was a high level of interest in the project: 41 applications were turned in suggesting ways to spend \$100,000 from the overrealized fund.

Breslow and Magner also poured a lot of time and energy into the ASUO voter registration drive, which showed when a 19-foot, green ballot box appeared outside the executive's doors during the election last fall. Oliver said it was hard for many students to miss seeing the box, which was Breslow's pet project during the drive.

Even with these efforts, Oliver said there is much left to do to improve the ASUO's image. "People have a very negative view of the ASUO," Oliver said. "They walk by this office every day, and the only thing they hear is that there's an election."

One way of bringing in more students to the ASUO has been the internship program, run by Jeff Klein.

Breslow said the program has been one of the biggest successes of his office because so many interns stayed throughout the year — and many of them will be returning next year to join Brooklyn and Nair's staff.

Breslow and Magner's staff evolved into one of the more solid parts of their administration. Throughout the year, staff members frequently commented on the positive interaction they have.

But the free reign given to the staff sometimes led to problems.

"It was good for the people who liked that freedom and flourished in [it]," Unger said. "But it was hard for some people who were looking for more direction."

Outside the office, Breslow wanted to ease tensions between the ASUO Student Senate and the executive. He thinks that goal has been achieved, and communication between him and Senate President Peter Watts was good.

But Magner, who attends the senate meetings, said she feels tension between her and some senators — especially when granting student groups money from the general surplus. "I do piss a lot of people off because I don't tend to go with the flow of things," Magner said. "I work from my heart instead of from my head."

### The legacy of the executive

Breslow and Magner's leadership style focused more on encouragement and the free reign of their staff than on dictating from the top down. But one concern raised this year, Oliver said, is what legacy Breslow and Magner will leave.

Breslow said the concept of a legacy is hard to grasp. "Who the hell remembers what happened four years ago in the ASUO?" Breslow asked. "It's hard to change the world in one year and really leave a legacy."

Breslow said if he does leave a legacy, Bucks for Ducks will be one part of it, as will CODAC.

Unger said Breslow has made it harder for the University administration to ignore the ASUO. Oliver agreed, saying Breslow and Magner have done a good job of being a voice for students. "They re-opened doors to students to have voices on this campus," Oliver said.

As two people who came in with a blank slate, Breslow and Magner said they pulled through the year in the best way they knew how. "For that I thought we did all right," Breslow said. "The house didn't fall down."

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