

COMMENTARY

Wednesday, February 20, 2002

Editorial

Pilliod, Buzbee are best choice for ASUO Exec

During the last two weeks, the Emerald editorial board has had the pleasure of interviewing each of the 10 ASUO Executive tickets on this year's ballot. It proved to be a difficult decision, since many of the candidates had excellent ideas for improving the ASUO Executive office in some way.

Although it was a tough choice, the Emerald is endorsing Rachel Pilliod and Ben Buzbee.

Their enthusiasm, as well as their wealth of leadership experience, made the pair stand out. Together, they have developed a solid understanding of campus issues and ASUO politics, through their service on the EMU Board, Student Senate, Constitution Court, the current ASUO Executive office and several student groups.

Most importantly, Pilliod and Buzbee are not making outlandish promises they will be unable to keep. They plan to continue working on the issues current ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn and Vice President Joy Nair have been dealing with all year, such as lowering energy costs through campus conservation, implementing Eugene housing standards and improving campus safety. These projects take time to complete, and it's good to see Pilliod and Buzbee would build on the foundations the current executive has laid. In addition, Pilliod and Buzbee offered new, pragmatic proposals, such as their ideas to raise awareness for the Oregon Health Plan and ease University Health Center insurance billing problems. We believe University students would be best served by Pilliod and Buzbee, who will be sensitive to the diverse needs of the University and work tirelessly for the betterment of the school.

However, with so many tickets on the ballot, there were a lot of interesting ideas that were proposed during the course of our interviews. Pilliod and Buzbee get our full endorsement, but there a few other tickets that deserve recognition:

- John Ely and Hayes Hurwitz impressed us with their forthright style and honesty. The pair called the incidental fee what it really is — a tax — and said more students would be interested in protecting the fee once they viewed it as such. Also, their idea of solving football ticket woes by broadcasting the games live at McArthur Court was an original solution to an annual problem.

- Jesse Harding and Todd Brink struck us as ASUO 'outsiders' and could offer a fresh perspective on student affairs. The editorial board also liked the pair's sincerity and candid manner.

- And finally, we liked Haben Woldu and Oscar Arana's succinct and practical platform. Their idea of educating students about the parking ticket appeals process, as well as their idea to make the Multicultural Center and Career Center financially independent from the incidental fee, were creative and original concepts.

Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries Policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

Letters to the editor

Ely and Hayes are right for the job

I grew up with ASUO Executive candidate John Ely in Tillamook, Ore. We forged a great friendship that lasts to this very day.

Ely, a year older than me, often did things first. He was the leader. Anyone who does not know Ely should know he grew up in a small community as the "big kid." Ely overcame adversity and was always willing to put himself in the public, free for scrutinizing. By the time he was a senior, he was yearbook editor in chief, student body secretary and a member of the National Honor Society. He graduated in the top 10 percent of his class.

Ely came to college a year earlier than I did. He took the rough road his first year but has figured out what's important and what it means to have student goals. Ely has dropped much of his former self since his freshman year. His renewed dedication to self-improvement is what drives him and motivates others in positive directions. Ely is one of the most intelligent, caring and real people I have ever met.

We need a president who will act with integrity, neutrality and fairness. Jon Ely and Hayes Hurwitz are the right men for the job. They have my vote.

Hurwitz is intelligent, courteous and logical. Both have strong skills and make a formidable team in the arena of logic and understanding. They will do a great job not only representing the greek system, but all students at the University.

Spencer Miles
sophomore
computer science

Tolerance starts with the student body

"I believe in survival of the fittest. I'm sick and tired of hearing this crap. If minorities didn't get in, that means they are inferior." You may view this comment in the feedback section for the article "Diversity survey gives University mixed grade" (ODE, Jan. 31), in the online version of the Emerald.

Although whoever wrote the comment isn't representative of the majority, the statement resonates with many students on campus. The survey found that 40 percent of University students experienced



some form of harassment. Of those, most were minorities and women.

Administrators say that they're "looking" at the survey. Some would argue this is just lip service. After all, the survey did find that 57 percent of students felt the administration was not supportive of diversity.

It's the moral responsibility of students to bring an agenda of tolerance to the forefront. We don't deserve tolerance, unless we promote it by insisting University administrators take action.

Increasing the multicultural degree requirement and expanding it to all graduate programs would reduce harassment on campus. Although more education isn't

the panacea, it's a reasonable and empirically valid solution.

The survey implied administrators and faculty are not supportive of minorities and women. However, the student body must insist administrators and faculty follow through on the mission of tolerance. Do not let silence or passivity be interpreted as support for intolerance and bigotry on campus. Talk to your department head, University administrators and peers, and encourage them to augment the multicultural requirement.

Javier Ayala
graduate student
education

Bush's crusade is anti-American

GUEST COMMENTARY

Scott
Britt

ted bombings, assassinations, murders, etc. In fact, white supremacist groups are not even a target in the war on terrorism.

However, leftist groups such as the Environmental Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front are under constant attack because of the economic damage they have caused. These ideological attacks and the arrogant stance they take on all issues, whether foreign or domestic, is a recipe for disaster at all levels.

Reminiscent of the past, people have just fell in line. Silence the media, trust your government, dissenters are traitors, propaganda, "volunteerism," flags, pins, banners, stickers, and declaring war on all who oppose them. I have seen this on The History Channel; same theme, different slant. Being a patriot is to protect each individual's freedom, opinion and choice; not an arrogant, simple minded, "kill 'em all" nationalist.

Now American teachers, history, youth and culture are under attack. The right seems threatened from American teachers, feeling good and American culture. They want our young to abstain from

drugs, alcohol and sex. As an ideal, it sounds great on paper.

However, the world in which we live is quite complicated. Besides problems like these within their own families, there have been many youthful indiscretions, even in middle age. Why are such indiscretions needing punishment or repression now?

The right has begun its attack on American heathen culture. American culture as Bush puts it, is a culture that if it feels good, then do it. American culture has evolved into what it is today. Perhaps, it is not what they intended, but now is where we live. Conservatives want to change the culture to a more Christian, moral, heterosexual and whatever other dictates they can lay on us. This culture is the culture of America!

I am proud to be an American. American culture ideally is a culture of personal decisions, tolerance and a blending of many different beliefs, lifestyles, cultures, religions and ideologies. E Pluribus Unum. This new crusade against American culture is insane. They have no grasp of the reality or culture that "we the people" live in. They should be ashamed of themselves for being traitors to women, America and its culture.

Scott Britt is a junior sociology major.