

Grievances

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works at the Commentator.

"I felt he would enter and cause hostility," she said. "He would be adding tension that was not needed."

She added that she had never heard of a law that would require the elections board to let members of the media attend, but she told Jacobson that if he could show her proof that such a law existed, he would more than likely be allowed into the office. Jacobson did not show her the law, she said.

While the Commentator is seeking judgment from the Constitution Court, the candidates themselves, unlike in past years, have been willing to resolve their problems out of court so far.

Like Jacobson, former ASUO Executive candidate John Ely was unhappy with the ballot-counting process, but for a different reason. He said the number of votes he and running mate Hayes Hurwitz received would probably have been higher if there had not been techni-

cal problems with DuckWeb during the primary election.

He said heavy system traffic, because of online class registration caused errors when some people tried to submit their computer ballot.

Although Ely plans to go to the University Computing Center to see how many of the intended votes for his ticket were actually recorded, he said he won't file a grievance.

"I'm not making a case out of it because obviously, if it happened to me, it happened to everyone," he said.

Hight said the elections board has encouraged candidates to find other ways to resolve their complaints besides filing grievances, and board members have tried to be in the office more to handle concerns and answer questions in person.

"A lot of times if people ask first, then there's no basis for a complaint to be made," she said. She said the elections board had already resolved "a couple of situations that could possibly have been grievances."

At a mandatory meeting before campaigning began, the elections

board explained to the candidates the elections rules that are perpetually broken and gave each ticket a copy of the guidelines for campaigning in University Housing, which Hight said has been a source of confusion for candidates in the past.

Eric Bailey, who ran for ASUO president this year and last year, said one reason candidates haven't filed grievances this year may be that many of them know each other, which makes it easier for them to discuss problems in person rather than filing a grievance.

Bailey said the elections board this year was too lenient in some cases with candidates who had violated campaign rules, but he said he was glad the election has not been delayed by grievances.

"Overall, I think the (primary) election went very smoothly, especially considering there were so many candidates, and so much could have gone wrong," he said.

E-mail student activities editor Kara Cogswell at karacogswell@dailymerald.com.

Money

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Ritchie and Babkes sold about 125 T-shirts bearing their names to students they thought represented them well. Other funds went toward publicity, including fliers that they distributed on campus and a full-page advertisement in the Emerald.

Pilliod and Buzbee raised much of their campaign funds by sending letters asking for donations. While they also aimed for high publicity, they worked basic economics into their equation for how much to spend on the campaign.

"We heard the average campaign runs about \$1,000 to fund," Pilliod said. "We used cost-effective measures to conserve but optimize our

visibility," she said.

Pilliod said she and Buzbee tried to save money by laminating posters that could be reused and worn on backpacks, and by selling handmade headbands. Like Ritchie and Babkes, T-shirts were their biggest expense.

Ritchie, the son of Northwest jeweler Harry Ritchie, did not want his family's financial backing to steal the stage from the focus of their campaign.

"We stand by our platform and want (voters) to know money has no effect on our ability to lead," Ritchie said.

Turning the clock back to elections in years past, there hasn't been a link drawn from increased funding boosting votes.

"The irony in spending is that

the ones who spend the most don't usually win," ASUO Elections Coordinator Courtney Hight said.

She said it was not uncommon in the past few years for a ticket to spend \$1,500 or more on the primary and general election combined.

Regardless of the amount collected, ASUO hopefuls from both sides said the issues candidates run on are more important than how much they spend.

"It does take some amount of money to publicize names, but ultimately it comes down to the best candidates," Buzbee said.

"We want them to look at the issues," Babkes agreed, "not the money."

E-mail reporter Robin Weber at robinweber@dailymerald.com.

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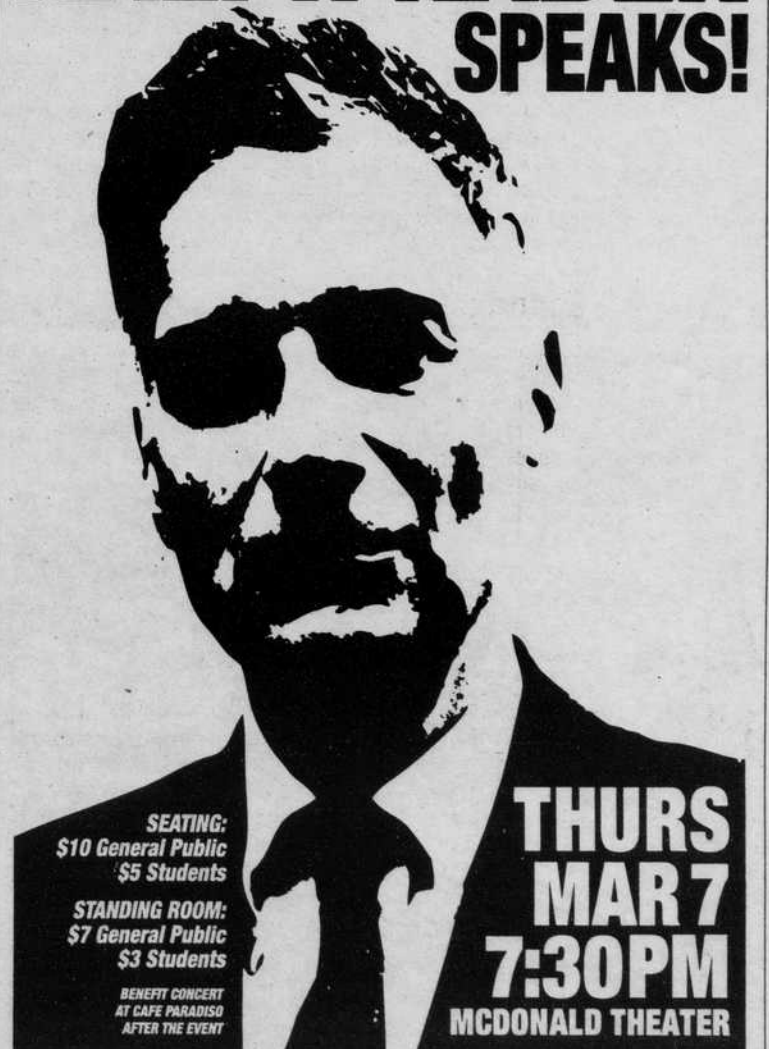
These organizations will be participating:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Albertina Kerr Centers | Monterey Institute of International Studies |
| AmeriCorps - Oregon Commission | Mount Pisgah Arboretum |
| Boys & Girls Club of Salem | National Association of State PIRGS |
| Bureau of Land Management | Naval Recruiting District - Portland |
| Camp Fire Boys & Girls, Wilani Council | Nearby Nature |
| Camp Tawonga | Northwest Service Academy - AmeriCorps |
| Central European Teaching Program | Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality |
| Christie School | Oregon Parks & Recreation Department |
| Committed Partners for Youth | Pacific Crest Outward Bound |
| Eckerd Youth Alternatives | Peace Corps |
| Emergency Services Education & Counseling | Portland Fire and Rescue |
| Eugene Water & Electric Board | Relief Nursery |
| Family Relief Nursery | Resource Assistance for Rural Environments |
| Family YMCA of Marion/Polk Counties | San Diego Choice Program |
| Food for Lane County | Social Security Administration |
| Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah | Teach for America |
| Fund for Public Interest Research | The OGI School of Science & Engineering, OHSU |
| Girl Scouts, Columbia River Council | UO Marriage & Family Therapy Program |
| Health Care for All - Oregon | US Environmental Protection Agency |
| HIV Alliance | Washington State Patrol |
| Lane Shelter Care | Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps |
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