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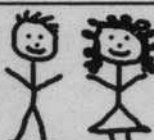
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Candidate

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18,000 residents and 8,500 registered voters, and is bordered by the Willamette River to the north, 30th Avenue to the south, Amazon Parkway to the west and Interstate 5 to the east.

Stewart said since Ward 3 encompasses the University, a student should represent the district. He said student issues will be the focus of his platform, including pursuing a housing code and keeping large employers in Eugene to employ students.

"David Kelly has been paying lip service to the ASUO," Stewart said. "He had no interest in student issues before ward redistricting."

Kelly acknowledged that he paid more attention to the Eugene community than to college students until his ward was redrawn to include the University but said he's taken an active interest in student issues for some time now.

Kelly said he's been actively working with ASUO to develop housing standards for the city, and he pointed to city efforts such as reopening Broadway as evidence the council has tried to keep student interests in mind.

"It's the culture that exists in a university town that drew me here," Kelly added.

If Stewart is elected, he'll need to commit to at least four more years

in Eugene for his term as city councilor, and McNeil said his former running mate is up to the task.

"Maco's the sort of guy who will stick around, even if there was something better, just because he made the commitment," McNeil said.

McNeil and Stewart placed ninth out of 10 ASUO Executive tickets in the Feb. 22 primary with 105 votes.

Stewart plans to quit his job at the Pita Pit if elected councilor and dedicate 25 hours or more to his civic tasks. Kelly said he currently devotes 35 hours a week to his job as city councilor.

E-mail reporter Brook Reinhard at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

Travel

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travel costs rise the closer it gets to departures, the site still listed hotels in Las Vegas starting at \$29 and Hawaiian hideaways starting at \$62.

Other popular destinations, such as Daytona Beach, Fla., had airfares from Portland ranging from \$700 to \$2,000-plus, depending on the airline and the number of seats available.

As the bills for tuition, living expenses and coffee from late-night study sessions come pouring in, not all students have an extra \$2,000 in their back pocket. There are cheaper alternatives for those looking to get away without paying an arm and a leg.

Smith recommended road trips as an affordable last-minute alternative. All you need is a vehicle, gas and some willing passengers. Once out on the open highway, the travel possibilities stretch as far as the dri-

ver's imagination, or at least as far as you can get before April 1, when spring classes start.

Visiting friends and relatives, camping or driving to the coast are all affordable options.

The top place for sun seekers, Smith noted, was California — namely Los Angeles, San Diego and Palm Springs. Not only are they reasonably close, but if students can get a spot, plane tickets from Eugene to Los Angeles start at \$198 plus tax. The only catch is availability.

"Tickets usually sell out by mid-November at that price," she said. "Book early."

According to Smith, seats are priced based on open slots, and there are only a certain amount of seats sold in each price bracket.

Sophomore David Rossi is venturing to his third choice destination, Costa Rica, for his break to get a glimpse of life in the jungle. Although he began the ticket search in November for flights to the Bahamas and Ja-

maica, his number one and number two choices, nothing was open.

The shortage of flights is due in part to airlines' forced cutbacks after Sept. 11. Smith reported many flight schedules being cut as much as 25 percent to compensate for budgets being slashed.

Current events are also causing airports to step up security measures. Smith advised anyone traveling to arrive at the airport at least 90 minutes before flight departures and to be prepared for long lines and thorough inspections. She has even heard of instances where travelers were not allowed to board their flights because they had not arrived early enough to go through the safety measures.

For students stuck on campus because of school activities or lack of time and funds, there is hope. University Housing is offering rooms at \$83 for the week, although no food is being served.

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

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