



Buzbee pleads guilty to charge

ASUO Vice President Ben Buzbee pleaded guilty to a reduced charge in court on Wednesday

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

A couple of kegs and a roomful of friends may sound like a fun way to spend a Friday night, but if

the police catch a whiff of underage drinking, it gets ugly fast.

ASUO Vice President Ben Buzbee learned this lesson the hard way — firsthand — after a party he hosted at his house on Jan. 18 was broken up by the Eugene Police Department. Buzbee received a \$350 citation for furnishing alcohol to minors, and at his arraignment on Jan. 31,

Buzbee plead not guilty.

But Buzbee pleaded guilty Wednesday, after his offense had been reduced to a violation. He will now enter into the BUSTED diversionary program run through the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Program, and go to a 10-hour class on the consequences of underage drinking, as well as pay a \$60 court fee and

\$40 class fee. If Buzbee has no other alcohol-related offenses in the next four months, the violation will not be made part of his permanent record.

Buzbee said he changed his plea to guilty because his offense was reduced from a misdemeanor to a violation after his lawyer filed a motion on Monday to suppress

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OUS drops exchange program in China

OUS students studying abroad in Beijing will return home following midterms, due to SARS concerns

Lindsay Sauvé
Family/Health/Education Reporter

While most University students may be home relaxing in states of post-midterm bliss, members of an international exchange program will have to pack their bags and embark on the long journey from Beijing to Eugene.

Oregon University System officials decided on Monday to suspend the student exchange program in Beijing, China, due to the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Sixteen students from various Oregon universities, including six from the University of Oregon, will have to return home after their midterm exams next week. The students were formally notified by e-mail on Tuesday.

Christine Sproul, director of the China program at OUS, said it is the first time in 30 years they've had to suspend a study-abroad program. OUS will assist the students with financial or academic obstacles they may face from suspension of the program, as well as advise them about health precautions to take when they return home, she added.

The OUS Chancellor's office, medical experts and representatives from the seven OUS universities met last week to discuss the issue and decide what action should be taken in light of government-issued travel warnings to China. The decision was made to end the program and bring students home after recent reports that the Chinese government may have been withholding information about the severity of SARS.

"It's just too risky and there are too many unknowns," Sproul said. "In hindsight, we may say it was a hasty decision, but until it's known how to contain (SARS), this is the best course of action."

OUS spokeswoman Di Saunders said a survey of other U.S. exchange programs that revealed nearly all organizations had decided to discontinue programs and bring students back also influenced the decision.

"We've had some calls from parents who are very relieved that the students are coming home," Saunders said.

Caroline Vanderkar, the University's Overseas Program coordinator, said the University's stance on the decision was congruous with the OUS decision. Reinstatement of the program next fall will

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ME won!



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Senior Jason Cummings and sophomore Diana Aguilar celebrate with a hug while cheering along with the rest of the Maddy Melton and Eddy Morales campaign team in front of the ASUO office on Wednesday after learning that Melton and Morales were declared the winners of the Executive race.

Leading the future

Maddy Melton and Eddy Morales won ASUO Executive, and several close races in the ASUO Senate were decided as election voting closed on Wednesday

ASUO elections

Jan Montry
News Editor

At the end of a highly competitive ASUO Executive race, candidates Maddy Melton and

Eddy Morales were elected 2003-04 president and vice president on Wednesday with 1,236 votes, taking 54.9 percent of the total 2,249 votes. Candidates Christa Shively and Greg Bae received 1,013 votes.

Voter turnout in the general election, which ran Monday through Wednesday, landed at 14.3 percent of the total student body, up from 10.5 percent of the student body a year ago.

"I'm just floored," Melton said, minutes after hearing the results. "I can't believe it. This has been so exciting. ... It's been a great experience."

Melton said that she thought the Shively and Bae team did a good job campaigning, adding that she wished them luck in whatever they both do next.

Bae had no comment, and Shively could not be reached at press time.

The Executive victory came after an extremely close primary race where Shively and Bae came in only 21 votes behind Melton and Morales, resulting in fierce campaign efforts by both tickets in the days leading up to the general election.

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InterSEXtions sits on the corner of sexuality, ethnicity

The upcoming InterSEXtions conference will feature dialogue on the place of ethnic minorities in the LGBT community

John B. Dudrey
Freelance Reporter

In many ways, sophomore Hanna Persson is like any other student at the University of Oregon. She trudges through the same rainy streets

on her way to the same classes that other students take. At the end of the day, she heads back to an off-campus apartment not unlike the ones many students live in. In that sense, she is the definition of ordinary.

But in other important ways, Persson is profoundly different: She is an ethnic minority as well as a self-described "butch." Her differences can make for a difficult time in the campus community.

"I have experienced prejudice (on campus), and I still do from day to day," Persson said. "Anything from strange looks to being ignored, and having friends who have been assaulted in one form or another."

There are a few official avenues of support for Persson and other members of the LGBT community. One such resource, the University's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services, is sponsor-

ing the annual InterSEXtions conference, which started on Wednesday and ends on Friday. The conference is also sponsored by the English department; the UO Cultural Forum; the UO Humanities Center; the Ethnic Studies department and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

According to Director of LGBT Educational

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